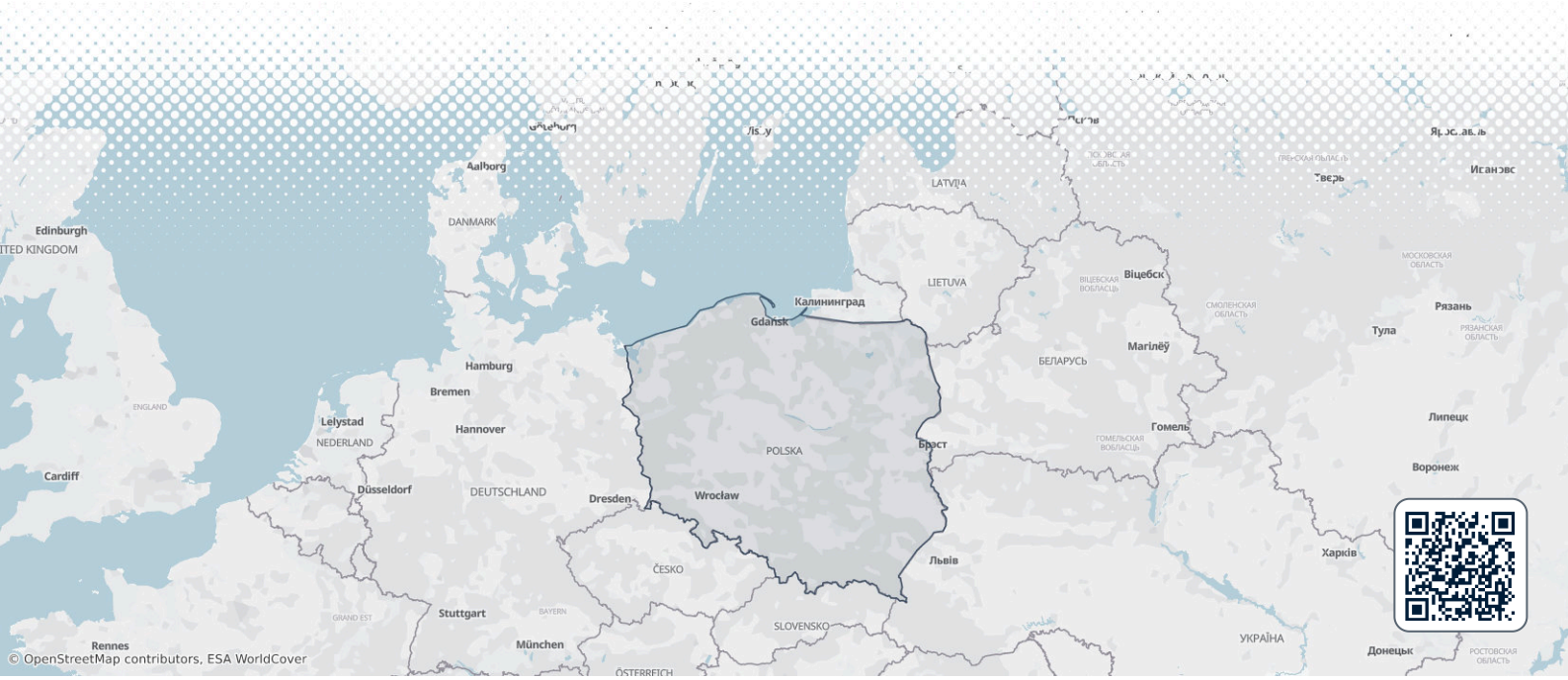


Poland

TRAVEL GUIDE

Tripomatic



Overview

Poland stretches from Baltic beaches in the north to the Tatra Mountains in the south, with medieval old towns, dense forests, and a turbulent modern history in between. Kraków's royal past, Warsaw's rebuilt center, and Gdańsk's maritime heritage each tell a different chapter of the country's story, and the 20th century's wars and shifting borders left deep marks that visitors encounter at sites like Auschwitz-Birkenau and the Warsaw Rising Museum.

The country suits travelers who want strong history and architecture without Western European prices, plus easy access to mountain hiking and lake districts. Poland is part of the **Schengen** area, so EU travelers cross the border without checks, and its cities connect well by train for a multi-stop itinerary.

Money & payments

Currency

CURRENCY	1 PLN	1 PLN
zł	**0.227 EUR**	**0.2502 USD**
PLN	1 EUR = 4.404 PLN	1 USD = 3.996 PLN

Cards widely accepted

Bring złoty, not euros — Poland has not joined the eurozone despite EU membership. ATMs are common in cities and towns; machines run by well-known banks tend to charge lower fees than standalone currency-exchange-style kiosks. A few rural markets, small food stalls, and older regional buses still expect cash.

Typical costs

Rough prices in touristic areas, per person

Hotel (double room, per night) mid-range hotel, double room	200 – 500 zł €45 – €114
Dinner (mid-range restaurant) sit-down restaurant, per person	60 – 120 zł €14 – €27
Inexpensive meal milk bar or casual lunch	20 – 35 zł €5 – €8
Local beer	10 – 18 zł €2 – €4
Coffee	10 – 16 zł €2 – €4
Water	3 – 6 zł €1 – €1
Transit ticket	4 – 6 zł €1 – €1
Taxi (per km)	2.5 – 4 zł €1 – €1

Budget travelers will find Poland noticeably cheaper than Western Europe for meals, transport, and mid-range hotels.

