

POLAND

Castles and Palaces



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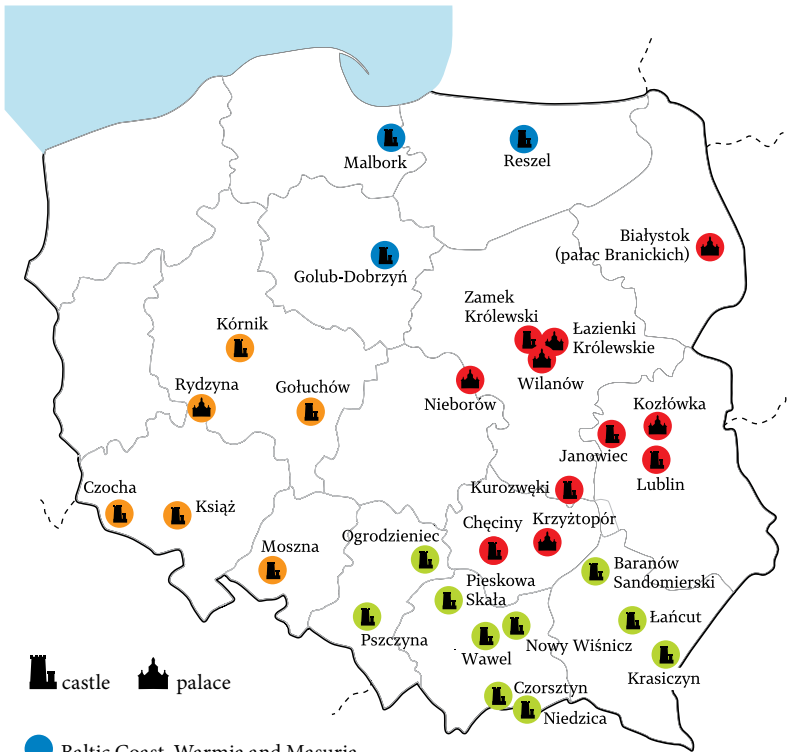
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Castles and Palaces



 castle  palace

- Baltic Coast, Warmia and Masuria
- Central and Eastern Poland
- Southern Poland
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Knightly past and aristocratic luxuries

Visiting castles and palaces in Poland is a fascinating journey across centuries. They witnessed the country's complicated past and its many transformations.

After countless wars, partitions and other political and social turbulences, the preserved and restored castles and palaces are now part of Poland's historical heritage. Despite the wartime destruction, priceless monuments of the past remained untouched in many places. Others were restored or reconstructed with such meticulous care that they became works of art no less important than the original structures. By far, the boldest such undertaking was the reconstruction of the Royal Castle in Warsaw.

Whether preserved or restored, castles and palaces are full of life these days. They are homes to museums and/or education centres. They are venues for cultural events or out-of-doors Sound and Light events. They function as luxury hotels with spa facilities, while restaurants in castles and palaces take diners on journeys to the times of hunters' parties and opulent feasts of the Polish nobility of olden days. ►





► Many layers of history are still waiting to be discovered. They are hidden either in Medieval strongholds made of earth, stones and wood, or in ruined, but still impressive, fortifications, or in castles of the Teutonic Knights, or in castles rearranged by aristocrats to become family residences, each more opulent than the last.

Mysteries also remain to be uncovered in royal castles, late Renaissance family residences and in exuberant palaces copying Europe's most exquisite designs. All those buildings withstood changing times, fashions, philosophies, trends in interior design. Interiors are just as spectacular as the collections displayed in them. Palaces were often surrounded by sumptuous parks, French or English gardens, often with romantic or downright fairy-tale gazebos and pavilions. They would become salons of art, oases of peace and reverie. And so they remain to this day.



www.polishcastles.eu





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are still waiting to be
discovered.



Each July, a week after the re-enactment of the famous Battle of Grunwald, one can witness the recreated "Siege of Malbork." Taken together, these two events form the largest historical re-enactment in Central Europe.

Malbork:

The world's largest stronghold made of brick

This imposing fortress was built on Polish lands by Teutonic Knights.

Malbork was the headquarters of the Grand Master of the order. Built with considerable ostentation, the castle inspired both awe and fear in the folk of its day. Its core is the High Castle, built of 4.5 million bricks, the production of which was an immense undertaking in the 13th century. Mighty defensive walls, moats, drawbridges and iron portcullises, cannon stands, stone-throwing machines and magazines: all those elements are part of the monumental work of Gothic architecture, and are the reasons this fortress has now been placed on the UNESCO Heritage list. Visitors can also admire the chapel and the Palace of Grand Masters, the chambers of the monastic knights, as well as military barracks. From April through August, one can see stunning Sound and Light shows on the castle grounds.



www.zamek.malbork.pl



www.poland.travel/en/unesco-sites



Golub-Dobrzyń:

Where knights cross swords

The castle is situated on a verdant escarpment over the Drwęca River.

Built in the late 13th century by the Teutonic Knights, the castle owes its current appearance, with its Renaissance accents and corner turrets, to a remodelling four hundred years later. Today, it is a museum and a living cultural centre, hosting spectacular events during the largest knights' tournament in Central Europe. Spectators can watch knights' jousts on horseback and their combat on foot, archery competitions, shows by historical re-enactment groups and stuntmen's acrobatics. The tournament is always accompanied by concerts and a fair with handicrafts inspired by the culture of the Middle Ages. The castle's former kitchens are now restaurants and some of the living quarters have been arranged to accommodate guests. There is also an equestrian facility nearby with an indoor riding hall. During the summer, the castle attracts fans of tournaments not only from Poland, but from all over the globe.





