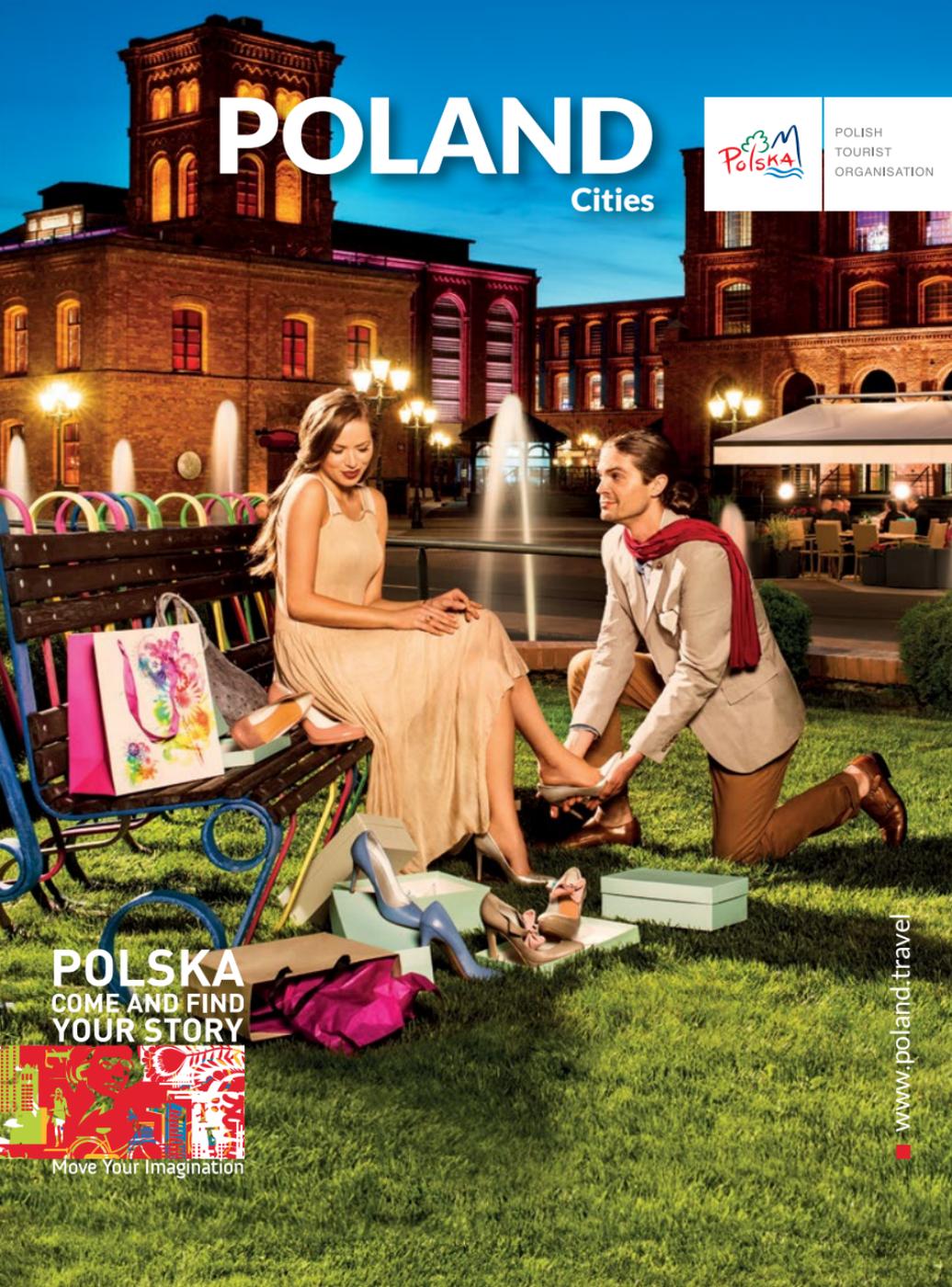


# POLAND

Cities



POLISH  
TOURIST  
ORGANISATION



**POLSKA**  
COME AND FIND  
YOUR STORY



Move Your Imagination

[www.poland.travel](http://www.poland.travel)





# Cities

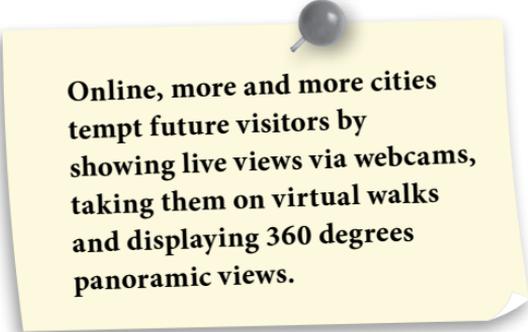


# Polish cities have a character and a soul

Every Polish town has its own particular history. Some of them are full of treasures of the past; others have built their identity in more recent times. A walk down the street in any town or city in Poland can be a walk through different eras.

---

**P**olish cities are sure to welcome tourists with a panoply of things to see and do, offering distinctive sights and rich cultural programme. Whether it's a film festival, a musical contest, a theatrical performance, a sporting event, or a sound and light show, every town has its own trademark event during the calendar year. State-of-the-art concert venues and stadiums stage critically acclaimed performances by the world's biggest names in entertainment, while philharmonic halls host classically trained virtuosos who play Frederic Chopin repertoire. And there's much, much more. ▶



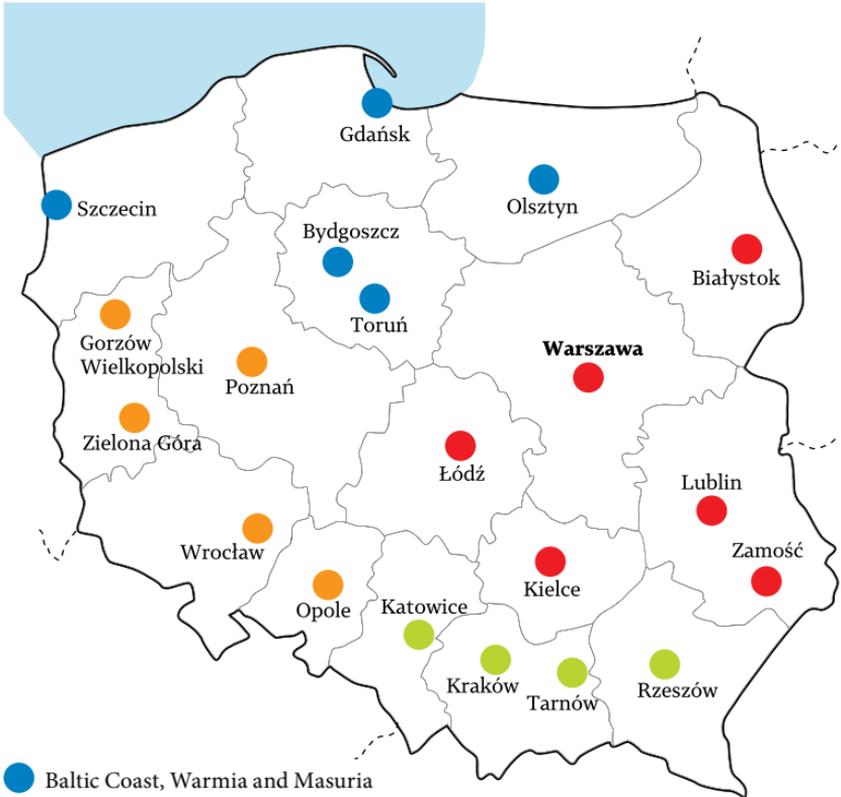
**Online, more and more cities  
tempt future visitors by  
showing live views via webcams,  
taking them on virtual walks  
and displaying 360 degrees  
panoramic views.**



[www.poland.travel/en](http://www.poland.travel/en)







-  Baltic Coast, Warmia and Masuria
-  Central and Eastern Poland
-  Southern Poland
-  Lower Silesia and Wielkopolska

► Museums are a must-see for visitors with their varied, enriching programme and interactive multimedia exhibits. Old Town squares, passages and boulevards tempt passers-by with their charming cafés and restaurants, serving traditional Polish dishes, while others are skilled in all various of the world. Shopping centres are not only places where the tourist can purchase desired souvenirs, works of local artisans or folk handicraft, but also invite the keen shopper to a huge selection of stores and designer boutiques. Numerous art galleries are also definitely worth visiting, by displaying paintings, drawings, sculpture and jewellery created by top contemporary artists.



# Szczecin:

## Sailing Ship Parades and the White Philharmonic Hall

Despite being located one hundred kilometres away from the Baltic Coast, the town is one of Poland's two most crucial gateways to the sea.

