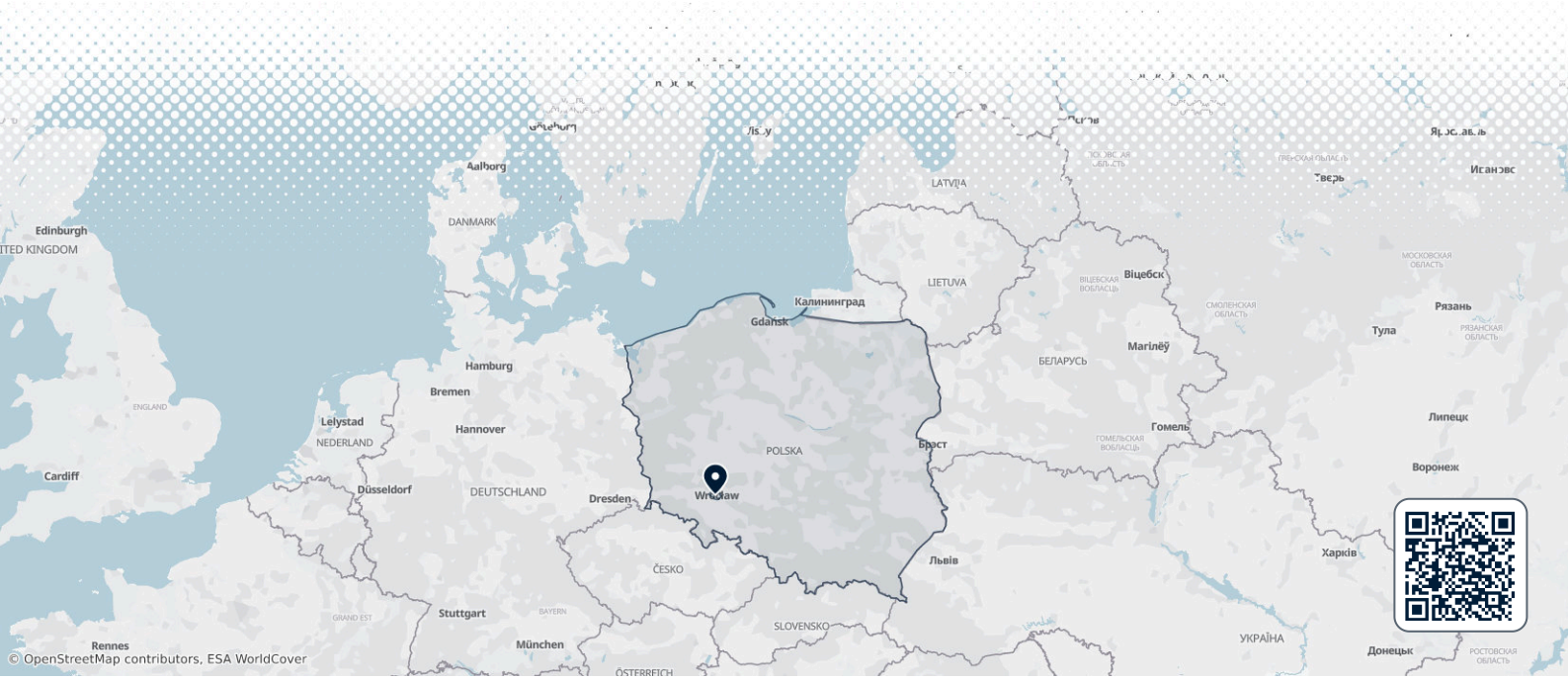


Wroclaw

Lower Silesia · Poland

TRAVEL GUIDE

Tripomatic



Overview

Wrocław sits on the Oder River in southwestern Poland, spread across a dozen islands and linked by well over a hundred bridges. Centuries of Bohemian, Habsburg, and Prussian rule left a mix of Gothic brick churches, Baroque halls, and grand German-era boulevards, all rebuilt after severe wartime damage and repopulated by Poles resettled from the east. That layered past gives the city a character unlike anywhere else in Poland.

It suits a traveler who wants a compact, walkable old town with real depth: a colorful market square, a cathedral island, and a strong food and student scene, without the crowds of Kraków or Warsaw. Nobel-winning physicist *Max Born* and philosopher *Edith Stein* were both born in the city.

When to visit

Spring and early autumn are mild and pleasant for walking. Summer is warm with occasional storms. Winter is cold and often snowy, but brings one of Poland's largest and most popular Christmas markets to the Rynek from late November through December.