In 1811, a nearby town saw the last recorded burning at the stake in Europe. Usually, people condemned for this type of execution were considered witches but, in this case, legend has it, the woman was executed for setting fire to the castle.



Reszel:

Art and leisure in a mighty old castle

Mysterious Gothic interiors are home today to a hotel with a restaurant, conference halls and exhibition rooms.

This stronghold, erected in the 13th century by the Teutonic Knights, has a long, rich history. Situated on the Sajna River, in an area of scenic, pristine forests and lakes, it served as a hunting lodge for the bishops of the Warmia region and, later, as a Prussian prison. After World War II, this historic structure was turned into centre for creative arts and an art gallery. Its Gothic, meticulously preserved interiors evoke fascination. The castle hosts numerous international open-air events, exhibitions, meetings and conferences. The owners guarantee mouth-watering dishes in the restaurant and top entertainment, as well, for those who crave an adrenaline rush. Besides feasts and parties in the castle halls, the repertoire includes climbing, paintball battles, zorbing, off-road trips in the area, and powered hang-gliding over Masurian lakes.



www.zamek-reszel.com/home/



Royal Castle in Warsaw:

Monument of Polish history

The royal residence, austere from the outside, astonishes with the opulence of its interiors.


The focal point of the square stretching before the castle is Sigismund's Column. It commemorates King Sigismund III Vasa, who moved the capital from Kraków to Warsaw. The Column is one of the favourite meeting points in the city. It is also either the starting or the finishing point of walks and rides along the Royal Route.

Considering the austerity of its external appearance, the castle's interiors surprise visitors, through sophisticated decorations, delicate mouldings, and painstakingly chiselled ornaments gilded with gold leaf. It was here that the first constitution in Europe, and second in the world, was drafted and adopted. The castle, which was almost entirely destroyed during World War II, was rebuilt thanks to public fundraising efforts. The redecoration of the castle's chambers was entrusted to contemporary artisans specialising in antiquated crafts. The Castle Square boasts a magnificent view of the Vistula River with its verdant banks. On the opposite side of the river, more and more cosy pubs and city beaches are open for business, enjoying the panorama of the Old Town and the castle.

Together with the Old Town, the Royal Castle has been placed on the UNESCO List of Cultural Heritage Sites.







In 1683, the army commanded by Jan III Sobieski won the crucial Battle of Vienna, saving Europe from the threat of the Ottoman Empire's Muslim invasion.

Wilanów:

Residence of the Saviour of Europe

Today, Wilanów is a real treasury displaying remarkable works of art. Surrounded by lush gardens, the palace is connected to Warsaw's Old Town via the Royal Route.

This Baroque residence was a gift of King Jan III Sobieski to his beloved wife, Marie Casimire Louise. As such, it is a monument of love and partnership. The architecture of the palace in Wilanów is a fusion of the achievements of European art with the predilections of Polish nobility. The rich collection of art has been arranged so as to represent different epochs. It includes antique vases, paintings by Cranach, Rubens and David, fine porcelain from China, as well as many objects of everyday use. The former riding hall in the palace is now home to the Poster Museum. The interiors and the outdoor area often host exhibitions, meetings, and concerts, as well as musical workshops during the International Summer Academy of Early Music. The garden has arrangements with very neatly trimmed trees. In the spring, the gardens explode with blossoming magnolias, which are the oldest specimens of this species in Poland.



www.wilanow-palac.art.pl



Royal Łazienki Park: Warsaw's most beautiful park

It is truly amazing how classical architecture combines here with spectacular gardens.

The Royal Łazienki Park is a magical place. It is situated on the gentle slope of the Vistula's escarpment which forms a high riverbank, and is one of the largest garden complexes in Europe. Adorned with a multitude of gazebos, little bridges, sculptures, ponds and brooks, the park is one of the most alluring, scenic stops along the Royal Route, the historic trail going from the Old Town in Warsaw to the palace in Wilanów. The neo-classical Łazienki Palace, also known as the Palace on the Water, is the heart of the park. Visitors can admire its historic interiors, as well as the nearby Amphitheatre and the Old Orangery. On summer weekends, the park becomes a venue for open-air piano concerts during which Frederic Chopin's music is played at the feet of his famous statue.



www.muzeum.warszawa.pl





The king used to invite highly respected artists and intellectuals to his residence. To this day, Łazienki Park plays an important part in the artistic life of the capital.





www.nieborow.art.pl



The green labyrinth conceals romantic gazebos modelled on antique and exotic architecture, recalling mythology, fairy tales and legends.

Nieborów:

Residence of Polish nobility amid captivating gardens

What makes Nieborów stand out among other palaces is its thrilling architecture, its original interiors and its inestimable collection of art.

Walking through the palace chambers is a journey back in time across European styles and fashions from the 17th to the early 20th century. The highlight of the sightseeing tour is the charming second floor with the largest ballroom in the palace.

Moreover, an artistic majolica workshop is on the palace grounds. Established in the late 19th century and relying on local clay reserves, it first copied the products of renowned European manufacturers, and eventually focused on local traditions for inspiration.

The palace is surrounded by a French garden with fine specimens of trees and harmonious floral arrangements. Near Nieborów, people can visit Arkadia, an English garden. It is definitely one of the most beautiful, romantic gardens in Poland and, perhaps, even in Europe.



Janowiec Lubelski:

Close neighbour of Kazimierz Dolny

The famous little town on the Vistula, Kazimierz Dolny, and the castle in Janowiec stand face to face to one another on either side of the river.