---

**S**zczecin is known for its maritime traditions. Even the popular, locally-produced gingerbread biscuits, a yummy baked tradition of over 100 years, reflect the symbolism of the sea in their shapes. One can really understand the city's connection to the sea, when the world's most beautiful sailing ships enter Szczecin Harbour. The city has already hosted The Tall Ship Races twice. It's an international racing event with a tradition going back to 1927. Szczecin is actually closer to Berlin than to Warsaw, which is perhaps why the city has so many architectural and urban accents linking it to Western Europe.

A spectacular example of such connections is the urban pattern in which streets radiate from Grunwald Square. It was modelled on Georges Haussman's design, which he then carried out in Paris in the 19<sup>th</sup> century. The graceful edifice of the Philharmonic Hall is also a sign marking a new age.



One can really understand the city's connection to the sea, when the world's most beautiful sailing ships enter Szczecin Harbour.



 [www.szczecin.eu/en](http://www.szczecin.eu/en)



 [www.seaofadventure.eu](http://www.seaofadventure.eu)



# Gdańsk, Sopot, Gdynia: The Tri-City

Three cities, each with a different history and character, form one flourishing metropolitan area known as the Tri-City.

---

**A**lthough they are closely interconnected, Gdańsk, Gdynia and Sopot each have a different character. Gdańsk is the business and cultural capital of the Pomorze region, imbued with a history spanning a thousand years. The Old Town boasts splendid manor houses, Gothic churches, the Neptune Fountain and the Artus Court (Dwór Artusa), which used to be the seat of the guild of merchants at the time when Gdańsk belonged to the Hanseatic League. The trademark of the city is the Medieval port crane called the Żuraw, which was used for loading and unloading goods. The new football stadium, built in 2011, is another landmark and source of pride. ►

**The cathedral in Gdańsk-Oliwa is home to a rare 18<sup>th</sup> century pipe organ. It is one of the largest such instruments in the world.**



► Sopot is a luxury seaside resort town, a venue for mass events and a trendy shopping area. Its most recognisable symbol is its pier. Jutting out half a kilometre into the sea, it is the longest pier in Europe. At its end, the concentration of iodine is twice the amount recorded on the shoreline, which means that walks along the pier are good for your health. More than a hundred vessels can be moored along the pier at any given time. Plac Zdrojowy, the town's central square, is the extension of the pier on land. The lighthouse towering over the square offers a panoramic view of the area, while the nearby outdoor concert hall is alive with music all summer. In winter, the square becomes an ice-skating rink.

Gdynia is a distinctive, special place. Constructed in the 1920s, it was the background of a freshly built modern harbour. To this day, the harbour area with its long promenade is the most characteristic part of the city. It is here that the historical ships are docked: the ORP Błyskawica, a 1930s destroyer, which is the oldest preserved ship of this kind in the world, and the famous sailing frigate Dar Pomorza. The Naval Museum proudly shows the history of the Polish navy, while the Gdynia Aquarium allows you to discover fascinating secrets of underwater life.



[www.guide.trojmiasto.pl](http://www.guide.trojmiasto.pl)



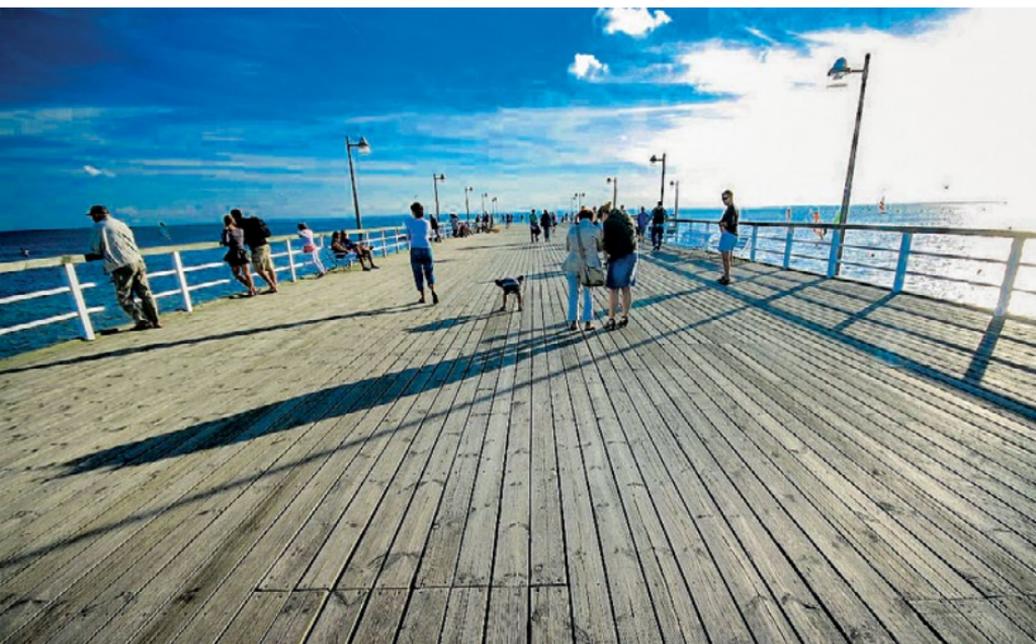
[www.mhmg.gda.pl/en](http://www.mhmg.gda.pl/en)



[www.akwarium.gdynia.pl](http://www.akwarium.gdynia.pl)



[www.cmm.pl](http://www.cmm.pl)



**Wooden and brick granaries reflect  
in the waters of the river Brda, on which  
the town was born.**



# Bydgoszcz:

## Fascinating glimpse of modernity in the region

A city where modernity goes hand in hand with the past.

---

**B**uilt hundreds of years ago, wooden and brick granaries are reflected in the waters of the Brda River, on whose shores the town was born. The late 19<sup>th</sup> century bridge spanning the Brda's banks is an example of daring, avant-garde architecture. Today, its truss construction is a symbol of the town. So is the Opera NOVA, the opera house built during the first decade of the 21<sup>st</sup> century. It is one of the most versatile music theatres in Poland, with a team of talented artists famous for daring performances of world class repertoire. Bydgoszcz is also the only place in Europe which has a Museum of Soap and the History of Dirt (Muzeum Mydła i Historii Brudu). Among the most significant events held in Bydgoszcz, there are the music festival, the Musicology Congress, and prestigious speedway motorcycle races.



[www.visitbydgoszcz.pl/index.php/en/](http://www.visitbydgoszcz.pl/index.php/en/)



# Toruń:

## Hometown of Copernicus

UNESCO Heritage gem, the world's capital of gingerbread, the birthplace of Nicolaus Copernicus: what else does one need?

---

One of the oldest towns in Poland, Toruń amazes the visitor with its Medieval layout of streets and squares, and with its thousands of red brick houses. It's a place where tradition is very much alive. Actors, dressed in 16<sup>th</sup> century period costumes, walk along the Old Town streets in the evening, calling for people to turn off their lights, as it was the custom in olden times. Of course, the pivotal personage for Toruń is the venerable astronomer, Copernicus. His family home has been turned into a museum. The Planetarium, situated in the old, 19<sup>th</sup> century gas-works complex, offers audiences outstanding shows explaining the mysteries of our vast, incredible universe. The multi-media Cosmopolis Fountain, controlled electronically, alludes to Copernicus' famous work, *De revolutionibus orbium coelestium*. In the Old Town square, on the Gingerbread Walk of Fame (Piernikowa Aleja Gwiazd), one can find brass plaques shaped like gingerbread biscuits.

**Gingerbread biscuits are the most delicious souvenir to bring home from Toruń. Visitors can even make them themselves during workshops organised inside the 16<sup>th</sup> century gingerbread bakery.**



[www.visittorun.pl](http://www.visittorun.pl)



[www.toruntips.com/  
things-to-see.html](http://www.toruntips.com/things-to-see.html)



[www.muzeum.torun.pl](http://www.muzeum.torun.pl)



[planetarium.torun.pl/en](http://planetarium.torun.pl/en)





[www.olsztyn.eu](http://www.olsztyn.eu)



[www.planetarium.olsztyn.pl](http://www.planetarium.olsztyn.pl)



[www.muzeum.olsztyn.pl](http://www.muzeum.olsztyn.pl)



[www.muzeumolsztynek.com.pl](http://www.muzeumolsztynek.com.pl)

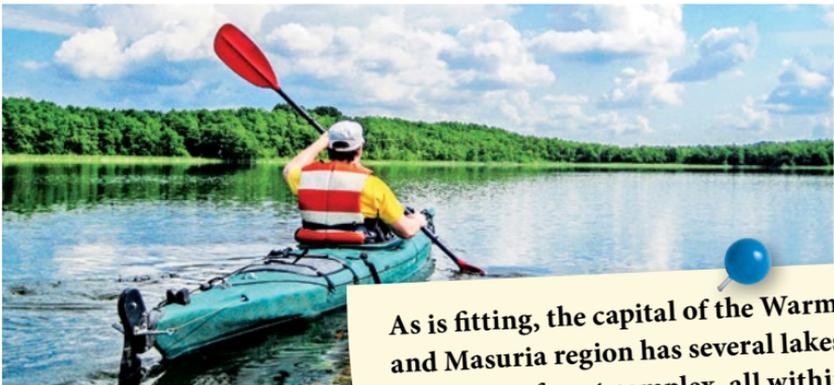
# Olsztyn:

## Capital of a thousand lakes

The heart of the Warmia and Masuria region, and a perfect starting point for wildlife lovers and fans of water sports.

