Wrocław attracts tourists like a magnet with its location, mild climate, interesting historical sites and hospitable citizens. It lies in the middle of the Silesian Lowlands, where the Odra River branches out to form 12 islands of varying size.

MEETING HISTORY

As befits a city with a thousand-year-long history, Wrocław has countless excellently preserved historical buildings. Historically, the city grew from small settlements from the Market Square. Near the Market Square are two Gothic churches, St. Elizabeth’s Church – the old parish church and the burial site of Wrocław’s patron saint, and St. Mary Magdalene’s Church – which has one of the oldest and most beautiful Baroque pulpit canopies in Poland. It’s hard to overlook the Baroque architecture of Wrocław University, and the Leopoldine Hall inside with its captivating baroque paintings and rich decorative elements, and the University Church with its wonderful frescoes.

Two more interesting spots include the Piaskowa Island and Ostrów Tumski, an islet with a number of churches rich stucco decoration, and the University Church with its wonderful frescoes. As befits a city with a thousand-year-long history, Wrocław has countless excellently preserved historical sites and hospitable citizens. It lies in the middle of the Silesian Lowlands, is surrounded by terrace gardens. Of particular interest is the Baroque Maximilian Hall.

A CITY OF CULTURE

Wrocław is a city breathing culture. It has an opera house, an operetta and many theatres. The most interesting historical buildings, artwork and museums can be found in the Old Town and its environs. They can be visited on foot, and many hotels and restaurants are within walking-distance of the Old Town as well. Wrocław is an extensive city, so you should buy a city map or use a PTTK guide; please inquire at the Tourist Information Centres at 14 Rynek, tel. 32 44 31 11. Cruises on the Odra River, with a great panoramic view of the city along Ostrów Tumski, are organized in summer. Boats can also be hired for banqueting occasions. tel. 328 36 18 or 372 68 00.

TREASURE HUNT

As in the Medieval Slaughter House, there is a statue commemorating the slaughtered animals. On Świdnicka Street, near the pedestrian subway, is a statue of the Laskowska, the symbol of the Orange Alternative, an artistic movement which opposed communism in the 1980s. On the south side of the Town Hall stands a fountain in the shape of a teddy-bear, a children’s favourite meeting place. It is a copy of a 1904 bronze statue which stood there till 1945. The statue of the classical comedy writer, Aleksander Fredro, (brought from Lvov in 1868), stands in the southern corner of the Market Square. Once all these places have been explored and the obligatory snapshot at the 14th century pillory has been taken, it’s worth getting a bird’s-eye view of the city. For the adventurous we recommend climbing the 300 steps to the scenic terrace at the top of the St. Elizabeth’s Church tower which stands next to the house of Hansel and Gretel. There is an elevator in the Cathedral tower that goes up to a scenic terrace at 60 m. In the evening, visitors can take a pleasant stroll along the narrow streets of Ostrów Tumski, illuminated by the hazy light of gas lamps.

GIFTS AND SOUVENIRS

Silver jewellery, often precious and decorative stoneware from Lower Śląsk, artistic glassware and crystal glass, ceramic ware from Bolesławiec, Lower Śląskian porcelain as well as small stained-glass pictures, wooden boxes, traditional T-shirts and other products are all on sale around the city.

SIGHTSEEING

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MAGICAL CITY

Wrocław is full of magical places. In the Medieval Slaughter House, there is a statue commemorating the slaughtered animals. On Świdnicka Street, near the pedestrian subway, is a statue of the Laskowska, the symbol of the Orange Alternative, an artistic movement which opposed communism in the 1980s. On the south side of the Town Hall stands a fountain in the shape of a teddy-bear, a children’s favourite meeting place. It is a copy of a 1904 bronze statue which stood there till 1945. The statue of the classical comedy writer, Aleksander Fredro, (brought from Lvov in 1868), stands in the southern corner of the Market Square. Once all these places have been explored and the obligatory snapshot at the 14th century pillory has been taken, it’s worth getting a bird’s-eye view of the city. For the adventurous we recommend climbing the 300 steps to the scenic terrace at the top of the St. Elizabeth’s Church tower which stands next to the house of Hansel and Gretel. There is an elevator in the Cathedral tower that goes up to a scenic terrace at 60 m. In the evening, visitors can take a pleasant stroll along the narrow streets of Ostrów Tumski, illuminated by the hazy light of gas lamps.

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