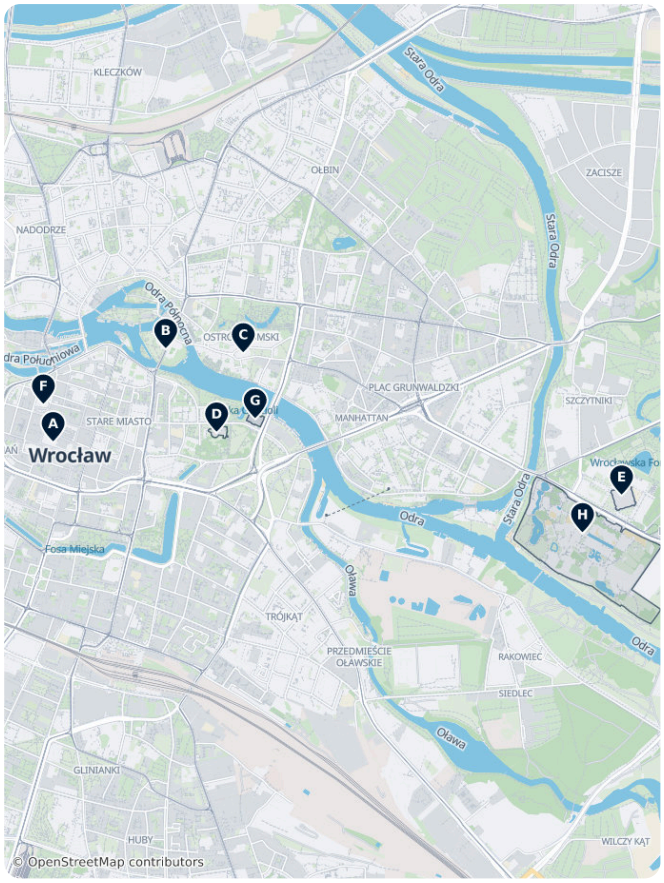
MONTH	CONDITIONS	DAY °C avg / max	NIGHT °C avg / min	
January	Poor Poor for sightseeing	2° / 9° Feels like -4°	-4° / -14°	Dry air
February	Poor Poor for sightseeing	4° / 11° Feels like -2°	-3° / -12°	Dry air
March	Poor Poor for sightseeing	9° / 17° Feels like 4°	0° / -7°	Dry air
April	Fair Fair for wildlife watching	15° / 23° Feels like 11°	4° / -2°	Dry air
May	Good Good for sightseeing	20° / 27°	9° / 4°	13 rainy days · Dry air
June	Great Great for sightseeing	24° / 31°	13° / 8°	14 rainy days · Dry air
July	Good Good for sightseeing	26° / 33°	15° / 11°	15 rainy days
August	Great Great for sightseeing	26° / 33°	15° / 10°	12 rainy days
September	Great Great for sightseeing	21° / 29°	10° / 5°	Dry air
October	Good Good for wildlife watching	15° / 22° Feels like 11°	6° / -1°	Dry air
November	Poor Poor for wildlife watching	8° / 15° Feels like 3°	2° / -4°	Dry air
December	Poor Poor for sightseeing	3° / 9° Feels like -3°	-2° / -12°	Dry air

Best months: June, August, September

Climate data: NASA POWER (MERRA-2) · 1996–2025

July and August bring the warmest, sunniest days, good for the river paths and the zoo. December's market is worth timing a trip around if you don't mind the cold.

Top sights



A Market Square is one of the largest medieval market squares in Europe, ringed by colorful merchant houses and the Gothic Old Town Hall. Sit at a café here to watch the city go by.

B Ostrów Tumski is Wrocław's oldest quarter, a quiet island of cobbled lanes and church spires where the city was founded over a thousand years ago.

On the island, C Archikatedra św. Jana Chrzciciela anchors the skyline; climb its tower for a wide view over the Oder and the rooftops of the old town.

D Racławice Panorama houses a vast 360-degree painting of the 1794 Battle of Racławice, displayed in a purpose-built rotunda that makes you feel surrounded by the battle itself.

E Centennial Hall is a UNESCO-listed concrete dome from 1913, one of the first large reinforced-concrete buildings in the world, set in parkland with fountains and gardens.

F Bazylika św. Elżbiety Węgierskiej is a towering Gothic brick basilica just off the market square, worth a look for its scale and its surviving medieval altarpieces.

G National Museum covers Silesian art from medieval altarpieces to 20th-century painting, a good stop for a rainy afternoon.

H Wrocław Zoological Garden is one of Poland's oldest and largest zoos, with the Africarium, a large indoor complex dedicated entirely to ocean and African wildlife.

