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INFORMATION CENTRES IN TĚŠÍN SILESIA



'TRADITION, FOLKLORE, FOOD AND DRINK IN TĚŠÍN SILESIA'



The entire region of Těšín Silesia is famed for its unique folklore. For many centuries this colourful and vibrant culture has brightened up the hard lives of the local people. Regional traditions from three countries – the Czech Republic, Poland and Slovakia – have put down strong roots here, and still live on today in folklore, customs, handicrafts, distinctive local food and drink, and wonderful festivals. The local dialect also remains widespread: known as 'po naszymu' (meaning simply 'our language' or 'the way we speak'), it is shared by people throughout the region, whatever side of the border they live on. Těšín Silesia also has its own distinctive style of architecture. The traditional wooden buildings include picturesque cottages and timber-built churches – step inside and you are transported back in time. For a taste of traditional local life, you can visit Kotula's cottage (Kotulova dřevěnka) in Havířov, now a museum, or one of the many wooden churches in the region.



Even on a short visit to Těšín Silesia, you are sure to encounter some aspect of the local folklore – traditional costumes, regional music, handicrafts or folk customs. But the best way to explore the true soul of the region and its traditions is to visit one of the many folklore and festivals held here throughout the year – some of which have been nurturing the local culture for decades.

the best-known soups of the region is kapušňonka (or kapušnica), made with sauerkraut to which bacon rind or pig's trotters might be added for extra richness. Meat was for special occasions, so it was treated with great care – often marinated, cured, smoked or pickled. The Těšín Beskydy mountains were ideal terrain for sheep-farming, producing not only wool, but also cheeses and lamb or mutton.

Immerse yourself in the vibrant local culture at one of these magical events and you'll soon forget where the present ends and the past begins, as local people proudly continue to maintain the traditions, customs and crafts of their ancestors. The region also has its own distinctive style of cooking, traditionally based on modest and cheap ingredients that were easily available. Soups have always been at the heart of the local cuisine, and sometimes a soup can be an entire meal – tasty, filling, and nourishing. Among

But most dishes were traditionally meat-free, with potatoes and cabbage dominating the local diet in various forms. A favourite way of cooking potatoes was as pancakes – raw grated potatoes were mixed with a little flour and eggs (if available), and the cakes were cooked on a griddle and eaten with pork fat or cream. Another everyday dish was baked potatoes (known as piečoki) or boiled potatoes served with milk or buttermilk.



The region's folklore festivals are alive with the rhythms of local folk music, with wonderful performances by singers and dancers. A festival is an unforgettable cultural experience – you can see skilled craftsmen at work, sample delicious local specialities, and make new friends over a glass of the region's famous 'mjodula' (a type of honey-flavoured hot punch) or fruit brandies. All in all, a perfect way to experience the warm welcome of Těšín Silesia and its unique traditional culture.



CALENDAR OF FOLKLORE EVENTS AND FESTIVALS IN TĚŠÍN SILESIA

JANUARY

- 1) Gorol Ball (Gorolský bál) – Mosty u Jablunkova
 - Mosty u Jablunkova, festival of folklore groups

MARCH

EASTER IN TĚŠÍN SILESIA

- 2) Gorol Days (Gorolské dny) – spring and Easter – wooden cottage in Mosty u Jablunkova
 - Demonstrations of traditional crafts – visitors can also participate
- 3) Medieval Fair (Středověký jarmark) – Třinec
 - A traditional event – demonstrations of folk crafts and customs, performances by folklore groups
- 4) Easter Fair (Velikonoční jarmark) – Karviná
 - Demonstrations of folk crafts and customs
- 5) Easter Fair (Velikonoční jarmark) – Bohumín
 - Demonstrations of folk crafts and customs, performances by folklore groups
- 6) Easter Exhibition and Fair (Velikonoční výstava s jarmarkem) – Orlová

MAY

- 7) Mjyszani łowiec – Košařiska
 - A traditional shepherds' festival – shepherds lead their flocks up to the pastures, sales of traditional craft items, sheep's milk specialities.
- 8) Crafts Day (Den řemesel) – Kotulova dřevěnka, Havířov
 - Demonstration of traditional folk arts and crafts
- 9) Opening of the Springs (Otevírání pramenů) – Karviná
 - The traditional curtain-raiser to the spa season – the opening ceremony for the local mineral waster springs

JUNE

- 10) Three Brothers Festival (Svátek Tří bratří) – Český Těšín
 - Annual event celebrating the foundation of the town Český Těšín / Cieszyn, including a range of cultural performances
- 11) Karviná Days (Dny Karviné)
 - Traditional town festival with cultural performances
- 12) Orlová Fair and Orlová Summer (Orlovský jarmark a Orlovské léto) – Orlová
 - Cultural programme

JULY

- 13) Gorol Days (Gorolské dny) – wooden cottage in Mosty u Jablunkova
 - Gorol Days themes: • pottery and decorative wire ornaments • clothing, wool and other sheep products
- 14) Jablunkov Fair (Jablunkovský jarmark) – Jablunkov
 - Stalls selling regional craft items, performances by folklore groups
- 15) Horse-drawn carriage races – Dolní Lomná
 - Featuring the top coachmen from the CR and abroad
- 16) Karviná Roma Festival (Karvinský romský festival) – Karviná
 - International festival of Roma music, song and dance groups

AUGUST

- 17) Gorolski Święto – Jablunkov
 - Major festival featuring folklore groups from all over the world and a range of regional products
- 18) Gorol Days (Gorolské dny) – wooden cottage in Mosty u Jablunkova



- Gorol Days theme: • wood in the lives of the Gorol mountain people • Craft fair (Řemeslný jarmark) and Mosty Summer (Mostecké léto)

SEPTEMBER

- 19) Gorol Days (Gorolské dny) theme: honey and beekeeping – wooden cottage in Mosty u Jablunkova
- 20) Silesian Days (Slezské dny) – Dolní Lomná
 - Performances by folklore groups from all around the world in a beautiful traditional venue, including sales of regional products
- 21) Festival of National Cultures (Festival národnostních kultur) – Orlová
 - Performances by folklore groups from the Czech Republic, Slovakia and Poland

OCTOBER

- 22) Euroregional Fair in Lomná (Euroregionální lomňanský jarmark) – Dolní Lomná
 - Pets fair, coach races, performances by folklore groups, delicious local food and drink, demonstrations of historic crafts

NOVEMBER

- 23) Gorol Food Day (Gorolský den s jídlem) – wooden cottage in Mosty u Jablunkova
 - Demonstrations of cooking local dishes, tastings
- 24) Christmas Market (Vánoční trhy) – Bohumín
 - Performances by folklore groups, sales of handicraft items and other regional products

DECEMBER

- 25) Christmas Fair (Vánoční jarmark) – Karviná
 - Traditional Advent fair with sales of regional products, cultural performances and competitions for children
- 26) Christmas Fair (Vánoční jarmark) – Orlová
 - Sales of regional products, performances by folklore groups
- 27) Advent Inspiration (Předvánoční inspirace) – Mosty u Jablunkova
 - Sales of regional products, Christmas decorations with a regional theme