The castle in Janowiec was once a magnificent fortress. Distinguished architects and artists contributed to its development and decoration. Today, it's a picturesque ruin on top of a hill, which makes it a perfect setting for films and cultural events. The surviving section of the castle houses a small museum and the elegant park nearby was turned into an outdoor museum of wooden buildings, moved here from other sites in the region. The granary, which is over a hundred years old, is home to an ethnographic exhibition. The shed, which is just as old, is a venue for concerts and theatre performances, and the 18th century manor house is now arranged to serve both as a museum and a guest house. Today, Janowiec Lubelski lies within a popular tourist triangle outlined by three historical towns: Puławy, Kazimierz Dolny and the health resort in Nałęczów.



When the Vistula River allows it, modern ferries travel back and forth between Janowiec and Kazimierz. The tradition of river-crossing here goes back a few hundred years and once relied on long barges.



www.kazimierzdolny.eu



Białystok:

The Polish Versailles in a fairy-tale garden

This aristocratic residence is surrounded by Baroque gardens considered the most beautiful in this part of Europe.

**These days, the Palace is owned
by the Medical University of Białystok.
Its interiors are home to the Museum
of the History of Medicine and Pharmacy.**




The spatial arrangement of the Branicki Palace bewilders the visitor with its perfect symmetry. The scrupulously arranged flower beds, the regular network of lanes, and the fountains and sculptures which fill the garden all enhance the feeling of expectancy as one approaches the main façade. The Palace in Białystok was designed in the 17th century by the highly skilled architect Tylman van Gameren. Due to his ingenuity, the seat of the aristocratic Branicki family is referred to as the Versailles of the North and finds no equal in this part of Europe. Many cultural events are held in its fascinating setting. The most esteemed one is the international soul music festival called “Good Vibrations” („Pozytywne Wibracje”).



www.umb.edu.pl





In 1569, Lublin Castle was the site of the historic signing of the Union of Lublin, creating a single state: the Polish-Lithuanian Commonwealth, which lasted for over two hundred years.

Lublin Castle:

Witness of the brotherhood between East and West

The hill towering above Lublin is the location of the beautiful royal residence.

Belonging to the Polish king, this castle was almost entirely destroyed during the 17th century. A hundred years later, a new one was erected, modelled on the English patterns fashionable at that time. The only sections from the original layout to have survived intact are: the ancient Romanesque tower with its thick walls, and the Gothic chapel of the Holy Trinity with its Byzantine and Ruthenian frescos. The chapel, considered the most valuable vestige of Lublin's history, has a typically Western architecture, whereas its frescos evoke the spirit of its Slavic roots. As such, it is one of Poland's most interesting works of Medieval art in Poland and is exceptional in Europe. The castle stands proudly over the city, as it has during all those centuries. Its Neo-Gothic façade is one of the most recognisable sights of Lublin.

www.zamek-lublin.pl



Kozłówka:

Palace reminiscent of Versailles

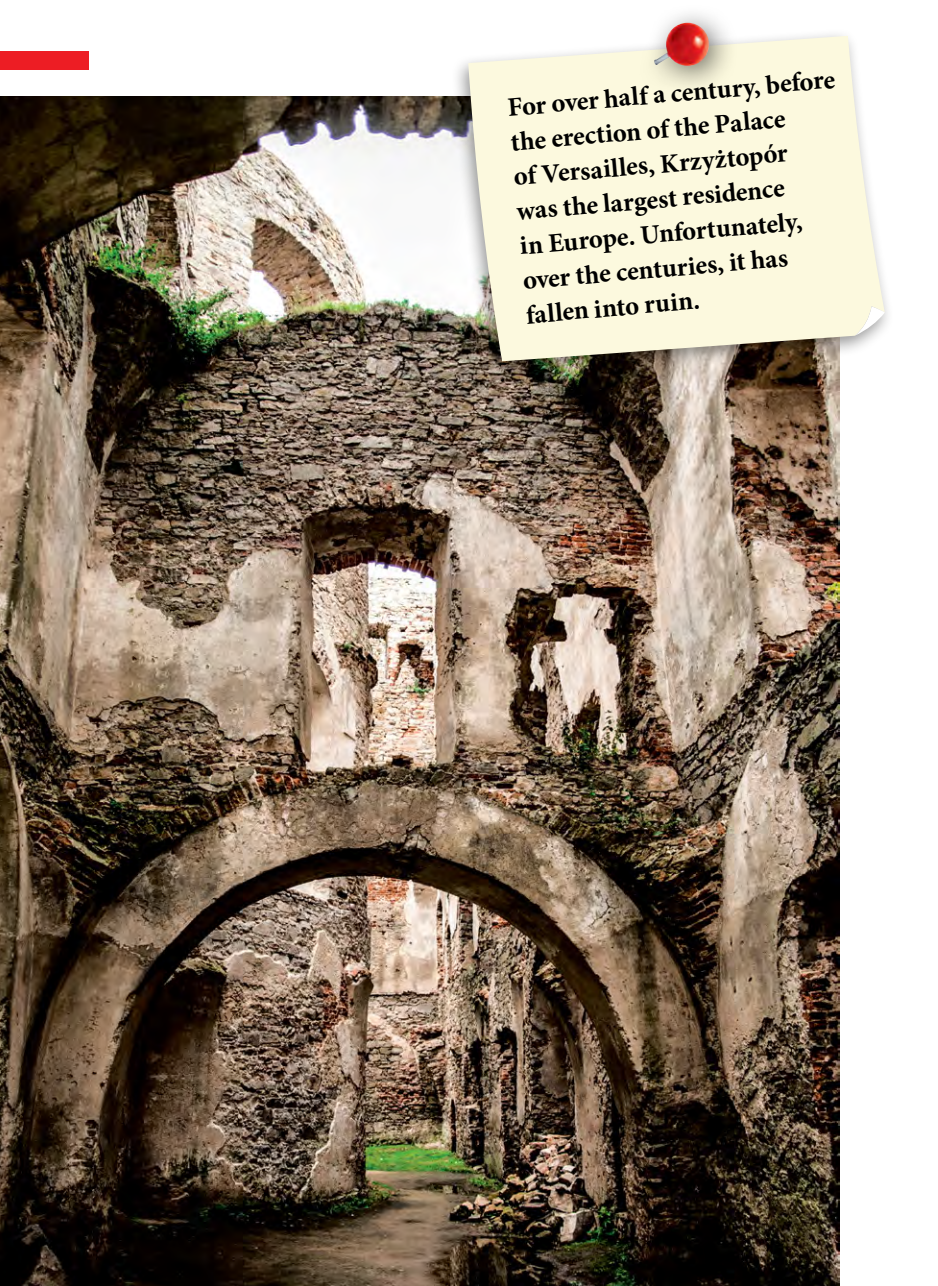
Home to one of the most intriguing museums in the country, Kozłówka will bewitch you with its elaborate collection of paintings and sculptures, as well as with the opulence and colours of its interiors.