---

**O**lsztyn boasts an amazing location in the middle of wild nature. As is fitting, the capital of the Warmia and Masuria region has several lakes and a large forest complex, all within the municipality. The omnipresent greenery surrounds Gothic and Art Nouveau buildings and provides a pleasing contrast to the colours of the town. Towering over Olsztyn is St. James's Basilica, an impressive brick edifice, becoming the dignity of a bishop's seat, which the town has been for over 600 years. The Basilica has amazing acoustics which one can appreciate all the more during the Olsztyn Organ Concerts. The town, which grew around a 14<sup>th</sup> century Teutonic Knights' watchtower, has close links to the history of our great astronomer, Copernicus, who lived here for many years as a high ranking church official. His astronomical instruments are kept in the castle. Visitors can also see the Planetarium and the Astronomical Observatory.



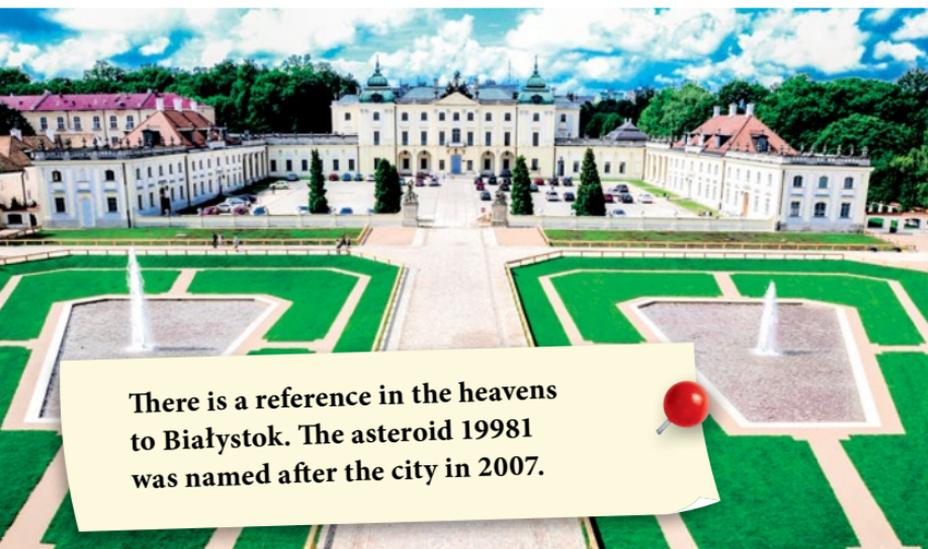
As is fitting, the capital of the Warmia and Masuria region has several lakes and a large forest complex, all within the municipality.

# Białystok: a multi-cultural melting pot

This metropolis in northeastern Poland is situated in an area of pristine landscape, known as the “Green Lungs” of Poland.

---

**F**or centuries, the town’s inhabitants have been forming a lively mosaic of religions and languages. Like nowhere else in the world, the cupolas of Orthodox churches harmoniously co-exist with Roman Catholic church spires. Living next to one another, Poles, Ruthenians, Jews, Tartars and the Romani peoples provided inspiration for Ludwik Zamenhof, the inventor of the universal language, Esperanto. The Branicki Palace, one of the most stunning Baroque residences in Central Europe, is considered the gem of the town’s historical heritage. The gardens which surround the palace are among the best-preserved garden complexes in Poland. Białystok’s setting brings to mind ancient Rome, as it, too, was founded on seven hills. The city hosts many music festivals, just like the open-air event called “Pozytywne Wibracje” (“Good Vibrations”).



There is a reference in the heavens to Białystok. The asteroid 19981 was named after the city in 2007.



# Lublin:

## Centre of Academia and Gateway to the East

A vibrant university, business and cultural centre in eastern Poland.

---

**F**or centuries, Lublin was the key town for the relations between Poland and Lithuania, which were joined in the late 16<sup>th</sup> century into one united nation. The Roman Catholic chapel in the castle with its opulent frescos in the Byzantine style symbolises this unification. Before the war, the city was also home to the largest Jewish community in Poland. The Nobel Prize winning author Isaac Bashevis Singer immortalised the erstwhile atmosphere of his hometown in the novel *The Magician of Lublin*. The Chachmei Lublin Yeshiva, active until 1939, was considered the best Talmudic school in the world. Academic traditions are upheld these days by the Marie Curie-Skłodowska University and the John Paul II Catholic University of Lublin, with a robust student community of one hundred thousand shaping the character of the town.



Every year, Lublin hosts an unusual festival called Carnival Sztuk-Mistrzów, during which circus artists, conjurers, jugglers, musicians and dancers show off their skills. The organisers guarantee a “frighteningly funny” time.

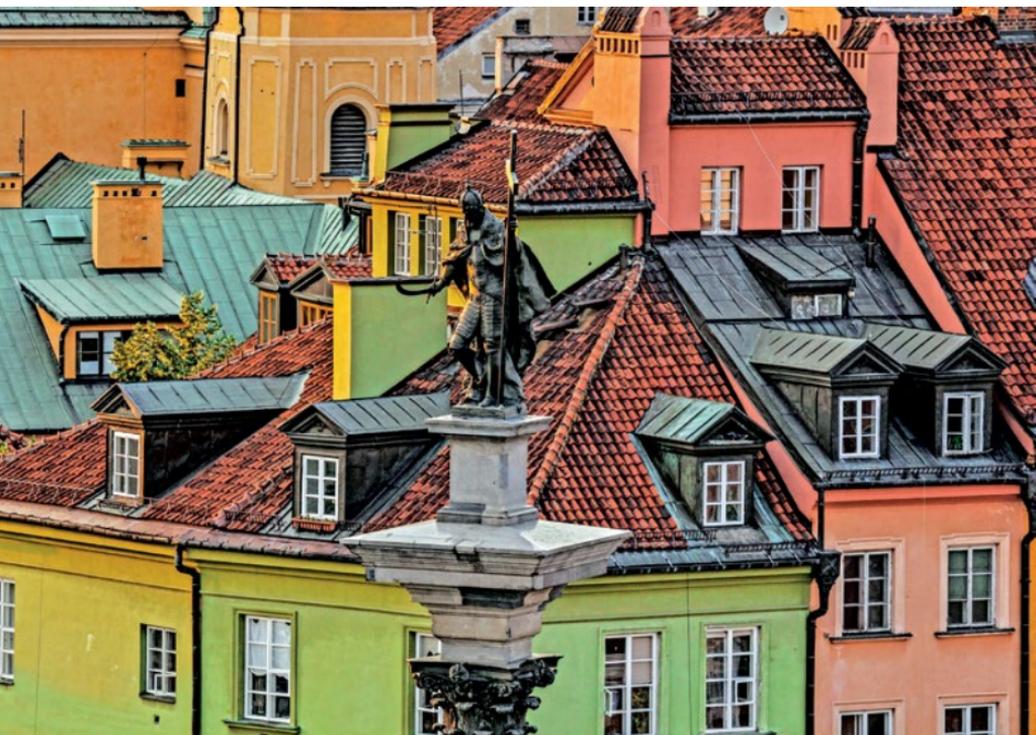


[www.lublin.eu](http://www.lublin.eu)



[www.lubelskietravel.pl](http://www.lubelskietravel.pl)





# Warsaw:

## The City that won't be harnessed

The capital and the seat of the highest governing bodies. Razed to the ground during the Second World War, it was rebuilt and has been developing rapidly ever since.

