



The coat of arms

Wrocław is Poland's fourth largest city. It lies in the south-western Poland, 310 km from the capital Warsaw. Its wealth and cultural variety Breslau thanks to trade contacts between Poland, Czech Republic and Germany since middle ages. Breslau was not always Polish but it never lost its Polish roots. It is a busy cultural centre. Wrocław is an excellent example of a multicultural metropolis and it's considered one of Eastern Europe's most beautiful cities, situated on 12 islands connected by 112 bridges.

The history



Ostrów Tumski – Cathedral Island

Wrocław – the capital of Lower Silesia - is one of the oldest cities of Poland. Its turbulent history is embedded in the city walls and buildings. Thus, the city abounds in historic sights erected in various epochs and in different architectural styles.

The cradle of Wrocław is Cathedral Island (Ostrów Tumski) where the first settlements were built between the VIIth and IXth centuries. However, the first written record goes back as far as the year 1000 when at Gniezno during the meeting of Boleslaus the Brave, Duke (later King) of Poland, with Otto III, Holy Roman Emperor, the Wrocław bishopric was established. The city was first governed by the Polish Piast kings.

In the XIVth century Wrocław became part of the Kingdom of Bohemia. Two centuries later it was in the hands of the Habsburgs and finally Wrocław was incorporated into Prussia.

During World War II Wrocław became "Festung Breslau" – a Nazi stronghold. When the war was over, the Germans who used to live in Wrocław had to leave the city and it was then that the displaced Poles from Lviv and Vilnius moved into Wrocław.

Though seriously damaged (in approximately 70%), almost levelled, during World War II the city was later painstakingly reconstructed to become one of the most beautiful cities of Poland.



Wrocław
in XVIIth century

The city nowadays

Apart from being charmingly historic, Wrocław is also a well-known cultural centre offering world-famous artistic events like music concerts, festivals, theatrical performances and international exhibitions.

It is also one of the fastest developing city in Poland. Wrocław is well equipped with communication facilities: international airport, railways, highways and river ports.

Wrocław is also one of the three official candidates to host the 2012 International Exhibition and have risen as the favorite after it's presentation for the Bureau of International Expositions (BIE) in the Congress Palace in Paris.

It belongs to the biggest university centres in the country. The city's intellectual life is focused around 22 universities with 159 000 students.

The local government have shown an aggressive desire to return the city to its pre-war heyday, and an extensive program of restoration and regeneration have seen the town emerge as Poland's most exciting city.

After capital Warsaw – Wrocław is the second largest financial center of Poland.



University of Wrocław



The Town Hall on Old Square



The Centennial Hall



One of the famous dwarfs

What to see and do

Wrocław's Old Town boasts the second largest medieval market square in Europe, dozens of spectacular gothic churches and scores of bridges over scenic waterways. The other tourist attraction not to be missed, is the impressive complex of religious architecture on Cathedral Island.

Hala Ludowa (The Centennial Hall) is one of the thirteen historical monuments of Poland registered on the UNESCO World Heritage List. This monumental XXth century reinforced concrete structure was designed by Max Berg. With its pergola and the pond, and other buildings on the Exhibition Grounds the Centennial Hall is a popular strolling destination both for tourists and locals.

Wrocław is a green city with plenty of lush parkland. Among them the Japanese Garden, which was set up on the occasion of the World Exhibition of 1913 by count Fritz von Hochberg, notable Japan connoisseur, and designed by Mankichi Arai, Japanese gardener. The other green place definitely worth to be visited is the Botanical Garden. Situated in the oldest district of Wrocław, with a wide collection of 7,500 plant species.

Panorama Raclawicka is a colossal painting (120 metres x 15 metres) depicting the victory of Tadeusz Kosciuszko (leading a group of scythe-armed regulars and peasant volunteers) over the Russian Army under the command of General Tormasov at the battle of Raclawice on April 4th, 1794.

Another attraction - the Dwarfs of Wrocław - appeared on the streets of the city in August 2005. Their history is connected with the Orange Alternative movement and the year 1982. It was then that some dwarfs with funny hats and smiling faces were painted as a graffiti covering anti-Communist slogans.

Wrocław is a city where one will never become bored. It has nine museums, several theaters and music centers. With its wide array of pubs, cafes, restaurants serving traditional Polish as well as international cuisine, historic sights, cultural events, business and educational opportunities, Wrocław has everything that tourists, investors, students might feel a craving for.

Retail Projects

Shopping Centre in European style is the impressively fast built "Galeria Dominikańska" at the Dominikański Square, in the city centre - a block merged into the modern hotel and a multilevel garage making up a fine combination of Wrocław traditional brick Gothic style with the latest high-tech architecture trends. It is also the first shopping mall in Wrocław.

Other shopping centres include Centrum Korona (126 Krzywousty St.), Bielany Retail Park or the historic Renoma department store (40 Świdnicka St.).

During this year (2007) there will be a diametrically shift on the Wrocław's retail estate market. Three huge, new shopping centres will be opened. The gates of Pasaż Grunwaldzki by Echo Investment and Arkady Wrocławskie by LC Corp will open on Spring, followed by Galeria Legnicka's, by Redis, on Autumn. The city will acquire 580 new stores.



Galeria Dominikańska



Pasaż Grunwaldzki

Useful Telephones:

City Information Centre (Rynek 14) +48 71 344 31 11

The Culture and Art Centre (Rynek-Ratusz 24) +48 71 344 28 64

Wrocław Airport - Strachowice +48 71 358 13 81

| Wrocław Statistics | |
|--|-------------------|
| Population (2006) | 635 000 |
| City Area | 292 sq km |
| Density of population | 2172 per. / sq km |
| Working population (2004) | 426 000 |
| Unemployment rate (2005) | 11% |
| Average monthly gross wages & salaries | 2424 PLN |
| GDP per capita | 32403 PLN |
| Commercial companies (2004) | 9089 |

Wrocław Trivia:

- The city was first recorded in the 10th century as *Vratislavia*, derived from Bohemian duke Wratislaw I, who died in 921.
- Ten Nobel Prize winners in various fields have been associated with the University of Wrocław during the 300 years of its existence.
- Wrocław is the warmest city in Poland