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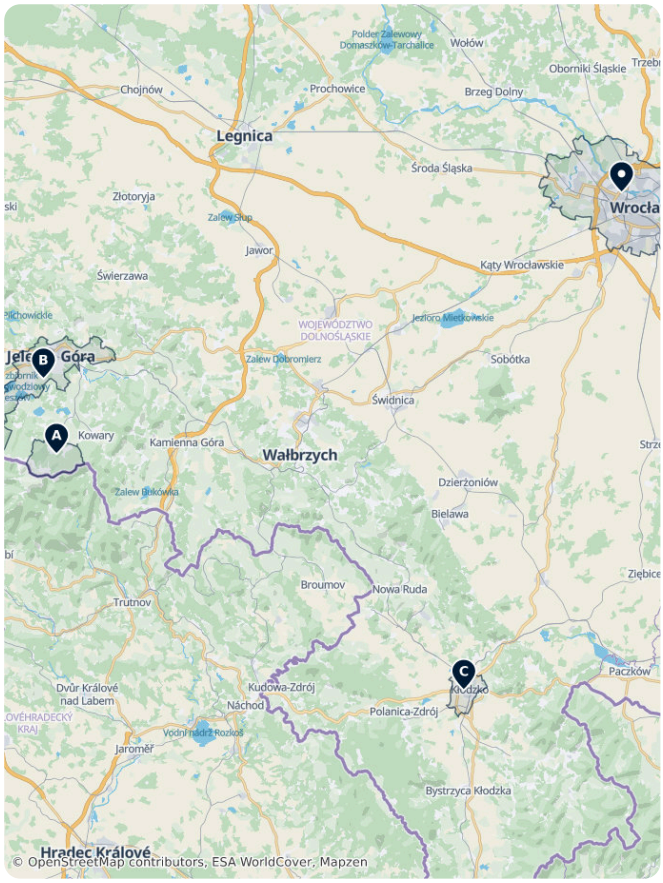
What to experience

- Hunt for the **dwarfs**. Hundreds of small bronze dwarf statues (krasnale) are hidden along Wrocław's streets, each in its own pose. The tradition began as a symbol of the 1980s Orange Alternative protest movement and has grown into a city-wide scavenger hunt anyone can join.
- Climb the tower for a rooftop view. Katedra Świętej Marii Magdaleny has a small footbridge linking its two Gothic towers, known as the **Witches' Bridge** — climb up for a close-up view of the old town roofline.
- Browse the restored neon signs. Wrocławskie Neony displays original neon shop signs from Poland's communist era, lit up after dark.
- Punt or paddle the Oder. In summer, rent a kayak or take a short boat cruise around the islands near Ostrów Tumski for a different view of the bridges and church spires.

Day trips

Lower Silesia has castles, mountains, and one major UNESCO site within easy reach of Wrocław.

- Świdnica — ≈1 h by train. Home to the timber-framed **Church of Peace**, a UNESCO World Heritage site built in the 17th century.
- Książ Castle — ≈1.5 h by train and bus (via Wałbrzych). One of the largest castles in Poland, set above a wooded gorge, with underground wartime tunnels open to visitors.
- A Karpacz — ≈2 h by bus. A base for hiking Śnieżka, the highest peak in the Sudetes, and home to a wooden Norwegian stave church moved here piece by piece in the 19th century.
- B Jelenia Góra — ≈2 h by train. A relaxed mountain-valley town and gateway to the Karkonosze National Park and the Palaces and Gardens Valley.
- C Klodzko — ≈1.5–2 h by train. A fortress town with an underground tunnel network beneath its citadel, open for tours.



Where to explore

Wrocław is the gateway to the Sudetes, a low mountain range along the Czech border with spa towns and hiking trails.

Heading southwest into the mountains: Jelenia Góra anchors the Karkonosze foothills, while Karpacz and Szklarska Poręba are the region's main hiking and ski bases.

For a slower, spa-town pace, Ladek-Zdroj is Poland's oldest health resort, and Klodzko combines a hilltop fortress with an old riverside town.

Getting there

- By air: **Wrocław Copernicus Airport (WRO)** has scheduled flights from across Europe and sits about 10 km west of the centre. Bus 106 (daytime) or 206 (nighttime) reaches the main train station in around 45 minutes; a taxi takes about 20 minutes.
- By train: Wrocław Główny station has frequent connections to Warsaw, Kraków, Poznań, and Łódź, plus direct trains to Berlin and Prague.
- By bus: Long-distance coaches serve most major Polish and nearby German cities from the terminal next to Wrocław Główny station.

Getting around

- Public transit: Trams and buses run by MPK Wrocław cover the whole city. Buy a ticket through the mobile app before boarding, or from a stop machine; some newer vehicles accept a contactless bank card or phone directly on board. MPK Wrocław
- Taxi / ride-hailing: Bolt and Uber both operate widely.
- On foot / cycling: The old town and Ostrów Tumski are flat and easy to walk. A city bike-share system covers the wider centre well.

Getting around on foot & by bike

WALKABILITY

High

The old town and Ostrów Tumski are flat, compact, and easy to cover on foot.

CYCLING INFRASTRUCTURE

Moderate

Bike lanes and a city bike-share network cover the wider centre, though not every street has a dedicated lane.

Driving

- Is a car worth it? Not for the city itself — the old town is compact and walkable, and parking is limited. A car is useful if you plan to explore the Sudete mountains or several small towns in one trip.
- Parking: The centre is a **paid parking zone**, charged by the hour on weekdays via meter or the SkyCash/mPay apps. Cheaper guarded car parks ring the old town just outside the zone.
- Restrictions: Much of the market square and the streets around it are pedestrian-only.