The owners of the palace intentionally emulated the design of the Versailles Palace (with the French *entre cour et jardin* model), in the hope that their residence would overshadow the homes of other aristocratic families. A fairy-tale French garden leads into the palace. The interiors still have their original furnishings from the early 19th century. The pride of the museum collection is the collection of Zamojski family portraits, and copies of European masterpieces. The former carriage house has been turned into the Socialist-Realist Art Gallery, which has over 1,600 authentic sculptures, paintings and posters made by Polish artists in the 1950s, at a time when art was used as a tool for Communist ideology.



Visitors can also watch authentic newsreels from the 1950s, known as Polish Film Chronicles.





For over half a century, before the erection of the Palace of Versailles, Krzyżtopór was the largest residence in Europe. Unfortunately, over the centuries, it has fallen into ruin.



Krzyżtopór: Ruins of an immense calendar

The proud name of the castle is from the Polish words for a cross (“krzyż”) and an axe (“topór”), symbolising the faith and the coat-of-arms of its owner.

By erecting a palace exemplifying the calendar, the 17th century nobleman Krzysztof Ossoliński wanted to overshadow contemporary castles and leave a lasting sign of his family’s power. The architectural propositions were symbolic and highly impressive. There were four turrets, one at each corner, representing the seasons of the year. Inside, there were as many large chambers as there are months and as many smaller rooms as there are weeks in the year. The number of windows corresponds with the number of days in the year.

But, Ossoliński did not stop there. Even the stables had crystal mirrors and horses had their hay served in marble mangers. In the tower over the gate, one of the rooms was topped with a glass ceiling. The floor above it was arranged as an aquarium, so that the guests gathered at the table could admire exotic fish while enjoying their dinner.



www.swietokrzyskie.travel/en/




Kurozweki:

Palace with a touch of the Wild West

People come to Kurozweki to try their luck in the corn maze, admire Arabian horses at the local stud farm and get to see up close American buffalo.

Embellishments and improvements take place all the time at this palace. The centre of the park where the palace is located now also houses a plush hotel, a restaurant, a café, a pizzeria and a “buffalo bar.” By far, the main attraction is its bison herd, the only one in Poland. Today, it has around eighty of these majestic creatures. That is enough for bison meat dishes to appear on the restaurant menu. The events organised here all echo Wild West traditions. They include: the “Buffalo Safari,” horseback riding and horse races but, above all, the annual August festival known as “Wild West in Kurozweki” (“Dziki Zachód w Kurozwekach”). The program of the festivities includes horse shows, lessons in archery and tomahawk throwing, riding a mechanical bull, as well as pop music concerts.



During the “Wild West” festivities, an Indian village is built on the palace grounds.



www.kurozweki.com



Chęciny:

Ruins of a grand history

The castle with its three distinct towers is a poignant symbol of the province.

As one approaches the castle, its characteristic walls with two cylindrical towers and a rectangular fortified turret emerge from the woods on the hilltop. The castle is made of stone but the towers have distinctive brick superstructure. This singular view is one of the most important landmarks of the Świętokrzyskie province, located in central Poland. Rather than visited, these days, the ruins are most often admired from afar, because they are in plain sight of travellers on the motorway between Kraków and Warsaw. From spring until autumn, this magical scenery provides the backdrop for shows and events held at the foot of the hill, in Podzamcze, which always attracts throngs of spectators.



www.zamekheciny.pl







Wawel:

Our national symbol

The Wawel Hill with the Royal Castle, the Cathedral and Dragon's Den are, by far, the most popular attractions of Kraków.

The Royal Castle was the seat of Polish rulers until the end of the 16th century. The majestic castle perched on top of the Wawel Hill is both a monument of history and architecture and a treasury full of works of art and national heirlooms. Today, the castle is a museum. Its permanent exhibition is comprised of the State Rooms, Royal Private Apartments, Treasury and Armoury. In the Audience Hall (Sala Poselska), thirty sculptured heads look down on visitors, from the ceiling. These visages portray the local community from the days of the Renaissance. The heads are amazingly detailed, but the most precious collection at the castle is the awe-inspiring tapestries known as arras. Woven in the late 16th century, they depict biblical scenes and some of them bear the coats-of-arms of Poland and Lithuania.



www.wawel.krakow.pl/en/

The Crown Armoury exhibits the Szczerbiec: the original coronation sword of Polish kings. Being the only royal insignia which has survived to this day, it's invaluable.



Baranów Sandomierski:

Masterpiece of stone like a jeweller's gem

There is absolutely no exaggeration in nicknaming this place the “Pearl of Polish Renaissance” or the “little Wawel.”

