

Partnership since 1981
distance from Nový Jičín 430 km

The town of Görlitz (Zhořelec in Czech) is the eastern-most city in Germany, lying on the state border with Poland. It is the sixth biggest city (population 57 000) of the free state of Saxony and lies on the upper part of the Lusatian Neisse River. Görlitz was divided into two parts during the division of towns and cities after the Second World War, which resulted in Polish Zgorzelec and German Görlitz.

The site of the city was first mentioned in writing in 1071 and the first town settlement began to appear around 1220. The main trade routes began to lead through the city, which increased its importance and growth.

Görlitz is one of the best-preserved historic cities in Germany and did not suffer very much damage in the Second World War. There are approximately 4 000 historic structures in the extensive historic area, mainly town houses dating from the period between the 15th and the 19th century. We can name the majestic and dominant Late Gothic Peterskirche Cathedral as an example. The oldest secular building is the Waidhaus dating from the first half of the 12th century.

The most interesting street is Neißstraße, which is the location of the so-called Biblical House with its sandstone façade depicting scenes from the Old and New Testaments. There is a house very close to it whose magnificent Baroque façade hides one of the oldest libraries in Saxony, formerly the Supreme Regional Scientific Library.

Lake Berzdorf is located near the city. This lake originated in what was formerly a brown coal mine called Hagenwerder-Berzdorf, which was flooded with water brought from the Neisse River through a pipeline. The lake is used by the public as a gigantic sports complex offering a wide variety of activities.

The best-known events:

- Görlitz Jazz Days - (May/June)
- Altstadtfest – similar to the Nový Jičín Town Festivities (August)
- Bach's Festival - (September)

Interesting information:

- the city has the Silesian eagle and the Czech lion in its emblem, because the city belonged to the Bohemian Kingdom, not Germany, for a large part of its history
- between 1995 and 2016 the city had a mysterious patron who contributed a million German Marks every year under the condition that he remain anonymous and that this money be used to renovate the historic centre of the city

- the historic centre of the city is very popular with film producers from around the world, including Hollywood production crews.
- excellent mathematician and cartographer Bartholomäus Scultetus and Michael Ballack were both born here for example

More information: www.goerlitz.de