Food & drink

Wrocław's kitchen leans Silesian: look for kluski śląskie (potato dumplings) with gravy, and pierogi filled every way from ruskie (potato and cheese) to sweet fruit versions.

For where to eat, head to **Jatki**, a narrow lane of former medieval butcher stalls just off the market square, now packed with small restaurants and grills. The streets around the Rynek itself are dense with cafés and milk bars serving cheap, filling Polish lunches.

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.

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Safety & health

Wrocław is a safe city for tourists, with crime against visitors rare. Stay alert for pickpockets in crowded spots like the market square and Christmas market, especially during festival crowds.

History

Wrocław began as a fortified settlement on Ostrów Tumski over a thousand years ago, first under Bohemian and Polish rulers, then for centuries as part of the Habsburg and later Prussian and German states, when the city was known as Breslau.

The 20th century brought the sharpest break. In 1945, Nazi Germany declared the city "Festung Breslau" and held it under siege for nearly three months against the advancing Soviet army, destroying much of the historic centre. After the war, the city passed to Poland; its German population was expelled and replaced largely by Poles resettled from the city of Lwów, then annexed by the Soviet Union. Those newcomers brought institutions with them, including the collection now displayed at Racławice Panorama, originally painted for Lwów.

Wrocław was rebuilt from ruins over the following decades and, in 2016, was named a European Capital of Culture.

Country facts

Quick practical facts for Poland at a glance:

CURRENCY
PLN zł

EMERGENCY
112

ELECTRICITY



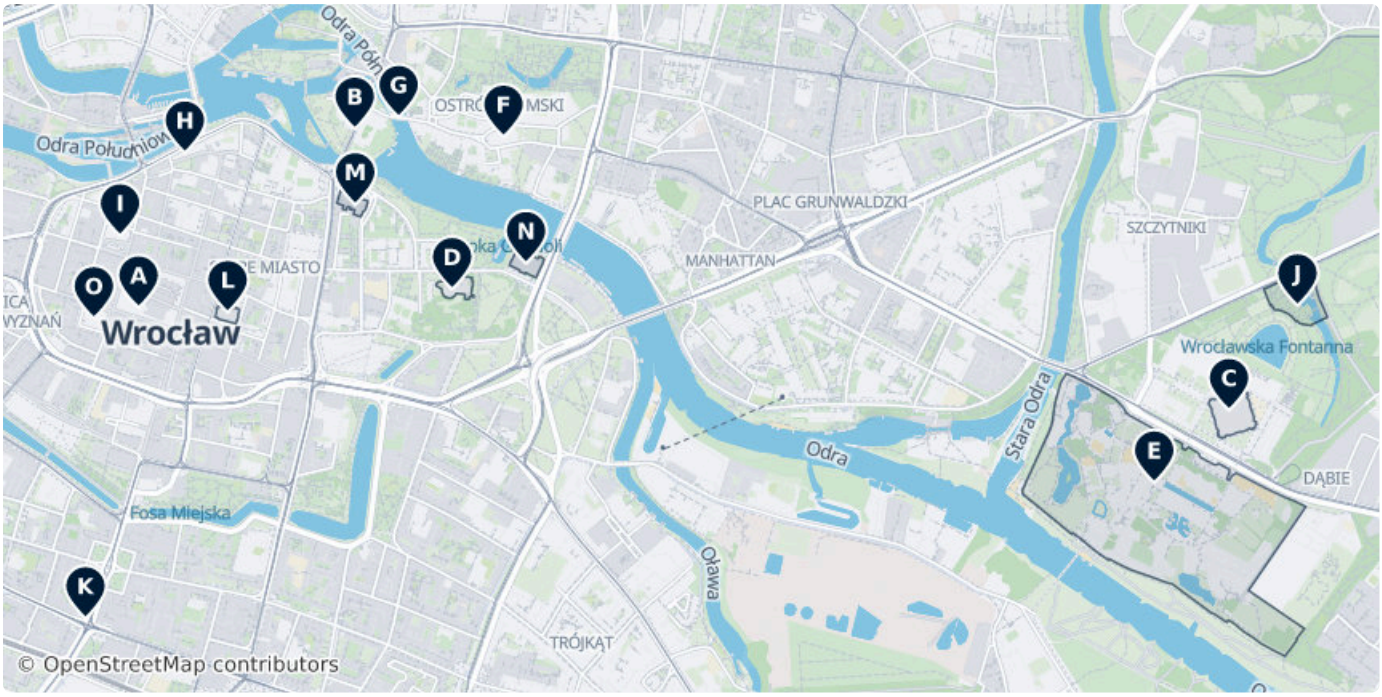
Type C / Type E
230 V · 50 Hz

LANGUAGES
Polish

TAP WATER
Safe to drink

Wrocław Essentials

Wrocław is defined by its network of islands and over 100 bridges spanning the Oder River. This collection features the medieval Market Square, the 14th-century Gothic brick churches of Ostrów Tumski, and the UNESCO-listed Centennial Hall, a milestone in early 20th-century reinforced concrete architecture. Highlights include the monumental 19th-century Racławice Panorama painting, the Baroque interiors of the University's Aula Leopoldina, and the city's distinctive street-level bronze gnomes that commemorate the anti-communist Orange Alternative movement.





