

# POZNAŃ

## inyourpocket

November 2013 - February 2014

### Enigma

Polish code breakers  
aid the war effort

### The Holidays

Celebrate the season  
Polish style

### Jeżyce

A district worth  
exploring

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ISSN 1642-2902



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'Tis the season to find carp swimming in the bathtubs of Polish homes and chalk markings on front doors. Sound strange? It is if you're not familiar with Polish Christmas traditions, which involve plenty of eating (that carp we mentioned), somber religious services and the post-Christmas celebration of Three Kings. Bone up on the holiday basics by reading about Christmas in Poland on **page 50** and what Three Kings is all about on **page 43**.



The true story of the Enigma code breakers begins in Poznań, where several graduates of the university were put to work in cryptology in an effort to break the German ciphers. The group created the very first Enigma theorem breakthrough, which has since been described as 'the theorem that won WWII.' Read up on this overlooked contribution by Poznań's brightest on **page 64**.



While your natural instinct will be to head directly for Poznań's charming centre, the Stary Rynek, in this issue we propose taking a little detour to check out Jeżyce. This district of the city has everything a seasoned traveller could want, from history to entertainment as well as nightlife and dining. Our feature breaks it down for you on **page 6**. Photo: Radomil\_pl.wikipedia.org CC BY-SA 3.0



No matter how chilly the temperatures outside, to those visiting Poznań for the first time, let us extend a warm welcome. You may need it. Poland experienced a particularly long, hot summer this year, which can only mean one thing, of course - we're in for a long, harsh winter. Don't let that put you off, however; after all, you've just arrived in one of Poland's finest cities, one which has much to offer tourists, business folk and inquisitive travellers alike. There are plenty of places which cater for all seasons, and inside this guide you'll find all you need in order to enjoy your stay, no matter what you're here for.

For those who have had the pleasure of visiting before, you might want to check out this edition's feature on Jeżyce (page 6) - a district just a brisk 15-minute walk from the main market square, which holds some of the city's undiscovered delights. We're certain no one put Jeżyce on your Poznań itinerary before arrival, but it's in this district that you'll find one of the city's best cinemas, several great little pubs, and some of the finest architecture in the Wielkopolska region. Forget what the older generations tell you, Jeżyce is on the up and welcoming newcomers with open arms. You'd be a fool to pass up the opportunity to explore this unique neighbourhood.

As usual, more than a few fresh hangouts have popped up on the drinking and dining map over the summer, and we've got the best ones covered inside these pages; you'll easily find all recent openings marked with a NEW tag. Also worth mentioning this issue is the completion of the new train station, and the opening of the impressive Poznań City Centre shopping mall inside it, making it possible for ill-prepared arrivals to bolt straight for a winter coat upon the first blast of cold air off the train.

As always, all of the content you find here is available online at [poznan.inyourpocket.com](http://poznan.inyourpocket.com), where we hope you'll leave us your comments as well. Write to the editor directly at [editor\\_poland@inyourpocket.com](mailto:editor_poland@inyourpocket.com), and don't forget to like us on Facebook ([facebook.com/poznaninyourpocket](https://www.facebook.com/poznaninyourpocket)) to keep on top of what's going on. Enjoy your stay in Poznań, and we hope we'll be welcoming you back once again come the next edition.

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ESSENTIAL CITY GUIDES

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IYP City Guides Sp. z o.o. Sp.k.  
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**Circulation**  
15,000 copies published 3 times per year

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unless otherwise stated  
**Cover** © In Your Pocket

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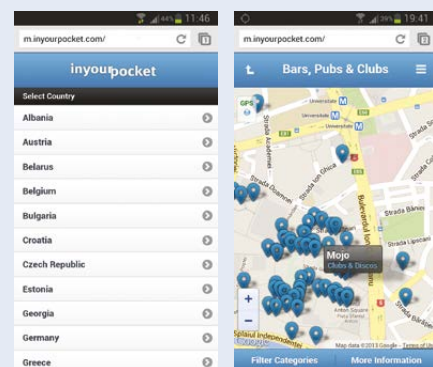
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### Maps

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## Off the Beaten Track

Most people coming to Poznań for the first time are going to head straight to the Old Town and the tourist-friendly Stary Rynek in order to check out what the bars, clubs, restaurants and quaint little side streets have to offer. And rightly so. But if you're the type that fancies yourself more of a 'traveller' than a 'tourist,' you might be eager to duck off the main tourist drags and discover what Poznań has to offer to those really ready to explore it. This issue we throw the spotlight on **Jeżyce** - a district just west of the Old Town, which while providing a stark contrast to the picturesque cathedrals, churches and parks that make up much of the city centre, still has plenty of charm.

It's fair to say that most foreign visitors won't have heard of Jeżyce before picking up this guide, let alone feel compelled to venture into it. In fact, speak to most Poz elders and you'll be met with a shaking head and a stern warning to stay well clear of the area. The last couple of years, however, have seen Jeżyce undergo something of a resurgence and it's now becoming one of the city's up and coming places to hang out, mix with the locals and get a genuine sense of what's happening in Poznań. Of course, like anywhere, it's always wise to keep your wits about you, but the district is hardly what what we'd call "dangerous" and certainly no worse than any we've encountered in other foreign cities, or even back home.

The fact of the matter is that a new mixture of trendy eateries and bars, combined with a theatre and a top-notch independent cinema, are helping Jeżyce reclaim its reputation and re-establish itself as one of Poznań's most vital districts. Granted, you probably won't see it featured on the postcard racks, but Jeżyce is home to some of the city's most authentic buildings and interesting sights, smells and sounds. It's certainly a district worth discovering, and we tell you where to go and what to look for below.

## Getting There

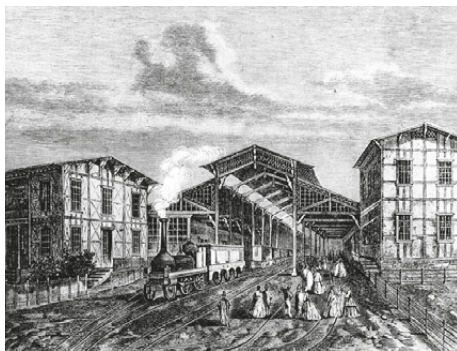
Getting up to Jeżyce is pretty easy. While you'll struggle to get a tram at the moment due to a barrage of construction work, buses are available, the best bet being **bus number 63**. Hop on at 'Małe Garbary' (D-1) and get off four stops later at 'Mickiewicza' (F-3). It's an easy ride and will cost you no more than a single ticket (2.80zł) which you can purchase from booths and vending machines dotted around the city.

Alternatively, a **15-minute walk** will get you there. Simply take a stroll down ul. Aleksandra Fredry (F-1) and once you've crossed the train tracks and main intersection at ul. Roosevelta (F-3) it turns into ul. Dąbrowskiego - Jeżyce's main street.

## History

Located just west of Poznań's Old Town, Jeżyce is the city's second largest district (after Nowe Miasto - 'New Town') and home to an estimated 81,000 residents. Despite its current reputation as being something of a 'no-go zone', back in the 13th century Jeżyce was one of the most well-to-do locations in the region due to its greenery, ponds and market square, around which people would gather to while away the hours.

In the years that followed the Wielkopolska region saw a large influx of Bamberger immigrants settle, which helped boost the Poznań economy (Jeżyce's in particular) due to their farming methods and various skills. A number of close ties to the Bambergers can still be found today in the region, from traditional dress to the oh-so-English trend of drinking tea with milk (known as 'Bawarka') - in fact, this one of the few places in Poland where you can actually order a decent cuppa without receiving black looks from the waiting staff. Fast forward to the 19th century, and the district laid claim to the city's very first train station - a fact still close to the hearts of local Lech Poznań football fans who continue to chant "Kolejorz" (The Railwaymen) during every match.



