

INVESTICE DO ROZVOJE VZDĚLÁVÁNÍ

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Ostrava***I. Pre-reading activities.*****Answer the questions.**

- Where is Ostrava situated?
- What sport facilities are there in Ostrava?
- What cultural places are there?
- What means of transport can you use?
- What is the nightlife like in your town?
- What problems is the town facing nowadays?
- Which places in Ostrava do you particularly like? Why?
- Which places or areas don't you like?
- Where would you take a foreign friend?

II. Ostrava – reading.

The city is named after the Ostravice river formerly called the Ostrava river. It is a compound word from two word roots, OSTR + AVA (rough water). Ostrava is the third largest city in the Czech Republic and the largest urban area at the meeting point of three countries: the Czech Republic, Poland and Slovakia. Population is about 315,900, area 214.21 sq km.

In the past, Ostrava was usually seen by outsiders as a city of heavy industry, a dark and dismal place – but all this finally began to change for the better during the 1990s. Heavy industry went into decline and the city flourished, developing a vibrant social and cultural life and becoming a major centre of trade, sports and tourism. Hand in hand with this revival, Ostrava has become increasingly aware of this own uniqueness.

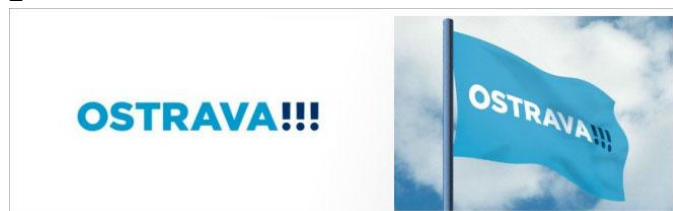
Heraldic emblem:

- A. A figure of a white horse – perhaps the symbol of the location of Ostrava at the meeting point of many roads; perhaps from the coat of arms of the founder and the first bailiff in Moravian Ostrava.
- B. A golden rose – from the family coat of arms of Stanislav Thurz, the bishop of Olomouc.

Logo of Ostrava.

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Energy. Confidence. Humour. All typical qualities of Ostrava and its people – and of the new city logo, which was presented to the general public in autumn 2008. OSTRAVA !!! is an innovative, interesting, perhaps provocative slogan, which sticks in the mind.

The three exclamation marks express the typical qualities of the region – the character of an industrial city seeking new opportunities in a changing world. The blue colour draws on heraldic tradition. The new logo is used in commercial presentations and informal occasions, where the traditional heraldic insignia is less suitable. It will be featured at hundreds of cultural and sporting events throughout the city, often with international participation. The striking new logo will undoubtedly stick in the minds of visitors to the city.

History

Ostrava was an important crossroads of prehistoric trading routes, namely the Amber Road. Archaeological finds have proved that the area around Ostrava has been permanently inhabited for 25,000 years. Mammoth hunters had an encampment at the top of Landek Hill, which has been evidenced by numerous archaeological finds. The most significant discovery was a 48 mm high figure of a woman's torso made from hematite found in 1953, called the Petřkovice (or Landek) Venus. Archaeologists have found evidence that prehistoric hunters used coal from exposed seams on the surface as fuel. It is the first evidence of the use of black coal in the world.