A Market Square

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

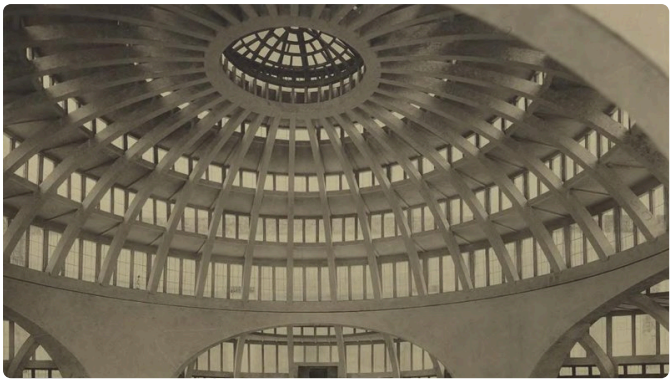
1 Rynek Ratusz, Wrocław 50-106, Poland
(51.10969, 17.03133)



B 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)



C 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



D 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



E Wrocław Zoological Garden

The Wrocław Zoological Garden, known simply as the Wrocław Zoo, is a zoo on Wróblewski Street in Wrocław, Poland.

Zygmunta Wróblewskiego 1-5, 51-618 Wrocław
(51.10508, 17.07401)

Fr–Su	09:00–18:00

zoo.wroclaw.pl, +48 71 348 30 24



F Wrocław Cathedral

The St. John the Baptist Archcathedral is the seat of the Archdiocese of Wrocław and a landmark of the city of Wrocław in Poland.

18 Plac Katedralny, Wrocław 50-329, Poland
(51.11419, 17.04667)



G Tumski Bridge

Tumski Bridge is a steel bridge over the north branch of the Oder river in Wrocław, Poland.

2 Katedralna, Wrocław 50-328, Poland (51.11471, 17.04226)

polska-org.pl/509444,Wroclaw,Most_Tumski.html



H Aula Leopoldina

Probably the most smashing university aula that you'll ever get to see - it boasts lavish baroque ceiling.

Plac Uniwersytecki 1, 53-110 Wrocław, Poland (51.11378, 17.03328)

muzeum.uni.wroc.pl/plan-zwiedzania/a... , +48 71 375 22 45



I St. Elisabeth's Church

St. Elizabeth's Church of the Catholic Third Order of Saint Francis is a Gothic church in Wrocław, Poland.

świętej Elżbiety 3, 53-110 Wrocław, Poland (51.11159, 17.03055)

elzbieta.org, +48 71 343 72 04



J Japanese Garden

Wrocław's Japanese Garden was founded in the years 1909–1913 as an exotic garden for the Centennial Exhibition.

ul. Mickiewicza, 51-618 Wrocław, Poland (51.10975, 17.08004)

Mo–Su 09:00–19:00

ogrod-japonski.wroclaw.pl, +48 71 3286611



K Anonymous Pedestrians Monument

This bronze installation consists of 14 life-sized figures descending into the pavement on one side of Świdnicka Street and emerging on the other. Unveiled in 2005, it commemorates the introduction of martial law in Poland in December 1981.

56 Marszałka Józefa Piłsudskiego, Wrocław 50-033, Poland (51.10150, 17.02910)

polska-org.pl/509633,Wroclaw,Grupa_rzezbiarska_Przejsc...



L St Mary Magdalene Church, Wrocław

St. Mary Magdalene Church in Wrocław, Poland, is a gothic church located between Szewska and Laciarska street close to the central market...

Szewska 10, 50-122 Wrocław (51.10957, 17.03507)



M Wrocław Market Hall

Wrocław Market Hall is a food hall in central Wrocław, Poland. Designed by Richard Plüddemann, it was built between 1906 and 1908 as the...

(51.11241, 17.04044)

Mo–Sa 08:00–18:30

hala-targowa.pl



N National Museum, Wrocław

The National Museum in Wrocław, established 28 March 1947 and officially inaugurated on 11 July 1948, is one of Poland's main branches of...

Plac Powstańców Warszawy 5, 50-153 Wrocław (51.11086, 17.04762)

Tu–Su 10:30–16:00, 10:30–17:00

mnwr.pl



Plac Solny

Adjacent to the Market Square, this former medieval salt trading hub features a permanent 24-hour flower market. It is surrounded by restored Baroque and Neoclassical townhouses and contains a needle-like monument and a former underground air-raid shelter.