---

**F**or centuries, the landscape of this town on the Vistula was dominated by the Royal Castle and the palaces of mighty magnate families. Aristocrats were responsible for the highest offices of the country and tried to maintain close affiliation with the royal court. Today's Presidential Palace used to be the seat of the Viceroy (Namiestnik), the deputy of the Tsar. Other palaces are now home to the University of Warsaw and the Polish Academy of Sciences. The most interesting historical buildings are situated on the top of the lofty escarpment which circumscribes the Vistula valley from the west. Among palaces and parks, there is also the Sejm (the lower chamber of the parliament). The most picturesque tourist route in the capital, known as the Royal Route, goes from the Royal Castle, located at the edge of the Old Town, towards Wilanów Palace. ►



► Warsaw is characterised by polycentrism. It offers a large number of places intended for leisure, social life and business meetings. As far as popularity is concerned, the Old Town has strong rivals: the trendy main artery Krakowskie Przedmieście, the Nowy Świat thoroughfare, the Three Crosses Square or the Saska Kępa neighbourhood. The Polish capital is full of greenery: the non-regulated riverbanks are lined with a riparian forest, and there are numerous parks even in the central part of the city. Warsaw is known for its ultra-modern museums: the Fryderyk Chopin Museum, the Warsaw Uprising Museum, the Museum of Modern Art, Centre for Contemporary Art Ujazdowski Castle, and the Museum of the History of Polish Jews. A more traditional, but no less captivating, exhibit can be seen in the Maria Skłodowska-Curie Museum, dedicated to the Polish Noble Prize winning chemist, and the first woman to have studied at the Sorbonne. ►





► The capital is a paradise for music lovers. Every five years, it hosts the International Chopin Piano Competition. One can listen to the music of the virtuoso pianist every summer weekend in the Łazienki Park, considered Warsaw's most attractive green area. The concerts of the International Festival of Contemporary Music, "Warsaw Autumn" ("Warszawska Jesień"), fill rooms in the Philharmonic Hall. Open-air events such as the summertime "Jazz na Starówce" (Jazz in the Old Town), the "Noc Pragi" (The Night of Praga) held in May, or the "Święto Saskiej Kępy" (Saska Kępa Fair) held in June, have a magical atmosphere. The largest multi-purpose venue of the city, the National Stadium, can hold an audience of fifty thousand and its majestic silhouette towers over the town.



[www.warsawtour.pl/en](http://www.warsawtour.pl/en)



[en.1944.wp.pl](http://en.1944.wp.pl)



[www.kopernik.org.pl](http://www.kopernik.org.pl)



Officially a gift from  
the Soviet people,  
the Palace of Science  
and Culture in Warsaw  
is the tallest building  
in Poland, the sixth  
tallest building  
in the EU.







# Łódź:

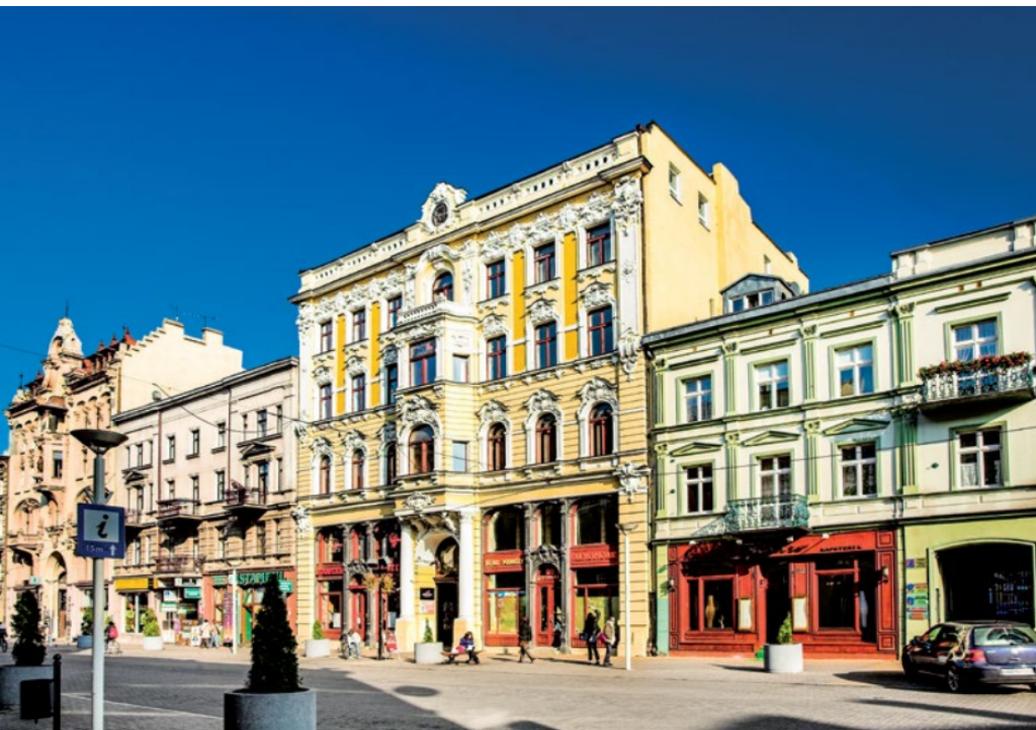
## City of filmmakers, or the Polish Tinseltown

A former capital of the weaving and textile industry in Poland, today it is a busy centre, well respected for its arts and film activity.

Łódź flourished during the industrial boom of the 19<sup>th</sup> and 20<sup>th</sup> centuries. Thanks to extensive investments and the hard labour of Jews, Germans, Russians and Poles, it became the leading manufacturer of textiles in Europe. Entrepreneurs had their handsome residences built close to their factories. These elegant palaces are now part of Piotrkowska Street: the city's busiest commercial artery with its inimitable atmosphere formed by boutiques, clubs, pubs and monuments commemorating famous Polish artists. Each May, the backyards in Piotrkowska Street become the venue for the artistic events of the Łódź Four Cultures Festival (Festiwal Łódź Czterech Kultur). The organisers allude to the mixture of ethnicities, languages and religions in the old Łódź. The most important annual event for the Polish film industry is the International Film and Television Schools' Festival. ►



► Łódź is home to a film and theatre academy, whose famous graduates such as Roman Polański, Andrzej Wajda and Krzysztof Kieślowski have become part of the history of cinematography. Just as in Hollywood, Piotrkowska Street has its own Walk of Fame, honouring distinguished Polish actors and filmmakers. The streets of Łódź have so far provided the setting for over two hundred films and television series. Łódź is also home to the animation studio “Se-ma-for,” specialising in animated cartoons for children. Two films produced by the studio went on to win Oscars. The museums of Cinematography and Animation provide an insight into the local filmmaking history. Łódź is also a trend-setting town when it comes to fashion. Polish designers and stylists present their works in competition with the designs of such top fashion houses as Kenzo, Prada or Gucci. During the “Fashion Week Poland,” held twice per year, the eyes of all media are focused on the self-named Designers Avenue (Aleja Projektantów).



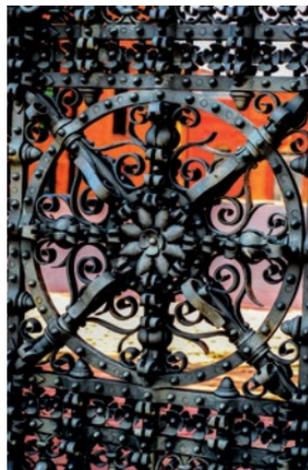
Manufaktura is one of the exemplary landmarks of Łódź. It is a 19<sup>th</sup> century textile factory turned into a shopping and leisure centre with cinemas, a theatre, museums and restaurants.



[www.en.uml.lodz.pl](http://www.en.uml.lodz.pl)



[www.lodzkie.travel](http://www.lodzkie.travel)





# Zamość: the original “Renaissance Pearl”

Built far away from major towns, Zamość became an incarnation of the Renaissance concept of the “ideal town.”

The complex of the Old Town was acknowledged and distinguished as a UNESCO Heritage site. The urban landscape is composed out of multi-colour manor houses and the high towers of the Town Hall and the collegiate church. The town is surrounded by massive defensive walls. Meticulously restored buildings are a feast for the eye, making each walk in Zamość a live history lesson. But, Zamość is not only about history; it is also a dynamic centre of culture and industry. The beautiful Old Town scenery becomes a venue for many different events: music concerts, open-air theatre performances, film festivals and historical re-enactments. Cosy side streets which are home to pubs, clubs, cafes and restaurants, teem with social life. The city is also a perfect starting point for trips to the nearby region of Roztocze, a land of breathtaking natural landscapes.