The old Jeżyce train station

The area still boasts some of the finest pieces of architecture in Poznań, even if you do have to do a bit of digging. Dąbrowskiego Street (E-3) acts as the district's high street and the vast majority of the neighbourhood's highlights are either right on, or just off of Dąbrowskiego. The street leads from ul. Roosevelta (F-3) to **Rynek Jeżycki** ('Jeżyce Market', E-3), which still serves as the area's nucleus. Established in 1891, this was once one of the city's finest market squares, as you'll notice from the faded glory of the intricate Art Nouveau facades on the tenement houses surrounding it; don't miss **Dąbrowskiego 42** (now home to a restaurant of the same name), which is of particular interest for its original semi-timber frame - a sight once common in the district. The market itself continues to operate every day, and though a bit tatty, is still a good place to pick up fresh fruit and vegetables, as well as clothing and other random goods.

Also worthy of note in the district is the city's **Old Zoo** (ul. Zwierzyniecka 19, E-3) which is easily accessible from the main train station. It's no secret that it now plays second fiddle to Poznań's New Zoo (located at Lake Malta), however it does provide a fascinating insight into an almost forgotten part of the city's history.

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Dąbrowskiego 42

## Dining

Putting aside cheap spaghetti bars and the Golden Arches, what can you expect from a trip to Jezyce if you find yourself with an empty stomach? Well, for those looking to chalk up their hipster credentials there are few better places in Poz right now than **Yezyce Kuchnia** (ul. Szamarzewskiego 17, p.47 for more). If anywhere is testament to the rise in the area's growing prominence then this is surely it. Quite why this wasn't given a location smack in the centre is anyone's guess, but the fact it wasn't just adds to its appeal and it certainly hasn't stopped those in the know from flocking here in droves. Best of all, you don't need skinny denims, high-top Converse kicks and a daft haircut to enjoy it - everyone is welcome. Yezyce Kuchnia's little garden proved a bit of a smash over the summer, but as the winter settles in, it's only going to get more and more popular with folks looking for a friendly place to relax and forget about the snow outside. Find it near the corner of Wawrzyniaka and Szamarzewskiego, just west of E-3 on our map (follow ul. Sienkiewicza west for two more blocks).

For those searching for something a bit more luxurious, then look no further than **Dąbrowskiego 42** (ul. Dąbrowskiego 42, E-3, p.37). As mentioned earlier this restaurant is located in a beautiful old building which gives a glimpse back to a long-forgotten Poznan, but to visit purely for this reason would be missing the point. On offer are such delights as beef carpaccio, king prawns wrapped in parma ham and wild salmon in fresh herb sauce, creating a happy conundrum come decision time.

## Drinking

Ok, so you're not exactly on Stary Rynek, but there are a few places around Jezyce worth popping your head into, and the main one at the moment seems to be **Agawa** (ul. Mickiewicza 28, E-3). Something of a Jezyce institution, this place draws in a right odd mixture of drunken barflies, darts enthusiasts, disco-dancers, expats and, perhaps best of all, groups of giggling students. One of the main reasons to visit actually is for the darts, and the recent addition of real bristle boards has been the cause of much excitement amongst locals. There are also a couple of TVs beaming down footy on a regular basis, making it a great place to catch the Champion's League, Premier League or Poland's Ekstraklasa.

**Billaboom Pool Hall** (ul. Mickiewicza 32, E-3, p.51) is directly next door a good way to kick off your night of debauchery before heading on to somewhere a bit more lively, but for those perhaps looking to chill out there are two place just

across the road which are ideal. **Alkoholi z Dusza** (ul. Słowackiego 16, E-3) is an interesting little haunt, coolly decorated and offering around 220 different beers which you'll be hard pushed to find in many other bars around the city. For couples looking for something a little more cosy, just on the corner is **Dylemat** (ul. Mickiewicza 27, E-3), offering low lighting, soft music and a warm, romantic atmosphere. It also hosts regular concerts, so you might be lucky enough to catch a local act.

## Entertainment

Apart from stuffing your face or downing cheap beer, there are a couple of other ways to enjoy your time in the district. Anyone fed up hearing about IMAX movies and 3-D glasses will be happy to note that Poz has its fair share of independent cinemas catering to those with slightly more subtle tastes and one of the best can be found in Jezyce. Opened back in 1937, **Rialto** (ul. Dąbrowskiego 38, E-3, kinorialto.poznan.pl) has seen a few changes over the years but its popularity has never waned. Old-fashioned and unassuming, while it doesn't completely shun Hollywood blockbusters like some of the smaller cinemas around the city, there is a tendency to veer towards the more indie end of the spectrum, allowing for a good mixture of movies to please everyone. The large sign out front on the main street makes Rialto easy to spot, however after entering the courtyard it's a case of just following your nose and sussing out which plain door leads to the entrance.

For those perhaps looking for something slightly more cultured, **Nowy Teatr**, or 'New Theatre' (ul. Dąbrowskiego 5, F-3, teatrnowy.pl), is situated close to the beginning of Jezyce and, like some of its aforementioned neighbours, is one of the city's more glorious buildings. Of course going to watch theatre productions on foreign shores is always tricky, but those who are prepared to put aside language difficulties will be presented with some of Poznań's more off-the-wall and artsy performances. Incidentally, this year sees the theatre enjoying something of a dual celebration - 90 years since its first performance and 40 years since its current Director Izabella Cywińska took over. If nothing else, the theatre is worth visiting to check out the facade alone - especially when lit up at night.

As we've mentioned, Jezyce is not going to be your first port of call upon arrival in Poznań, but with its number of intriguing venues steadily growing, to miss it out of the guide completely seems a shame. Do yourself a favour and have a look around the neighbourhood - in three or four year's time you might even be able to look back and say "I was there before it was all the rage."



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## Tourist Card



The Poznań local government offers a tourist card for visitors that allows you to visit the city's attractions while enjoying either free admission or discounted prices to more than 70 places. The card also incorporates free travel on the city's public transport system (it's an optional feature for an increased price), so you will be given a guide along with the card explaining how to use it and informing you of which places offer free admission (most museums) and which offer discounts (a selection of restaurants, theatres and other attractions such as the zoos, Lech Visitors Centre and various leisure activities). The card can also be used in selected places outside of the city such as Kórnik Castle and you can enjoy the additional benefit of using the card there for an extra day in addition to the number of days that the card is valid in the city.

Cards cost **35zł for 1-day (30zł without transport), 49zł for 2-days (35zł without transport), and 59zł for 3-days (45zł without transport)**, and can be purchased from every Tourist Information Centre as well as a few hotels. Every venue in our guide which accepts the Poznań Tourist Card has been marked with a symbol.

## Okraglak



Looking for remnants of the Peoples' Republic? Then look no further than on the western end of (A-2) ul. Grudnia 27. It's here you'll be met by the sight of the Okraglak (Rotunda) building, a cylindrical marvel that has come to be regarded as one of Poznań's defining icons and which since 2003 has been a listed building. Constructed between 1948 and 1955 the building is a leading example of Polish modernism, and built to a blueprint sketched by Marek Leykam.

Originally slated to be ten storeys, this eight floor masterpiece once housed Poznań's top department store, and it was here during the dark days of communism that locals would queue to find 'luxury' products unavailable elsewhere. Today, after years of abject neglect, work has been completed to restore the beast to its former glory. Under the guiding hand of JEMS Architekci the building has been turned into 51,000 square metres of A-class office space, with an opening date in September 2012. As for Marek Leykam, the brain-box who designed this battlepig, more of his work can be found in the shape of the University of Physical Education in Poznań, as well as in the capital – it was he who designed the Government Office on ul. Wspólna 62, as well as the 10th Anniversary Stadium bulldozed to make way for the brand new National Stadium.