15 Plac Solny, Wrocław 50-062, Poland (51.10941, 17.02945)

Hidden Gems of Wrocław

Wrocław's architectural and cultural landscape extends beyond the main square to include the lavish Baroque interiors of Aula Leopoldina and the University of Wrocław Museum. This collection features the 19th-century Racławice Panorama, a 114-meter cycloramic painting, and the historic White Stork Synagogue. Visitors can explore the early 20th-century concrete engineering of the Market Hall, the interactive Hydropolis water center, and the City Arsenal, which houses both the Archaeological and Military Museums. The list also highlights modern landmarks like the bronze sculptures of the Monument to the Anonymous Pedestrians.





A Aula Leopoldina

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Plac Uniwersytecki 1, 53-110 Wrocław, Poland (51.11378, 17.03328)

muzeum.uni.wroc.pl/plan-zwiedzania/a... , +48 71 375 22 45



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polska-org.pl/509633,Wroclaw,Grupa_rzezbiarska_Przejsc...



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Dec 24-Dec 26 Mo–Su	Closed

panoramaraclawicka.pl, +48 71 344 16 61



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(51.11086, 17.04762)

Tu–Su	10:30–16:00, 10:30–17:00

mnwr.pl



F White Stork Synagogue

The White Stork Synagogue is a Conservative Jewish congregation and synagogue, located in Wrocław, in the Lower Silesian Voivodeship of...

5 Pawła Włodkowica, Wrocław 50-072, Poland
(51.10842, 17.02546)



G Hydropolis, Wrocław

Hydropolis is the only science centre in Poland dedicated to water, located in the city of Wrocław.

Na Grobli 19, 50-421 Wrocław (51.10387, 17.05716)

Mo–Fr	09:00–18:00
Sa–Su	10:00–20:00

hydropolis.pl



H University of Wrocław Museum

Located within the main university building, this museum provides access to historic Baroque halls and the Mathematical Tower, an 18th-century astronomical observatory offering panoramic views of the Old Town.

7 Plac Uniwersytecki, Wrocław 50-137, Poland (51.11380, 17.03353)

Mo–Su	11:00–17:00

muzeum.uni.wroc.pl



I Municipal Stadium, Wroclaw

The Wrocław Stadium, known for sponsorship reasons as the Tarczyński Arena Wrocław since 2021, is a UEFA Category Four association football...

Al. Śląska 1, 54-118 Wrocław, Poland (51.14114, 16.94381)

tarczynskiarenawroclaw.pl, +48 71 77 68 000



J Dom altarystów "Małgosia",

These two small medieval tenement houses, nicknamed "Hansel and Gretel," are connected by a baroque archway. Once used by church altarists, they are among the few remaining examples of buildings that formerly surrounded the church cemetery.

39 Odrzańska, Wrocław 50-114, Poland (51.11133, 17.03086)

polska-org.pl/509089,Wroclaw,Kamieniczki_Jas_i_Malgosi...



K Muzeum Poczty i Telekomunikacji

Poland's only museum dedicated to the history of post and telecommunications. The collection includes historic stagecoaches, telegraph machines, and a comprehensive archive of Polish stamps dating back to the 19th century.

1 Zygmunta Krasińskiego, Wrocław 50-414, Poland
(51.10840, 17.04451)

Tu	10:00–16:00
We	10:00–17:00
Th–Fr	10:00–16:00
Sa–Su	09:30–16:00

muzeum.wroclaw.pl, +48 71 343 67 65

M Muzeum Militariów

Housed in the historic City Arsenal, this museum displays collections of cold weapons, firearms, and military uniforms from the 18th to the 20th century, with a focus on Polish and European history.

9 Antoniego Cieszyńskiego, Wrocław 50-136, Poland
(51.11311, 17.02711)

We–Sa	11:00–17:00
Su	10:00–18:00

muzeum.miejskie.wroclaw.pl/museum/... , +48 71 347 16 96

L Archaelogical Museum

Your typical museum holding an overwhelming collection of archaeological marvels that illustrate the rich history of the city.