Tipping

Restaurant round up or ~10%	Optional
Taxi round up	Optional
Hotel a few złoty per bag/day	Optional
Bar	Not customary
Tour guide 10-15% for a multi-hour tour	Optional

Restaurant tipping is common but not obligatory: round up the bill or add about 10% for good service, ideally stated to the server when paying rather than left on the table. Taxi drivers and hotel porters appreciate a small round-up. Tour guides on a longer, multi-hour tour are usually tipped a bit more generously.

Electricity

Poland uses Type C and E plugs at 230 V / 50 Hz, standard European sockets, so most phone and laptop chargers work without an adapter.

ELECTRICITY



Type C

ELECTRICITY



Type E

230 V · 50 Hz

Language

Polish is the official language and uses the Latin alphabet, though its spelling includes unfamiliar combinations (`sz`, `cz`, `rz`, `ł`) that can make reading street signs and menus slower than in many other European countries. English is common among younger people and in tourism-facing jobs in Kraków, Warsaw, and Gdańsk, but far less so in small towns and among older residents.

Useful phrases

Hello	Dzień dobry
Goodbye	Do widzenia
Please	Proszę
Thank you	Dziękuję
Yes	Tak
No	Nie
Excuse me	Przepraszam
Sorry	Przepraszam
How much?	Ile to kosztuje?
Where is...?	Gdzie jest...?
Help	Pomocy!
Cheers	Na zdrowie Nah zdro-vyeh

Staying connected

EU/EEA travelers with roaming plans typically get standard data allowances at no extra cost under EU roam-like-at-home rules. UK travelers lost that coverage after Brexit and now depend on their carrier's own EU roaming rates, which vary widely — check before you go. Prepaid Polish SIM and eSIM plans from operators like Play, Orange, and Plus are sold at airports, kiosks, and phone shops. Buying one requires showing a passport, since Poland registers prepaid SIM cards to an identity.

Safety & emergencies

Emergency numbers

GENERAL EMERGENCY	POLICE	AMBULANCE	FIRE BRIGADE
112	997	999	998

Poland is generally safe for visitors, with low rates of violent crime. The main risks are pickpocketing and bag-snatching in crowded tourist areas — Kraków's Main Square, Warsaw's Old Town, and busy train stations — plus occasional taxi drivers overcharging tourists at airports. Use an official taxi rank or a ride-hailing app rather than accepting a ride offered by a tout.

Health

Tap water is generally safe to drink across Poland, though many locals prefer bottled water for taste. Pharmacies (*apteka*) are widespread in cities and towns, with a rotating night pharmacy in most larger cities for after-hours needs. No special vaccinations are required for most travelers beyond routine immunizations.

Visas & entry

Poland is part of the Schengen Area. Citizens of the EU/EEA can enter freely with a valid ID card or passport. Visitors from the United States, United Kingdom, Canada, Australia, and many other visa-exempt countries can enter Schengen countries, including Poland, for stays of up to 90 days within a 180-day period. The EU's ETIAS pre-travel authorization for visa-exempt travelers has been delayed multiple times and had not launched as of mid-2026; check the official ETIAS site closer to your trip in case it takes effect before you travel. Citizens of countries without a visa-waiver agreement need a Schengen visa, arranged in advance through a Polish consulate or visa application center.

> Visa and entry requirements change frequently. Verify current requirements with the official immigration authority or your country's embassy before travel.

Etiquette

Poles typically greet with a handshake in business settings and a cheek kiss among friends and relatives. When invited to a Polish home, bring an odd number of flowers unless it's a bouquet already wrapped — an even number is traditionally associated with funerals. Modest dress (shoulders and knees covered) is expected when visiting churches, many of which remain active places of worship rather than pure tourist sites. On public transport, giving up a seat for elderly passengers is a strongly held norm.

Holidays & opening hours

Public holidays

Jan 1	New Year's Day
Jan 6	Epiphany
May 1	May Day
May 3	Constitution Day
Aug 15	Assumption Day
Nov 1	All Saints' Day
Nov 11	Independence Day
Dec 24	Christmas Eve
Dec 25	Christmas Day
Dec 26	St. Stephen's Day
movable — May/Jun	Corpus Christi
movable — Mar/Apr	Easter Monday
movable — Mar/Apr	Easter Sunday
movable — May/Jun	Pentecost

Most large supermarkets and shopping malls close on all but a few designated Sundays each year, under a national trading-ban law; smaller, owner-run shops and city-center convenience stores stay open as usual. Expect reduced public transport schedules and closed offices on public holidays.

Getting around

- **By train**: PKP Intercity's EIP and EIC services connect major cities quickly and comfortably; book ahead through PKP Intercity for lower fares.
- **By air**: domestic flights with LOT Polish Airlines can save time between far-apart cities, such as Warsaw and Gdańsk, though the train network covers most common routes well on its own.
- **By bus**: long-distance coaches reach smaller towns not served directly by rail, often at lower prices than trains.

Trains link Warsaw, Kraków, Gdańsk, and Wrocław well, with frequent daily departures.

Driving

- **Key rules**: dipped headlights must stay on at all times, even in daylight; drink-driving enforcement is strict, with an effectively zero-tolerance blood alcohol limit.
- **Tolls**: a few motorway sections use staffed barriers where you pay directly; others bill heavier vehicles automatically through the electronic e-TOLL system, which usually doesn't apply to an ordinary rental car.
- **Congestion**: a few large cities, including Warsaw, are introducing low-emission zones that can restrict older diesel vehicles from parts of the center — check current rules before driving in.
- **Parking**: paid zones cover most city centers on weekdays, usually paid by ticket machine or app; parking is free once you're outside the core.
- **Fuel**: petrol is labeled *Pb95* or *Pb98* and diesel is labeled *ON* (*olej napędowy*) on pumps; stations are almost always self-service and take card payment at the pump.
- **Electric vehicles**: charging stations cluster around major cities and motorway service stations; Orlen Charge and GreenWay are the most widespread networks, and most chargers need an app or RFID card to start a session.