## By Bus

**Main Bus Station (Główny Dworzec Autobusowy) F-4, ul. Stanisława Matyi 1, tel. (+48) 703 30 33 30, [www.pks.poznan.pl](http://www.pks.poznan.pl).** PKS Poznań Bus Station moves at the beginning of November from its old haunt on ul. Stanisława Matyi to classier digs at the shiny new Main Train Station at ul. Dworcowa 1. Expect things to be in flux for weeks surrounding the move, and to read up on all the amenities you'll now have access to check out our section on the Main Train Station. ▶ Ticket office open 07:00 - 19:00, Sun 09:00 - 19:00.

## By Plane

**Poznań Ławica Airport (Port Lotniczy Poznań Ławica) ul. Bukowska 285 (Grunwald), tel. (+48) 61 849 23 43, [www.airport-poznan.com.pl](http://www.airport-poznan.com.pl).** Poznań Ławica Airport (Port Lotniczy Poznań Ławica) is 7km west of central Poznań and recently opened a new terminal (which is where you will arrive), with the old terminal utilized for departures. On arrival there is an exchange bureau (kantors - see Directory) and a cash machine (bankomat) to get Polish currency (złoty). A Tourist Info point can be found in the new terminal, and aside from stocking Poznań's best guidebook you can also purchase the usual array of tourist services. Food vendors include SolCoffee and Mezzo Pasta Frescas for snacks. With all sensible airports there is absolutely no left luggage facility. Calling home is no problem; find phone booths located before passport control - chip cards to operate them are available from every newsagent. They'll also be able to sell you SIM cards and pre-paid cards for your mobile phone.

Getting to town is a cinch. Taxis stand right outside the entrance, though if none should be waiting call a reputable operator like M1 (61 82 22 222), Euro Taxi (61 811 11 11) or Radio Taxi RMI (61 821 92 19). On the whole you'll pay around 40-50zł to get to town but always confirm your fare with the driver before committing. Do be on the lookout for cowboy drivers as well, and only use taxis that are clearly marked with their company name and a list of prices. Cut costs by getting a bus. There is a stop right outside the entrance with two buses running from it: Line 59 heads to Rondo Kaponiera with journey time taking 17 minutes. It leaves every half an hour from 05:05, the last one departing at 22:55. Alternatively catch the Express Line L (Airport - Central Station). Journey time takes 16 minutes and there are two buses per hour (from 05:15 to 22:15). At other times the airport is connected to the central train station by a night bus (line 242), with one an hour from 23:52 till 03:52. Journey time should take 23 minutes. Single tickets valid for the 30 minute journey can be bought from kiosks, TI or ticket machines. Remember to validate your ticket on boarding.

## By Train

**Main Train Station (Dworzec Główny) E-4, ul. Dworcowa 1, tel. (+48) 22 39 19 757 (from foreign mobile phones), [www.pkp.pl](http://www.pkp.pl).** The Polish rail network is coming in for some much needed investment after years of neglect. While track improvements are ongoing (and delay inducing), there is now a massive station modernisation programme underway which will eventually see 40 stations either modernised or rebuilt at a cost of 980 million złoty over a period of five years. In Poznań, the main train station (Dworzec Poznań Główny) is opposite the Trade Fair Centres and about 10 minutes by taxi to the main square. The cur-



Photo: Leinad/CC BY-SA 3.0

rent site is being completely redeveloped at a cost of 160 million złoty which will eventually see a new state-of-the-art station forming the centre of an Integrated Transport Centre incorporating a rail, bus, tram and road hub (the bus portion opens in November). The site features six platforms (three of which are located under the brand new station itself) and in the future will also have a shopping mall and parking facilities for 900 cars. The expected completion is anywhere from October to December.

At the time of press the first part of this development was open and a sparkling new station now stands next to the old outdated original. Your best bet for tourist information is the large grey desk which is operated by the city of Poznań. In addition to stocking the city's best guide (ahem) they can help with maps, directions and any questions you may have. If you are only staying a couple of hours you can leave your luggage in the on-site lockers and if you're looking to kill time, there are a number of places to sit down with refreshments, including Costa Coffee, Starbucks and Le Crobag all located in the new part. Tram and bus tickets can be bought from the MPK kiosk outside the old station building.

Train tickets can be purchased from staff 24 hours, though using the ticket machines (which can be done in English) is just as simple. If you're running late, note that it is possible to buy tickets onboard the train for a small surcharge. Platforms (perons) are clearly marked with large numbers and are easily accessible.

Taxis to the main square will cost around 10-20 złotys and there's a constant line outside which is impossible to miss. Bus 51 also runs near the city centre (drops at Male Garbary) with buses leaving every 15 minutes. The service runs from 04:51 to 23:16 and a 15 minute ticket will be enough to get you into town.

Current construction work being done close to the station means that the tram network is in a bit of a mess at the moment. However number 6 at Most Dworcowy will take you to Półwiejska (next to the Stary Browar shopping centre) which is an easy 10 minute walk from the main square. ▶ Open 24hrs. Note that due to system maintenance seat reservations cannot be made between 00:00 - 01:00.

**COK Intercity E-4, ul. Dworcowa 2, tel. (+48) 197 57, [www.intercity.pl](http://www.intercity.pl).** English speaking train information in the main ticket hall of the old train station. ▶ Open 09:00 - 20:30.

## Public Transport

Poznań is criss-crossed by 19 tram routes (of which one runs at night), and 58 bus lines (20 at night). During the day these run from around 05:00 to 23:00 with trams and buses running approximately every ten minutes.

When buying a ticket travellers are presented with a galaxy of options, and until the end of the year your timed tickets are extended due to repair work in the city; that means from Mon-Fri 06:00 - 19:00, and on Sat 08:00 - 14:00 a 15-minute ticket will be current for 25 minutes and a 30-minute ticket will be current for 45 minutes. Fares are as follows:

Ticket for normal and night tram/bus in A zone:

- up to 15 minutes - 2.80/1.40zł
- up to 30 minutes - 3.60/1.80zł
- up to 60 minutes - 4.20/2.10zł.

Ticket for normal and night tram/bus for A, B and C zones:

- up to 30 minutes - 3.80/1.90zł
- up to 60 minutes - 4.40/2.20zł
- up to 120 minutes - 6.20/3.10zł.

24 hours ticket for normal, night and express tram/bus valid for A and B zones - 12.80/6.40zł. The same ticket with zone C added is 21.40/10.70zł.

7 day ticket for normal, night and express tram/bus valid in A and B zones - 34.20/17.10zł. The same ticket with zone C added is 53.60/26.80zł.

One ride bus ticket for normal and night bus (in A zone only) up to 10 bus stops - 2.80/1.40zł, over 10 stops - 3.60/1.80zł.

One ride bus ticket for normal and night buses in B or C zone - 2.40/1.20zł.

One ride bus ticket for normal and night buses in zones A and B or B and C - 3.80/1.90zł.

One ride bus ticket for normal and night buses valid in A, B and C zones - 4.40/2.20zł.

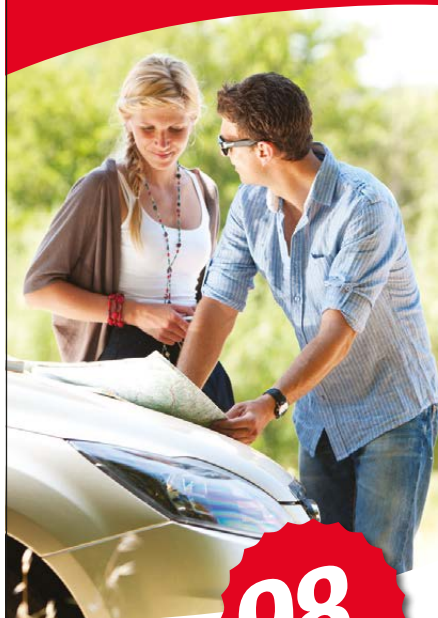
Children under five and adults over 70 travel for free, and discounts are available for foreign students under age 26 in possession of an ISIC card. Tickets can be purchased from the newsagent kiosks around town, just ask for a 'bilec'.