The park and palace complex in Baranów is a precious historical monument and a luxurious hotel oasis. It was designed by the Italian architect Santi Gucci, the court artist at the Wawel Castle, and erected in the 16th century on a rectangular plan. The inner courtyard was closed on all sides, with arcaded cloisters resembling those in Wawel. What is surprising is that, to enter the courtyard, one needs to climb stairs. It was placed this high purposefully, for protection against any flood from the nearby Vistula River. The palace is home to a museum and a restaurant. Adjacent to it, there is an elegant hotel, and some of the historical interiors of the palace have been arranged as stylish luxury suites. In addition, there are also a Conference Centre and a Golf Academy.



www.baranow.com.pl/en

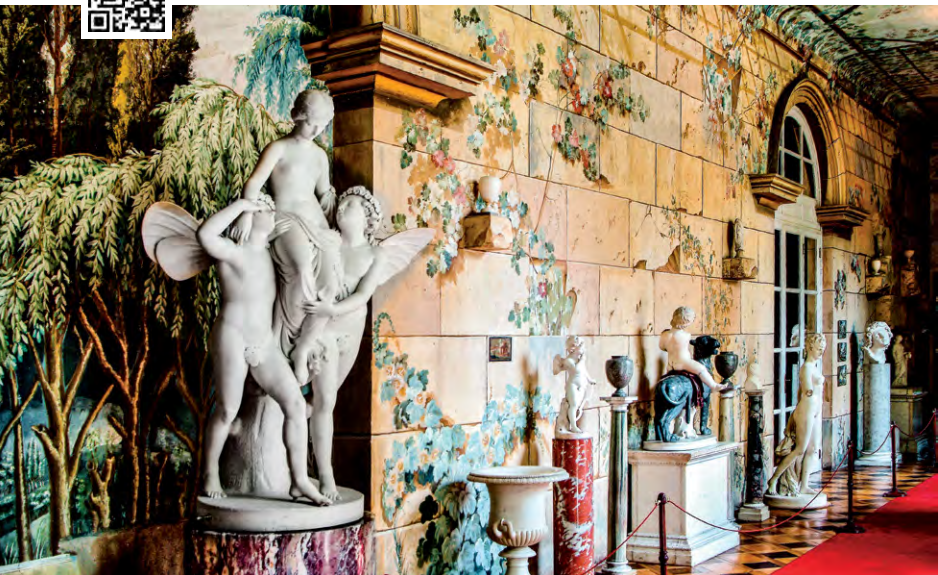




Baranów Sandomierski is connected to Łańcut through the cultural Trail of Palace Residences and Museums ("Szlak Rezydencji Pałacowych i Muzeów").



www.zamek-lancut.pl



Łańcut:

Interiors filled with music

It's one of the most fabulous aristocratic residences in Poland. During concerts and festivals, its original preserved chambers come alive with music.

Walking through the rooms of this palace feels like a fascinating journey in time. The interiors mirror fashions ranging from the 17th century to the turn of the 20th century. Great attention was paid to every detail and each element of the furnishings is a historical artifact in itself. Each collection is equally impressive, whether paintings, drawings, furniture, musical instruments, porcelain, glass, lacquerware, silverware, tapestries, or the library full of books.

The most prized part of the entire collection at Łańcut is the assortment of horse-drawn carriages once belonging to former palace owners. Parked in the stables and the carriage room, these handsome conveyances make a spectacular exhibition, one of the largest in the world.

The palace is surrounded by a grand English park. Almost year-round, the interiors and the gardens are filled with music. The tradition of organising concerts in Łańcut goes back to the 18th century.



Wiśnicz Nowy: *Palazzo in fortezza*

This 17th century castle is one of the most precious examples of military architecture in Poland.

The castle in Wiśnicz bears testimony to past military power. The fortified bastions were once equipped with 80 cannons and, thanks to the supplies stored in the castle, inhabitants could survive even a three-year siege. Near the end of the Renaissance, when warfare techniques had evolved and even the highest Gothic walls could no longer guarantee safety, the stronghold was rebuilt. As a result, the interior residential chambers were arranged, with sweeping views of gentle hills, forests and area localities. The castle was then surrounded with fortifications shaped like a pentagon. These days, the castle houses a history museum, a stylish hotel and a restaurant. The old rooms often become venues for classical music concerts and many festivals, e. g. the culinary Festival of Broth (Festiwal Rosołu).



The construction of the castle at Wiśnicz was the embodiment of the Italian concept of *palazzo in fortezza*.





www.trzykorony.pl/en/attractions/niedzica-castle



www.czorsztyn.com



Visitors can enjoy a walk on top of the dam on the Dunajec River and see the huge hydroelectric power plant.

Niedzica and Czorsztyn:

Castles rising over tranquil waters

The ring of mountains around the valley and its broad lake are part of one of the most picturesque landscapes in southern Poland.

Medieval castles at the foot of the Pieniny Mountains are an unusual accent in the scenery. The castle in Czorsztyn is a romantic ruin, while the one at Niedzica is preserved in remarkably good condition. The museum in the Niedzica Castle is dedicated to the region's history and its original culture, and the stone terrace offers a magnificent vista. The castle towers over the man-created reservoir, the Czorsztyn Lake (Jezioro Czorsztyńskie).

The cruise ships circumnavigating the lake: the *White Lady (Biała Dama)*, the *Harnaś* and the *Dunajec*, dock right below the castle. Popular hiking trails begin at the castle and, during winter, the area becomes a mecca for skiers. Every August, Niedzica is also the host for an entertaining music festival, "Baroque in Spisz" („Barok na Spiszu”).