Some facts of history of Ostrava in dates

8 th century	Slavic settlement
1267	the town's statute was established, making Ostrava the private property of bishop Bruno of Olomouc
1279	the first written documents mentioning the Church of St. Wenceslas
1362	Charles IV granted the town the right to hold an annual market
1428	occupation of the city by the Hussites
16 th century	development of crafts – especially drapery, weaving, tailoring, butchery
1556	the worst fire in the city's history destroyed almost all the buildings on the main square
1618-1648	Thirty Years War, Danish and Swedish Troops occupied the city
1625	a plague killed about 500 people (roughly half of the town's population)
1763	coal was discovered (in the Burňa Valley in Silesian Ostrava)
1828	ironworks established (the Rudolf Foundry, later known as Vítkovice Ironworks)
1847	A new railway line (the Northern Ferdinand Line) linked Ostrava with Vienna and Krakow
1869	the first gasworks were built and a telegraph service established
2 nd of the 19 th century	industrial expansion, the city was the industrial centre of the Austro-Hungarian Empire
1895	construction of the first electric station in Ostrava was begun
1907	the City Theatre, today the Antonín Dvořák Theatre, was built
1930	the New City Hall was built
1939-1945	World War II, Ostrava was liberated on 30 th April 1945
1945	the Mining College was relocated from Příbram to Ostrava
1949-1951	expansion of the New Steel Works
1955	Czech television studio in Ostrava becomes the second television studio broadcasting in the Czech Republic
1959	the Pedagogical Faculty was founded (from 1991 the University of Ostrava)
1950s to 1980s	Ostrava experienced an enormous growth in population and boom in construction
1989	the Velvet Revolution brought an end to the megalomaniac expansion of Ostrava
30 June 1994	the last coal was mined in the Ostrava area
1997	the worst floods in 1000 years on the Odra, Opava and Ostravice rivers (the whole of Moravia was affected).

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1998

iron production in Vítkovice was ended

2000

Ostrava became the administrative centre of the newly established Moravian-Silesian Region

Industry

Some of the largest industrial companies lie in the city of Ostrava. The Vítkovice Steelworks, located in the suburb of the same name near the city center, concentrates on metallurgy and machine engineering. It was established in 1828 and now it is undergoing a major transformation. The oldest part of the company, called 'Dolní Vítkovice' (The Lower area), was closed down and there is an industrial open-air museum or torn down. Another key metallurgical enterprise in Ostrava, Nová huť (the New Steelworks), established in 1951, belongs to the international company ArcelorMittal.

All underground coal mines were closed down shortly after the Velvet revolution in 1989, due to unfavourable geological and political conditions which caused mining to become uneconomical. The last mine cart with coal was retrieved from new Odra Mine (formerly František mine) on June 30, 1994.

Karolina is name of area situated near city's historic square. After demolition of the old coking plant and clearing the entire area, many new apartment buildings, offices and shops are planned for this new city district.

Architectural sights

St. Wenceslas Church - the oldest remaining building in the city, dating from the first half of the 13th century.

Old Town Hall – currently home to the Ostrava Museum and the original offices of the municipal authorities. It is the oldest surviving building from the original historical city centre, and the first written document of city is housed here..

Cathedral of the Divine Saviour – A Neo-Renaissance basilica with a semi-circular apse. The second largest church in Moravia and Silesia.

The Silesian Ostrava Castle – it was built in the 13th century. It was restored recently after many years of dilapidation caused by coalmining under the castle.

The Puppet Theatre – A two-oval building forming a left-hand upward spiral. The architects have drawn on pre-functionalism and continued in the typical local style of the period between the two World Wars.

Arts Centre – A building in the spirit of functionalist architecture, dating from 1926. Today it houses an art gallery.

Janaček Academy of Music – a modern building dating from 1991-96. The academy contains one large and three small concert halls, as well as 90 lecture rooms.

Evangelical Church – a building from 1907 which uses brickwork in the style of the Dutch Renaissance.

New City Hall – the largest City Hall complex in the Czech Republic, nowadays the building houses the offices of Ostrava City Council.

Lower Vítkovice Area – these buildings display the original brickwork from the 1880s and they are a typical example of Viennese industrial architecture.

Vítkovice Palace of Culture and Sport – A massive Building from 1985-88, the arena has a seating capacity of 13,000 and a flexible layout with 30 possible variations. It is used for sporting and social events, exhibitions and trade fairs.

Other examples of architectural sights – Church of St. Catherine, Vítkovice Town hall, Silesian Ostrava Town Hall, Church of St. Joseph – Don Bosco, Vítkovice cultural Centre, Pedagogical faculty of Ostrava, Polish Centre, etc.

Culture

Cultural life has long and rich tradition. There are four theatres in Ostrava: the Moravian-Silesian National Theatre. It has two buildings: the Antonín Dvořák Theatre and the Jiří Myron Theatre. Further there are

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the Petr Bezruč Theatre, Chamber Theatre Arena and the Puppet Theatre. Ostrava's Janáček Philharmonic Orchestra is one of Europe's better orchestras.