URBAN	RURAL	MOTORWAY
50 km/h	90 km/h	140 km/h

PETROL	DIESEL
Pb95, Pb98	ON

Drive on the right

No motorway vignette needed

No vignette needed for cars. A few concession motorway sections (parts of the A2 and A4) charge a toll at staffed barriers, paid on the spot. Heavier vehicles over 3.5t are billed automatically through the electronic e-TOLL system, which does not apply to ordinary rental cars.

Food & drink

Poles typically eat a hearty breakfast, a substantial lunch (often the main meal, eaten mid-afternoon rather than at noon), and a lighter dinner. Sunday lunch with extended family remains a strong tradition, often centered on soup followed by meat and potatoes.

National dishes worth trying include *pierogi* (stuffed dumplings, sweet or savory), *bigos* (a slow-cooked hunter's stew of cabbage and meat), and *żurek* (a sour rye soup often served in a bread bowl). In the Tatra Mountains region, look for *oscypek*, a smoked sheep's-milk cheese traditionally grilled and served with cranberry sauce. Street stalls sell *zapiekanka* (an open-faced baguette with mushrooms and cheese) and *pączki*, a filled doughnut especially popular on the Thursday before Lent.

Vodka is closely tied to Polish drinking culture, often flavored with bison grass, honey, or fruit, and served ice-cold in small glasses. Milk bars (*bar mleczny*) are a distinctive, budget-friendly way to eat: canteen-style cafeterias serving simple, home-style Polish food at low prices, a holdover from the socialist era that remains popular today.

What to eat & drink

LUNCH

Żurek · żurek
Sour rye soup, often served in a hollowed bread bowl.

SNACKS & STREET FOOD

Oscypek · oscypek
Smoked sheep's-milk cheese from the Tatra Mountains, often grilled.

Zapiekanka · zapiekanka
Open-faced baguette topped with mushrooms and melted cheese.

SWEETS & DESSERTS

Pączki · pączki
Filled doughnuts, especially popular on the Thursday before Lent.

DRINKS

Polish vodka · wódka
Often flavored with bison grass, honey, or fruit; served ice-cold.

SIGNATURE DISHES

Pierogi · pierogi
Stuffed dumplings, boiled or fried, filled sweet or savory.

Bigos · bigos
Slow-cooked hunter's stew of cabbage, sauerkraut, and meat.

Poland – Plan Your Trip
Turn the places from this guide into a real itinerary, with smart routing, time estimates, and everything you need for a perfect trip.
3M+ downloads · 4.6 stars · 15 years of trip planning
App Store · Google Play
Scan to download the app

Where to explore

Major cities

Warsaw, the capital, was rebuilt almost entirely after wartime destruction and is recognized by UNESCO for that reconstruction. It mixes the reconstructed Old Town with the modern Palace of Culture and

Science, the Royal Castle, and green escapes like Łazienki Park and the Baroque Wilanów Palace.

Kraków escaped major wartime destruction and keeps its medieval core intact, centered on Main Market Square, the Renaissance Sukiennice (Cloth Hall) trading hall, and the hilltop Wawel Castle alongside Wawel Cathedral.

Gdańsk is the gateway to the Baltic coast, with a rebuilt merchant Old Town along the river and sights like St. Mary's Church and the Neptune Fountain. Nearby, the seaside resort of Sopot has Europe's longest wooden pier.

Wrocław pairs a large market square ringed with colorful facades with small bronze dwarf statues scattered through the streets, plus the cathedral quarter of Ostrów Tumski and the modernist Centennial Hall.

Poznań, one of Poland's oldest cities, has a restored Renaissance old town and a cathedral linked to the country's earliest history.

