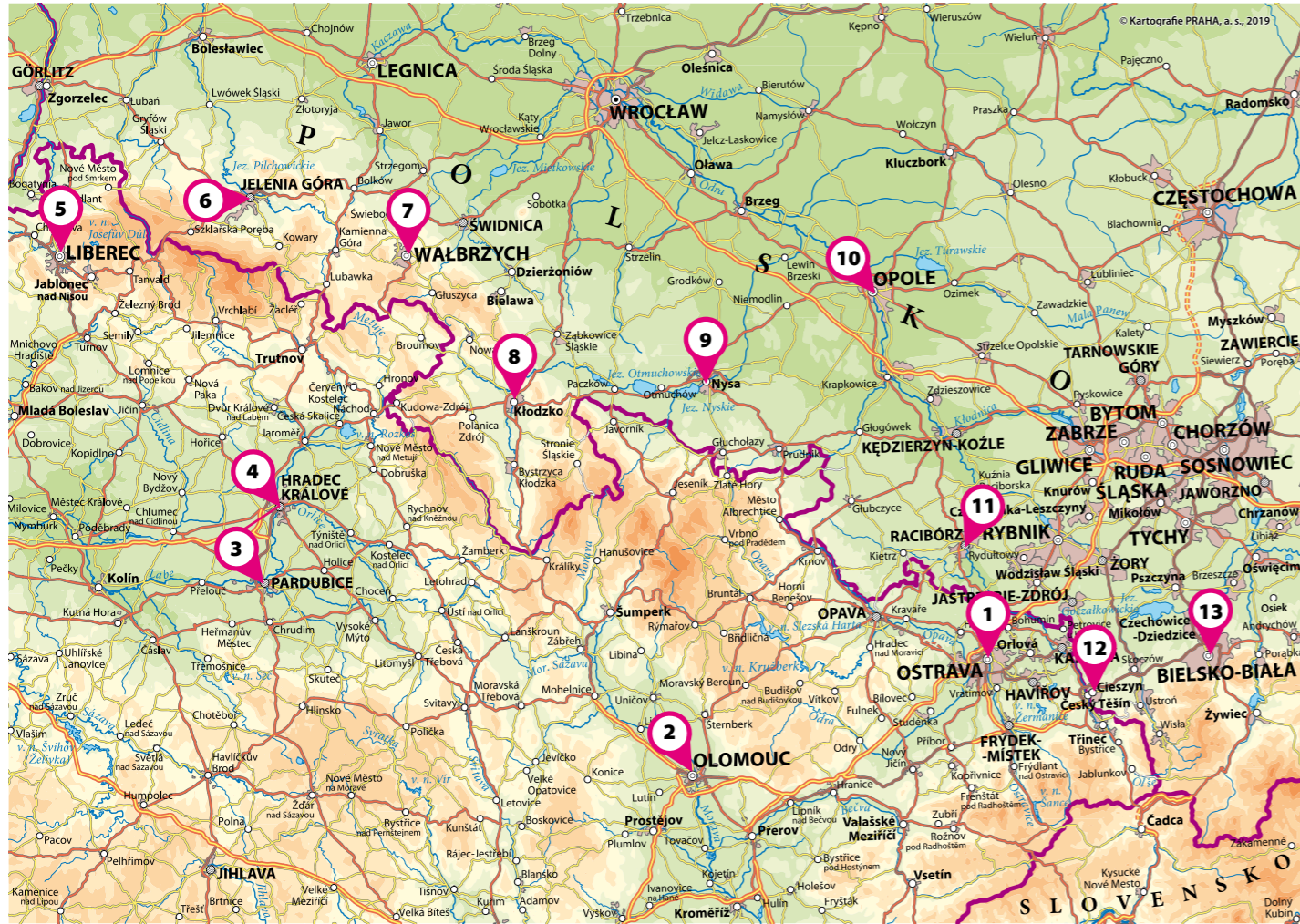


# A BIG TOUR OF THE CZECH-POLISH FRONTIER

A BIG TOUR OF THE CZECH-POLISH FRONTIER

# OSTRAVA 1



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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[www.severnimorava.travel](http://www.severnimorava.travel)

## 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 **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 Sýkora Bridge, or the zoological garden.



- |                                      |                                    |                                 |
|--------------------------------------|------------------------------------|---------------------------------|
| <b>1   OSTRAVA</b><br>95,7 km        | <b>6   JELENIA GÓRA</b><br>65,8 km | <b>11   RACIBÓRZ</b><br>63,3 km |
| <b>2   OLOMOUC</b><br>137,8 km       | <b>7   WAŁBRZYCH</b><br>55,6 km    | <b>12   CIESZYN</b><br>37,5 km  |
| <b>3   PARDUBICE</b><br>26,5 km      | <b>8   KŁODZKO</b><br>54,6 km      | <b>13   BIELSKO-BIAŁA</b>       |
| <b>4   HRADEC KRÁLOVÉ</b><br>98,8 km | <b>9   NYSA</b><br>56,5 km         |                                 |
| <b>5   LIBEREC</b><br>70,7 km        | <b>10   OPOLE</b><br>78,5 km       |                                 |

Route length:  
**841,3 km**



## 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](http://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](http://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](http://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**





## 2 OLOMOUC

### A BIG TOUR OF THE CZECH-POLISH FRONTIER



The university city of Olomouc is, after Prague, the largest urban conservation area in the Czech Republic. That is why this city with a population of 100,000 is often referred to as 'Little Prague'. The most dominant landmark in Olomouc, the Holy Trinity Column, was put on the UNESCO World Heritage List in 2000. The Lonely Planet Tourist Guide has ranked Olomouc the number one of the '50 Secret Gems of Europe'.

### MUST-SEE PLACES

The most significant cultural heritage sites in Olomouc are concentrated around the Upper Square (Horní náměstí), the Lower Square (Dolní náměstí), and the Wenceslas Square (Václavské náměstí). The Upper Square is dominated by the **Holy Trinity Column** 1 (UNESCO) and the **Town Hall building with the astronomical clock** 2. Both Upper Square and the neighbouring Lower Square are lined with Renaissance and Baroque palaces, which tell the story of the city's rich history. You can also admire a unique set of fountains with classical antiquity themes. The exceptional **Gothic building of St Maurice's Church** stands just a few steps away from Upper Square. The church boasts one of the biggest organs in Europe, and the annual **International Organ Festival** 3 is held here every September.

You can also thread your way through the romantic alleys between the Upper Square and the Lower Square, where you can find the **St Michael's Church** 4 with its three Baroque domes, which complete the characteristic skyline of the city; as well as **St Jan Sarkander's Chapel** 5, where the priest Jan Sarkander was tortured to death on the site of a former prison. If you then pass through



👤 100 523

📍 Ostrava – 80 km

📍 **Tourist Information Centre**

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Tel.: +420 585 513 385, 392

E-mail: [infocentrum@olomouc.eu](mailto:infocentrum@olomouc.eu)

[tourism.olomouc.eu](http://tourism.olomouc.eu)

[www.central-moravia.cz](http://www.central-moravia.cz)

[tourism.olomouc.eu/tourism/information-centre](http://tourism.olomouc.eu/tourism/information-centre)

### A BIG TOUR OF THE CZECH-POLISH FRONTIER

University Street, follow the tram route to your right, and go up Dome Street, you will see in front of you the impressive Neo-Gothic **St Wenceslas Cathedral** 6 and the former **Přemyslid Palace site**, which now houses the **Olomouc Archdiocesan Museum** 7. You can also visit the **Archbishop's Palace** 8, situated nearby. The Palace is the only archbishop's residence in central Europe that is open to the public.

Olomouc used to be a significant **fortress city** 9, as evidenced by the approximately 30 historic military buildings located either in the city itself, or in its close vicinity (→ p. 59).



### GUIDED TOURS OF THE CITY

The Olomouc Information Centre, located in the Town Hall building, offers a wide range of commented tours of the city, as well as audio-guides for individual visitors and groups, all year around. You can also explore the city in many unconventional ways – such as using a mobile beer-bar, Segways, bicycles, tandem bicycles, boats, or rafts.



### Regional Museum in Olomouc

Ten permanent exhibitions await the visitors of the historic museum building. The most impressive one is 'Olomouc – Fifteen Centuries of the City' comprised of seven main historical themes telling a comprehensive story of the city's history. Other permanent exhibitions include 'Gallery of Personalities of Olomouc Region', or 'From the Cradle to the Grave', which is a story of birth and death set in a realistic environment of a Hanakian village and Hanakian lands in the 19th century. Today, the entire collection of the museum consists of nearly one million items. Among other things, the museum's permanent exhibitions will guide you through the history of Olomouc, the region's folk traditions, tell you the tale of stone since its earliest history, and introduce you to the most prominent figures linked to the Olomouc Region.

[www.vmo.cz](http://www.vmo.cz)

### Olomouc Archdiocesan Museum

The museum is located on the premises of a national heritage building, and its permanent exhibition consists of over 300 artistic treasures from 11th–18th century. The Museum is the only one in the Czech Republic to have received the prestigious 'European Heritage Label'. The Museum stands out not only due to the uniqueness and size of its collections, which tell the story of nearly one thousand years of faith culture in the Olomouc archdiocese, but also the rich history connected with its location in the Olomouc Castle grounds. The site is associated with the murder of Czech King Wenceslas III in 1306, and with the stay of composer W. A. Mozart, who composed his Symphony No 6 in F major there.

[www.muoz.cz/arcidiecezni-muzeum-olomouc/](http://www.muoz.cz/arcidiecezni-muzeum-olomouc/)





## NEARBY TRIPS



What does the area around Olomouc have to offer? Romantic castles and chateaux, fascinating exhibitions, magical natural scenery, and a serving of fun for the whole family.