Young people not only from the Czech Republic like spending time in Stodolní Street, the street that never sleeps. The area around this street has recently become a new phenomenon in Ostrava. There are more than 40 clubs and pubs around it. Different atmosphere, style and kind of music in the pubs make Stodolní Street really special. The Colours of Ostrava is the international music festival held every July in Ostrava city centre. The festival features over 100 bands, DJs and solo artists in an eclectic mix of genres from all around the world. The internationally renowned Janáček May music festival takes place in Ostrava annually. OKD Mining Museum is situated at Landek Hill, a site of worldwide significance for geology, archaeology, history, natural history and mining. Miniuni – a unique world of miniature buildings, with models of European landmarks at a scale 1:25. Ostrava ZOO was opened in 1951, it houses around 300 species of animals on a site covering over 100 hectares. J. Palisa Observatory and Planetarium has an 'artificial sky', with around 9,000 stars, planet and other celestial bodies projected onto the ceiling. There are many primary and secondary schools, you can study at Technical University or the University of Ostrava.

Sport

The city is also one of the most important sports centres. Ostrava has the largest outdoor swimming pool in the Czech Republic. There are many stadiums (Bazaly, Vítkovice...), Palace of Culture and Sport, SAREZA Sport centres, many gymnasiums and sports centres (Avizo Squash Club, CDU Sport, Minigolf, Wellness Gym-Frapp, etc. Ostrava has teams in the three major Czech Republic professional sports leagues (football, ice-hockey and basketball). You can visit many world sporting events as Davis Cup or Golden Spike Super Grand Prix.

Ostrava's greatest problem is air pollution and dirtiness. So it is necessary to improve the environment, to decrease atmospheric pollution, and to enlarge green areas in the city centre. For this reason dust collectors were installed in the Třebovice Power Plant and a coking plant of Carolina was pulled down.

III. Vocabulary.

rough	divoký	participation	účast
dismal	chmurný	route	cesta
decline	úpadek	hematite	železná ruda
flourish	vzkvétat	drapery	soukenictví
aware	vědomý	weaving	tkalcovství
bailiff	správce	tailoring	krejčovství
confidence	sebedůvěra	plaque	mor
exclamation	vykřičník	undergo	podstoupit
encampment	tábořiště	enterprise	podnik, firma
unfavourable	nepříznivý	celestial	nebeský
mine cart	důlní vozík	upward	vzestupný
retrieve	znovu získat	brickwork	cihlové zdivo
municipal	městský	pull down	zbourat

Some the BEST of Ostrava.

- [The largest outdoor swimming pool](#) (41,200sq m, Vřesina)
- [The most modern puppet theatre](#) (it received the prestigious award for Ostrava's Building of the Year 1999)
- [The largest erratic boulder - bludný balvan](#) (wonderful chunks of Swedish granite can be found right in the centre of Ostrava at the Černá louka exhibition grounds.
- [The highest city hall viewing tower](#) (85.6m above Prokeš Square)

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- The highest concentration of clubs in one area (Stodolni Street)
- The oldest pedestrian zone in the country
- The largest mining museum (it displays an extensive collection of old mining equipment, including lamps and other unique objects)
- The deepest coal mine (the Bezruč mine reached depths of 1200 metres below the surface, the deepest in the Czech Republic)
- The most modern conservatory (in 1996, Ostrava opened a new building for the Janáček Conservatory, which celebrated its 50th anniversary in 2003)
- The largest transfusion centre at the Faculty Hospital
- The largest industrial heritage site (the Lower Vitkovice Area takes up almost 300 hectares of former industrial land)
- The oldest company hospital in Europe (the Vitkovice Hospital of the Blessed Marie Antonina)

IV. Excercises.

1. Description of places.

Look at the photos. Do you know the following places?
What can you say about them?



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2. Complete the table about life in Ostrava.

Good things	Bad things
1.	1.
2.	2.
3.	3.
4.	4.
5.	5.

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