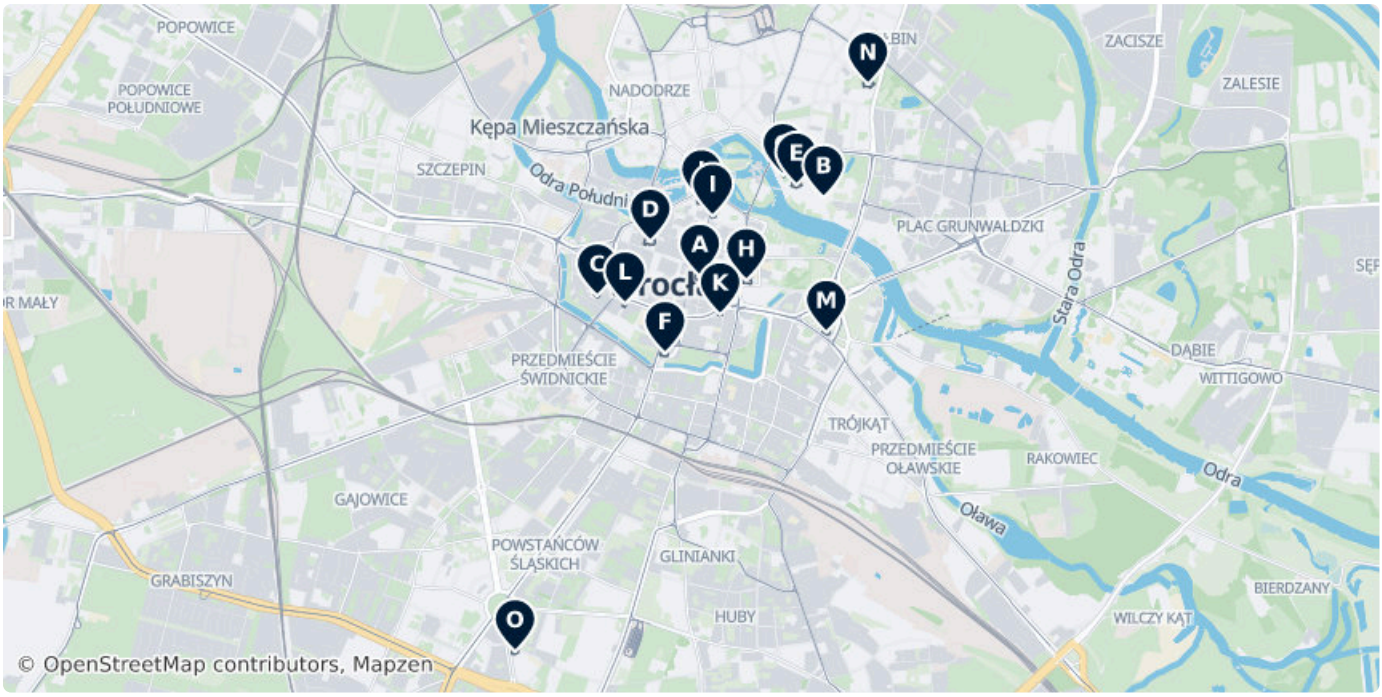
Antoniego Cieszyńskiego 9, 53-110 Wrocław, Poland
(51.11289, 17.02688)

We–Sa	11:00–17:00
Su	10:00–18:00

muzeum.miejskie.wroclaw.pl/museum/... , +48 71 347 16 96

Historic Churches and Synagogues

Wrocław's religious landscape is defined by its resilient Gothic architecture and diverse spiritual history. This collection spans from the 13th-century Cathedral of St. John the Baptist on Ostrów Tumski to the 19th-century White Stork Synagogue, the city's only Jewish house of worship to survive the Kristallnacht. Highlights include the medieval hall churches of the Old Town, the ornate Baroque interiors of the University Church, and the unique two-story Collegiate Church of the Holy Cross. These landmarks reflect centuries of Silesian heritage and reconstruction.





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Szewska 10, 50-122 Wrocław (51.10957, 17.03507)



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5 Pawła Włodkowica, Wrocław 50-072, Poland (51.10842, 17.02546)



D St. Elizabeth's Church

St. Elizabeth's Church of the Catholic Third Order of Saint Francis is a Gothic church in Wrocław, Poland.

3 Świętej Elżbiety, Wrocław 50-111, Poland (51.11163, 17.03043)

elzbieta.archidiecezja.wroc.pl, +48 71 343 16 38



E Collegiate Church of the Holy Cross and St. Bartholomew, Wrocław

Collegiate Church of the Holy Cross and St. Bartholomew in Wrocław, Poland, is a two-storey brick Gothic collegiate church on the Ostrów...

1 Plac Kościelny, Wrocław 50-328, Poland (51.11494, 17.04413)

polska-org.pl/508948,Wroclaw,Kosciol_sw_Krzyza_Kosciol...



F Corpus Christi Church, Wrocław

Corpus Christi Church is a Gothic church in Wrocław, Poland. The church is located at the corner of Świdnicka and ul.

Świdnicka 36, 50-068 Wrocław (51.10503, 17.03181)

bozecialo.wroclaw.pl, +48 71 343 67 39



G Kościół Świętego Marcina

A small, late 13th-century Gothic brick church located on Ostrów Tumski. It is one of the oldest surviving buildings in Wrocław and formerly served as a ducal castle chapel.

10 Świętego Marcina, Wrocław 50-327, Poland
(51.11550, 17.04286)

polska-org.pl/526317,Wroclaw,Kosciol_sw_Marcina.html



H Kościół Świętego Wojciecha

A Gothic Dominican church founded in the early 13th century. It features the notable 18th-century Baroque chapel of Blessed Czesław, which survived the heavy aerial bombing of 1945.