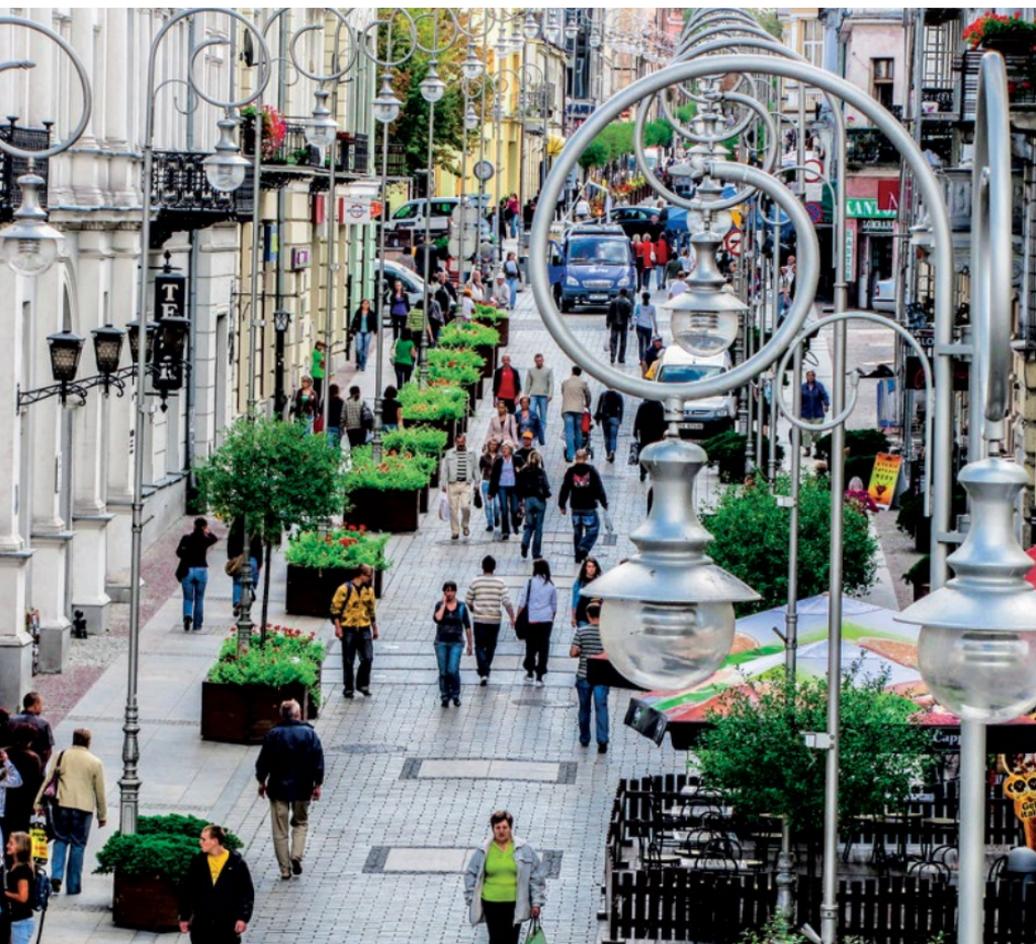


# Kielce:

## City in the very heart of Poland

Where the mysteries and treasures of the prehistoric past wait to be uncovered.

---

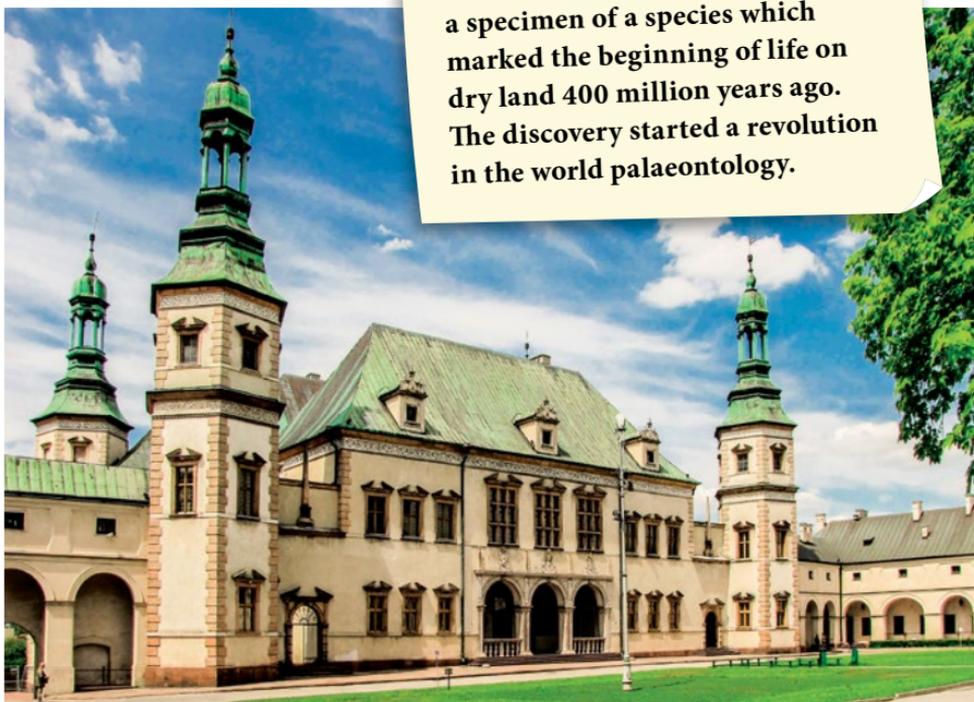


For four centuries, Kielce belonged to Krakovian bishops. The baroque Bishop's Palace remains one of the most attractive landmarks of the town. The main commercial artery in Kielce was named after Henryk Sienkiewicz, the distinguished writer recognised with a Nobel Prize for his novel *Quo Vadis*. Nowadays, there are countless bustling shops, pubs and restaurants along this long street which takes the pedestrian down to the 19<sup>th</sup> century market halls, housing the Museum of Toys and Play (Muzeum Zabawek i Zabawy). The exhibit here will entertain not only the young ones. The Kielce Geopark offers a multimedia exhibit, thanks to which we can witness the history of our planet displayed before our eyes. A modern amphitheatre has been integrated into the limestone landscape of a former quarry.



[www.swietokrzyskie.travel/en/](http://www.swietokrzyskie.travel/en/)

In 2009, in one of the quarries near Kielce, archaeologists found the remnants of a tetrapod, i.e., a specimen of a species which marked the beginning of life on dry land 400 million years ago. The discovery started a revolution in the world palaeontology.



# Kraków:

## Poland's most recognisable town

Once the royal residence, by far, the most visited city in Poland today.

---



**T**he Old Town surrounded by the green belt of the Planty Park, the Jagiellonian University and the Royal Castle Wawel: these sights are the most strongly associated with Poland. All walking tours begin or end in the Main Market Square, near the Cloth Hall, a 16<sup>th</sup> century market hall continuing the tradition of trade to this day. The upper floor of the Cloth Hall houses the Gallery of 19<sup>th</sup> Century Polish Art. Below the square, preserved vaults are a priceless repository of knowledge about the town's history and its connections to Europe. Centuries-old artifacts are on display as part of this extraordinary archaeological multimedia exhibit. During the most momentous events and ceremonies, the Sigismund Bell tolls and its sound carries from the Wawel Cathedral over the Old Town. ►

The stalls in the Cloth Hall, a 16<sup>th</sup> century market hall, continue the tradition of trade to this day.





► The vaults of the Wawel Cathedral are the burial site of Polish kings, saints, poets and distinguished military leaders. Under the golden cupola of the Sigismund Chapel, the last kings from the Jagiellonian dynasty lie interred. The cathedral vaults are also the place where many influential people, including poets or saints, are buried. In 2013, the Cathedral saw the funeral of one of Poland's most distinguished writers, Sławomir Mrożek, who had returned home after 33 years of emigration. A few steps away from the Old Town, Kazimierz begins. Nowadays a distinct part of the city, it was once a separate town, inhabited mostly by Jews between the 14<sup>th</sup> and the 19<sup>th</sup> centuries. Orthodox Jews from all over the globe come here to pay homage to distinguished rabbis buried in the old cemetery in Kazimierz. For locals and tourists, Kazimierz is chiefly synonymous with clubs, pubs and restaurants and a tremendous nightlife. ►

On a corner of the Main Square, the largest Medieval square in Europe, St. Mary's Basilica stands. On the top of every hour, a trumpeter plays a bugle call from a window of its higher tower. Suddenly the melody cuts off, just like hundreds of years ago when the trumpeter was shot with an arrow during a Tartar attack.



► Greenery is no less vital to Kraków's cityscape than its historical monuments. Kraków's Old Town is surrounded by the impressive four kilometre-long green ring called the Planty. This park was constructed on the site of the city's medieval moats, which were filled in early in the 19<sup>th</sup> century. Forty species of trees and shrubs were gradually planted in their place. The most magnificent specimens, such as the hundred-thirty year old plane tree at the end of Wiślana Street, are natural monuments.

Kraków is also home to Europe's largest urban meadow. Drained in the 19<sup>th</sup> century, nowadays Błonia is a favourite place for walking, jogging and cycling. In the past, the meadow was used for military exercises and served as a venue for momentous events. Today, it regularly hosts large-scale cultural and sporting events with thousands in the audience. Among the other green areas beloved by the locals, one has to name the two mounds towering over Kraków. They were built to commemorate Poland's national heroes, Tadeusz Kościuszko and Józef Piłsudski.