Historic towns

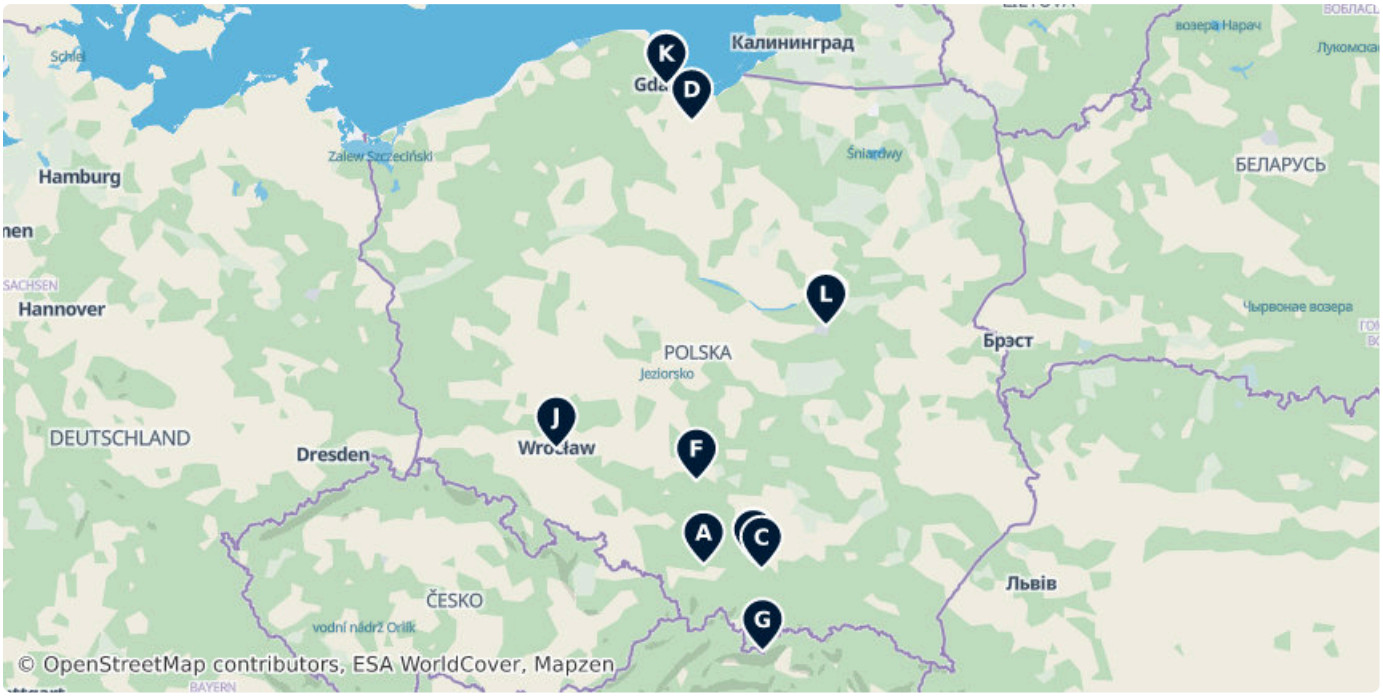
Toruń's red-brick old town is a UNESCO World Heritage site and the birthplace of astronomer *Nicolaus Copernicus*; it's also known for its gingerbread. Malbork is home to Malbork Castle, the largest brick castle in the world. Częstochowa draws pilgrims to Jasna Góra, the monastery holding Poland's most revered religious icon. Zamość is a Renaissance new town built to an Italian architect's plan, its arcaded square largely unchanged since the 16th century. Lublin anchors the country's east, with a well-preserved old town and easy access to the surrounding countryside.

Mountains and nature

Zakopane is the base for the Tatra Mountains, with trails to the turquoise lake Morskie Oko and Poland's highest peak, Rysy. Białowieża Forest, on the border with Belarus, protects one of Europe's last primeval forests and its free-roaming European bison. Bieszczady National Park, in the southeast, has quieter trails through the Bieszczady range.

Poland Essentials

This selection highlights Poland’s architectural and historical evolution, from the 13th-century Teutonic stronghold of Malbork to the Soviet-era Palace of Culture and Science in Warsaw. It features UNESCO-listed sites like Kraków's medieval Main Market Square and the underground salt chambers of Wieliczka. Spiritual and political milestones are represented by the Jasna Góra pilgrimage site and Gdańsk’s Solidarity Museum. Natural landscapes include Morskie Oko, the largest lake in the Tatra Mountains, while the rebuilt Old Towns of Warsaw and Wrocław showcase Poland's post-war resilience.





Ⓐ Auschwitz-Birkenau State Museum

The Auschwitz-Birkenau State Museum is a museum on the site of the Auschwitz concentration camp in Oświęcim, Poland.

Więźniów Oświęcimia 20, Gmina Oświęcim, 32-603 Poland (50.02697, 19.20190)

Dec Mo–Su	07:30–14:00
Jan Mo–Su	07:30–15:00
Feb Mo–Su	07:30–16:00
Apr-May Mo–Su	07:30–18:00
Jun-Aug Mo–Su	07:30–19:00



Ⓑ Main Market Square

Large medieval square established in 1257 that serves as a central hub for trade, administration, and social life. It features historic architecture, including a prominent cloth hall and an underground museum, and is designated as a UNESCO World Heritage site.

Grand Square, Kraków, Poland (50.06163, 19.93735)

krakow.pl

auschwitz.org.pl, +48 338448099



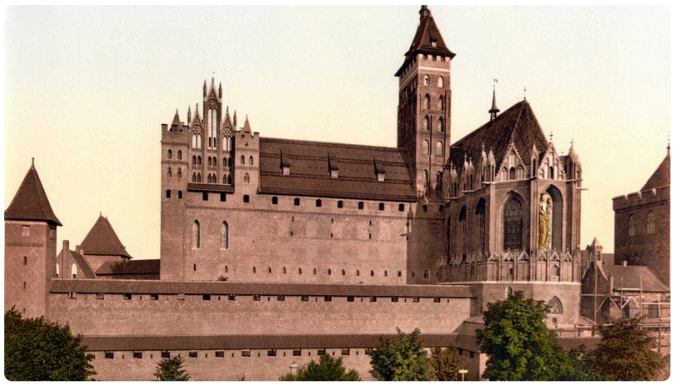
C Wieliczka Salt Mine

The Wieliczka Salt Mine is a salt mine in the town of Wieliczka, near Kraków in southern Poland.

Ul. Daniłowicza 10, 32-020 Wieliczka, Poland (49.98306, 20.05570)

Mo–Su 07:30–19:30

kopalnia.pl, +48 12 278 73 02



D Malbork Castle

The Castle of the Teutonic Order in Malbork, commonly known as Malbork Castle, is a 13th-century castle complex located in the town of...

Starościńska 1, 82-201 Gmina Malbork, Poland (54.04000, 19.02776)

zamek.malbork.pl, +48 55 647 08 77



E Wawel Castle

Historic royal castle featuring a museum complex and legendary dragon motif, showcasing Gothic, Renaissance, and Romanesque architecture.