Just 12 km north of Olomouc (towards Šternberk) lies an important place of pilgrimage, **the Basilica Minor of the Visitation of the Virgin Mary** (→ p. 46), which was elevated to a rank of minor basilica by Pope John Paul II when he visited the site in 1995. Located near the basilica is the most visited tourist destination in Central Moravia – **the Olomouc Zoo**, which stretches over 42.5 hectares. A few kilometres further, the town of **Šternberk** will unfold before you, and so will the castle of the same name (→ p. 38) and the unique Time Exhibition.



### Olomouc Zoo, Sv. Kopeček – 12 km from Olomouc

Some of the most distinctive features of this forest zoo, which houses more than 2,000 animals, are a single enclosure shared by American black bears and Arctic wolves, a bat pavilion, a giant aquarium, a tropical pavilion, and an enclosure of Japanese macaques that is accessible to visitors via a hanging walkway. A recent addition is the African Kalahari Pavilion, which has become the home for meerkats, hyraxes, aardvarks, and a honey badger.

[www.zoo-olomouc.cz](http://www.zoo-olomouc.cz)

*The natural treasure that is **Litovelské Pomoraví Protected Landscape Area** will stretch before you as you head northwest of Olomouc (towards Mohelnice). The area beckons you to take walks, cycling trips and some easy canoeing. Make sure you don't miss taking a tour of **Javoříčko Caves**, which are among the best sites this Protected Landscape Area has to offer. If you go a few kilometres further, you won't regret it, for one of the most visited castles in the Czech Republic, the fairy-tale **Bouzov Castle** (→ p. 38), will emerge before your eyes. **Loštice**, the one place truly devoted to the famous regional delicacy, **the Olomouc tvarůžky cheese**, is only a short distance away from there. If you'd also like to see how the locals lived in the 19th century, be sure to visit **the open-air folk museum in Příkazy**, situated just 10 km from Olomouc.*



### Hanakia Open-Air Museum – 10 km from Olomouc

This open-air folk museum, which dates back to the 19th century, showcases local traditional architecture. The site consists of a traditionally furnished Hanakian farmstead complete with a scuncheon barn, and other three unique scuncheon barns located in adjoining gardens. All these buildings, listed as cultural heritage sites, are complemented by rural home furnishings dating from 1799–1950.

[www.nmvp.cz/prikazy](http://www.nmvp.cz/prikazy)

### Javoříčko Caves – 31 km from Olomouc

Javoříčko Caves are unique due to their rich, well-preserved and varied speleothem decor, and rank among the most beautiful caves in the Czech Republic. Their underground network comprises of an intricate system of tunnels, domes, and chasms. The total length of all known tunnels is over 4,000 metres. The air temperature in the caves is between seven and eight degrees Celsius.

[www.caves.cz/jeskyne/javoricke-jeskyne](http://www.caves.cz/jeskyne/javoricke-jeskyne)

### Olomouc Tvarůžky Cheese Museum – 30 km from Olomouc

The history of Olomouc tvarůžky cheese goes back more than 600 years. The cheese has been undergoing ripening processes in the A. W. Cheese Factory in Loštice since 1876. Tvarůžky is a one-of-a-kind cheese of Czech origin, and is well-known for its unmistakably pungent aroma and strong flavour. The true Olomouc tvarůžky cheese is a natural, soft cheese that ripens under a slimy surface layer, has minimum amount of fat and salt, and no chemical additives whatsoever. This unique museum displays the past and present production of this famous delicacy.

#### Did you know that...?

*Olomouc tvarůžky cheese is the only original Czech cheese that is protected by the EU's geographical indication mark. You can try the tvarůžky cheese in many forms across the Region – à la tartare, served on a slice of bread, fried, in soups, and even as ice cream or one-of-a-kind savoury desserts.*



[www.tvaruzky.cz/muzeum-olomouckych-tvaruzku](http://www.tvaruzky.cz/muzeum-olomouckych-tvaruzku)

*If you head southwest from Olomouc towards Prostějov, be sure to stop at **Čechy pod Kosířem** (→ p. 41), where you will come across a newly renovated chateau in the middle of a romantic park. You can also find a rare exhibition of historical carriages nearby.*

### Museum of Historical Carriages – 20 km from Olomouc

The museum displays an unparalleled collection of historical lanterns and horse-drawn carriages, the largest in Central Europe. The exhibition showcases over 50 carriages and sleighs from the years 1750–1920. Among the most precious exhibits are a carriage named the Golden Carrosse, which was made in France in 1750, and the archbishop's carriage, which was used in a film about Empress Sissi. The collection also includes hearses, sleighs, and a range of carriage accessories.



[www.historickekokary.cz](http://www.historickekokary.cz)

*If you leave Olomouc and take the motorway to Ostrava, you'll pass the town of Hranice. You can take a short walk from the edge of the town and reach the world's deepest flooded abyss.*

### Hranice Abyss – 46 km from Olomouc

In September 2016, a team of deep-divers led by Krzysztof Starnawski managed to reach a depth of 404 metres using a robot, thus proving that the Hranice Abyss is the world's deepest flooded cave. At that point, the remotely controlled robot did not even reach the bottom of the cave, as it was stopped short by the length of the control cable. When the length of the dry section was added, the recorded depth of the abyss was established as 473.5 metres. Geologists estimate the possible depth of Hranice Abyss at between 700 and 1000 metres. You can see an interactive display pertaining to this globally unique place in the station building, behind which you can join an educational trail leading to the abyss.



## REGULAR EVENTS

#### FEBRUARY

Shrove Carnival, Olomouc

#### APRIL

Olomouc Tvarůžky Cheese Festival, Olomouc

#### MAY

Dvořák's Olomouc  
BEERFEST, Olomouc

#### JULY

Olomouc Baroque Festival, Olomouc  
Bezděkov Lavender Festival, Bezděkov  
Celtic Night, Plumlov  
Josefkol, Čechy pod Kosířem

#### AUGUST

Hefaiston, Helfštýn

#### SEPTEMBER

International Organ Festival, Olomouc

#### NOVEMBER–DECEMBER

Olomouc Christmas Markets





### 3 PARDUBICE



The city of gingerbread and horses is located in the east of Bohemia – approximately 100 km from Prague. It has a great advantage in that it has good transport links to the outside world. Pardubice can boast not only of being on the main railway line, but also of having an international airport. So come and see the city whose rich history will enchant you so much that you'll simply fall in love with it...

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[www.ipardubice.cz](http://www.ipardubice.cz), [www.vychodni-cechy.info](http://www.vychodni-cechy.info)

### MUST-SEE PLACES

If you enjoy having a nice cup of coffee in a place situated against the backdrop of breath-taking historic buildings headed by **a city hall**, then **Pernštýn Square** is exactly what you're after. There you can find building no. 50 called **„U Jonáše“ (Jonáš's)**, which is a perfectly preserved Baroque monument. For those of you who are fond of religious places of interest, it is worth visiting either **St Bartholomew's Church** or the **Annunciation of the Virgin Mary Church**.

[www.vychodni-cechy.info](http://www.vychodni-cechy.info)

#### Pardubice City Hall

Are you looking for a spot to take amazing pictures and selfies? Head to Pardubice City Hall. You will be stunned by its ornate facade, which looks great in the glare from both sunlight and the 'spotlight' shine coming from streetlamps. The building was built in the late 19th century, and is decorated with unique medallions of Czech kings and sgraffiti.



#### Green Gate

Would you like to gaze down at the city from up above? No problem. All you have to do is run up a few stairs. The Green Gate and its distinctive tower built in 1538, the dominant landmarks of Pardubice's historic centre, are more than worth the visit.

#### Dům U Jonáše (Jonáš's House)

If you are on a hunt for all things unique, make sure this Baroque building doesn't slip under your radar. Its dominant feature is the biblical figure of the prophet Jonah in the mouth of a whale. Today, the East Bohemia Gallery is located in this building, which boasts a highly valued and fully preserved diamond vault ceiling dating back to the 16th century.



#### East Bohemia Museum in Pardubice

The museum, which doesn't limit itself to displaying artefacts only from Pardubice, has found its home on the premises of a Renaissance chateau near the city centre. This building is extraordinary due to the fact that it's a unique example of the transition from a castle to a chateau. This building is unparalleled in Central Europe. The chateau is also surrounded by a large park, where you can easily recharge your energy to do more exploring.

[www.vcm.cz](http://www.vcm.cz)



### NEARBY TRIPS

**Kunětická Hora Castle**, where you can find a **dungeon**, **torture exhibition**, and even a **dragon**, is then sure to appeal to all sightseeing enthusiasts. Below the castle, you can visit a gingerbread house, a.k.a **the Museum of Gingerbread**. There you can learn not only how this sweet treat is made, or how it can look, but also how great it tastes. Just under ten kilometres northwest of Pardubice lies **the Bohdaneč Spa** (→ p. 63), which specializes in treating the musculoskeletal system thanks to its special beneficial mud. The spa is also a great place to unwind and relax.

If you head south from Pardubice, you can stop at nearby **Chrudim**, a town alive with puppets. **The Chrudim Puppetry Museum** can be found in the **Mydlář (Soaper) Building** in the town square. The town of **Slatiňany** is just a few kilometres from Chrudim. This place is the home to horses. You can visit **the Slatiňany Stud**, where the **Old Kladruber black horse** is bred, or you can go visit the exhibition in **the Museum of the Old Kladruber**, where you'll learn about the tradition of breeding this black horse. For the outdoorsy types of tourists, **Železná Hory Geopark** is a true paradise on Earth. If you would like to see locations where a lot of popular Czech fairytale movies have been shot, visit **the Vysočina Open-Air Museum at Veselý Kopeček**.



#### Chrudim Puppetry Museum – 12 km from Pardubice

Its permanent exhibition will take you through the history of Czech puppetry – from travelling puppeteers' graceful marionettes, variety show puppets and naive art, all the way to the modernist period when **Spejbl and Hurvínek**, the most famous puppets in Czech lands, were created. You can also see the creations of well-known puppet film makers, and explore the world of shadow puppets from Asia.