**The vaults of the Wawel Cathedral are the burial site of Polish kings, saints, poets and distinguished military leaders.**



[www.muzeum.krakow.pl/?L=1](http://www.muzeum.krakow.pl/?L=1)



[www.katedra-wawelska.pl](http://www.katedra-wawelska.pl)



[www.krakow.travel](http://www.krakow.travel)





[www.visitmalopolska.pl/  
Strony/main/main.aspx](http://www.visitmalopolska.pl/Strony/main/main.aspx)



# Tarnów:

## Historical beauty on a mini scale

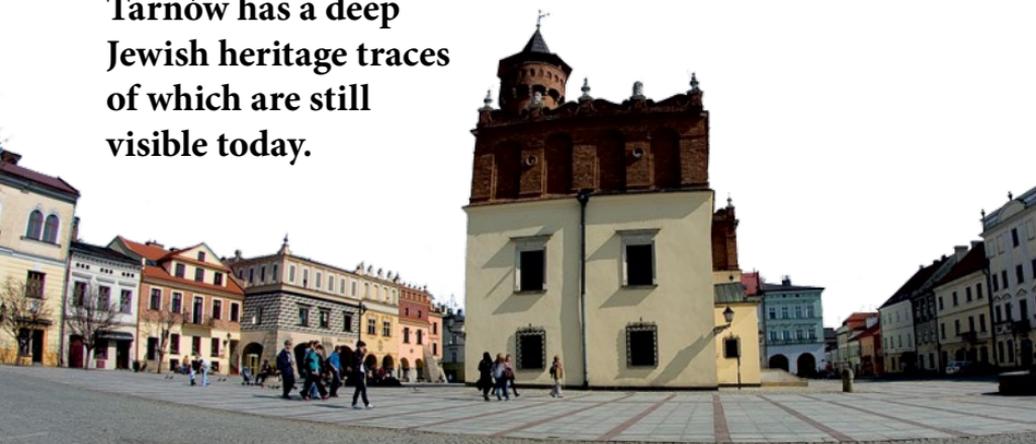
Known for being the warmest city in Poland, Tarnów has a friendly atmosphere where tradition intertwines with the modernity that teems with the bustle of city life.

---

**T**arnów wins hearts with its narrow streets which follow the same layout they did during the Middle Ages, with its intriguing architecture of manor houses, its fairytale Town Hall and the remnants of defensive walls. Poles and Jews, together with newcomers from Hungary, Ukraine, Germany, Scotland, Austria and the Czech Republic, wrote this town's history, giving it a multicultural dimension.

There are many different ways to go about sightseeing here. For example, one can visit exemplary samples of Italian Renaissance architecture or monuments recounting Jewish history. Why not pay a visit to the local Ethnographic Museum, as it has the only exhibition in Europe devoted to the history and culture of the Romani people? Near Tarnów, one should stop at the village of Zalipie, famous for subtle ceramics and quaint cottages painted with flower motives.

**Tarnów has a deep Jewish heritage traces of which are still visible today.**



# Rzeszów: the Polish frontier

A metropolis in southeastern Poland, Rzeszów is a business, culture and technology centre of the Podkarpackie region.

---

**T**he heyday of the city's growth was during the 16<sup>th</sup> and 17<sup>th</sup> centuries when Rzeszów belonged to the aristocratic Ligeża and Lubomirski families. That was when the most beautiful churches and synagogues were built, along with the castle, the Piarist convent and the Town Hall. Ever since, the main square has been the centre of trade, business and entertainment. Under the square, one can find vast cellars which used to serve as storage rooms for merchants. Their deepest levels provided shelter during the Tartar attacks of the 16<sup>th</sup> and 17<sup>th</sup> centuries. Today, visitors can enjoy the underground tourist route, "Rzeszowskie Piwnice," or "Rzeszów Cellars." The city is also the heart of "Aviation Valley" (Dolina Lotnicza), an association with a 70-year long tradition, whose members are aviation companies, research institutes and pilot training centres.



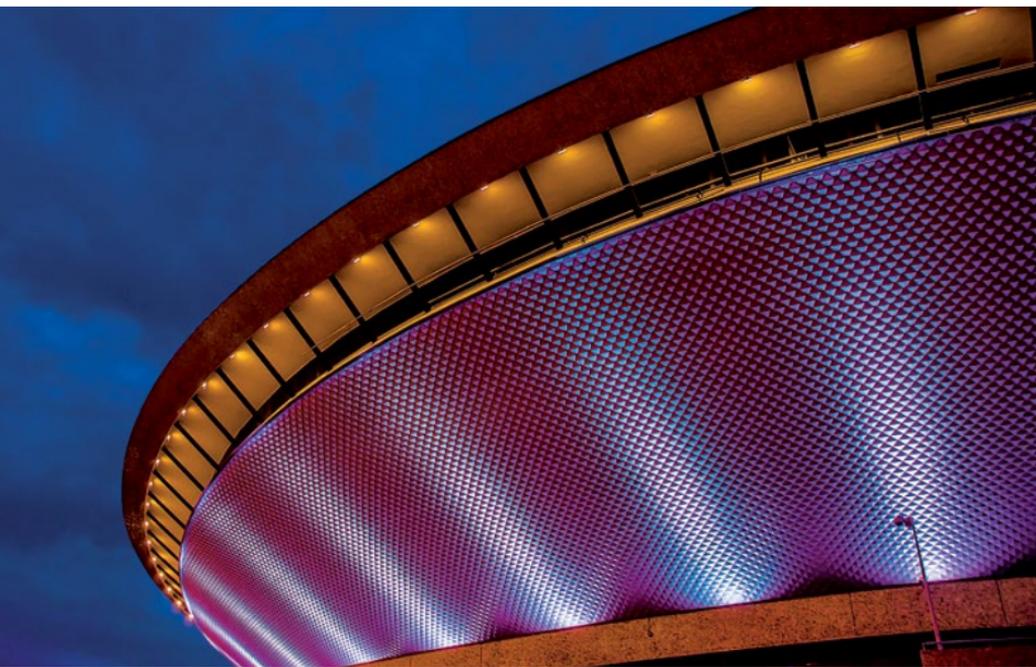
[www.podkarpackie.travel/en](http://www.podkarpackie.travel/en)





**Rzeszów is home to the Museum of Bedtime Cartoons (Muzeum Dobranoczek), dedicated to cartoons and animated films for children, traditionally shown on TV in the evening.**





# Katowice:

## The Place to be

Katowice, a town which has seen a lot of modernisation in the recent years, more and more often finds itself ranking high among the most beautiful cities in Europe.

---

**T**he landmark symbolising Katowice is the “Spodek,” Poland’s largest multi-purpose venue. The city boasts the largest urban park in Poland. It was built during the 1950s on an industrially-devastated area of slag heaps, in a pioneering move for a European country, when it comes to environmental renewal projects. The park in Katowice can only be rivalled by the hugely popular Silesian Culture and Recreation Park (Park Kultury i Wypoczynku) in the neighbouring city of Chorzów. Katowice is the capital city of the Silesian region, the centre of the mining area and the heart of the gigantic Silesia Metropolis, formed by fourteen neighbouring towns connected through their common industrial past.

The Industrial Monuments Route (Szlak Zabytków Techniki) runs through each town of the Silesia Metropolis, marking places of interest related to coal mining. It was the extraction of coal that brought about the creation of a very exceptional culture, characteristic perhaps of this region alone. This place never sleeps. In Zabrze, one can visit the Historical Old “Guido” Mine. Katowice hosts the biggest blues festival in the world, known as the Rawa Blues Festival, as well as the open-air event called OFF Festival Katowice. It is one of the best alternative music festivals in the world. An interesting fact, the town of Gliwice has a Palm House open to visitors, a real tropical oasis amid the industrial landscape.



[www.katowice.eu](http://www.katowice.eu)



[www.slaskie.travel/en-US](http://www.slaskie.travel/en-US)

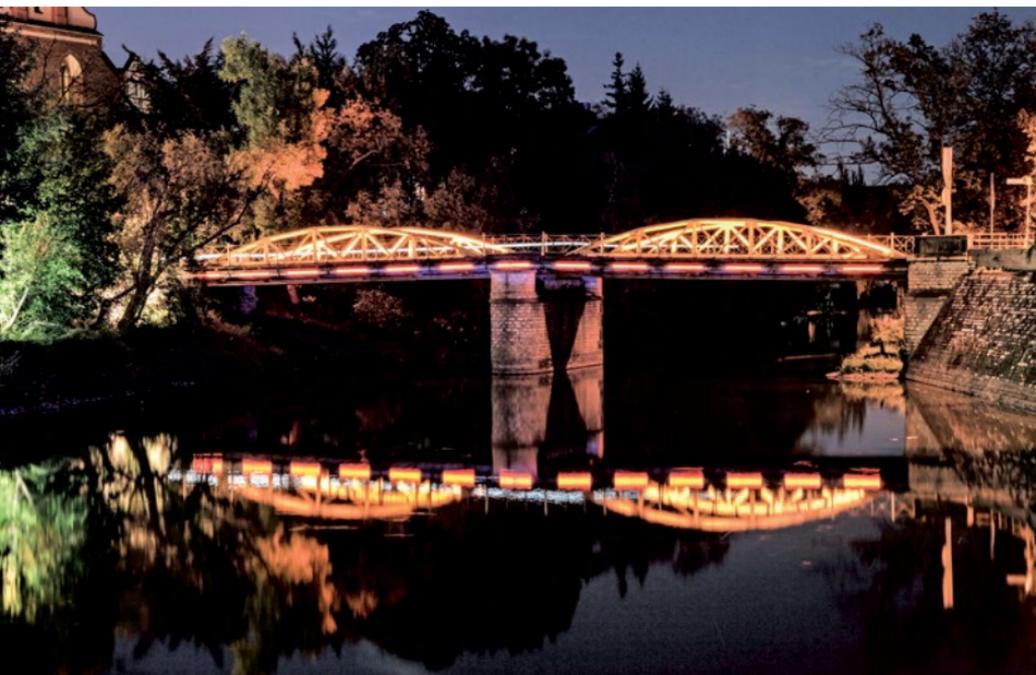


[www.muzeumslaskie.pl](http://www.muzeumslaskie.pl)

**In the town of Gliwice  
there is Palm House  
open to visitors,  
a real tropical oasis  
amid the industrial  
landscape.**







# Opole:

## Capital of Polish pop culture

The pearl of the region stretching between Upper and Lower Silesia, Opole lives and breathes music.