Zamek Wawel 5, Kraków, Poland (50.05447, 19.93709)

wawel.krakow.pl/trasa/zamek-i, +48124225155



F Jasna Góra Monastery

The Jasna Góra Monastery in Częstochowa, Poland, is a shrine dedicated to the Virgin Mary and one of the country's places of pilgrimage.

Haupthof, 42-200 Częstochowa, Poland (50.81231, 19.09729)

jasnagora.pl



G Morskie Oko

Morskie Oko, or Eye of the Sea in English, is the largest and fourth-deepest lake in the Tatra Mountains, in southern Poland.

34-532, Poland (49.19715, 20.07011)



H Old Town Market Place

Warsaw's Old Town Market Place is the center and oldest part of the Old Town of Warsaw, Poland.

Rynek Starego Miasta, Warsaw, Poland (52.24988, 21.01199)



I Royal Castle

Historic royal palace and museum presenting royal apartments, art exhibitions, and Polish history. Recognized as a UNESCO World Heritage Site.

Plac Zamkowy 4, 00-277 Warszawa (52.24780, 21.01513)

Mo	Open
Tu–Th	10:00–18:00
Fr	10:00–20:00
Sa	10:00–18:00
Su	11:00–18:00

zamek-krolewski.pl, +48 22 35 55 170



J Market Square

The Market Square is a medieval market square in Wrocław, in southwestern Poland.

1 Rynek Ratusz, Wrocław 50-106, Poland (51.10969, 17.03133)



K St Mary’s Church

St. Mary's Church, or formally the Basilica of the Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary, is a Brick Gothic Catholic church located in...

Podkramarska 5, 80-834 Gdańsk, PL (54.34987, 18.65293)

bazylikamariacka.gdansk.pl, +48 58 301 39 82



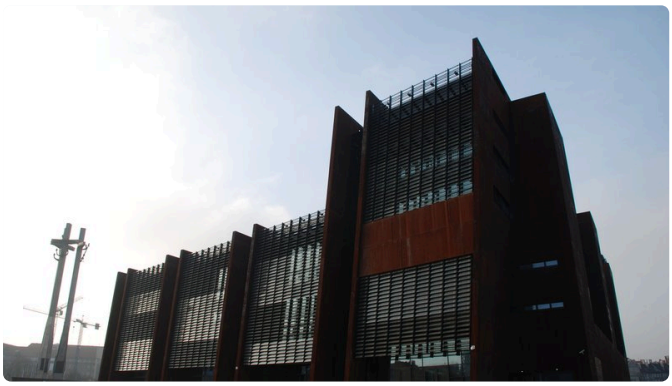
L Palace of Culture and Science

High-rise building known for its modern architecture, observation deck, and panoramic aerial views. It houses theaters, museums, terraces, and a clock tower within its structure.

Plac Defilad 1, 00-110 Warszawa (52.23177, 21.00619)

Mo–Su	10:00–20:00

pkin.pl



M Solidarity Museum (European Solidarity Centre)

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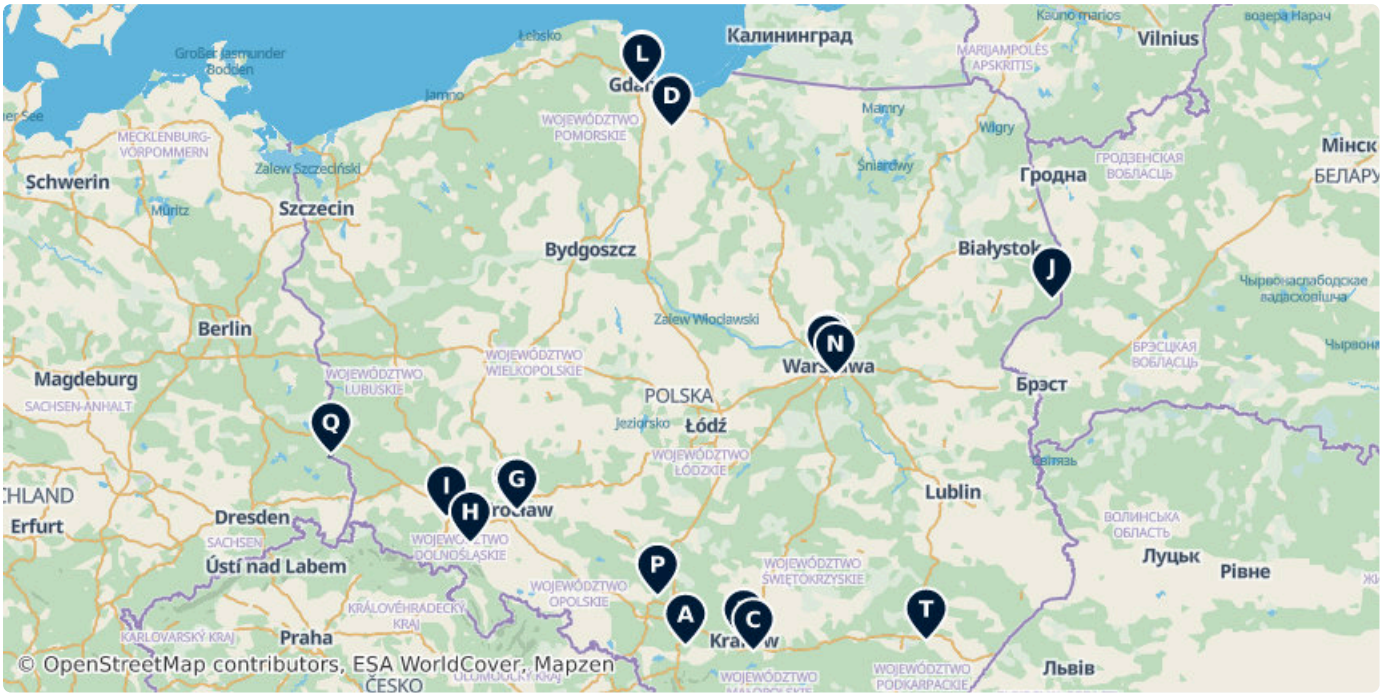
Plac Solidarności 1, 80-863 Gdańsk (54.36134, 18.64899)