Our advice if you are here for a few days is to pick up the Poznań City Card which gives you free unlimited use of the public transport system as part of the price. It'll save an awful lot of headaches.

It is extremely important that you remember to validate your ticket by punching it in the 'kasowniki' found by the bus/tram exit as soon as you board. If you don't have a valid ticket and find yourself nicked by a plain clothes inspector you'll be fined 140zł on the spot as well as the cost of the ticket you didn't purchase/validate. Many don't look very official so you are within your rights to ask for their ID. You can opt to pay within seven days (in which case the fine rises to 196zł), or within 14 days (280zł).



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## By Car

Driving to Poznań is fairly easy as it's on the main E30 highway between Warsaw and Berlin. Driving around Poznań's one way streets can be trying and as the Market Square is closed to traffic you may have to drive half way around the city to get from one side to the other.

Most parking spaces in Poznań are paid and use either chip cards or coins. Chip cards are only sold from the parking authority SPP's office so you'll most likely need coins while the prices are displayed and depend on which parking zone you find yourself in. A combination of traffic jams and car crime make it advisable to leave your car in one of the guarded car parks dotted around the city and use the local transport system to get around.

**Guarded Parking G-2, ul. Kościuszki 118 (Hotel Ikar), tel. (+48) 61 658 71 05.** Guarded parking available at Hotel Ikar for non-hotel guests.

**Guarded Parking E-3, ul. Roosevelta 20 (Hotel Mercure Poznań Centrum).**

## Car Rental

**AVIS** ul. Bukowska 285 (Ławica Airport), tel. (+48) 61 849 23 35, [www.avis.pl](http://www.avis.pl).

pl. Avis, the global leader in car rentals, offer short and long rental cars, vans and chauffeur driven vehicles, including everything from small city cars to shared vans. Over 1,000 models are available with all equipped with air conditioning, airbags and ABS to ensure both comfort and safety. Flexible terms of cooperation from experts in professionalism, convenience and safety. Also at Pl. Andersa 3 (G-4, IBB Andersia Hotel) ▶ Open 08:00 - 23:00, Sat 09:00 - 13:00. Closed Sun. Telephone line manned 24hrs a day.

**Europcar**

**Europcar** ul. Bukowska 285 (Ławica Airport), tel. (+48) 61 849 23 57, [www.europcar.pl](http://www.europcar.pl).

**europcar.pl.** Europcar is one of the biggest car rental companies in Poland offering many rental options (both short and long term) that will suit all needs (8 different categories of cars are available; Europcar is present at all Polish airports and many other convenient locations). Europcar creates flexible driving solutions to meet your individual mobility needs. In doing so they deliver excellence in services and benefits that are tailored to fulfil your specific requirements. ▶ Open 09:00 - 23:30.

**Budget** ul. Bukowska 285 (Ławica Airport), tel. (+48) 601 35 46 89, [www.budget.pl](http://www.budget.pl). Phone reservations recommended on weekends, and outside business hours reservations can be made over the phone until midnight. ▶ Open 08:00 - 19:00, Sat, Sun 10:00 - 18:00.

**Hertz** ul. Bukowska 285 (Ławica Airport), tel. (+48) 61 868 41 77, [www.hertz.com.pl](http://www.hertz.com.pl). ▶ Open 08:00 - 18:00, Sat, Sun 08:00 - 11:00.

**National** ul. Złotowska 79, tel. +48 696 17 62 76, [www.nationalcar.com.pl](http://www.nationalcar.com.pl). ▶ Open 09:00-17:00, Sat, Sun open on request.

**Sixt** ul. Bukowska 285 (Ławica Airport), tel. (+48) 61 847 14 68, [www.sixt.pl](http://www.sixt.pl). ▶ Open 09:00 - 20:00. Closed Sat, Sun.

## Getting Around

One of the best aspects of being a tourist in Poznań is the excellent public transportation; practically no corner of the city is off limits thanks to the myriad trains and buses bustling along the streets. Navigating those routes can be another story, however, and we'll cop to having been intimidated by the prospect upon first arriving in Poland. That is until we discovered two veritable skeleton keys to public transport: the Poznań.jakdojade.pl website and the Scheduler PL app for your smartphone. The former is a great tool for doing advanced planning for your day. You can either enter your starting address and destination address into respective boxes or pinpoint the locations on the map. Select the time you want to depart or arrive, and magically the website churns out the best method for you to get where you want to go. You can even opt for degrees of laziness in your travels – if you don't mind doing a bit of walking the website factors that into its directions. The Scheduler PL app is great for making last-minute transit choices when you're away from your computer. The app lets you search for route options via specific lines or stops, and lets you know how long you can expect to wait at the Marcinkowskiego stop for the #13 tram to sweep you away (for example). If you know the stop you're at and which stop you want to get to the app can similarly generate the perfect route to achieve your goal. We recommend both tools to make your experience on Poznań's public transportation a positive one.

## Taxis

Most cabs these days are reliable and use their meters but be aware of rogue taxis which hang around train stations and certain hotels. Make sure that your cab has a sign on the roof marked with the name of the company rather than just a sign simply declaring 'taxi'. Once inside make sure the driver turns on the meter and you should be fine. Under Polish law the driver should now have a cash register in the cab and is obliged to give you a printed receipt for your fare. You should expect to pay 5zł for entering the taxi followed by 2zł per kilometre. Prices rise on Sundays, holidays, late at night and for travel outside of the city limits. Taxis are obliged to display their prices in the windows of the cab so you can compare and check prices. Note that many firms offer a discount to their published prices if you phone or book in advance.

**Everest Taxi**, tel. (+48) 881 419 419.

**Express Taxi**, tel. (+48) 61 196 24, [www.taxiexpress.pl](http://www.taxiexpress.pl). Also vans and minibuses.

**Hallo Taxi**, tel. (+48) 61 196 23, [www.hallotaxipoznan.pl](http://www.hallotaxipoznan.pl).

**M1 taxi**, tel. (+48) 61 196 69, [www.taxi.poznan.pl](http://www.taxi.poznan.pl).

**MPT Taxi**, tel. (+48) 61 191 91.

**Radio Lux Taxi**, tel. (+48) 61 196 62, [www.luxtaxi.com.pl](http://www.luxtaxi.com.pl).

**ZTP Poznań**, tel. (+48) 61 196 22, [www.taxi.com.pl](http://www.taxi.com.pl).

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## Facts &amp; Figures

## Territory

Poland covers an area of 312,685 square kilometers and is the ninth biggest country in Europe. It borders the Baltic Sea and seven countries, namely the Baltic Sea (528km), Belarus (416km), Czech Republic (790km), Germany (467km), Lithuania (103km), the Russian enclave of Kaliningrad (210km), Slovakia (539km) and, Ukraine (529km).

## Longest River

The river Vistula (Wisła) is Poland's longest river at 1,047km and flows through Krakow and Warsaw before reaching the Bay of Gdańsk (Zatoka Gdańska). Poznań sits on the Warta river which reaches the Baltic via the Odra at Szczecin.

## Highest Point

The highest peak is Rysy (2,499m) in the Tatra Mountains in Poland's south.