[www.puppets.cz](http://www.puppets.cz)



#### Museum of the Old Kladruber, Slatiňany – 17 km from Pardubice

Its permanent exhibition will show you the history of breeding the Old Kladruber, and in the hall you can watch films about the Old Kladruber and its life. There is also an interactive room where parents and children can try their hand at saddling up a horse called **Švýcárek**, or pretend to be a coachman.

[www.svycarna-slatinany.eu](http://www.svycarna-slatinany.eu)



**Železné Hory Geopark**  
– 33 km from Pardubice

The Geopark stretches over 777 km<sup>2</sup>, of which roughly one-third is part of the Železné Hory Protected Landscape Area. As well as being a natural treasure, the area has a wealth of precious cultural and historic sites, unique museums and a range of sports and leisure facilities. The geopark is a true paradise for both hikers and cyclists.



[www.geoparkzh.cz](http://www.geoparkzh.cz)

**Vysočina Open-Air Museum, Veselý Kopec**  
– 36 km from Pardubice

Nestled in a picturesque landscape, the open-air museum offers the largest outdoor exhibition on folk architecture in East Bohemia. The exhibition showcases how rural people lived and farmed between the mid 19th century and the 1950s. Veselý Kopec is host to many programmes that unveil the region's folk culture, such as traditional customs, crafts, folk food, and others.



[www.vesely-kopec.eu](http://www.vesely-kopec.eu)

**Vysočina Open-Air Museum, Betlém, Hlinsko**  
– 40 km from Pardubice

Do you know what the lifestyle and housing of petty craftspeople living between the mid-18th century and the end of the 19th century were like? You can see all that in Betlém Conservation Area at Hlinsko, stretching on the right bank of the Chrudimka River. Here, log cabins house exhibitions on the crafts of toy-making, shoemaking, and file cutting. Some of the cottages serve a special purpose to this very day, e.g. as a loom house, or a pub.

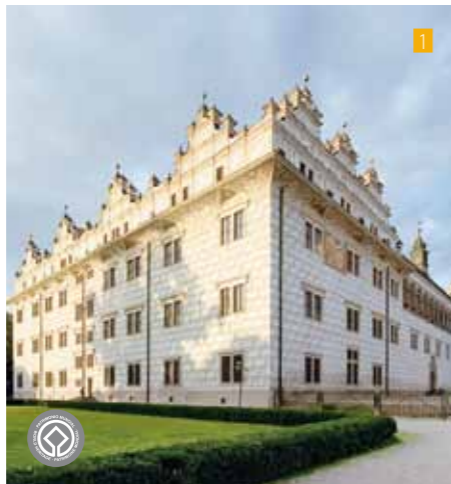


[www.betlem-hlinsko.cz](http://www.betlem-hlinsko.cz)

*If you go 50 km southeast from Pardubice, you will come across a true treasure of the Pardubice Region, the town of **Litomyšl** 1. Its main dominant feature is the local chateau (→ p. 42) a **UNESCO World Heritage Site**.*

**Kladrubské Polabí**  
– 27 km from Pardubice

In 2019, the area of Kladrubské polabí has been put on the **UNESCO list** as a landscape for breeding and training of ceremonial carriage horses at Kladruby nad Labem.



**REGULAR EVENTS**



**JANUARY**  
GRAND Festival of Laughter, Pardubice

**JANUARY-FEBRUARY**  
Hlinecko Shrovetide Processions

**MARCH-APRIL**  
Pardubice Music Spring, Pardubice

**APRIL**  
Lázně ducha in Litomyšl – Tourist Season Opening

**MAY-JUNE**  
European Festival of Aviation, Pardubice

**JUNE**  
Night at Pernštýn Square, Pardubice

Loutkařská Chrudim Puppet Festival  
Smetana's Litomyšl

**JULY**  
Czech Open, Pardubice

**AUGUST**  
Sport Park – family event in Pardubice  
Koně v akci – International Horse Exhibition in Pardubice

**OCTOBER**  
Golden Helmet, Pardubice  
Velká pardubická steeplechase

**DECEMBER**  
Christmas Market, Pardubice  
Andělská Litomyšl Christmas Markets

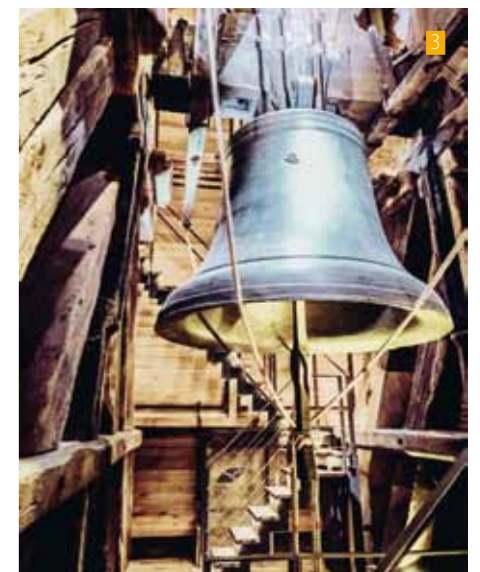


Hradec Králové lies 100 km from Prague, and can be easily reached by car or train. The city stands out above all due to its urbanistic and architectural tradition. The beginning of the 20th century saw new development of the city in the Art Nouveau and functionalism styles, enriching the city with many noteworthy buildings.

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Tel.: +420 495 580 492  
E-mail: [icko2@ic-hk.cz](mailto:icko2@ic-hk.cz)  
[www.ic-hk.cz](http://www.ic-hk.cz), [www.hradecko.eu](http://www.hradecko.eu)

**MUST-SEE PLACES**

You can enjoy perfect views of **the city centre** 1, as well as places far and wide in the surroundings, from **the White Tower** 2, a Renaissance structure that is over 71 metres tall and is the dominant feature of Hradec Králové. The tower is open all year round, and offers special experiences, such as watching the sun rise above Hradec Králové while enjoying a hearty breakfast, or joining the ringing of the bell called **Augustin** 3, the third biggest bell in the Czech Republic. Among other things, the recent renovation of the tower has brought about a unique glass model of the White Tower weighing approximately 1,000 kg, and a modern interactive exhibition with LCD panels. Right next to the tower is **the Cathedral of the Holy Spirit** 4 which was built in the early 14th century. Going from the cathedral across the Great Square (Velké náměstí), you'll come to **the Gallery of Modern Art** 5 which displays collections of Czech fine art from the turn of the 20th century all the way to the art by contemporary authors. Following Klicperova Street and going through the Žižka's Gardens, you will reach Adalbertinum. From there, you can walk along Palacký Street to reach **the Museum of Eastern Bohemia**.





**Museum of Eastern Bohemia**

The museum is located on the Elisabeth Embankment (Eliščino nábřeží) in a magnificent building from the early 20th century. The building was designed by the architect Jan Kotěra, and has become a national cultural monument. The museum houses large collections on archaeology, natural sciences, and history.

[www.muzeumhk.cz](http://www.muzeumhk.cz)



**Hradec Králové Digital Planetarium**

You can't overlook the UFO-like building of the Digital Planetarium in the south-eastern part of the city. A night sky full of stars, spatial representation of the cosmos, and thematic films projected on a spherical dome above the visitors are among the biggest, but not the only, attractions here. The visitors can also enjoy two interactive exhibitions, a meteorological station, and a robotic telescope.

[www.astrohk.cz](http://www.astrohk.cz)



**Labe River Steamboats and Children's Railway**

From May to September, you can board a pleasure steamboat at the Smetana Embankment (Smetanovo nábřeží) sitting on a bank of the Labe River, and enjoy a 50 minutes long sightseeing cruise. During the same time, young and old visitors alike can use the children's railway situated next to the quay in the park at the Fifth of May Square (náměstí 5. května).



[www.paroplavbahk.cz](http://www.paroplavbahk.cz); [www.nabreziparomilu.cz](http://www.nabreziparomilu.cz)



**Kuks Hospital – 28 km from Hradec Králové**

In the Baroque compound of a former spa, pharmacy, and hospital with the Holy Trinity Church, you can see, among other things, mural paintings with the 'Dance of Death' theme. They form a series of 50 paintings depicting the equality of people who are living the final moments of their lives. In the lapidarium, you can see the originals of the twelve Virtues and twelve Vices made by the remarkable Czech Baroque sculptor, M. B. Braun. One of the parts of the hospital is a garden, where herbs, medicinal plants, and fruit trees are grown.

[www.hospital-kuks.cz](http://www.hospital-kuks.cz); [www.zkuskuks.cz](http://www.zkuskuks.cz)



[www.safaripark.cz](http://www.safaripark.cz)



**Dvůr Králové Safari Park – 38 km from Hradec Králové**

Dvůr Králové Safari Park ranks among the most beautiful in Europe, and is at the same time the biggest breeder of African animals on the Old Continent. In addition to the traditional section of the zoo, you can also visit its safari with no barriers between animals and people, just like in the national parks in Africa. You can enjoy the safari on foot, by safari bus, minitrain, your own vehicle, or a rope trail. You can even spend the night in the safari park.

**NEARBY TRIPS**

Just 8 km northwest from Hradec Králové you can visit **the Věstary Archaeopark** **5**. Its grounds offer an exceptional exhibition on prehistory, including demonstrations of buildings, crafts, customs and rituals from that time. You can also get to Věstary via a 12-km-long cycle path, which runs along local archaeologically significant sites. Just under 50 km towards Liberec, you can come across **Jičín**, a town associated with the fairy tales highwayman Rumcajs. The town is also a symbolic gate to **the Bohemian Paradise Protected Landscape Area**.