---

**T**he Old Town in Opole recalls the times of the Middle Ages, when it lay under the rule of Polish princes from the Piast dynasty. The oldest buildings are Gothic churches which were later redecorated in the Baroque style. The Piast Tower, remaining as the only one of the fortified towers of the dismantled Medieval castle, is the town's most famous landmark. The viewing platform on its top offers a marvellous panoramic view of Opole, with its Old Town and riverside promenade. Together with the Millennium Amphitheatre (Amfiteatr Tysiąclecia), an open-air music venue, they symbolise meeting the past with modernity.

Without a doubt, the city is the Polish capital of pop music. The National Festival of Polish Song, with a tradition going back fifty years, is a huge celebration with lots of fanfare.

Many rare species of plants can be found within the municipal area, including twenty-three protected by law. Their largest concentration can be found on Bolko Island.

**The town's most famous landmark, the Piast Tower, offers a panoramic view of Opole from its viewing platform.**



[www.visitopolskie.pl](http://www.visitopolskie.pl)



# Wrocław:

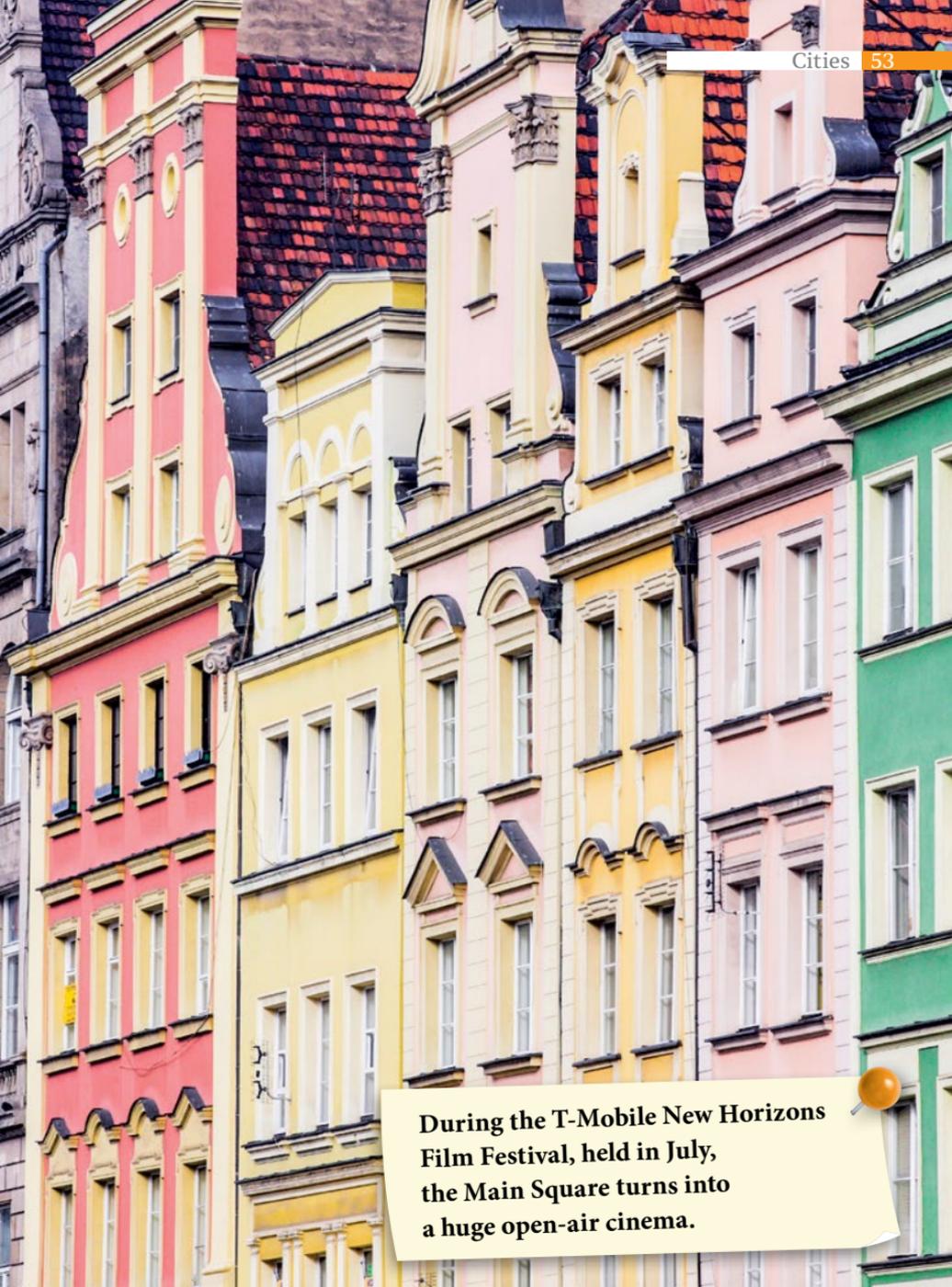
## European Capital of Culture in 2016

Wrocław has been overlooking the waters of the Oder River for over a thousand years. Bearing the traces of the Czech, German and Polish rule, the present-day city of Wrocław is a true European melting pot.

---

**M**agnificent manor houses, churches, the university and a whole gamut of Nobel Prize winners are all witnesses of the town's former splendour. Ostrów Tumski, once an island on the Oder, recalls the earliest period of Wrocław's history. Its soaring Medieval churches tower over the Old Town which stretches on the other side of the river. The Old Town is the focal point of city life, with the busy Wrocław Market Hall (Hala Targowa), the NewStock Exchange (Nowa Giełda), countless banks and office buildings and, amid all of them, the splendid Wrocław Opera. The Centennial Hall often serves as the venue for the Opera, as it allows for staging large-scale shows with top performers. ►





**During the T-Mobile New Horizons Film Festival, held in July, the Main Square turns into a huge open-air cinema.**



In front of Sky Tower, the highest skyscraper in Poland, one can admire *Profile of Time*, a sculpture by Salvador Dalí.



► Constructed out of reinforced concrete, the Centennial Hall (Hala Stulecia) is a groundbreaking work in the history of world architecture. Inscribed on the UNESCO World Heritage list, it is a well-deserved object of local pride. Its dome, rising 23 metres high, is topped by a lantern whose lighthouse-like housing is made out of steel and glass. Since 2009, the Hall has had an extraordinary neighbour: Europe's largest fountain with synchronised projections of water, sound and light. Another exceptional site is the *Raclawice Panorama*, a monumental cycloramic painting depicting the 1794 battle between Poles and Russians. The decorations and lighting effects used in the oval room, where the 114 by 15 metre painting is exhibited, create a 3-D ambiance. Small figurines of dwarves are a charming decorative landmark of Wrocław. Their number has been continually growing, as tours are being organised to see them all, and even guidebooks are devoted to the phenomenon.



[www.wroclaw.pl](http://www.wroclaw.pl)

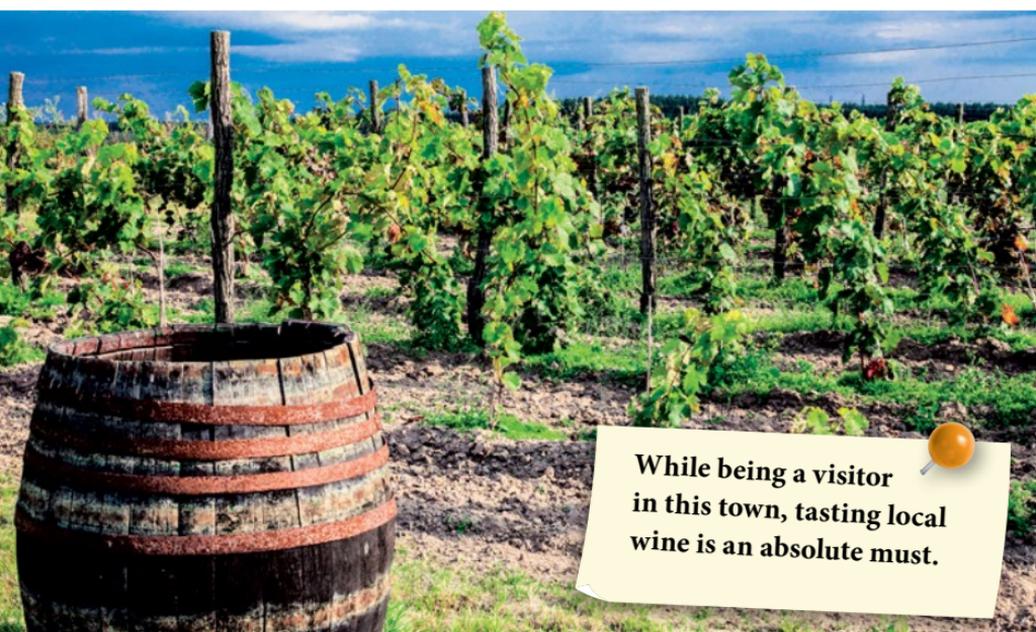


[www.wro2016.pl](http://www.wro2016.pl)



[www.muzeum.miejskie.wroclaw.pl/](http://www.muzeum.miejskie.wroclaw.pl/)





While being a visitor  
in this town, tasting local  
wine is an absolute must.