## Population (2012)

Poland: 38,533,299  
Warsaw: 1,715,517  
Kraków: 758,334  
Łódź: 718,960  
Wrocław: 631,188  
Poznań: 550,742  
Gdańsk: 460,427  
Katowice: 307,233

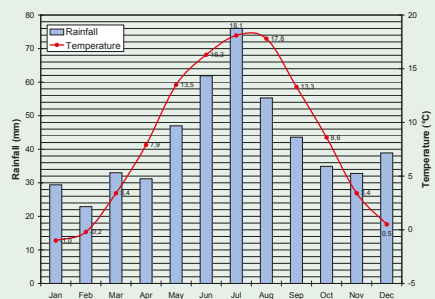
## Local Time

Poland is in the Central European (CET) time zone (GMT+1hr). When it's 12:00 in Poznań it's 11:00 in London, 12:00 in Paris and Berlin and 19:00 in Tokyo. Polish summer time (GMT+2hrs) starts and ends on the last Sundays of March and October.

## Climate

Poland has a temperate climate with hot summers and cold winters. Seasons tend to be more pronounced than in the west and temperatures can get down as low as -20°C in winter and as high as +30°C in summer. The coldest weather tends to hit around February although the last couple of winters have been fairly mild. Below is a graphic showing average temperatures and rainfall.

## Climate



Institute of Meteorology and Water Management, [www.img.w.pl](http://www.img.w.pl)

## Market Values

Prices in Poland are still fairly competitive despite increases over the last couple of years particularly in the prices of cigarettes. Here are some typical everyday products and prices.

Market values as of October 18, 2013 based on €1 = 4.13zł

Product	Price (zł)	Price (€)
McDonald's Big Mac	8.80 zł	€ 2.13
Snickers	1.59 zł	€ 0.38
0.5ltr vodka (shop)	23.49 zł	€ 5.69
0.5ltr beer (shop)	3.10 zł	€ 0.75
0.5ltr beer (bar)	9.00 zł	€ 2.18
Loaf of white bread	1.79 zł	€ 0.43
20 Marlboros	13.60 zł	€ 3.29
1 ltr of unleaded petrol (98)	5.81 zł	€ 1.41
Local transport ticket (1 journey)	2.80 zł	€ 0.68

## Customs

If you are travelling within the EU those over 18 can now take 10 litres of spirits, 90 litres of wine and 110 litres of beer. Most countries will not allow more than 800 cigarettes from Poland. If purchasing art or books, you need to consider their age and value. In order to leave the country, art must be both less than 50 years old and under a certain value (varies depending by type; photos -6,000zł, other art -16,000zł, for example); if these conditions are met, the gallery curator can then provide you with a 'zaświadczenie' (permission document) describing the artwork's price and when and where it was created. If the work exceeds the permitted age or value, you must get permission from the 'Wojewódzki Konserwator Zabytków' (Regional Curator's Office) to take it out of Poland; bear in mind that this process will likely take 2-3 months. Books must be less than 100 years old and under 6,000zł in value in order to leave the country; if neither applies, permission must be obtained from the National Library. Obviously, problems arise when purchases are made at bazaars or flea markets where vendors cannot provide the necessary documents; if there is any doubt about the value or age of your purchase, we suggest you visit an 'Antykwariat' (antiques dealer - see shopping) for advice.

## Electricity

Electricity in Poland is 230V, 50Hz AC. Plug sockets are round with two round-pin sockets. Therefore if you are coming from the UK or Ireland you will be needing a plug converter. The best place to pick these up is at home as our resident Brits will testify, although if you do arrive without a converter you can try your hotel concierge or reception. If they fail to come up trumps try one of the big electrical outlets often situated on the edge of town.

## Health &amp; Emergency

In case of an emergency those dialling from a land line or public payphone should use the following numbers: 999 for an ambulance, 998 for the fire brigade and 997 for the police. Mobile phone users should call 112 to be forwarded to the relevant department. English speaking assistance is not necessarily guaranteed, and rests on the linguistic capabilities of the call operator.

English, German and Russian speakers have the option of using separate lines specifically designed for foreigners in distress: dial +48 608 599 999 or +48 22 278 77 77. Both numbers can be reached from a mobile phone or a land line and are hotlines

in case you run into any troubles during your stay. The lines are active year round with later hours during the high-tourist season. Further help can be provided by embassies and consulates, of which a comprehensive list can be found in the directory section. If you've run out of money, however, then silly you. No embassy will bail you out, and and your hopes will rest on a Western Union money transfer. Most banks and many exchange bureaux (kantors) can now carry out such transactions, just keep an eye out for anywhere displaying the Western Union logo.

For a list of clinics and hospitals check the directory section at the back of this guide.

## Internet

**Adax Internet Cafe G-4, ul. Półwiejska 28, tel. (+48) 61 850 11 00, [www.adaxland.poznan.pl](http://www.adaxland.poznan.pl).** ▶ Open 08:00 - 20:00, Sat 10:00 - 20:00. Closed Sun. Internet cafe with printing and CD burning capabilities. 4zł per hour.

**Cafe Cz@towa ul. Głogowska 142 (Grunwald), tel. (+48) 61 661 55 31, [www.serwisowniapi.pl](http://www.serwisowniapi.pl).** ▶ Open 10:00 - 22:00, Sun 12:00 - 20:00. 3.50zł per hour. Printing and cd-burning services available. They also offer a computer/laptop repair service.

## Law &amp; Order

In general Poznań is far safer than most Western cities, and visitors are unlikely to face any problems. Petty crime does exist, and travellers should be on guard against pickpockets working tram and bus routes by the train station. If you're in a bar or a restaurant keep your wallet inside your trouser pocket, not inside a jacket casually left lying around. Those travelling by car are advised to use a guarded car park. Avoid being ripped off by opportunistic taxi gits by using clearly marked cabs, something to bear in mind around the train station and airport. The vagrants and pondlife who gather around the train station are by in large harmless and easily ignored.

Staying on the right side of the law is significantly easier for tourists who accept that Polish beer and vodka are rocket fuel and drink accordingly. If you're determined to make an idiot of yourself then make sure it's not in front of the law. In recent years visitors ranging from folks in Chewbacca costumes to complete fools who've thought it's perfectly acceptable to drop trousers and urinate in a city centre fountain have tested

## Quick Currency Convertor

PLN	US\$	Euro	Pound
	<b>3.02zł = \$1</b>	<b>4.13zł = €1</b>	<b>4.88zł = £1</b>
1 zł	\$0.33	€ 0.24	£0.20
2 zł	\$0.66	€ 0.48	£0.41
3 zł	\$0.99	€ 0.73	£0.61
4 zł	\$1.32	€ 0.97	£0.82
5 zł	\$1.66	€ 1.21	£1.02
6 zł	\$1.99	€ 1.45	£1.23
7 zł	\$2.32	€ 1.69	£1.43
8 zł	\$2.65	€ 1.94	£1.64
9 zł	\$2.98	€ 2.18	£1.84
10 zł	\$3.31	€ 2.42	£2.05
20 zł	\$6.62	€ 4.84	£4.10
50 zł	\$16.56	€ 12.11	£10.25
100 zł	\$33.11	€ 24.21	£20.49
150 zł	\$49.67	€ 36.32	£30.74
200 zł	\$66.23	€ 48.43	£40.98
250 zł	\$82.78	€ 60.53	£51.23
1 000 zł	\$331.13	€ 242.13	£204.92

## Language Smarts

Many Poles, particularly young people, have a healthy command of the English language. Many are also adept at other European languages with German being the most commonly spoken. Older Poles will fiercely contest that they have 'forgotten' the Russian taught to them at school but most will still have a reasonable understanding.

Mastering the Polish tongue can be a terrifying ordeal, often resulting in personal degradation as shop assistants laugh at your flustered attempts. That aside, learning a few key phrases will smooth your time in Poznań and may even win you friends and admirers.

On the downside, Polish is one of the most difficult languages for native English speakers to learn. On the upside, unlike in English, words in Polish are spelled the way they are pronounced. This is a great help once you know how to pronounce each letter/combination of letters. While many letters represent the same sounds as they do in English, below we have listed those particular to Polish, followed by some basic words and phrases. Powodzenia (good luck)!

