The Cradle of Poland's History and Commerce

It's hard to start a sightseeing trip round Poznań at the eastern part of the city - Ostrów Tumski, where the Cathedral stands. At one time the castle of Prince Mieszko I and his son Bolesław the Brave, crowned the first king of Poland in 1025, stood in this part of the city. Their tombs where the Cathedral stands. At one time the castle of Prince Mieszko I and his son Bolesław the Brave, crowned the first king of Poland in 1025, stood in this part of the city.

The Land of Castles and Palaces

Wielkopolska province, of which Poznań is the capital, has no shortage of historic castles and palaces. South of Poznań, in Rogalin, a classicist palace, surrounded by a beautiful park. It includes a museum of home interiors and a painting gallery. Poznań's city centre is the Old Town Square in the middle of which stands a Renaissance Town Hall. It houses the Historical Museum of Poznań with a rich collection of ancient documents and everyday life artifacts. At noon the doors of the Town Hall clock tower open and two goats appear, butting their horns at every stroke of the clock. This is the highlight of every organised trip to Poznań.

The Royal Castle was the seat of Przemysł II, the last Polish king to rule from Poznań. The building has been reconstructed many times. Now it houses the Museum of Applied Arts. Not far from the Old Market Square stands the impressive Baroque parish church, called the Fara, which captivates visitors not only with its interior but also with its historic organ. The city is famous for organ music and its boys' choirs, one of which is the Poznań Nightingales.

A City Living at the Rhythm of Trade Shows

Poznań has long been known for trade fairs and exhibitions - Poland's largest trade fairs were held here before World War II. Every year, the Poznań International Fair organizes about 40 specialist trade fairs, both international and national. Business people from all over the world come to the largest specialist trade fairs in Poland, such as Polagra, food products, Budma for the construction industry, or Tour Salon - Poland's largest travel fair. They are among the biggest sector events in Europe and one of Europe's major industry shows. Many businesses people come here all year round for these events, attracted by Poznań's reputation of a bustling business venue.

There are several lakes within the city limits. Lake Malta has one of Europe's most modern regatta courses. Around the lake are excellent areas for recreation, cycling, roller blades and an artificial ski slope, open all year round. The Malta International Theatrical Festival is held in this area every year. In late June, the city is alive with street performances; more than 100 shows are staged during the festival. There are many lakes around Poznań popular with visitors and Poznań residents. Several dozen kilometres to the north is the wild Notecka Forest, and to the south stretches the magnificent Wielkopolski National Park with its post-glacial landscape.

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Poznań, with a population of 600,000, is conveniently located and accessible by rail or air. Poznań is also situated on the Paris-Moscow route, which crosses half the continent. After Warsaw, it is Poland's fastest developing city. Many multinational corporations have set up subsidiaries and industrial sites in the city, and the number of university-level schools continues to grow.

All visitors are welcomed in Poznań. This is a large university city, full of young people, with more than 120,000 students attending over 12 university-level schools.

Cuisine

Poznań has its own original local cuisine. The most popular dishes are based on potatoes, which Poznań residents love very much, so much so that they even have their own local name for them – pyr. Delicacies include plendze – potato pancakes, usually served with sugar or jam, and pyr with gzik – potatoes cooked in their skins and served hot on platters. The essential addition is gzik – cottage cheese mixed with cream, onion, salt and spices. When butter is added to a potato with gzik, it melts on the hot potato, creating an unforgettable taste. Poznań also has a very special local sweet delicacy – it is called Martin's Cakes – pastry filled with almonds and poppy seed paste.

Gifts and Souvenirs

Popular gifts include small figurines of the Poznań billy goats from the Town Hall clock or Martin's Cakes – pastry filled with almonds and poppy seed paste.

The Biennale & Workshop of Modern Dance

• Every Saturday at 12:15 pm, and daily between July to September (except on Sundays), organ concerts are held in the Royal Castle. The castle is a special Martin's crossroll of delicious almond and poppy seed pastries.

Municipal Transportation

Municipal transportation in Poznań is very good. The city centre is serviced by tramways and the rest of the city by trams and buses. Tramway lines depend on time and the bus lines differ according to the time of day and distance. There are many taxis waiting at taxi stands, but it is better to order one by phone – pickup is free (telephone numbers for registered taxi services are 196-22, 201-62-16, 201-22-33, 201-83-19, 801-53-15). Taxis can be also ordered free of charge at news stands at the main railway station in Poznań by dialling the toll free number 101 $1.

Calendar of Cultural Events

• World Press Photo: the Polish edition of the international photo exhibition is held in Poznań in May, three weeks after the presentation of the contest prize-winners in Amsterdam.

• The Malta international Theatrical Festival held in late June is attended by performers from all over the world, staging their productions all over the city. The traditional St. John Fair takes place near the end of the month.

• Every Saturday at 12.30 pm, and every Sunday night between July to September (except on Sundays), organ concerts are held in the Baroque Old Parish Church.