# Zielona Góra:

## Capital of Polish winery

The patron saint of Zielona Góra is St. Urban of Langres. It is a European tradition for people working in the wine industry to commit their fate into his hands.

---

**T**he climate in the area of Zielona Góra is favourable for the cultivation of vines. While being a visitor in this town, tasting local wine is an absolute must. Vines have been harvested in this region as early as the Middle Ages. The traditions related to winemaking in this part of Europe are presented in the Museum of Wine (Muzeum Wina). The highlight of the museum's exhibition is a large collection of wine glasses and decanters. It is also a venue for wine-makers' conferences, as well as hosting wine-tasting events. Indeed, vines complete the look of the city, reflecting its Polish name: Zielona Góra, meaning Green Hill, is really green. More than half of the metropolitan area consists of woods. There is a captivating Botanical Garden here, and the neighbouring locality of Nietków there is an arboretum. Each September, Zielona Góra becomes the setting of the sumptuous Wine Harvest Festival called Winobranie, with a tradition going back to 1862.



# Poznań:

## Home of Poznań International Fair

The multi-cultural city attracts people from all over the globe. Poznań is the Polish capital of commerce.

---

**T**he most momentous event all year is the Poznań International Fair, held since 1921. Many cultural events are organised in the Shopping, Arts and Business Center, “Stary Browar,” or “Old Brewery,” which is located in a meticulously restored brewery complex from the 19<sup>th</sup> century. The modern look of the city is largely due to the fair buildings comprised of sixteen exhibition halls. The crowning piece of the complex is the Eastern Entrance (Hol Wschodni), referred to by the locals as the “aquarium,” with its modernist Spire from the 1950s visible through the glass walls. The Spire is the Fair’s symbol, as well as Poznań’s most recognisable landmark. Over eighty different events take place here annually. ►







The Boys' and Men's Choir of the Poznań Philharmonic, the "Poznań Nightingales" (Poznańskie Słowiki), continues traditions of choral song dating back to the 15<sup>th</sup> century.

► Poznań also has a charming Old Town. The streets all meet in the Old Square where the Renaissance Town Hall proudly overlooks the area. It is one of the most beautiful examples of Renaissance culture. A bugle call comes from its tower and the clock installed in 1551 delights the tourists with its figurines of mechanical goats which emerge and butt heads. Another interesting sight in the square is the fountain with its statue depicting a woman in traditional garb carrying water. Unveiled in 1915, it is the acknowledgement of the specific culture forged in the 18<sup>th</sup> century, thanks to the arrival of German settlers. The old Poznań was a town of many cultures where the Poles, Germans and Jews lived in harmony. The oldest section of the city is Ostrów Tumski with a Romanesque cathedral and an archaeological reserve. The route running from the Old Town to Ostrów Tumski is a popular tourist walk known as the Royal-Imperial Route.



[www.poznan.pl](http://www.poznan.pl)



[www.mnp.art.pl](http://www.mnp.art.pl)



[www.en.wielkopolska.travel](http://www.en.wielkopolska.travel)

# Gorzów Wielkopolski

## City on the river

This small town, situated on the Warta River, is famous for its hospitality.

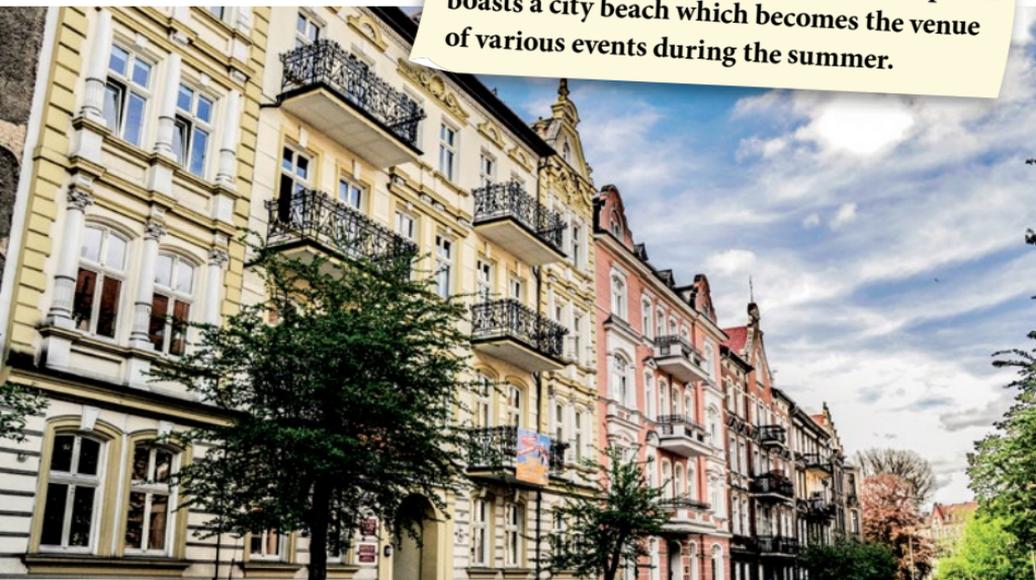
---

**F**or 700 years, the history of Gorzów Wielkopolski was connected with Germany. After the Second World War, the city ended up inside Polish territory and got its current name. Gorzów is a mid-sized town which proclaims its fondness for the river it lies on. Its picturesque river promenade boasts a city beach which becomes the venue for various events during the summer. The Granary Museum (Spichlerz) hosts a very popular event on its grounds each summer, the “Honey Fair of St. James” (Jarmarki Miodne św. Jakuba). Also worth visiting are the modernist town baths from the 1930s. They used to be the largest sport and recreation complex in the area between the cities of Wrocław and Szczecin. Their open construction made of concrete and steel, along with a glass-paned cupola, is indeed an extraordinary sight.





The river promenade in Gorzów Wielkopolski boasts a city beach which becomes the venue of various events during the summer.





**Publisher:**

Polish Tourist Organisation (POT)

ul. Chałubińskiego 8

00-613 Warszawa

**contact:** pot@pot.gov.pl, phone: +(4822) 536 70 70

www.pot.gov.pl

**Writer:** Paweł Wroński

**Editors:** Maja Laube, Marta Olejnik

**Cover photography:** photograph from the POT promotional campaign  
“Come and find your story” within the project “Lubię Polskę”

**Photography:** POT archives, A. and W. Bilińscy (6, 7, 13, 16, 39, 50, 53, 56),

Fotolia, fotopolska.pot.gov.pl, K. Krämer (25), A. Młynarczyk (34, 35),

B. Nowosielski (62, 63), Shutterstock, Urząd Miasta w Białymstoku (18, 19),

J. Włodarczyk (12, 15, 21, 27, 29-32, 59)

**Photo editor:** Karolina Krämer

**DTP design:** BOOKMARK Graphic Design Studio

**Cover design:** Przemysław Gast

**Typesetting:** Katarzyna Marcinkiewicz

**Production:** Jadwiga Szczęsnowicz

**Translation and proofreading:** Translation Street, www.translationstreet.pl

© Copyright by Polish Tourist Organisation (POT)

© Copyright by BOOKMARK SA Publishing Group

Warszawa 2014

All rights reserved

**BOOKMARK SA Publishing Group**

ul. Puławska 41 lok. 19

02-508 Warszawa

**e-mail:** biuro@book-mark.pl

www.book-mark.pl

**ISBN:** 978-83-8010-009-1

**ISBN:** 978-83-8010-014-5



ISBN 978-83-8010-009-1



**INNOVATIVE  
ECONOMY**  
NATIONAL COHESION STRATEGY



POLISH  
TOURIST  
ORGANISATION

EUROPEAN UNION  
EUROPEAN REGIONAL  
DEVELOPMENT FUND



EN