2 Plac Dominikański, Wrocław 50-159, Poland
(51.10932, 17.03943)

wroclaw.dominikanie.pl

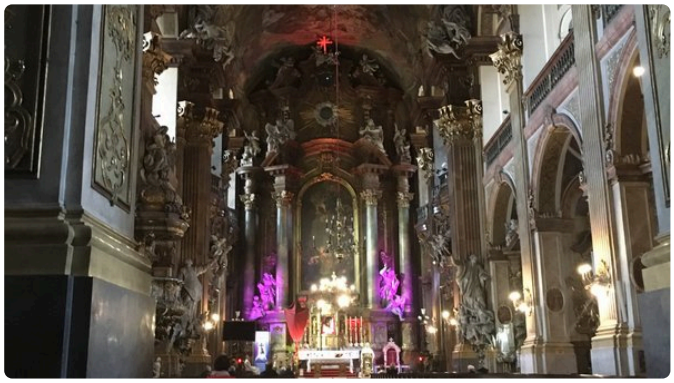


I Kościół pw. Świętego Macieja

A 13th-century Gothic church originally built for the Knights Hospitaller. It houses the tomb of the famous Silesian Baroque poet and mystic, Angelus Silesius.

17a Plac Biskupa Nankiera, Wrocław 50-140, Poland
(51.11311, 17.03627)

maciejowka.org



J Kościół Imienia Jezus

A masterpiece of Baroque architecture built for the Jesuits in the late 17th century. The interior features elaborate ceiling frescoes by Johann Michael Rottmayr and a replica of the Pietà.

15 Plac Uniwersytecki, Wrocław 50-137, Poland
(51.11395, 17.03523)

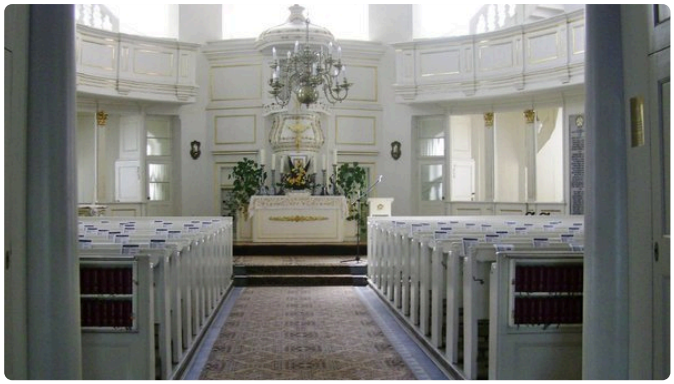


K Kościół Świętego Krzysztofa

A 15th-century Gothic church that serves the city's German-speaking Lutheran community. It is characterized by its single-aisle hall construction and steep, high-pitched roof.

plac Świętego Krzysztofa 1, 50-056 Wrocław (51.10731, 17.03698)

schg.pl



L Divine Providence Church

An 18th-century Baroque and Neoclassical church designed as a royal court chapel. It is a significant center for the Lutheran community within the District of Four Denominations.

Kazimierza Wielkiego 29, 50-077 Wrocław (51.10796, 17.02806)

polska-org.pl/508957,Wroclaw,Kosciol_Opatrznosci_Bozej...



M Kościół pw. Świętego Maurycego

A Roman Catholic parish church with 13th-century foundations. Though heavily damaged in 1945, it was meticulously restored and retains a mix of Gothic and Baroque architectural elements.

Generała Romualda Traugutta 36, 50-418 Wrocław (51.10628, 17.04692)

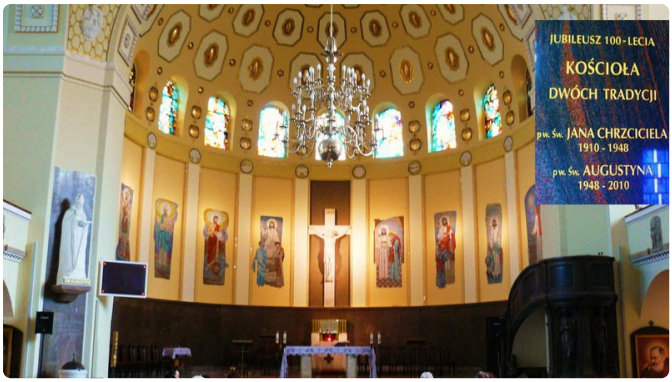
archidiecezja.wroc.pl/parafia.php



N Kościół pw. Świętego Michała Archanioła

A monumental Neo-Gothic church built in the 1870s. Designed by architect Alexis Langer, it features a distinctive twin-tower facade and serves as a landmark of the Ołbin district.

(Unnamed Road), Wrocław 50, Poland (51.12086, 17.05081)



Kościół Świętego Augustyna

An early 20th-century red-brick church featuring Neo-Romanesque and Neo-Gothic elements. Originally built for a Lutheran congregation, it now serves as a Capuchin Franciscan parish.

Sudecka 86-88, 53-129 Wrocław (51.08751, 17.01776)

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