## Basic Pronunciation:

'a' sounds like 'on' in the French 'bon'  
'e' sounds like 'en' as in the French 'bien'  
'o' is an open 'o' sound like 'oo' in 'boot'  
'c' like the 'ts' in 'bits'  
'j' like the 'y' in 'yeah'  
'w' is pronounced like the English 'v'  
'i' like the 'w' in 'win'  
'n' like the 'ny' in 'canyon'  
'cz' and 'c' like the 'ch' in 'beach'  
'dz' like the 'ds' in 'beds'  
'rz' and 'z' like the 'su' in 'treasure'  
'sz' and 's' like the 'sh' in 'ship'  
'drz' like the 'g' in 'George'  
'r' is always rolled

Yes	Tak	(Tahk)
No	Nie	(Nyeh)
Hi/Bye (informal)	Cześć	(Cheshch)
Hello/Good day (formal)	Dzień dobry	(Jen doh-bri)
Good evening (formal)	Dobry wieczór	(Doh-bri vyeeh-choor)
Good-bye	Do widzenia	(Doh veet-zen-ya)
Good Night	Dobranoc	(Doh-brah-noats)
Please	Proszę	(Prosheh)
Thank you	Dziękuję	(Jen-koo-yeh)
Excuse me/Sorry	Przepraszam	(Psheh-prasham)

My name is...	Mam na imię...	(Mam nah ee-mye...)
I'm from England.	Jestem z Anglii	(Yehstem zanglee)
Do you speak English?	Czy mówisz po angielsku?	(Che moo-veesh po an-gyel-skoo?)
I don't speak Polish.	Nie mówię po polsku.	(Nye moo-vyeh po pol-skoo.)
I don't understand.	Nie rozumiem.	(Nye row-zoo-me-ehm.)
Two beers, please.	Dwa piwa proszę.	(Dvah peevah prosheh.)
Cheers!	Na zdrowie!	(Nah zdroyeh!)
Where are the toilets?	Gdzie są toalety?	(Gdjuh sawn toe-letih)
You are beautiful.	Jesteś piękna.	(Yeh-tesh pee-enk-nah.)
I love you.	Kocham cię.	(Ko-hahm chuh.)
Please take me home.	Proszę zabierz mnie do domu.	(Prosheh za-byesh mnye doh doh-moo.)
Call me!	Zadzwoń do mnie!	(Zads-dvoan doh mnye!)

Airport	Lotnisko	(Lot-nees-ko)
Train station	Dworzec PKP	(Dvoar-jets Peh Kah Peh)
Bus station	Dworzec PKS	(Dvoar-jets Peh Kah Ess)
One ticket to...	Jeden bilet do...	(Yeh-den bee-let doh...)



## National Holidays

<b>November 1</b>	All Saints' Day
<b>November 11</b>	Independence Day (Nov 11, 1918)
<b>December 25</b>	First Day of Christmas
<b>December 26</b>	Second Day of Christmas
<b>January 1, 2014</b>	New Year's Day
<b>January 6, 2014</b>	Three Kings
<b>April 20, 2014</b>	Easter Sunday
<b>April 21, 2014</b>	Easter Monday
<b>May 1</b>	Labour Day
<b>May 3</b>	Constitution Day (May 3, 1791)
<b>June 8, 2014</b>	Pentecost Sunday
<b>June 19, 2014</b>	Corpus Christi
<b>August 15</b>	Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary, also Polish Army Day

the patience of the local law enforcement. Their tolerance threshold is now decidedly low so don't push your luck. Those who do may well be treated to a trip to Poznań's premier drunk tank (ul. Podolarańska 46), a chastening experience which will set you back 250zł for a 6-24 hour stay. In return for your cash expect a strip search, a set of blue pyjamas and the company of a dozen mumbling vagrants. Those resisting arrest may well find themselves strapped down to a bed, One Flew Over The Cuckoo's Nest-style. Refreshment comes in the form of limitless coffee, though the mug sometimes comes with a smell of urine for a reason. Credit cards not accepted. The other well-known ways tourists can cross cops by jaywalking. If you are from a country which has no (or doesn't respect) jaywalking laws, you'll be surprised to see a crowd of people standing obediently at a crossing waiting for the lights to change. This peculiarity has extra effect if you are aware of how little Poles respect the rules of the road in a vehicle, where it often feels like a survival of the fittest. The reason for the obedience of this particular rule is the fact that the local city police (Straż Miejska) will quite freely give you a 100zł fine for crossing a road at a place where no crossing is marked or a 100zł fine when the 'walk' light is red. And don't think you are exempt by being a foreign visitor. You are subject to the law too and your non-residency means you will need to pay the fine on the spot.

## Money

Thinking of paying for your tram ticket with one of the 100zł notes in your pocket? Think again. Small shops, newsagents, public toilets, even the occasional fast food franchise and bar will refuse to break a large note for you. As annoying as coins can be, do carry small change for such moments. Notes come in denominations of 200, 100, 50, 20 and 10 złotych, and there are 1, 2 and 5 złotych coins. One złoty equals 100 groszy which come in 1, 2, 5, 10, 20 and 50 groszy coins. Currency can be exchanged at airports, hotels, banks and anywhere with a sign proclaiming it to be a Kantor and you will also be able to withdraw currency at a bankomat using your ATM card. A Kantor will often provide better value than the banks in your home country or the ATM although for obvious reasons be very wary of Kantors in the airports, bus stations and close to tourist sights - by in large, these guys will charge the earth. Shopping around will reward you with the best rate. The Polish currency has been up and down in recent years but the trend is that you will be receiving less for your euros, dollars and sterling than in years past. Having said that prices for food, drink, cultural venues and transport still remain comparatively cheap in contrast to Western Europe. A ticket to the cinema will rarely cost more than 20zł while admission to most museums costs around 5-10zł.

## Post

**Post Office (Urząd Pocztowy Poznań 1) A-2, ul. Kościuszki 77, tel. (+48) 61 869 74 08, www.poczta-polska.pl.** The main post office is relatively user-friendly with none of the automated ticket machines found in so many of Poland's post offices. Here you simply join whichever queue is smallest and hope for the best. Stamps are available from all windows. ▶ Open 07:00 - 20:00, Sat 08:00 - 15:00. Closed Sun.

**Post Office C-1, ul. 23 Lutego 28, tel. (+48) 61 886 55 01, www.poczta-polska.pl.** ▶ Open 08:00 - 20:00, Sat 08:00 - 14:00. Closed Sun.

**Post Office os. Orła Białego 3 (Nowe Miasto), tel. (+48) 61 886 57 01, www.poczta-polska.pl.** ▶ Open 08:00 - 20:00, Sat 08:00 - 14:00. Closed Sun.

**Post Office D-2, ul. Wodna 17/19, tel. (+48) 61 886 55 19, www.poczta-polska.pl.** The post office in the old town area. Send and receive packages and letters and buy stamps from windows N°1-3. ▶ Open 08:00 - 20:00, Sat 09:00 - 14:00. Closed Sun.

## Religion

For over one thousand years Poland has been a bulwark of Catholicism, fighting against the horrors of pagan invasion and looking to Catholicism for a sense of social and national unity. When Poland was partitioned in the 19th century, many turned to the church for solace and during the communist era, underground resistance meetings were surreptitiously held in churches. The deceased Polish-born Pope John Paul II remains a genuine source of pride for all Poles, and is beloved in a way more profound than cynics in the West can understand. Many Poles genuinely believe that John Paul II single-handedly started the overthrow of Communism in Central and Eastern Europe. Small wonder then that your average Pole takes Catholicism very seriously. Those used to the more easy-going habits of the West may find the Polish enthusiasm a bit unnerving at first, particularly the solemn and opulent processions that occur from time to time and the droves that flock to mass.