May-Sep Mo–Su	10:00–20:00
Oct-Apr Mo–Su	10:00–18:00

ecs.gda.pl, +48 58 772 41 12

Editor's Choice: Poland

This collection highlights Poland's diverse heritage, spanning from the medieval Main Market Square in Kraków to the 13th-century Teutonic stronghold of Malbork Castle. It features significant UNESCO World Heritage sites like the Wieliczka Salt Mine and the primeval Białowieża Forest. Visitors can explore royal history at Warsaw's Royal Castle and Wilanów Palace, or reflect on 20th-century history at the Auschwitz-Birkenau State Museum and the POLIN Museum. Architectural landmarks include the brick gothic St. Mary's Church in Gdańsk and the modernist Centennial Hall in Wrocław.





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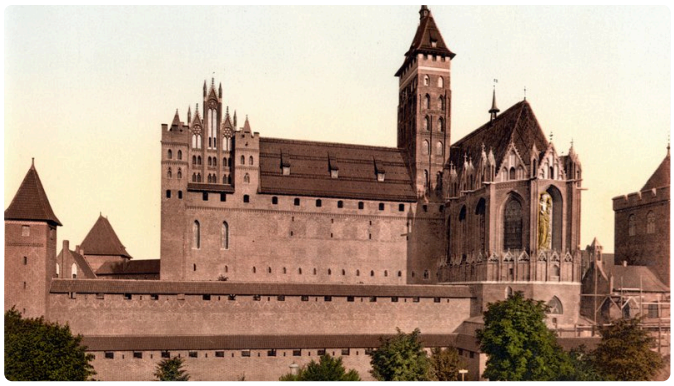
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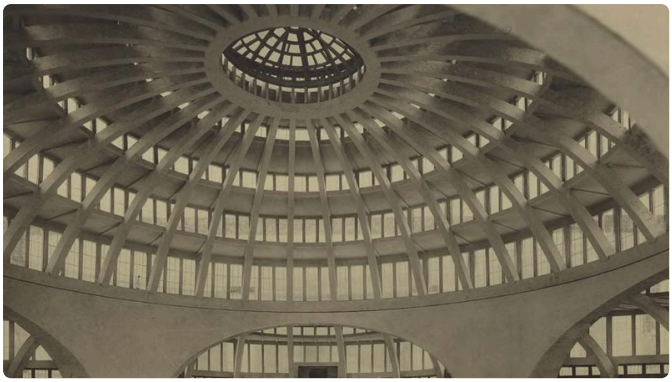
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zamek-krolewski.pl, +48 22 35 55 170



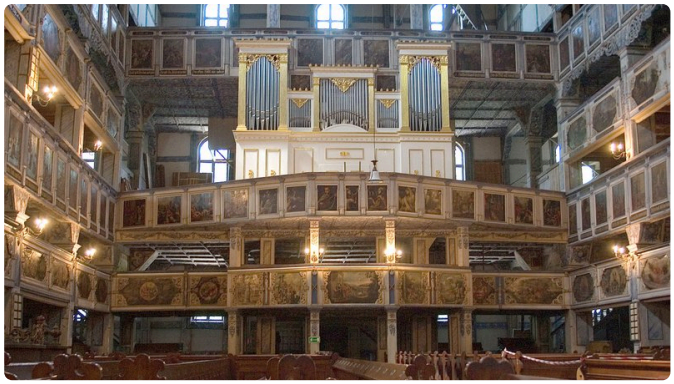
G Centennial Hall

Centennial Hall may refer to:

Wystawowa 1, 51-618 Wrocław
(51.10699, 17.07716)

Mo–Th	09:00–18:00
Fr–Sa	09:00–19:00
Su	09:00–18:00

halastulecia.pl/en/for-visitors/, +48713475151



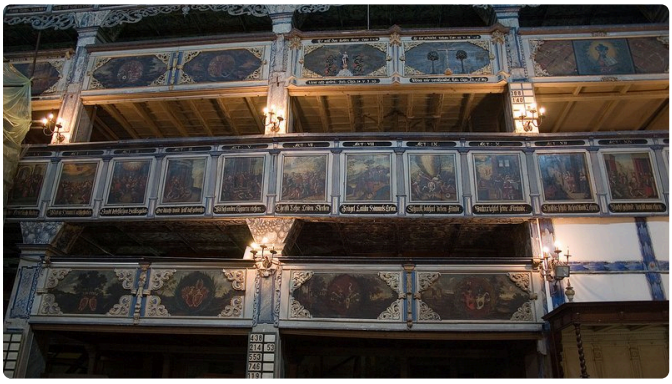
H Church of Peace

The Churches of Peace in Jawor and Świdnica in Lower Silesia. Poland, are 17th-century churches, named after the Peace of Westphalia of 1648.

