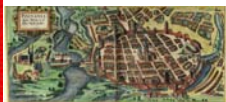




The coat of arms



The Cathedral of St. Peter and St. Paul



The map of Poznań in XVII century

Poznań, one of the oldest and biggest cities of Poland, plays an important role in the country's history. As a capital of Greater Poland voivodship, it cultivates the tradition of being the cradle of the Polish state during the early Piast dynasty. The tombs of the first king of Poland – Boleslaw Chrobry – and his father Duke Mieszko I, are situated in the Cathedral of Peter and St. Paul.

Today the city is a vibrant center for trade, industry, and education. Poznań is Poland's fifth largest city and fourth biggest industrial center.

The history

Placed between the meanders of Warta and Cybina rivers, the first Polan tribe settlements date back to the VIII century. After the baptism of Poland in 966, the first bishop Jordan created the first bishopric. During the middle ages the city grew in economical strength thanks to trade routes to Western Europe.

After the partition of Poland by the end of XVIII century, Poznań was incorporated into Prussia, functioning as the capital of the autonomous Grand Duchy of Poznań. After the Great War, the city witnessed the victorious Great Poland's Uprising in 1918-19, and became a part of reborn Second Polish Republic. During the interwar period, the city became one of the pillars to Polish economy and culture. In 1919 the University opened its doors, followed by the Poznań Trade Fairs in 1921. During the Second World War, Poznań was incorporated into the III Reich, with many of its citizens driven away, shot in mass executions, sent to central Germany as slave workers or conscripted by force to the German army.

During the Communist reign, once again became the centre of economy and industry. In 1956 the workers in Cegielski factory started massive protest actions against the government. As a result of the riots, about 70 people were killed and hundreds injured or arrested. The "Poznań June events" led to the change of the Polish government to a milder communist faction.

The city nowadays

The main sources of wealth for Poznań's citizens were craft and trade. For ages, Poznań has been famous for its trade fairs and markets. The largest one was St. John's Market (24th June) during which people traded primarily in wool and cereals. The St. John's Market of today is a place where art collectors, master craftsmen, and those whose hobby is art and collecting flock to during Poznań's biggest trade fair, the Poznań International Fair in June. The Poznań International Fair (MTP), situated in the city centre, is the biggest centre of international trade in Poland, where trade fairs, exhibitions and shows take place. The MTP calendar includes over 25 specialized events each year and attracts thousands of manufacturers, trading companies, scientific and research institutions from all the continents of the world.

A good business climate is the reason why many foreign investors choose Poznań to base their activities. Among them are a few of world's giants such as Nestle, Wrigley, CPC International, Volkswagen, Exxon / Esso, IKEA or Alcatel. The largest company in Greater Poland, H.Cegielski Engineering Works, which is the leading manufacturer of ship engines and train carriages in Poland, is the heritage of XIX century industrialization.



The MTP fair centre



Old Square in the historic district of Poznań

What to see and do



The Town Hall on Old Square



The famous "Koziołki"

Apart from the MTP and annual St. John's Market fair, Poznań offers a wide range of tourist attractions and activities.

The Old Town prides itself of the Cathedral of St. Peter and St. Paul and the 16th century renaissance Town Hall in the Old Square, with the famous "Koziołki" (billy-goats) on the clock tower. It is surrounded by old merchant houses which were carefully restored after World War II.

In addition, Poznań belongs to the select group of cities that boast examples of all architectural periods - from the Romanesque, through Gothic, Renaissance, Baroque to the eclectic and the modernist.

Wide range of museums include the Archaeological Museum (27 Wodna St.), national Museum (9 Marcinkowskiego St.) and Literary Museum of Henryk Sienkiewicz (Stary Rynek 84).

For those seeking good cuisine and shopping offer, the Półwiejska Street would be a good choice. The Stary Browar, ICSC 2005 Award Winner, is located nearby. If a more active relaxation is desired, the Malta lake offers a wide range of water sports.

Poznań is also famous of its Marcin's croissants, filled with raisins and poppy seed. As the locals have in saying, being in Poznań and not trying one, is a sin.

Retail Projects

The biggest retail magnet is undoubtedly the Stary Browar (32 Półwiejska St.). Located in an old brewery, it is a state-of-the-art revitalization project by Fortis. Stary Browar gained international recognition by winning the ICSC Award in 2005. Recently, the extension to the existing part has been opened.

Other shopping centres include the King Cross Marcelin (156 Bukowska St.), Poznań Plaza (2 Kaspra Drużbickiego St.), the Kupiec Poznański centre (2 Wiosny Ludów St.) or IKEA (10 Szwedzka St.).

The upcoming projects include the Łacina centre by Apsys Polska, Galeria Pestka (Moebel Warlther) and the Metropolis (ECE).



Stary Browar



Kupiec Poznański

Useful Telephones:

City Information Centre (44 Ratajczaka St.) 94-31

City Information Centre (59/60 Stary Rynek) +48 61 852-61-56

Poznań-Ławica Airport +48 61 849 23 43

Poznań Statistics

Population (2006)	567882
City Area	262 sq km
Density of population	2197 per. / sq km
Working population (2004)	383754
Unemployment rate	6,7%
Average monthly gross wages & salaries	2616 PLN
GDP per capita	43240 PLN
Commercial companies (2004)	9886

Poznań Trivia:

- Poznań is the only city mentioned in the Poland's national anthem (third stanza).
- The name of the city was given to several warships and civilian vessels, both Polish and German (Posen), and in 1912 Mercedes 10/20 HP was nicknamed Posen.
- Some people claim that the Poznań people are descendents of Scots. Why? Please check how they carefully deal with money...