[www.archeoparkvestary.cz](http://www.archeoparkvestary.cz)

**Věstary Prehistory Archaeopark – 8 km from Hradec Králové**

In the outdoor exhibition you can see displays of prehistoric structures and burial mounds, as well as practical demonstrations of all kinds of work being done in prehistoric times, such as grain crushing, stone axe sharpening, pottery making, weaving, and field cultivation. The indoor exhibition then comprises of three parts representing the underground, life, and spiritual world of prehistoric people.

**Bohemian Paradise – 55 km from Hradec Králové**

This exceptional landscape full of ravines, paths, towers and observation decks has been added to the list of UNESCO Global Geoparks. One of the oldest nature reserves in the Czech Republic, the Prachov Rocks, are considered the most beautiful area of the Bohemian Paradise. This rock city provides both short and long sightseeing tours, during which you'll pass through several vantage points, climb up rocky stairs, and squeeze through narrow crevices between giant boulders.



[www.cesky-raj.info](http://www.cesky-raj.info)

If you head up north, you'll get to the fortress town of **Josefov** **6** (→ p. 60) and the nearby **Kuks Hospital** **7**, a unique Baroque compound formed in the late 17th century. These two tourist attractions are linked to Hradec Králové via a 26-km-long cycle path running through the beautiful landscapes around the Labe River. Only 14 km lie between the hospital and **the Dvůr Králové Safari Park** **8**, which is one of the best-known Czech zoological gardens. You should also not miss the **Adršpach-Teplice Rocks** and the unique **museums in Police nad Metují** located near the Polish border.



**MERKUR Toy Construction Sets Museum – 60 km from Hradec Králové**

This one-of-a-kind museum maps the past and present of the best-known Czech toy – the MERKUR construction set. You can see here the oldest set from 1920, a 1:45 scale rail track model, and many other structures. However, the crown jewel of this place is the Steel City – the biggest structure built from MERKUR, included in the Guinness World of Records book.

[www.merkurpolice.cz](http://www.merkurpolice.cz)



**Museum of Paper Models, Police nad Metují – 60 km from Hradec Králové**

In the only exhibition of its kind in the Czech Republic, you can see over 1,200 meticulous paper models made by leading authors from the Czech Republic, Poland, and Slovakia.



[www.mpmpm.cz](http://www.mpmpm.cz)



**Adršpach-Teplice Rocks – 70 km from Hradec Králové**

The main destination of those who come to Adršpach is the sandstone rock city, which ranks together with the Teplice Rocks among the largest continuous rock massifs in Central Europe. The visit to the rocks is livened up by two waterfalls (one small and one large), and a boat trip on a lake surrounded by the rocks.





In the area east of Hradec, it's worth visiting the nearby **Krňovice Open-Air Folk Museum**, which showcases a series of vernacular buildings, historic exhibitions, and live demonstrations of crafts. Other points of interest include **the Třebechovice Museum of Nativity Scenes**, where you can feel the Christmas atmosphere all year round; **the Vamberk Museum of Lace** or the chateaux on the Orlice River (→ p. 42–43), fittingly labelled 'the Czech Loire'.

**Krňovice Open-Air Folk Museum – 13 km from Hradec Králové**

The sightseeing trail includes the vernacular buildings themselves, as well as their interiors furnished with period exhibits, many of which can be tried on by the visitors.

www.krnovice.cz



**The Třebechovice Museum of Nativity Scenes – 13 km from Hradec Králové**

The museum is the only facility of its kind in the Czech Republic. Among other things, it boasts a unique mechanical nativity scene made by folk woodcarvers, who made it over a hundred years ago. The wooden nativity scene spans over an area of 7 x 3 metres, and includes more than 350 carved figures.

**The Vamberk Museum of Lace – 38 km from Hradec Králové**

The museum showcases Czech lace-making in a modern exhibition, and demonstrates through original exhibits the transformation of lace in Bohemia from the early 18th century to the present.



www.betlem.cz

www.muzeumkrajky.cz



The fifth largest city in the Czech Republic is situated 90 km northeast of Prague and 100 km northwest of Hradec Králové, close to both the German and Polish borders. The symbol of Liberec, and in fact of the whole region, is the unique transmitter tower at Ještěd.

**104 445**  
**Prague – 125 km**  
**Tourist Information Centre, nám. Dr. E. Beneše 468/23 (Dr. E. Beneš Square), 460 01 Liberec**  
**Tel.: +420 485 101 709**  
**E-mail: info@visitliberec.eu**  
**www.visitliberec.eu**

REGULAR EVENTS

- JANUARY**  
Šediváček's Long Trail Race
- FEBRUARY–APRIL, OCTOBER–NOVEMBER**  
Jazzinec
- MARCH**  
The Krkonoše 70-km Race
- APRIL**  
Hradec Králové Grand Prix
- MAY**  
300 Turns of Gustav Havel, Hořice
- MAY AND JUNE**  
Cirk-UFF
- JUNE**  
The Theatre of European Regions and Open Air Programme, Hradec Králové  
Pod Zvičinou International Folk Festival  
Rock for People, Hradec Králové

- JUNE–AUGUST**  
Treasures of the Broumov Region
- AUGUST**  
The melting of glass using wood, Deštná  
International Folk Festival, Červený Kostelec  
Jirásek's Hronov  
International Mountaineering Film Festival, Teplice n. Metují  
Kuks Theatre
- SEPTEMBER**  
Jičín – the Town of Fairy Tales
- OCTOBER**  
Jazz Goes to Town, Hradec Králové
- NOVEMBER**  
Music Forum, Hradec Králové  
JazzNights, Hořice
- DECEMBER**  
Špindl Ski Opening

**The Theatre of European Regions and Open Air Programme, Hradec Králové**



www.klicperovodivadlo.cz; www.openair.cz

MUST-SEE PLACES

*Dr. E. Beneš Square is dominated by a grandiose Neo-Renaissance city hall building, whose interior is popular with film crews from both this country and abroad. Just a few metres from there, in Palachova Street, you'll come across the newest dinopark in the Czech Republic. For a day of fun, you can take the whole family to the Babylon Centre where you'll find an abundance of attractions. You can find the zoological and botanical gardens at the northwest edge of Liberec. Both gardens are the oldest of their kind in the Czech Republic.*

www.visitliberec.eu



www.centrumbabylon.cz

**Babylon Centre**

This leisure centre attracts visitors with its original aquapark themed in the style of Jules Verne stories; a funfair with merry-go-rounds, bumper cars, and indoor adventure golf; a 4D cinema, laser tag, virtual reality, and much more. You can also enjoy attractive exhibits in iQPARK, the first educational entertainment centre in the Czech Republic. Visitors of all generations can, through play and experimentation, explore and discover common phenomena that happen around us. Here, you can find more than 200 interactive exhibits from all areas of human life.



**Liberec ZOO**

You can admire up to 160 animal species from all continents spread across a 13-hectare large area. Among the Liberec Zoo's rarities are a white variation of the Bengal tiger, Barbary lions, and impressive golden takins – bred and raised only in Liberec, out of all of the European zoos. Another rarity is its collection of birds of prey, which is one of the most complete collections on the Old Continent.

www.zooliberec.cz

**Rock for People, Hradec Králové**



www.rockforpeople.cz

**International Folk Festival, Červený Kostelec**



www.folklorck.cz

**300 Turns of Gustav Havel, Hořice**



NEARBY TRIPS

Impregnable castles, fairy-tale-like chateaux, observation towers of different shapes and materials, cosy log cabins, and technological heritage sites as a reminder of our ancestors' craftsmanship. The Liberec Region has all this and much more to offer.

Throughout the whole year, you can visit **the Museum of Glass and Costume Jewellery** situated east of Liberec, in Jablonec nad Nisou. Sports enthusiasts will appreciate the 80 km long network of cycle trails called 'Singltrek pod Smrkem' and in the winter season, dozens of kilometres of ski slopes traverse modern ski resorts in the Jizera Mountains and the western Krkonoše. If you go south from Liberec, you can see beautiful examples of vernacular architecture, unique **Bozkov Dolomite Caves** and spectacular **nobility residences** (see castles – p. 39 and chateaux – p. 43). If you head west, make sure you don't miss **Česká Lípa** and its amazing variety of architectural heritage sites.



**Singltrek pod Smrkem**  
– 40 km from Liberec

The trails run between Nové Město pod Smrkem and Libverda Spa, as well as along Jindřichovický hřeben, and partly in Poland. Singltrek pod Smrkem offers over 80 kilometres of trails in four different levels of difficulty. There is something for everyone, from families with young children to fit and proficient off-road cyclists.



podsmrkem.singltrek.cz

**Museum of Glass and Jewellery, Jablonec nad Nisou**  
– 15 km from Liberec

Come and see the museum's collections of glass, costume jewellery, buttons, coins, medals, and plaques in permanent exhibitions called 'The Endless Story of Jewellery' and 'The Magic Garden – Bohemian Glass over Seven Centuries'.



www.msb-jablonec.cz

**Česká Lípa – 55 km from Liberec**

Besides the enchanting Lipý Water Castle, Česká Lípa offers its visitors a chance to marvel at an array of burgher houses, a Neo-Renaissance town hall, a former Augustinian monastery, or an archaeological museum housed in a former municipal jail.



mucl.cz

**REGULAR EVENTS**

- FEBRUARY**  
The Jizera Mountains 50-km race – a traditional cross-country ski race
- MAY**  
The Wallenstein Festival, Frýdlant (a biennial event)
- JULY**  
The Benátská Summer Music Festival, Liberec
- AUGUST–OCTOBER**  
The Lípa Musica International Music Festival, Česká Lípa
- OCTOBER**  
IGS – The International Glass Symposium, Nový Bor (a triennial event)

**Skiarena Jizerky**  
– 30 km from Liberec

Skiarena Jizerky is a group of interconnected ski resorts in the Jizera Mountains – Tanvaldský Špičák, Severák, and Bedřichov – linked by way of a single ski bus and ski pass valid in all the resorts. Together, the resorts offer a total of 17 km of ski slopes, 20 ski lifts, 2 chairlifts, and 3 moving carpets.