## Toilets

Generally speaking toilets in Poland come marked with a circle for women, and a triangle for men. Although the habit is gradually dying some restaurants and bars still charge a nominal fee for use of their facilities - no matter how much cash you've already spent in the establishment. This is a practice also used in train stations and most public conveniences.

**Toilet C-1, Stary Rynek 3.**  
**Toilet B-2, Pl. Wolności / ul. Ratajczaka 44 (Arkadia).**

## Water

Water in Poland is officially safe to drink although the quality of plumbing in many places can affect the quality of the water that is delivered from your tap. We therefore recommend that you use bottled water which is widely available and inexpensive. The best known bottled local brands are Żywiec, Cisowianka, Kropka Beskidu and Nałęczowianka. In restaurants many tourists are surprised to find a glass of water is not compulsory, and ordering some typically results in the receipt of a tiny glass bottle that will barely wet your whistle. Beer is often a better bet since it's cheaper and arrives in larger quantities, but if you're set on having water it's best to learn the difference between gazowana (carbonated water) and niegazowana (still water).

## Art Galleries

**Arsenal City Gallery (Galeria Miejska Arsenal) C-2, Stary Rynek 6, tel. (+48) 61 852 95 02, www.arsenal.art.pl.** ▶ Open 12:00 - 19:00, Sun 11:00 - 15:00. Closed Mon. Admission 7/5zł.

**Artistic Ceramics (Ceramika Artystyczna) D-2, ul. Woźna 4, tel. (+48) 61 853 02 35, www.ceramika-wozna.pl.** ▶ Open 10:00 - 18:00, Sat 10:00 - 14:00. Closed Sun. Admission free.

**Art Stations Foundation G-4, Stary Browar, ul. Półwiejska 42, tel. (+48) 61 859 61 22, www.art-stationsfoundation5050.com.** ▶ Open 12:00 - 19:00. Admission free.

**Garbary 48 Gallery (Galeria Garbary 48) D-3, ul. Garbary 48, tel. (+48) 61 852 91 70, www.garbary48.com.pl.** ▶ Open 11:00 - 18:00, Sat 11:00 - 14:00. Closed Sun. Admission free.

## Cinemas

**Charlie & Monroe Kino Malta C-3, ul. Rybaki 6a, tel. (+48) 605 47 44 99, www.kinomalta.pl.** ▶ Box office open depending on repertoire. Tickets 7-16zł.

**Cinema City Plaza / IMAX ul. Drużbickiego 2 (Winogrody), tel. (+48) 61 662 62 62, www.cinemacity.pl.** ▶ Box office open from 30 minutes before the first showtime to 15 minutes after the last showtime. Tickets 16-29zł.

**Multikino Malta K-5, Galeria Malta, ul. Abpa A. Barania 8, tel. (+48) 61 628 17 24, www.multikino.pl.** ▶ Box office open from 09:00 to 15 minutes after the last showtime. Tickets 16-36zł.

**Muza B-2, ul. Św. Marcina 30, tel. (+48) 61 852 34 03, www.kinomuzea.pl.** ▶ Box office open from 14:00 until the last performance. Sat, Sun open from 30 minutes before the first performance until the last performance. Tickets 8-18zł.

## Cultural Centres

**Castle Cultural Centre (Centum Kultury Zamek) A-2, ul. Św. Marcina 80/82, tel. (+48) 61 646 52 60, www.zamek.poznan.pl.** ▶ Box office open 10:00 - 22:00. Admission depending on repertoire.

**Poznań Estrada C-1, ul. Masztalarska 8, tel. (+48) 61 852 88 33, www.estrada.poznan.pl.** ▶ Box office open 15:00 - 18:00; Tue, Fri 10:00 - 13:00.

## Philharmonic Stages

**Poznań Philharmonic (Filharmonia Poznańska im. Tadeusza Szelińskiego) C-2, ul. Św. Marcina 81, tel. (+48) 61 852 47 08, www.filharmoniapoznan.pl.** ▶ Box office (University Hall, F-3, ul. Wieniawskiego 1) open 13:00 - 18:00; Sat, Sun one hour before performance if there is a performance on that day. Tickets 15-100zł.

## Theatre Stages

**Music Theatre (Teatr Muzyczny) G-4, ul. Niezłomnych 1e, tel. (+48) 61 852 29 27, www.teatr-muzyczny.poznan.pl.** ▶ Box office open 09:00 - 19:00, Mon 09:00 - 15:00, Sat 15:00 - 18:00; Sun 15:00 - 17:00 on performance days only. Tickets 5-55zł.

**Polish Theatre (Teatr Polski) B-2, ul. 27 Grudnia 8/10, tel. (+48) 61 852 56 28, www.teatr-polski.pl.** ▶ Box office open 10:00 - 19:00, Sat 16:00 - 19:00 (plus right before performances), Sun 1 hour before performances. Closed Mon. Tickets 20-60zł.

## Flamenco Duende

15.11 Friday - 16.11 Saturday  
Flamenco Duende

Event takes place in various locations, [www.festivaflamenco.art.pl](http://www.festivaflamenco.art.pl). Outside it's grey, cold, miserable, and darkness falls with an unnecessary promptness, but Poznań knows the cure - sultry, sensual tunes, dynamic dancing, Spanish temperament... flamenco! It's November, and therefore time for Flamenco Duende, a festival that aims to bring the true spirit of the Andalusia Gypsy dance to Polish audiences, show the ever-evolving nature of the art, and allow performers the chance to grow and develop.

Here's the programme:

**November 15th, Blue Note Jazz Club, ul. Kościuszki 76/78, 20:00**

**Tablao - Cante Toque Baile**

A traditional Seville-style flamenco show with masterful improvisation and artist coordination, and all the necessary paraphernalia, like castanets, fans, scarves, and stunning dresses. Different styles of flamenco will be presented by the ever-so-talented Nadia Mazur, accompanied by a Spanish guitarist and vocalist. The concert will be followed by an all-night Fiesta Flamenco, so put on your dancing shoes and dance your heart out.

**November 16th, Adam Mickiewicz University Auditorium, ul. Wieniawskiego 1, 19:00**  
**Joint concert by Dorantes En Concierto and Pastora Galván**

David Peña Dorantes is a talented flamenco pianist who serenaded the king and queen of Spain at the tender age of 22 - what a way to start a career. He became quite famous in the flamenco world after the release of his 1998 album Orobroy, and performed in many festivals, also ones dedicated to other types of music. Pastora Galván is a flamenco dancer from Sicily, the daughter of dancers José Galván and Eugenia de los Reyes, and a graduate of the Seville Conservatory. She collaborates a great deal with her eccentric brother Izrael, who acts as her choreographer and coach. The Dorantes-Galván duo is sure to bring a very high artistic standard to the performance, so don't miss out.

▶ Tickets 60-200zł. Available at Tourist Information Centre (B-2, ul. Ratajczaka 44; open 10:00 - 19:00; Sat 10:00 - 17:00. Closed Sun).



