

Ostrava

Ostrava is an **industrial city** and its nickname is “**steel heart of the republic**” because of steel production.

The major rivers are **Ostravice, Odra** and **Opava**.

Nowadays it is the **third largest** city in the Czech Republic and the biggest city in Moravian-Silesian Region. It has over 310 500 inhabitants.

Ostrava was named after the river Ostrá (meaning *sharp*) which is called **Ostravice** nowadays.

The Silesian Ostrava Castle is one of the most important sight and tourist attraction of the city. Lots of festivals and cultural events take place there, for example it hosted the music festival Colours of Ostrava.

The Ema Heap is made up of dirt-mining waste material from collieries. The invisible fire still keeps burning. People go for a walk there.

Other place worth seeing is the **Masaryk's Square** in the centre of Ostrava. The dominant features are a Marian Column, Statue of St. Florian and modern fountain built into in the pavement.

The New City Hall offers visitors a panoramic view of the city and surroundings from a height of about 72 m. In clear weather, the Moravian-Silesian Beskids and Jeseníky mountain ranges are visible.

In Miniuni, some of the exhibits are Prague's Old Town Hall, London's Big Ben, Berlin's Brandenburg Gate and Eiffel Tower.

In Ostrava we can travel by car, bike, tram, bus, trolleybus, train. Many new cycling routes have been built for cyclers.

The most serious environmental problems are smog, dust, traffic problems – traffic jams, lack of parking places, inversion, polluted water and air.

The largest shopping centres are Futurum, Shopping Park and Nová Karolína where we can find cafés, restaurants, children's playroom, specialised shops and a multi-cinema.

Lubomír Zaorálek, Evžen Tošenovský - politicians, Libor Sionko, Miroslav Matušovič, Michal Papadopulos, Marek Jankulovski - football players, Jaromír Nohavica - singer, songwriter, poet, Ivan Lendl - tennis player, Martin Prusek - ice hockey player, Věra Chytilová - director, Věra Špinarová - singer, Marie Rottrová - singer lived / live or work / worked in Ostrava.

TEST - Vocabulary:

satisfied

in future

industrial branch

coke producer

unemployment

improvement

cycling routes

exhibition

indoor pool

sight

composer

writer

brewery

dust

crime

environment

airport

display

ice rink

mine

market

industrial city

commented feeding

lack of

polluted

traffic jam

helter-skelter

puppet theatre

football stadium

coal