www.skijizerky.cz

**Skiregion.cz**  
– 45 km from Liberec

SKIREGION.CZ is the largest ski area in the western Krkonoše and the Jizera Mountains, comprising of ski resorts in Rokytnice nad Jizerou, Paseky nad Jizerou, Rejdice, and Příchovice. The total length of the ski slopes is 38 km, and all ski resorts can be accessed with a single ski pass.

skiregion.cz

**Bozkov Dolomite Caves**  
– 50 km from Liberec

The caves, in which Bohemia's largest underground lake is found, are one of the most visited places in Bohemian Paradise. The total length of the caves comes to over 1,000 metres, which makes them the longest dolomite caves in the Czech Republic. They are also unique due to the unusually extensive selective corrosion of the walls and roofs, and the distinctive shapes of these formations.



www.caves.cz

**Dlask's Homestead, Turnov**  
– 30 km from Liberec

The homestead, registered as a place of national cultural heritage, is one of the most beautiful and most typical examples of timbered architecture in Czech rural areas. The building is now part of the Museum of Bohemian Paradise in Turnov. Visitors can see a thematic ethnographic exhibition here.



www.muzeum-turnov.cz

Jelenia Góra (Deer Mountain) is the first larger city after crossing the Czech border coming from Harrachov. It blends the charm of a city centre filled with historical heritage, a thermal spa, and of a focal point from which all roads lead to mountain adventures.



**84 306**  
**Wrocław – 110 km**  
**Tourist Information Centre**  
plac Ratuszowy 6/7, 58-500 Jelenia Góra  
Tel.: +48 519 509 343  
**cz.jeleniagora.pl**

**MUST-SEE PLACES**

Old town buildings, including **City Hall Square** (Plac ratuszowy) and the surrounding area dating from various periods in history, are certainly worth visiting. The oldest ecclesiastical building is the 14th-century **Gothic Church of St. Erasmus and St. Pancras** **1** (Plac Kościelny) with its 51-metre-tall church tower. **The Baroque Evangelical Church of the Holy Cross** **2**, which is one of the six Silesian Churches of Mercy, is also exceptional. The pulpit is made out of a single piece of stone. The local promenade in Konopnicka Street and 1st Maja Street are also worth mentioning. At the intersection of the two afore-mentioned streets, you'll find **the Chapel of St. Anne** **3** in a medieval fortified Wojanowska Bastion entitled Basteja. The city is surrounded by the remains of fortifications dating from the 14th and 15th centuries. There is also a thermal spa in the city, called **Cieplice Baths** (→ p. 62).



**Did you know that...?**

**The Museum of Gerhart Hauptmann** **4**, a Nobel Prize in Literature laureate, is housed in **Wiesenstein Villa**, which can be found in the nearby **Jagniatków**.



**Krkonoše Museum (Muzeum Krakonoskie) in Jelenia Góra**

You can start your visit to the Krkonoše Museum in the interior of a Krkonoše-style timbered cottage fitted with period furnishings dating from the turn of the 20th century. You can also visit a medieval burgher house, which demonstrates the lifestyle of local residents in the 17th and 18th century. The exhibition also showcases the largest collection of glass art objects in Poland. In this exhibition, you can also learn interesting facts about the history of the city and the Lower Silesia area. The museum collections are all the more exciting thanks to the several authentic historical video recordings (e.g. from World War II), maps, and real-life stories of remarkable residents of the city.

www.muzeumkarkonoskie.pl



## A BIG TOUR OF THE CZECH-POLISH FRONTIER

If you head south from Jelenia Góra, you can visit the town of **Karpacz**, where you'll find a small, unique church and a multimedia exhibition covering Krkonoše tales and mysteries. The ruins of **Chojnik Castle** and its lookout tower are also a popular destination. Winter (and other seasons) sports enthusiasts are drawn to **Szklarska Poręba a Polana Jakuszycka** resorts.



[www.karpacz.pl](http://www.karpacz.pl)

### Karpacz

– 18 km from Jelenia Góra

In the 12th century, there was a gold prospectors' settlement on the site of the present-day town of Karpacz. The most interesting site here is **Wang** – a Norwegian wooden church, covered with Viking runes (→ p. 53), which dates from the reign of the Prussian ruler Frederick William IV.



### Mysteries of the Krkonoše in Karpacz (Karkonoskie Tajemnice w Karpaczu)

The Krkonoše mysteries will take you to a mystical world. You will experience a face-to-face encounter with the Mountain Spirit and learn about the legends and tales that were forged in the Krkonoše. You'll meet an unusual laboratory technician, a glass-maker, Walloons, and a scary Mandrake. This multimedia and interactive subterranean kingdom will allow you to become part of the lives of ancient Krkonoše dwellers.



[www.karkonoskietajemnice.pl](http://www.karkonoskietajemnice.pl)

### Sports and Tourism Museum in Karpacz (Muzeum Sportu i Turystyki w Karpaczu)

The museum showcases exhibits and documents pertaining to sports, tourism and protecting the environment in the Krkonoše.



[www.muzeumsportu.org](http://www.muzeumsportu.org)



[www.szklarskaporeba.pl](http://www.szklarskaporeba.pl)

If you head north from Jelenia Góra, you can visit the mystical **Czocha Chateau** (→ p. 39) and the historic town of **Lwówek Śląski**.



### Lwówek Śląski

– 37 km from Jelenia Góra

This historic town, which has a brewing tradition dating as far back as 1209, is situated on the Via Regia medieval trade route.

[lwowekslaski.pl](http://lwowekslaski.pl)



## A BIG TOUR OF THE CZECH-POLISH FRONTIER

### Polana Jakuszycka 1

– 36 km from Jelenia Góra

The area's renowned cross-country skiing trails, which are around 100 km in total length, satisfy both racers and amateur lovers of 'white tracks' (the highest situated trails are found at an altitude of almost 1,000 metres). When the winter season ends, these trails are used by cyclists.

- **Rock climbing**
  - Sokoliki 2
- **Krkonoše National Park**
  - Sněžka (Śnieżka) 3
- **Waterfalls in the Polish Krkonoše**
  - Kamieńczyka Waterfall (the tallest waterfall in the Polish Sudeten) 4, Szklarki Waterfall 5, Podgórna Waterfall



[www.jakuszyce.info.pl](http://www.jakuszyce.info.pl)



### Szwajcaria Lwówecka, Lwówek Śląski

These interesting rock formations, complete with picturesque mazes and rock towers created by intense weathering, are up to 30 metres tall.

**TIP!** The Local Cuisine Trail – Lower Silesia Trail ("Trasa Dolního Śląska")

[smakidolnegoslaska.pl](http://smakidolnegoslaska.pl)

## REGULAR EVENTS

### FEBRUARY-MARCH

The International Rally of Horned Sledges, Kowary

The Piast Race, Jakuszyce

### JUNE

Jelenia Góra Markets with antiques and curiosities

The Festival of the Krkonoše Tastes

The Fortress of Tastes – a historic cuisine festival at Czocha Chateau

Knights' Tournament of the Golden Belt at Chojnik Castle

The Festival of Tastes, Liczyrzepy

### JULY

Lwówek Agate Summer

### SEPTEMBER

The Local Produce Exhibition „Produced below Śnieżka” in Jelenia Góra





# 7 WAŁBRZYCH

## A BIG TOUR OF THE CZECH-POLISH FRONTIER



The city of Wałbrzych, with a population of over 100,000 people, is situated about 70 km from Wrocław, the capital of Lower Silesian Voivodeship. It is thus a much shorter distance for Wałbrzych's residents to go to the Czech Republic. The country's border is just ten kilometres away, with fewer than fifty kilometres to Trutnov. Located in a shallow valley surrounded by mountains, the city is the ideal destination for nature and sports lovers. There are plenty of hiking trails and cycle routes for both road and mountain bikes in the area. The city became a fully-fledged industrial centre in the early 19th century, thanks to the flourishing mining and weaving industries. The industrial importance of the city was further underpinned in the early 20th century when new glassworks and ceramics factories opened, many of which are still in business today.

**Did you know that...?** A mausoleum commemorating 23 killed members of the Silesian National Socialist Movement was built in the city by the Nazis. The eternal flame of Walhalla was perpetually burning in the middle of the courtyard, and the mausoleum was allegedly the site of a Nazi dark cult. Dozens of secret underground passages were uncovered there, and it is rumoured that the building was connected with the Riese underground factory compound. All that's left of the mausoleum today are ruins.

Legend has it that fleeing Nazis hid a train brimming with stolen gold and other precious objects somewhere near Wałbrzych.

114 930

Wrocław – 77 km

**Tourist Information Centre**  
Rynek 9, 58-300 Wałbrzych  
Tel.: +48 74 66 66 068  
Email: cit@starakopalnia.pl  
[walbrzych.pl](http://walbrzych.pl)

## MUST-SEE PLACES

The places in the square deserving attention include not only its three oldest houses (The House Under an Anchor, The House with Three Roses and The House under Atlantis), but also a number of wine bars, where even the famous German author Johann Wolfgang Goethe enjoyed a drink or two in the late 18th century. **Thorez, the oldest urban winding tower**, is also worth visiting. It has housed a branch of the **Museum of Industry and Technology** since 1999. The museum covers the historical development of coal mining in the city and its environs. The crown jewel of the city is without a doubt the mystical **Książ Chateau**, which was earmarked to be Hitler's residence (→ p. 40). In the early 20th century, a palm-house was built near the chateau. You can find here around 250 species of plants from various climate zones from practically around the entire globe.