• The Baroque & Wroughtwood of Modern Dance are held in August.

• On St. Martin's Day (November 11), celebrations are staged in św. Marcin Street, named after this saint. A parade is held there, and many open-air events take place near the Royal Castle. The castle is a special Martin's crossroll of delicious almond and poppy seed pastries.

Other events - www.poland.travel (Events calendar)
OPERAS, MUSIC, THEATRE


FREE TIME

- Archdiocese Museum, ul. ks. Posadzego 2, 852 61 95
- National Museum, Al. Marcinkowskiego 9, tel. 856 80 80
- Museum of Applied Arts, Góra Przemysława 1, tel. 852 20 35
- Archeological Museum, ul. Wodna 27, tel. 852 82 51
- Museum of Musical Instruments, Stary Rynek 45, tel. 856 81 78
- Poznań City History Museum, Ratusz, tel. 856 81 93

MUSEUMS

- www.filharmonia.poznan.pl

- Teatr Animacji Centrum Kultury Zamek, ul. Św. Marcin 80/82, tel. 853 72 20

When calling Poznań from anywhere in Poland dial:

- TELEPHONE

- Wydział Rozwoju Miasta, Plac Kolegiacki 17, 61-841 Poznań, tel. 878 55 06, rom@um.poznan.pl
- Glob Tour FB, Hall of Poznań Główny railway station, tel. 866 06 67, 24h/7day
- Municipal Information Center (CIM), ul. Ratajczaka 44, tel. 194 31, www.cim.poznan.pl, Mon.-Fri. 10am-7pm,

TOURIST INFORMATION

- www.city.poznan.pl • www.epoznan.pl • www.cim.poznan.pl • www.poznan.uw.gov.pl • www.ipoznan.pl

POZNAŃ ON THE INTERNET

- Vivaldi****, ul. Winogrady 9, tel. 85 88 100 www.vivaldi.pl
- Rzymski***, al. Marcinkowskiego 22, tel. 852 81 21 www.hotelrzymski.pl
- Camping Malta ****, ul. Krańcowa 98, tel. 876 61 55
- Polonez***, al. Niepodległości 36, tel. 864 71 00, www.orbis.pl
- Park***, ul. abpa A.Baraniaka 77, tel. 874 11 00,
- Novotel Poznań Centrum***, pl. Wł. Andersa 1, tel. 858 70 00 www.orbis.pl
- Mercure Poznań***, ul. Roosevelta 20, tel. 855 80 00, www.orbis.pl

HOTELS

- Lizard King, Stary Rynek 86, tel. 855 04 72 www.lizardking.pl
- Sushi Jazz Sarp, Stary Rynek 56, tel. 853 24 64 www.sushijazz.pl
- Słodownia, ul. Półwiejska 42, tel. 859 65 70 www.slodownia.com
- Brovaria, Stary Rynek73/74, tel. 858 68 68 www.brovaria.pl
- Bogota, ul. św. Marcin 80/82, tel. 853 71 33 www.bogotaclub.pl
- Bogota, ul. św. Marcin 73/82, tel. 853 71 33 www.bogotaclub.pl
- Brown’s, Stary Rynek72/41, tel. 855 88 55 www.brownspoznan.pl
- Stodolny, ul. Półwiejska 42, tel. 850 07 00 www.stodolny.com
- Sant’s Jazz, Stary Rynek 58, tel. 852 24 69 www.santspoznan.pl
- Lindo King, Stary Rynek 86, tel. 850 07 42 www.lindoking.pl
- Tarasy, ul. Wodniska 16, tel. 853 72 13 www.tarasy.poznan.pl

SELECTED CLUBS

- W-Z, ul. Fredry 12 tel. 858 63 01, www.w-z.pl
- Tarot , ul. Poznańska 57, tel. 848 48 81,
- Sphinx, ul. Św. Marcin 66/72, tel. 852 07 02, Stary Rynek 77, tel. 853 14 54 www.sphinx.poznan.pl
- Panda, ul. Libelta 37, tel. 852 95 60, www.pandacatering.pl
- Oczy Czarne, al. Marcinkowskiego 24, tel. 852 54 82,
- Gospoda Pod Koziołkami - Piwnica Grillowa, Stary Rynek 95, tel. 852 32 85, www.avanti.poznan.pl
- Figaro, ul. Ogrodowa 17, tel. 852 08 16, www.figaro.poznan.pl

SELECTED RESTAURANTS

- Poznań has a wide range of ethnic restaurants serving dishes of Italian, French, Greek and Turkish cuisine.
- W-Z, ul. Fredry 12, tel. 858 63 01, www.w-z.pl
- Tarot , ul. Poznańska 57, tel. 848 48 81,
- Sphinx, ul. Św. Marcin 66/72, tel. 852 07 02, Stary Rynek 77, tel. 853 14 54 www.sphinx.poznan.pl
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