Krasiczyn:

Noble vision of the world order

It is one of Poland's most exquisite residences, expressing through its architecture the ideals the nobility once believed in.

The castle was constructed in such a way that the onlooker would realise right away the hierarchical organisation of the world. That social order recognised by the 17th century magnate Krasicki family is represented by the corner towers. Each of them is different. The most magnificent one, called Divine, is topped with a dome and shelters a chapel. The Papal tower has a crown-shaped attic, echoing the Roman Catholic papal tiara. The Royal tower, decorated with six little turrets, resembles a castle. The Noble tower is fortified with battlements. The walls of the residence are decorated with hunting and biblical scenes, along with great wall medallions depicting emperors and Polish kings. The castle is surrounded by a lush park with a special microclimate.

The courtyard and the interiors often host concerts, performances and other events. Krasiczyn is situated only ten kilometres from Przemyśl, a splendid town on the Polish and Ukrainian border, which is full of historic monuments.





www.krasiczyn.com.pl/en



Pieskowa Skala:


Renaissance gem amid limestone cliffs

The Renaissance form of the castle was inspired by the royal residence in Wawel.



Pieskowa Skała drew from the best architectural specimens. Along with the surrounding opulent gardens with its ponds and zoo, the architecture gave notice that, at the end of the 16th century, the castle could rival the royal residence in character and exuberance.

The courtyard encircled by cloisters impresses visitors even today. Every room in the castle is dedicated to a different epoch, through appropriate interior décor. The view from the loggia is particularly captivating, as the castle is situated high amidst picturesque limestone cliffs of the Kraków-Częstochowa Upland (Jura Krakowsko-Częstochowska). The most characteristic monadnock in Poland, widely known as the “Hercules’ Club” (Maczuga Herkulesa), soars 25 metres high in the vicinity of the castle. Pieskowa Skała is one of the most precious gems of the Polish Renaissance and a major landmark along the “Trail of the Eagles’ Nests” (Szlak Orlich Gniazd).

An aerial photograph of a formal garden at Pieskowa Skała. The garden features intricate geometric patterns created with low, dark green hedges. Several flower beds are integrated into the design, containing vibrant red and yellow flowers. The overall layout is symmetrical and highly structured.

Every June, the castle in Pieskowa Skała hosts a festival called the Days of Old Polish Culture (Dni Kultury Staropolskiej). The event presents art, music, dance and cooking harking back to the olden days.




Ogrodzieniec:

Echoes of past splendour

Due to its turbulent history, all that is left of this once resplendent castle is a ruin. The stark white stone walls of the castle and limestone monadnocks stand out against the hillside greenery. Even today, the ruin itself remains a magnificent testimony to its past.

Erected in the Middle Ages, a chain of twenty-five castles, known as the Trail of the Eagles' Nests, stood among limestone outcroppings and guarded the important trade route leading from Kraków to Silesia. All of them, except for Pieskowa Skała, fell into ruin, but their remnants are very picturesque accents on the region's landscape.

Situated on a vast treeless hill, Ogrodzieniec is the largest of them. During its construction, the existing limestone rock of the hill was incorporated into the line of the outer walls. The limestone building material was obtained locally, and the whiteness of the walls remains in stark contrast to its grassy surroundings. This scenery has proved very popular among historical re-enactment groups and present-day knight fraternities. From May through to September, people can watch shows organised by the local knight fellowship (Bractwo Rycerskie Ziemi Ogrodzienieckiej).



The Miniature Park at the foot of the castle features small-scale models of Medieval war machines and the strongholds located in the Kraków-Częstochowa Upland.

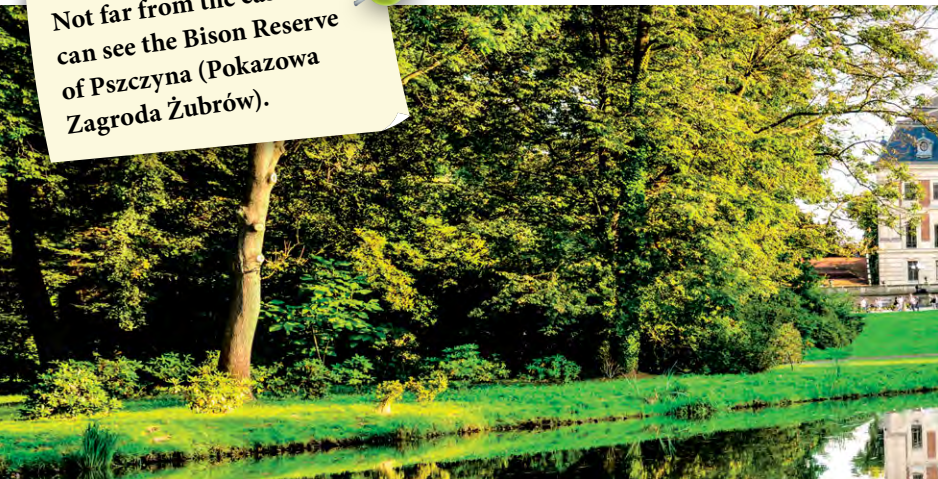
Pszczyzna:

Breathtaking castle with authentic interiors

Nearly all the furnishings of the castle's rooms are original antiques of the 19th and the 20th centuries.

The castle of Pszczyzna does not tower over the town but it forms a whole with it. It is located next to the historic Old Town area and is surrounded by a park designed as a romantic garden. One can take a pleasant stroll over charming bridges, sit back on benches tucked away amid trees and flowers, or stop at one of several graceful, little chapels. The integrity of the castle and the town can be witnessed especially during events which take place both in the Old Town Square and on the castle grounds. The museum in the castle displays 19th and early 20th century interiors. The underground treasury exhibits European and Oriental armour dating between the 16th century and the interwar period of the 20th century. The rooms of the castle are often filled with music with concerts of primarily classical music.