Plac Pokoju 6, 58-100 Świdnica (50.84649, 16.49162)

Mo–Sa	09:00–18:00
Su	11:30–18:00

kosciolpokoju.pl



I Church of Peace Jawor

The Churches of Peace in Jawor and Świdnica in Lower Silesia. Poland, are 17th-century churches, named after the Peace of Westphalia of 1648.

Aleja Pięciuset Lat Reformacji 1, 59-400 Jawor
(51.05385, 16.18923)

Mo–Sa	10:00–17:00
Su	12:00–17:00



J Białowieża Forest

Białowieża Forest is a forest on the border between Belarus and Poland.

17-230, Poland (52.74926, 23.82088)



K Cathedral Island

Historical centre of Wroclaw. Definitely do not miss out its two churches and Katedralna street with splendid buildings.

13 Świętej Jadwigi, Wrocław 50-266, Poland (51.11441, 17.04041)

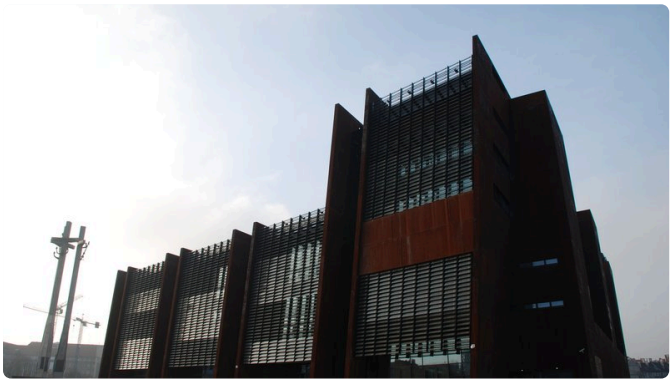


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May-Sep Mo–Su	10:00–20:00
Oct-Apr Mo–Su	10:00–18:00

ecs.gda.pl, +48 58 772 41 12



N Wilanow Palace

Wilanów Palace is a former royal palace located in the Wilanów district of Warsaw, Poland.

Stanisława Kostki Potockiego 10/16, 02-958 Warszawa (52.16511, 21.09015)

Mo–Su	10:00–16:00

wilanow-palac.pl, +48 22 544 27 00



O The Crane

The formerly wooden structure is a testament to the old naval history of the town as it was being used to load ships since the 13th century.

Szeroka 67/68, 80-835 Gdańsk, PL (54.35056, 18.65747)

en.nmm.pl/crane, +48 583016938



P Silver and Zinc Mines

The Historic Silver Mine is a UNESCO World Heritage Site in Tarnowskie Góry, Silesia, Poland.

Szczęść Boże 52, 42-600 Tarnowskie Góry, Poland (50.42592, 18.85019)

kopalniasrebra.pl, +48 32 285 29 81



Q Muskau Park

Muskau Park is a landscape park in the Upper Lusatia region of Germany and Poland.

68-208, Poland (51.55193, 14.73326)



R Polin Museum of the History of Polish Jews

POLIN Museum of the History of Polish Jews is a museum on the site of the former Warsaw Ghetto.

Mordechaja Anielewicza 6, 00-157 Warszawa (52.24943, 20.99314)

Mo	10:00–18:00
Tu	Closed
We–Fr	10:00–18:00
Sa	10:00–20:00
Su	10:00–18:00

polin.pl, +48 224710300



Warsaw Rising Museum

The Warsaw Rising Museum, in the Wola district of Warsaw, Poland, is dedicated to the Warsaw Uprising of 1944.

Grzybowska 79, 00-844 Warszawa (52.23228, 20.98127)

Mo	08:00–18:00
Tu	Closed
We–Fr	08:00–18:00
Sa–Su	10:00–18:00

1944.pl, +48 22 539 79 05



Łańcut Castle

Łańcut Castle is a complex of historical buildings located in Łańcut, Poland.

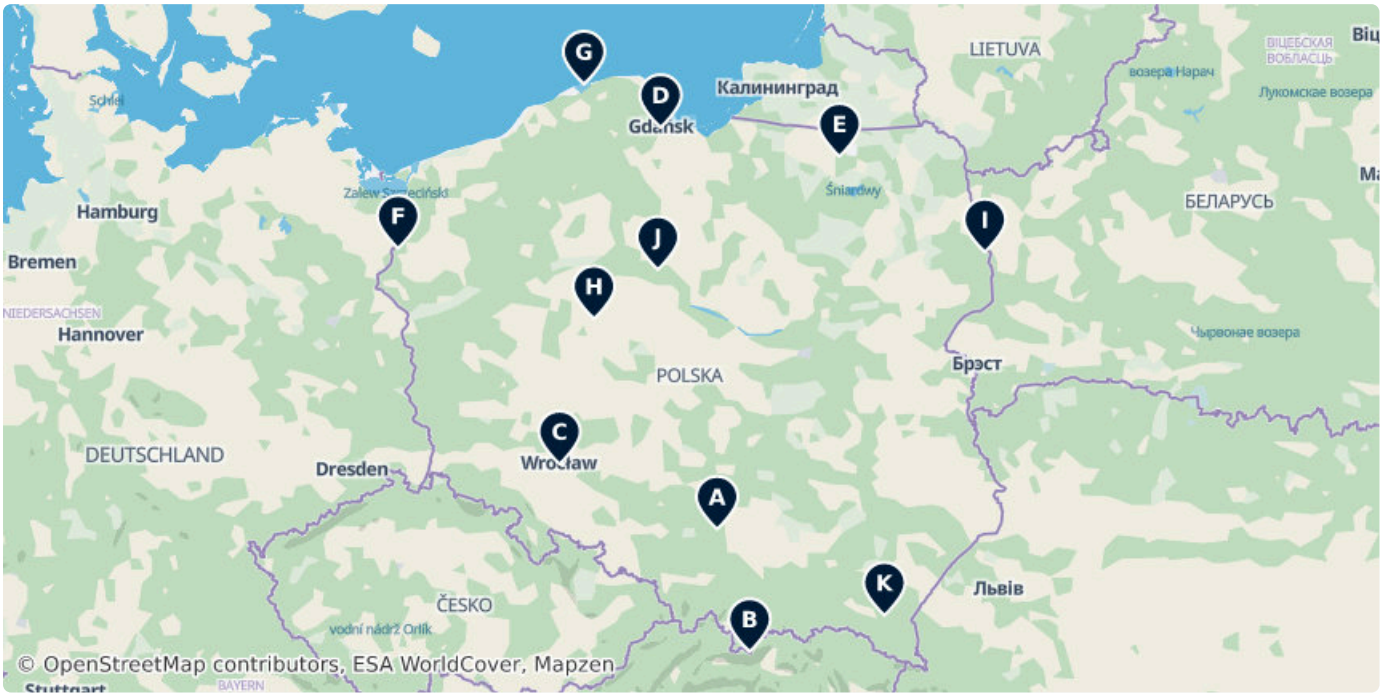
Zamkowa 1, 37-100 Łańcut (50.06844, 22.23442)