### Stara Kopalnia – The Science and Art Centre in Wałbrzych (Centrum Nauki i Sztuki w Wałbrzychu)

The Science and Art Centre in Stara Kopalnia is the biggest attraction related to industrial tourism in Poland. It is located on the site of a former coal mine called Julia. The revitalization of Wałbrzych's largest mine (completed in 2014), which had employed several thousand miners in its heyday, allowed for the creation of an extraordinary site. This 4.5-hectare area is filled with historic industrial structures, fitted with authentic equipment, and includes a secured machinery fleet site, which is open to visitors. Thanks to tour guides (i.e. miners who used to work in the Julia coal mine), who are now working for the Stara Kopalnia Centre, every visitor can both explore a large section of the mine's infrastructure and learn about certain aspects of the dangerous and demanding work of a miner.

[starakopalnia.pl](http://starakopalnia.pl)

## A BIG TOUR OF THE CZECH-POLISH FRONTIER

### NEARBY TRIPS

If you decide to head north from Wałbrzych and go on further towards Poland's inland regions, stop at **Świdnica 1** and **Jawor 2**, where you can visit **unique wooden churches, which have been put on the UNESCO list** (→ p. 48). **Technology enthusiasts can spend long hours in the Museum of Industry and Railways in Jaworzyna.**



Even though Jawor and Świdnica are 30 km apart, they have one unique architectural phenomenon in common – the Churches of Peace. Both of them were put on the UNESCO list in 2001. Both churches were built in the second half of the 17th century after peace had been established at the end of the Thirty Years' War. Ferdinand III of Austria granted the people of Silesia the right to build churches provided that they were made of wood and located within firing range of cannon balls fired from the city walls. Wooden churches, which look modest from the outside but are very ornate on the inside, were therefore built. The church in Jawor can hold 6,000 people, while the one in Świdnica 7,500 people.



### Museum of Industry and Railways in Silesia, Jaworzyna Śląska (Muzeum Przemysłu i Kolejnictwa na Śląsku w Jaworzynie Śląskiej) – 26 km from Wałbrzych

The historic railway park contains objects from 1890 to the 1970s. The collection includes 40 steam engines (made in Poland, Germany, England and the USA), electric and diesel engines, 50 rail carriages and other vehicles dispersed on tracks whose length total 2 km. In the museum, visitors can try out the 'Steam Train Route' – you can ride a Tkt48-18 steam engine or the Czechoslovak motor engine called 'Motorák' dating from 1956. Important railway structures are pointed out during the rides, such as a water crane, oil and sand repository buildings, an assembly channel, a trap door, etc. The museum also includes a collection of antique Harley-Davidson motorcycles – the largest in Poland (the 1924–1984 models have been restored and all run). The Museum of Automotive Toys can also be found there.

[muzeumtechniki.pl](http://muzeumtechniki.pl)

### Myśluborski Gorge (Wąwóz Myśluborski w Parku Krajobrazowym Chełmy) – 54 km from Wałbrzych

The Chełmy Protected Landscape Area Wąwóz Myśluborski (Myśluborski Gorge) is the only place in Poland where a specific rare variety of fern grows. There is a 4.5-km-long educational trail and a 9 km long cycle path in the Protected Landscape Area.





If you head west from Wałbrzych, you'll find a Cistercian monastery compound in Krzeszów (→ p. 47) and an underground compound in Walim and Gluszyca (→ p. 61), where you can solve yet another mystery from the Second World War. Visitors are drawn to the south and south-east of the city, particularly by the underground network of tunnels built by the Nazis.



In Wojsławice, located east of Wałbrzych, you can explore one of the most important dendrological gardens in Poland – the local arboretum.

**Wojsławice Arboretum – 56 km from Wałbrzych**

The arboretum stretches over an area of 65 hectares and is located at 250–275 metres above sea level. About 2,500 species of woody plants and 3,500 species of other plants are found here. There is a large collection of rhododendrons, lilies and box-trees in the garden. Wojsławice Arboretum has a long-lasting tradition, as a romantic park has stood on this site since 1821. The park was transformed into a rhododendron garden 60 years later. The garden was nationalized after 1946 and was run as a state-owned farm for some time; then it was redesigned into its current state.



**TIP!** The Local Cuisine Trail – The Tastes of Lower Silesia (Szlak kulinarny – Smaki Dolnego Śląska)

**REGULAR EVENTS**

**APRIL-SEPTEMBER**

The Flower Festival at Książ Chateau (Festiwal Kwiatów na Zamku Książ)  
MTB Sudeten Zone Cup, Wałbrzych

**MAY-SEPTEMBER**

Concerts of Peace, Jawor

**MAY**

The Medieval Fair at Grodno Chateau

**JUNE**

The Lower Silesia Soup Festival (Dolnośląski Festiwal Zupy w Jedlinie-Zdrój)

**JULY**

Castle Party at Bolków Castle



The town lies on the historic route between Prague and Wrocław. Kłodzko's cultural heritage makes it one of the most beautiful towns in Lower Silesia. Its dominant landmark is a massive fortress located on the hill just outside the historic centre. The fortress was built under Austrian rule in the 17th century. Today, tours of its unique maze of underground tunnels are available to visitors. Looking down from the ramparts, you will be sure to appreciate the spectacular views over the town and its environs. The Gothic Bridge of St John and its six Baroque statues also deserve attention. The bridge is often called the miniature version of Charles Bridge in Prague. You can also visit a former Jesuit monastery, which now houses the local museum.

27 977  
Wrocław – 91 km  
**Tourist Information Centre**  
Plac B. Chrobrego 1, 57-300 Kłodzko  
E-mail: rit@um.klodzko.pl  
[www.klodzko.pl](http://www.klodzko.pl)

**MUST-SEE PLACES**

Stretching to the north of the town is a valley which has the highest concentration of mountain massifs in Lower Silesia. The section between Bardo and Ławica is therefore one of the best areas in Poland to go rafting. Going down a river that has mountain stream characteristics and is easy to navigate is a great combination of sport and leisure. The route is 15 km long, and takes between 3 and 4 hours to complete. If you go a little further to the northeast, you can stop at the small town of Ząbkowice Śląskie, formerly known as Frankenstein. At nearby Silver Mountain, you can take a look inside its unique mountain stronghold (→ p. 60), the largest building of this type in Europe. If you are a keen cyclist, be sure not to miss the opportunity to take a ride along the cycle trails that are part of the renowned Strefa MTB Sudeten network. In the town of Dzierżoniów, you can visit a synagogue, which is one of the few preserved Jewish temples in Lower Silesia to have survived the Night of Broken Glass.



**Ząbkowice Śląskie – 23 km from Kłodzko**

The town is famous not only for its leaning tower, but also for its gruesome historical events of 1606, which are presumed to have inspired Mary Shelley to write her famous novel Frankenstein. The 34-metre-tall leaning tower, whose deflection from the vertical axis is 2.14 metres, is located near the town square. The structure was built in the early 15th century and is presently used as a lookout tower.

**Did you know that...?** In 1606, plague broke out in the town and spread at astonishing speed. It transpired some time later, that a group of eight gravediggers used the epidemic to gain riches and perform horrifying rituals. They are said to have made deadly powder out of the infected bodies of the deceased, and then spread it in selected houses. Upon their victims' deaths, they looted their houses and used some of the bodies for dark rituals.





## A BIG TOUR OF THE CZECH-POLISH FRONTIER

### Strefa MTB Sudeten – 35 km from Kłodzko

This is the largest network of marked MTB trails in Poland. There are more than 500 km of trails running through Bielawa, Dzierżoniów, Głuszycza, Mierszów, Nowa Ruda, Pieszyce, Srebrna Góra and Walim. Some of them lead right up to the boundary of the Broumovsko Bike Resort.



If your journey takes you **westwards** from Kłodzko, stop at the spa towns of Duszniki-Zdrój and Kudowa-Zdrój, where you can visit interesting exhibitions in the local museums. **Table Mountains National Park**, with a unique rock city and spectacular views, stretches only a short distance from the Czech-Polish border.

### Museum of Papermaking, Duszniki-Zdrój – 22 km from Kłodzko

In 1562, an old paper mill was transformed into the Museum of Papermaking, where paper is still made today. During a tour, you'll see for yourself how paper is made using a method known since the Middle Ages.

**TIP!** You can even join a workshop and make your own sheet of paper.

[www.muzpap.pl](http://www.muzpap.pl)

### Museum of Folk Culture in the Sudeten Mountains, Pstrązna – 35 km from Kłodzko

This is an open-air museum featuring original cottages and a rural homestead. We highly recommend trying the local village bread made using a traditional recipe, perhaps paired with some hand-churned butter from cow's milk. Plenty of events with presentations of rural life, and the commitments that come with it, take place here from spring to autumn.

**TIP!** Groups can pre-book a unique experience of making traditional, home-made butter.



### Table Mountains National Park, Hejšovina – 35 km from Kłodzko

Standing 920 metres above sea level, this sandstone peak attracts thousands of visitors every year, the same way the Adršpach Rocks do. Hejšovina is a maze of crevices, passages, rock towers, and peculiar formations.

[www.pngs.com.pl](http://www.pngs.com.pl)



### Dzierżoniów – 42 km from Kłodzko

The local synagogue was built in 1875 and survived the Second World War, as it was used for Hitler Youth administration purposes. The synagogue returned to its previous purpose after the war, however, the Jews were forcibly displaced in the 1970s and the synagogue closed down at the beginning of the 1980s. Currently, the Jewish Trust is working towards returning life to this site and transforming it into a place where history, religion and Jewish culture meet.



### Museum of Phillumeny, Bystrzyca Kłodzka – 18 km from Kłodzko

This is a museum covering the history of firefighting and the region. The major collections in the museum contain objects made of non-flammable materials, fuses, petrol, gas, electric and chemical lighters, metal and stone boxes, as well as wrappings and labels from Poland, European countries, and from all around the world.