Not far from the castle one can see the Bison Reserve of Pszczyzna (Pokazowa Zagroda Żubrów).






www.zamek-pszczyna.pl



www.slaskie.travel/en-US





It was the owners' wish that
"these works of art do not
become scattered... (but that)
the collection brings benefit
by stimulating interest in art
and a sense of beauty."

Gołuchów: “Loire castle” in the Wielkopolska region

A true jewel among castles.

The architecture of the castle in Gołuchów echoes the look of famous French châteaux on the Loire. Its exterior Neo-Renaissance traits are evident in its pitched roofs and ornate chimneys. The halls and study rooms are decorated with magnificent furniture, sophisticated fireplaces, paintings and tapestries. Throughout, the castle boasts a rare collection of Greek vases. Its décor is enhanced by authentic historical architectural elements conceived in other European countries and incorporated here. The adjacent park is full of about fifteen hundred rare and precious trees. Right next to the park, visitors can admire bison, fallow deer and the Polish konik (pony) in the “Model Animal Pen.” One of the castle’s outbuildings is home to the only museum in Poland devoted to Forestry.



[www.mnp.art.pl/en/museum/branches/
goluchow-castle-museum/](http://www.mnp.art.pl/en/museum/branches/goluchow-castle-museum/)



Książ: Jewel of Lower Silesia

This Medieval residence of princes, redecorated in the Baroque style by its later owners, is in the same league as the largest Polish castles, sitting right next to Wawel and Malbork.

This impressive construction with a large garden complex is surrounded by hills. The gardens catch the eye with their sophisticated flowerbed arrangements. Maximilian's Hall and the apartments of Princess Daisy are opulently decorated in the Baroque style. Daisy von Pless was one of the most interesting figures to have lived in the castle: remembered not only for her charm and beauty, but also for her pacifist stance during both World Wars. Night sightseeing tours of the castle are especially exciting. These days, Książ offers luxury hotel accommodations and fine dining in its restaurant. It is also a venue for exhibitions and festivals, among which the most interesting ones are the "Festival of Flowers and Art" ("Festiwal Kwiatów i Sztuki") held in May, and the "Princess Daisy Ensemble International Festival of Chamber Art" ("Międzynarodowy Festiwal Kameralistyki Ensemble im. Księżnej Daisy").


The tour of the castle also includes a fragment of a mysterious tunnel constructed by Nazis during the Second World War.



www.ksiaz.walbrzych.pl





A woman with short brown hair, wearing a bright blue top and yellow pants, is sitting on a red bicycle. She is holding a small yellow fruit in her right hand. The bicycle has a basket full of various fruits on the back. In the background, there is a large, ornate stone castle with multiple towers and a red roof. The sky is blue with some clouds. A yellow pushpin is visible at the top of the text box.

The whole complex, including the palace and the park, covers eight thousand square metres. The palace itself boasts 365 rooms and 99 turrets.

Moszna:

Welcome to *La Belle Époque*

Every year, the charm of this fairy-tale palace attracts throngs of visitors.

The Palace in Moszna is an eclectic construction. Its primary style is Baroque but architectural details and decorations reveal the influence of other epochs, as well. This includes Art Nouveau, which was just budding at the time when the palace was undergoing modernisation. The period at the turn of the 20th century in Europe went down in history as “La Belle Époque.” Following the current fashion, in order to enhance the picturesque appearance of the residence, it was integrated into the surrounding park. Together with its fantastical setting, the palace in Moszna is now a perfect venue for outdoor events, art performances, most notably the summer concerts of the Festival “Jazz in the Palaces” („Jazz w Pałacach”). Some of the rooms have been arranged to accommodate guests who may choose to eat in the palace restaurant.

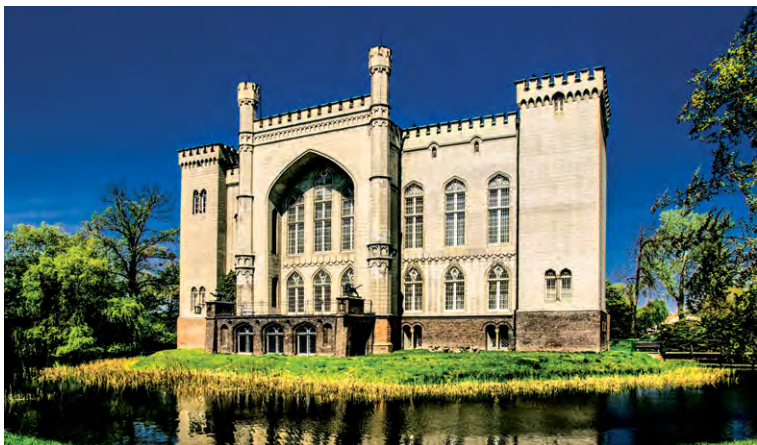


Kórnik:

Housing a precious book collection in its romantic setting

Located not far from Poznań, the castle accommodates one of the most valuable book collections in Poland, and its surrounding gardens have rare and protected species of trees.

The design of the residence was the creation of Italian and German architects. Its original architecture alludes to English trends of the Romantic period. The modifications in the 19th century, such as adding turrets and battlements to the palace's lofty silhouette and surrounding it with a moat filled with water, were supposed to emphasise the appearance of a residence of knights of long-ago. Again following English tendencies, Oriental motifs were integrated into the decoration of the façade. In keeping with this design pattern, the palace was surrounded with English gardens arranged in such a way to create the impression of a natural formation. The arboretum in Kórnik is famous for its fabulous rhododendrons. Because of the presence of many rare species of plants, it enjoys special protection.