Mo–Fr	09:45–15:00
Sa–Su	09:45–17:00

zamek-lancut.pl, +48 17 225 20 08, 225 20 09, 225 20 10

Hidden Gems

Poland's diverse landscape features the shifting sand dunes of Słowiński National Park and the mysterious bent pines of the Crooked Forest. Historical highlights include Gniezno Cathedral, the coronation site of Polish monarchs, and the Wolf's Lair, Hitler's WWII headquarters. Artistic and cultural treasures range from the monumental Racławice Panorama cycloramic painting to the eighteenth-century wooden mosque in Kruszyniany. The list also covers the medieval ruins of Ogrodzieniec Castle, the alpine waters of Morskie Oko, and the open-air folk architecture museum in Sanok.





A Ogrodzieniec Castle

Ogrodzieniec Castle is a ruined medieval castle in Podzamcze, near Ogrodzieniec, the south-central region of Poland called Polish Jura.

42-440, Poland (50.45319, 19.55300)

zamek-ogrodzieniec.pl



B Morskie Oko

Morskie Oko, or Eye of the Sea in English, is the largest and fourth-deepest lake in the Tatra Mountains, in southern Poland.

34-532, Poland (49.19715, 20.07011)



C Racławice Panorama

The Racławice Panorama is a monumental cycloramic painting depicting the Battle of Racławice, during the Kościuszko Uprising.

Jana Ewangelisty Purkyniego 11, 53-110 Wrocław, Poland (51.11018, 17.04451)

Apr 16-Sep 30 Mo–Su	09:00–17:00
Oct 01-Oct 30 Tu–Su	09:00–17:00
Nov 02-Apr 15 Tu–Su	09:00–16:00
Dec 24-Dec 26 Mo–Su	Closed

panoramaraclawicka.pl, +48 71 344 16 61



D Neptune Fountain

Neptune's Fountain is a historic fountain in Gdańsk, a mannerist-rococo masterpiece, and one of the most distinctive landmarks of the city.

Długi Targ, 80-833 Gdańsk, Poland (54.34855, 18.65323)



E Wolf's Lair

The Wolf's Lair was Adolf Hitler's first Eastern Front military headquarters in World War II.

11-400, Poland (54.08085, 21.49944)

Apr-Sep Mo–Su	08:00–20:00
Oct-Mar Mo–Su	08:00–16:00

wilczyszaniec.olsztyn.lasy.gov.pl



F Crooked Forest

The Crooked Forest is a grove of oddly-shaped pine trees located in the village of Nowe Czarnowo near the town of Gryfino, West Pomerania,...

74-105, Poland (53.21408, 14.47582)



G Wydmy Ruchome

Main attraction of Słowiński national park consist of sand dunes being blown from the beach over to a forrest. Definitely worth a visit.

76-214, Poland (54.74974, 17.43435)



H Gniezno Cathedral

The Royal Gniezno Cathedral is a Brick Gothic cathedral located in the historic city of Gniezno that served as the coronation place for...

Kanclerza Jana Łaskiego 9, 62-200 Gniezno (52.53681, 17.59258)

archikatedra.com, +48 614243820



I Kruszyniany Mosque

Kruszyniany Mosque is a wooden mosque located in the village of Kruszyniany, in Podlaskie Voivodeship, Poland.

57 Kruszyniany, Kruszyniany 16-120, Poland (53.17776, 23.81375)

kruszyniany.com.pl



J Gingerbread Museum

Muzeum Piernika is a museum located in medieval old town of Toruń, Poland, that is famous for its gingerbread.

Strumykowa 4, 87-100 Toruń (53.01114, 18.60858)

Tu–Su 10:00–18:00

muzeumpiernika.pl, +48 56 6567079



The Museum of Folk Architecture in Sanok

The Rural Architecture Museum of Sanok is one of the biggest open-air museums in Poland.

(Unnamed Road), Sanok 38-500, Poland
(49.57354, 22.21533)

Mo–Su	08:00–18:00

skansen.sanok.pl, +48 13 463 16 72

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