[www.muzeum-filumenistyczne.pl](http://www.muzeum-filumenistyczne.pl)



## A BIG TOUR OF THE CZECH-POLISH FRONTIER

What to visit if you head **south** from Kłodzko? The must-see places include: **the unique Peat Bog below Zieleniec**, which entices visitors to do some light hiking; one of the most beautiful **caves** in Poland; and the one-time **uranium mine** in the village of Kletno. If you continue further down to the Czech Republic, be sure to stop in **Dolní Morava** and take a walk in the clouds.



### Uranium Mine, Kletno – 35 km from Kłodzko

Iron, silver and copper ore has been mined in the area surrounding Kletno since the Middle Ages. Uranium mining started here in 1948 at the instigation of the Soviet Union, which was searching for uranium resources in order to make an atom bomb. A total of 37 km of tunnels were dug over the five-year period of when the mine was in operation. Around 20 tonnes of uranium were extracted during that time. A 200-metre-long hiking trail, along which visitors learn about a range of minerals and mining equipment, has been open to the public since 2002.

[www.kletno.pl](http://www.kletno.pl)

### Bear Cave, Kletno – 35 km from Kłodzko

You can find the Bear Cave in the Králický Sněžník massif, near the village of Kletno. It is the largest cave in the Polish Sudeten Mountains and concurrently one of the deepest in all of Poland. The cave's unique microclimate keeps the temperature constant at around 6°C, and the air humidity here is 100%. The tour will take you on a comfortable pavement through the middle level of the cave. The number of admissions per day is limited, so we recommend that you book your tour in advance.



**Did you know that...?** During the Ice Age, sediment layers rich with remains of the animals that existed at that time were settled in the cave. Most of the remains had come from cave bears, giving name to the cave.

## REGULAR EVENTS

### JUNE

The Fortress Festival, Srebrna Góra

### JULY

The International Dance Festival, Łądek-Zdrój  
The Paper Festival, Duszniki-Zdrój

### AUGUST

Fortress Days, Kłodzko  
The International Chopin Festival, Duszniki-Zdrój

### Peat Bog below Zieleniec – 30 km from Kłodzko

A large peat bog unfolds near Zieleniec, the largest tourist centre on the Polish side of the Orlické Mountains. The Orlice River rises in the peat bog, which covers an area of over 218 hectares, and is estimated to be around 7,600 years old. There is a large number of rare plant and animal species living there. The nature reserve is crossed by a green hiking route, which then branches out to two feeder roads. The first road will take you to the northern area called Topielisko, where you can find a lookout tower open to the public. The second road leads to the area called Czarne Bagno.

**Did you know that...?** The dwarf birch (*Betula nana*) grows there, although it is typically found more often in Scandinavia and Greenland. There are only three places in Poland where the dwarf birch can be found.



### Sky Walk, Dolní Morava – 55 km from Kłodzko

Thanks to this trail, built in 2015, you have a unique opportunity to walk in the treetops at an altitude of 1,116 metres above sea level and enjoy the view over the nearby mountain massifs. The shape of the structure is meant to resemble the flight of a moth. You can reach the top of the 55-metre-tall structure via a network of wooden paths. If you want to move from one level to the next, you can try a feature called the „sleeve“, made up of a dense net of ropes.

**TIP!** To get down fast, use the 100-metre-long slide.

[www.dolnimorava.cz/stezka-v-oblacich](http://www.dolnimorava.cz/stezka-v-oblacich)





# 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**  
 Bastion św. Jadwigi, ul. Piastowska 19, Nysa  
 Tel.: +48 77 433 49 71, +48 602 654 128  
 E-mail: [biuro@twierdzanysa.com](mailto:biuro@twierdzanysa.com)  
[www.informacja-turystyczna.nysa.pl](http://www.informacja-turystyczna.nysa.pl)  
[www.nysa.eu](http://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](http://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](http://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](http://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](http://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.



**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.

**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](http://www.rychlebskestezky.cz)



**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](http://www.iclosiny.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.

[www.dlouhe-strane.cz](http://www.dlouhe-strane.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](http://www.sumperk.cz)



Opole lies in the south of Poland, on the Odra River. It is one of the oldest cities in Poland, and boasts a rich history and a multitude of architectonic heritage sites.

127 792  
 Wrocław – 104 km  
**Tourist Information Centre**  
 ul. Żeromskiego 3, 45-053 Opole, Tel.: +48 77 44 12 521  
[visitopolskie.pl](http://visitopolskie.pl)

**MUST-SEE PLACES**

The city centre is formed by **Rynek**, a square that has kept its medieval character. The dominant landmark of the square is its **Neo-Renaissance City Hall** built in the 19th century. The building was inspired by the famous Vecchio Palace in Florence. Rynek is surrounded by the most remarkable city **churches**: the Cathedral of the Exaltation of the Holy Cross with the Counts of Piast mausoleum, the Church of Our Lady of Sorrows and St Adalbert, built as far back as the 10th century, and the Franciscan Church of the Holy Trinity. Exhibitions in the local museums are also worth visiting, especially the interactive **Polish Song Museum** and the nearby Opole Village Museum, complete with its extensive outdoor exhibits. The existence of a count's castle is demonstrated by the 35-metre-tall **Piast Tower**, built at the turn of the 14th century. You can go up the tower and explore a small thematic exhibition. Be sure not to miss out on a walk around Młynówka, an old streambed of the Odra River in central Opole, reminiscent of Venice. Visit the local **zoo** as well, situated on Bolko Island, where you can see exotic and endangered animal species.

**Opole Village Museum**

This open-air museum features close to 50 historic wooden buildings, which show us how people lived in rural settings from the 17th-19th century. Rural cottages, barns, granaries, a church, a blacksmith's shop, a water mill and a windmill are on display here. Everything is furnished with period furniture and equipment.



[www.muzeumwsiopolskiej.pl](http://www.muzeumwsiopolskiej.pl)

**Polish Song Museum**

A multimedia exhibition offers visitors a cross-section through the history of Polish songs from the 1st half of the 20th century to the present day. Here, you can watch around 580 music videos and listen to around 2,000 audio recordings by well-known Polish performers.



**TIP!** In a recording booth, you can become a star singer for a moment, try your hand at drumming and change into virtual costumes.

[muzeumpiosenki.pl](http://muzeumpiosenki.pl)

**Piast Tower**

Your tour guide will tell you about the history of the medieval tower and take you through the exhibits. The 42-metre-tall tower ranks among the oldest defence structures in Poland. Its significance is explained in more detail during a multimedia presentation.



[www.wiezapiastowska.pl](http://www.wiezapiastowska.pl)



## A BIG TOUR OF THE CZECH-POLISH FRONTIER



### ZOO

The zoological garden is situated on Bolko Island at the Odra River. More than 1,000 animals of 130 species live in the area stretching across 20 hectares. This is the only zoo in Poland that keeps lowland gorillas and a California sea lion.

[zoo.opole.pl](http://zoo.opole.pl)

## NEARBY TRIPS

You can head southwest from Opole and go to the town of **Nysa**. Along the way, you'll come across **Niemodlin Chateau** 1, which was built as far back as the 13th century to protect the entire Opole region. You may also visit **the Prisoners of War Museum in Łambinowice**. You can also head to **Paczków**, which is close to Nysa, and visit the breath-taking Automotive Metamuseum.

### Prisoners of War Museum, Łambinowice – 40 km from Opole

The museum is situated in a former prisoner-of-war camp, Lamsdorf, also once called Camp I. The exhibition is located in the buildings formerly used by the Wehrmacht as their headquarters and guardhouse. The origins of Lamsdorf extend back to the Franco-Prussian War. The camp was one of the largest camps in the German POW system during the Second World War.



[www.cmjw.pl](http://www.cmjw.pl)

### Nysa – 55 km from Opole

The town, dubbed 'the Silesian Rome', attracts visitors in particular with the remains of its fortifications dating back to the times when Nysa was one of the strongest fortresses in Europe. It is one of the best-preserved fortification systems in Silesia (→ p. 61). Also worth visiting, is the Basilica of St James and St Agnes (→ p. 48), one of the largest sacral buildings in Poland.

[www.nysa.eu](http://www.nysa.eu)



### Automotive Metamuseum, Paczków – 80 km from Opole

The Metamuseum was established at the impetus of the 'Concept of Notion' Biernacki Family Trust as an educational centre. Its objective is to promote technical culture and useful knowledge in physics and mechanics. Its 1,200 m<sup>2</sup> area houses eleven interactive workstations called test centres. It includes a collection of a few dozen historic cars and motorbikes. Here, you can admire Ford, Mercedes, Porsche and Ferrari classic cars, and even the legend of the Polish motoring industry – the Sokół 600 motorcycle. The neighbouring building houses the 'Na Hoplach' Modern Art Gallery and the 'Hople Paczków' Winery. The whole compound is an extraordinary attraction in Paczków.

[pow.org.pl](http://pow.org.pl)

## A BIG TOUR OF THE CZECH-POLISH FRONTIER



If you head south from Opole, towards the Czech-Polish border, you'll discover a treasure in the form of **Moszna Chateau** (→ p. 40), which is often compared to the famous Disney Castle. There is a truly unique place near the chateau, **the Robot Factory** (→ p. 56), inspired by famous sci-fi films. Before you cross the border and arrive at the Jeseníky Mountains, stop at the small 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. To see Opole's natural treasures, you can head southeast from Opole, to **St. Anne's Mountain Protected Landscape Area** 2, where you can also find a pilgrimage and monastery site of the same name, and an amphitheatre built by the Nazis.

To the east of Opole is **Turawa Lake**, a holiday resort popular with water sports and fishing enthusiasts. The lake was created on **the Mała Panew**, a meandering lowland river with mountain stream characteristics, which is ideal for canoeing. Fossils of reptiles dating from 225 million years ago were found just a few kilometres away from the lake, which has given rise to the idea of building a **JuraPark** in Krasiejów.