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Czocha Castle:

Venerable historical monument and elegant hotel

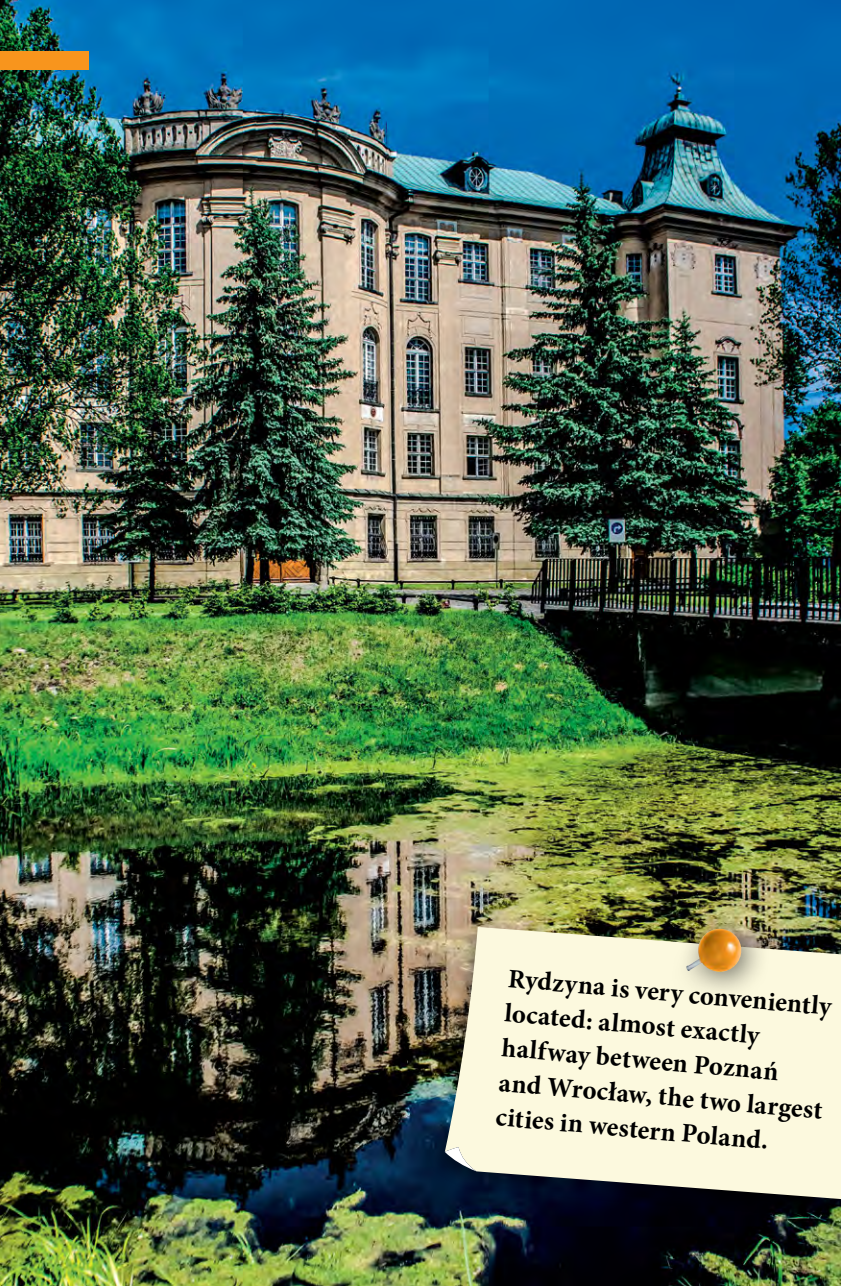
At first, Czocha Castle was a frontier stronghold and, later, a magnate family's residence. These days, it welcomes visitors from all over the world.

The castle was designed as a fortress in the 13th century. After centuries of political turbulence, followed by a fire which destroyed the castle in the 18th century, the construction was restored to its former glory, owing to ample funding. Thus, it became one of the most interesting landmarks of Lower Silesia. Unfortunately, after the Second World War, almost all the furnishings fell victims to looters. Nowadays, the impressive monumental stronghold is home to an elegant hotel and its historic interiors can be visited like any other museum. Knights' tournaments, dance shows, comedy acts and concerts organised here add to the appeal, along with a stylish café and a restaurant specialising in Polish cuisine. The castle grounds have also been used as the set for many feature films and documentaries. The castle's wine cellar hosts mead-tasting events, promoting this drink so strongly connected to the culture of old Poland and appreciated by gourmets.



www.zamekczochoa.com





Rydzyzna is very conveniently located: almost exactly halfway between Poznań and Wrocław, the two largest cities in western Poland.

Rydzyna: Dazzling Baroque masterpiece

The halls of the Palace please the eye with opulent interiors. Splendid sculptures and monumental frescos leave no one unimpressed.

Painstakingly reconstructed, the palace mesmerises visitors, due to its interior's aesthetically pleasing décor. When the castle went up in flames in 1945, the efforts to restore it to its former glory took twenty years. Exhibitions devoted to art, history and nature, are now held in truly resplendent settings. The castle also has a hotel, a mini spa and conference rooms. The hotel rooms evoke the spirit of past epochs. Their luxurious furnishings are also reflected in their names, such as “Royal Room” or “Princely Rooms.” Visitors can access other superb rooms, doubling as conference venues, such as the “Four Seasons Hall” with its sculptured personifications of spring, summer, autumn and winter, or the stunning “Sea Hall.”

www.zamek-rydzyna.com.pl





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