

The City I Live In - Orlová

The city I live and study in is Orlová. It lies in the Moravian–Silesian region. It is a small city with an area of 24 km² and the population about 33 000 people. Usually, when somebody asks me, where I come from, I answer that I am from Ostrava, because it is near Orlová and it is a famous city. City sign consists of three parts: the eagle on the left, then in the upper right corner a tree (Orlová was founded in the place of a forest) and in the lower right corner hammers (symbol of mining, which has been famous for the whole region). In English “Orlová” means Eagle’s town and the name is probably related to a legend, that surrounds the foundation of this city in 13th century. According to this legend, the princess Ludmila was pregnant and was, while resting, disturbed by an eagle. Because of the shock, she immediately gave birth to a healthy son. Her husband, the prince Měšek built a city as a remembrance of this moment.

Orlová consists of four parts: Město, Lazy, Poruba and Lutyně.

Orlová–Město is the historic and the oldest part of the city. It is well-known for its Gothic church. There also was a château, but it was destroyed due to an intense mining in this area and only a château park has remained. Other memorable buildings are the monastery and the town hall.

Orlová–Lutyně is the modern part and here I live. There is a high concentration of schools, shops and it is a center of sport and culture. The most notable school has to be our Grammar school, because it is visible from the main road and it has won an architecture prize. Orlová has recently been reconstructed and new buildings were constructed. The most needful building was a big supermarket, which now stands between our school and the library. Although Orlová offers various kinds of sports people rather go to near towns (e.g. Karviná or Bohumín), where a proper sport center can be found. We have some places to sport, for example a tennis court, a football pitch, an ice hockey stadium, a mini-golf course, an indoor pool (newly reconstructed) and an outdoor pool (in devastating condition, but I think, they are planning to rebuilt it) and lots of playgrounds for kids. Speaking of playgrounds, I have to mention the Eagle’s canyon. This place was supposed to be a giant kid’s playground a pride of Orlová, but instead this project has turned out to be its biggest shame and waste of money, because the canyon is now a popular place not for children, but for drunk people and hobos. If you want to find some cultural place in Orlová, maybe you should look somewhere else. Yes, we have new building for the library (which joined two libraries in one) and the information center (I have not got the meaning of this yet, why we need an information center anyway?) and that is it. We then have two incredibly old cinemas (one open air) and so called the theater in the Cultural house. Orlová is much more successful in night life – bars, pubs, dance clubs, which on Friday/Saturday night are hopelessly crowded. And places, where you can buy a beer are still growing and have been replacing places like tearoom or a bookshop. Bars and pubs are now regularly checked by the police (because most of them were serving alcohol to minors).

What I hate most about Orlová, is not having a railway station (not surprisingly, it is the only city in the Czech republic with the population over 10 000 people, that does not have the railway station). But the mayor knows about that and there are plans to fix it (like tram transport). Another problem with transport is that at peak hours, there is a huge traffic jam on Masarykova street. Hopefully, as Orlová will get more modernized, this problem will be solved too. Meanwhile, with a help of Swiss students, our square will be soon completely changed to a better one.

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