### Turawa Lake – 20 km from Opole

The lake is surrounded by forested areas, which protect the lake's sand beaches from the wind. The area is well-known as an important ornithological spot, as well as great fishing place for catching pike, pike perch, carp, and eels.



If you head north from Opole, stop at **the Stobrawa Protected Landscape Area**, which is a true paradise for both hikers and cyclists.

### Stobrawa Protected Landscape Area – 30 km from Opole

The length of the park stretches up to roughly sixty kilometres, and includes a section of the Odra River valley. The major asset of the area is the woods, which make up around 78% of its area. The fact that this park is exceptional is demonstrated by nearly forty protected species of animals and by the same number of very rare plant species. The park is home to 170 species of songbirds and aquatic birds, including some rare species and species in danger of becoming extinct.

## REGULAR EVENTS



### JUNE

**The National Festival of Polish Songs, Opole**

### JULY

**Hot Air Balloon Aeropicnic – Polish Championship, Paczków**  
**Nysa Fortress Days**



### JuraPark, Krasiejów – 25 km from Opole

The only museum in the world situated above an active paleontological site. At JuraPark, you can enjoy more than 200 life-sized models of dinosaurs, take an expedition through the tunnel of time, visit a prehistoric aquarium, and so much more.

[www.juraparkkrasiejow.pl](http://www.juraparkkrasiejow.pl)





# 11 RACIBÓRZ

## A BIG TOUR OF THE CZECH-POLISH FRONTIER



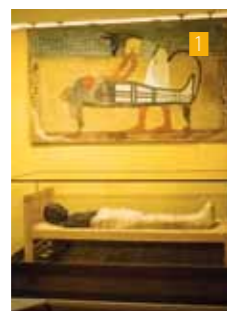
55 189  
 Katowice – 96 km  
**Tourist Information Centre**  
 ul. Długa 2, 47-400 Racibórz  
 E-mail: raciborz@slaskie.travel

Racibórz is one of the historic capitals of Upper Silesia, and as such boasts rich cultural and historical heritage. Nearly one thousand years of history have left their mark on the town in the form of architectural and art heritage from all eras. A number of local tourist attractions, including a well-preserved chateau (→ p. 40) with its large exhibition and adjacent park, draw thousands of visitors each year.

**Did you know that...?** Around 1290, the High Duke Przemysł II had a Gothic chapel built, which was dedicated to the English martyr St Thomas Becket of Canterbury. It is the most valuable building of its kind in Poland. The chapel is often compared to Paris's famous chapel, and is therefore dubbed 'the Silesian Sainte-Chapelle'.

## MUST-SEE PLACES

On the Racibórz Square you can see a Gothic parish church, a Renaissance bastion, and a Baroque Marian column. In addition to exhibits mapping the cultural heritage of the city, the local museum can provide visitors even with a view of an Egyptian mummy .



### Moravian Gate Arboretum

The arboretum stretches over 35-hectare area, and visitors can look forward to a minizoo, educational trails, fitness trails, as well as the Enchanted Garden.



### Wodzisław Śląski – 25 km from Racibórz

The town square in Wodzisław has been the most important and one of the largest squares in Silesian Voivodeship since the town was first settled in the 13th century. The dominant landmark of the town centre is the Palace of the Dietrichsteins, which stands on the site of a former chateau.



### Frontier Meanders of the Odra River – 25 km from Racibórz

The region includes a section of the Odra Valley on both sides of the Polish-Czech border, from the bridge in Chalupki to the area where the Olše empties into the Odra River. This is a naturally meandering section of the river and a riverside area with fragments of riparian woodlands, willow thickets, reeds and marshlands.

### Rudy – 24 km from Racibórz

The Cistercian monastery and chateau compound, surrounded by the natural beauties of a protected landscape area, are well worth visiting. Riding on a narrow gauge railway or canoeing down the Ruda River provide a truly unique experience.



### Głubczyce – 36 km from Racibórz

It is one of the oldest towns in Silesia. The town was fortified with defensive walls as early as the second half of the 13th century. Głubczyce's historic town centre's unique feature is its town square shaped in a quarter-circle.



## A BIG TOUR OF THE CZECH-POLISH FRONTIER

# CIESZYN 12



36 014  
 Ostrava – 49 km  
 Katowice – 106 km  
**Tourist Information Centre**  
 Rynek 1, 43-400 Cieszyn  
 E-mail: cieszyn@slaskie.travel  
[www.slaskcieszynski.travel](http://www.slaskcieszynski.travel)

Těšín was split in 1920 along with Teschen Silesia, which was divided between two new countries – Czechoslovakia and Poland. The Olše River was used as the dividing line between Czech Těšín and Polish Cieszyn, and the most interesting parts of the town in terms of their architecture were apportioned to Poland; this includes the historic town centre. The town is a symbolic union between the two countries and nations.

**Did you know that...?** There is a legend about how the town was founded in 810. It is said that the sons of Lešek III – Bolko, Leško and Češko – met at the water spring. They were so happy to see each other after a long journey, that they decided to build the town of Těšín here.

## MUST-SEE PLACES

You can find one of the most important heritage buildings in Poland on Chateau Hill. The building is **St. Nicholas's Rotunda** , which is depicted on the 20-złoty banknote. Here, you can visit the former 14th-century **Piast Castle's tower** which is used today as a lookout tower. **Cieszyn Chateau** stands right next to it. Těšín's dominant landmark is its **Neo-Renaissance Town Hall**, whose arched gable with a clock was used as inspiration for creating the town's logo. **The Neo-Gothic Church of the Most Sacred Heart of Our Lord**, the former **synagogue** building and the **Museum of the Těšín Region** are also worth visiting. One of the most beautiful parts of the town is **Przykopa Street**, where the Mlynówka Creek flows along the houses; it has therefore been nicknamed 'the Těšín's Venice'.



### Museum of Printing

The Museum was established in 1996 in order to preserve the printing tradition in the Silesian Těšín District. The collections include typesetting machines with sets of letters, printing matrices, printing presses, and bookbinding equipment.



### Wisła – 35 km from Cieszyn

If you head southeast from Těšín, you'll get to a small town near Trinec. Here, you can take a tour of **the president's residence**. After the necessary admission checks, you can walk through the interiors, which include a unique set of furniture and numerous graphics by Polish artists. Further 20 km south, you can stop at the small town of Koniaków, which has an exhibition on its renowned lace-making tradition.

**Did you know that...?** Archduke Friedrich of Austria, a.k.a. Marquis Gero, entertained German Emperor Wilhelm II, Field Marshal Hindenburg and Tsar Ferdinand of Bulgaria in the original hunting chateau. In 1927, the chateau burned down, and it was replaced with this avantgarde building.



## REGULAR EVENTS

### JULY

INTRO Festival, Racibórz  
 Reggae Festival, Wodzisław Śląski

### AUGUST

Lyski Rock Festival, Lyski

## REGULAR EVENTS

### MAY

Cinema on the Border, Cieszyn and Czech Těšín

### JUNE

Without Borders, Cieszyn and Czech Těšín – an international theatre festival

### JULY

The Beskids Culture Week, Wisła and Jablunkov







# 13 BIELSKO-BIAŁA



This city lies in the foothills of the Silesian and Little Beskids. The city was established by merging Bielsko and Biała in 1951. The Biała River cuts through the conurbation.

**Did you know that...?** *Bielsko-Biała is the hometown of the famous animated film studio, which created Bolek and Lolek, and Reksio.*

 171 505

 Katowice – 96 km

 **Tourist Information Centre**

Plac Ratuszowy 4, 43-300 Bielsko-Biała

Tel.: + 48 33 819 00 50

E-mail: bielskobiala@slaskie.travel

[www.it.bielsko.pl](http://www.it.bielsko.pl)

## MUST-SEE PLACES

Located at the foothills of the Beskids, this town offers its visitors a chance to enjoy its historic town square with a contemporary fountain, architecturally diverse St Nicholas's Cathedral, a chateau with a historical exhibition, and a Neo-Renaissance Town Hall with an observation tower.

**TIP!** *For those who love culture and architecture, we recommend planning a visit to the local gallery, Bator Art Gallery, and the wooden Church of St Barbara (→ p. 51).*

Located **east** of Bielsko-Biała is **Żywiec**, an old town with rich traditions. It lies among the picturesque the Beskid Mountains, above the Sola River and Żywiec Lake.



### Żywiec – 24 km from Bielsko-Biała

You can start a tour of the town right at the Tourist Information Centre, located in its very heart, next to the Old and New Chateaux. The Old Chateau beckons visitors to explore its exhibition on the local history and traditions. In the adjacent park, you can see miniatures of the most interesting buildings built by the previous owners of the Żywiec domain. Close to the square, you can discover the gorgeous Co-Cathedral of the Nativity of the Blessed Virgin Mary in Żywiec. A number of hiking trails lead out of the town centre towards the peaks of the Żywiec Beskids. You can even take a chair lift to reach the top of the Żar Mountain, which is the ideal place for wingsuiting and paragliding. Great conditions for water sports enthusiasts are found at Żywiec Lake.

Approximately 20 km **south** from the town of Bielsko-Biała, you can climb the highest mountain of the Beskids, **Skrzyczne**, either on foot or via a chairlift.

### Szczyrk – 16 km from Bielsko-Biała

Szczyrk is a popular leisure resort in the Silesian Beskids. It boasts the largest number of ski slopes in Poland, whose length is almost 40 km in total. In summer, visitors can appreciate the extensive network of mountain hiking trails.



### Silesian Press Museum – 21 km from Bielsko-Biała

This is the only museum in Poland that features press (newspapers) and printing. The museum exhibition displays a cross-section of the history of press in Silesia from its beginnings up to 1939. This is the only museum in the country that collects magazines, historic bookbinding machinery, and press equipment. It also houses Telemann's Room, a music and poetry room displaying collections of old instruments alongside an 18th-century compilation.