**8th JAZZ FESTIVAL**  
29th Nov. - 1st Dec 2013  
POZNAN, POLAND



**Tribute to Wojtek Juszcak**

Nicole Mitchell's Sun Dial  
Dee Alexander's Funkin' with Acoustic Soul:  
A Tribute to Jimi Hendrix and James Brown  
Roscoe Mitchell/Mike Reed Duet  
KIZUNA: A Gathering for Wojciech Co-Led by  
Mwata Bowden and Tatsu Aoki  
Chicago Woj-tet  
Liquid Soul

more: [www.madeinchicago.pl](http://www.madeinchicago.pl)

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## Ballet

**08.12 Sunday**

### Moscow City Ballet - Swan Lake

**E-4, Poznań International Fair, ul. Głogowska 14, [www.makroconcert.com/pl](http://www.makroconcert.com/pl).** This timeless and well-known performance, with its costumes, music, and fantastic story that has been choreographed so flawlessly, needs no introduction. It is with dexterity and perfection that the dancers of the Moscow City Ballet bring Peter Tchaikovsky's fantasy "Swan Lake" back to life once more. Briefly, the story is of girls that have been turned into swans and live on a lake of tears - a curse that can only be broken by a prince's love. But even if you know the story, the world class performance by the Moscow City Ballet is enough reason to attend a second time. ▶ Spectacles start at 15:30 and 19:00. Tickets 110-150zł. Available at [www.eventim.pl](http://www.eventim.pl) and Empik (ul. Ratajczaka 44, B-2; open 09:00 - 21:00, Sun 11:00 - 18:00).

## Concerts

**10.11 Sunday**

### Electric Light Orchestra

**E-4, Poznań International Fair, ul. Głogowska 14, [www.makroconcert.com/pl](http://www.makroconcert.com/pl).** Electric Light Orchestra, aka ELO, hail from Birmingham, play rock, and these days operate during short periods of activity (they did the bulk of their work between 1970 and 1983). The band released 13 studio albums and no less than 37 compilation albums, selling over 50 million records worldwide. Why Electric Light? It's an intended pun, and stems from the mash of electric instruments and light orchestra. ▶ Concert starts at 19:00. Tickets 120-190zł. Available at [www.eventim.pl](http://www.eventim.pl) and Empik (ul. Ratajczaka 44, B-2; open 09:00 - 21:00, Sun 11:00 - 18:00).

**10.11 Sunday**

### Nouvelle Vague

**Eskulap Club, ul. Przybyszewskiego 39 (Grunwald), [www.makroconcert.com/pl](http://www.makroconcert.com/pl).** Marc Collin and Olivier Libaux are the Parisian co-producers leading Nouvelle Vague (New Wave). The name points at their French creativeness by referring to the New Wave film movement in the 1960s. The band covers punk rock and post-punk anthems in a '60s Bossa Nova style, layering it with softer feminine voices and sex appeal. Songs such as "Guns of Brixton", "Dance With Me" and "(Love) Will Tear Us Apart" have brought them worldwide appeal. Their debut "Nouvelle Vague" (2004) included interpretations of songs from bands like The Clash, Depeche Mode, Joy Division, and Dead Kennedys. In their 2nd album "Bande à Part" (2006), they did covers including "Ever Fallen in Love?" (Buzzcocks), "Blue Monday" (New Order), and "The Killing Moon" (Echo and the Bunnymen), and in November, they'll be supported by Melanie Pain and Liset Alea. ▶ Concert starts at 19:00. Tickets 125zł. Available at [www.eventim.pl](http://www.eventim.pl) and Empik (B-2, ul. Ratajczaka 44; open 09:00 - 21:00, Sun 11:00 - 18:00).

**23.11 Saturday**

### Symphonic Queen

**A-1, University Hall, ul. Wieniawskiego 1.** We loooove symphonic versions of supreme powerhouse rock and metal hits, so we're excited for this performance of Queen's timeless classics reimagined by Alla Vienna Orchestra and Vivid Singers. Actor and singer Mariusz Ostrowski will emulate the legendary Freddy Mercury. ▶ Concert starts at 19:30. Tickets 80-100zł. Available at [www.ticketpro.pl](http://www.ticketpro.pl) and Empik, (B-2) ul. Ratajczaka 44 (Open 09:00 - 21:00, Sun 11:00 - 18:00).

**25.11 Monday**

### Matt Dusk

**E-4, Poznań International Fair, ul. Głogowska 14, [www.goodmusic.pl](http://www.goodmusic.pl).** The stubbly-chinned Canadian jazz musician Matt Dusk has two certified gold albums to brag about: they are "Two Shots" and "Good News", and the man also has had three number one radio hits. So far it's been a busy year: he recently released his 5th full-length studio album called "My Funny Valentine: The Chet Baker Songbook" and dueted with Edyta Górniak; he'll be touring Poland in November, with shows in Poznań, Wrocław, Warsaw, and Gdańsk. ▶ Concert starts at 20:00. Tickets 110-190zł. Available at [www.ticketpro.pl](http://www.ticketpro.pl) and Empik (ul. Ratajczaka 44, B-2; open 09:00 - 21:00, Sun 11:00 - 18:00).

**26.11 Tuesday**

### Candy Dulfer

**E-4, Poznań International Fair, ul. Głogowska 14, [www.makroconcert.com/pl](http://www.makroconcert.com/pl).** Candy Dulfer is a Dutch smooth jazz and funk alto saxophonist, and she really likes sax puns - or at least did back in the nineties, if her album titles are any indication. She was born in 1969 and started her music career reeal early, recording for her father's band De Perikels at age eleven. Her most recent album, *Crazy*, was released in 2011. ▶ Concert starts at 19:00. Tickets 130-190zł. Available at [www.eventim.pl](http://www.eventim.pl) and Empik (ul. Ratajczaka 44, B-2; open 09:00 - 21:00, Sun 11:00 - 18:00).

**13.02 Thursday**

### Deep Purple

**Arena Hall, ul. Wyspiańskiego 33 (Grunwald), [www.metalmind.com.pl](http://www.metalmind.com.pl).** If you thought Deep Purple was popular where you're from, just wait until you see what happens when they take the stage at Arena Hall in Poznań. Never mind that these geezers have been performing for 44 years already, this show will make you think that time has stood still since the late 70s. With 18 albums recorded and over 100 million sold, depending on your tastes this British heavy rock outfit is either one of the most over- or under-rated bands in the world. One thing is for certain: they are extremely loud, even being recognised by Guinness as the "loudest band in the world;" bring earplugs. ▶ Concert starts at 20:00. Tickets 140-305zł. Available at [www.ticketpro.pl](http://www.ticketpro.pl) and Empik, (B-2) ul. Ratajczaka 44 (Open 09:00 - 21:00, Sun 11:00 - 18:00).

## Exhibitions

**01.11 Friday - 31.12 Tuesday**

### The Oldest Writing in the World - Wedge Plates of Mesopotamia

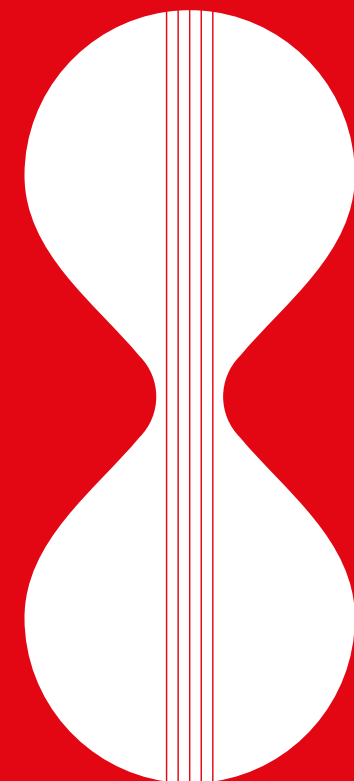
**D-2, Archeological Museum, ul. Wodna 27 (Pałac Górków), tel. (+48) 61 852 82 51, [www.muzarp.poznan.pl](http://www.muzarp.poznan.pl).** The title pretty much covers it. The Archeological Museum of Poznań has recently acquired six of these priceless ancient artefacts, and they're dying to show them to the general public. Marvel at the age-old wedge writing system, and see what else the museum has in store. ▶ Open 09:00 - 15:00; Fri, Sat 10:00 - 18:00, Sun 12:00 - 17:00. Closed Mon. Admission 8/zł, family ticket 20zł. Sat free.

**15.11 Friday - 15.12 Sunday**

### Instant Curiosities

**C-2, Arsenal City Gallery, Stary Rynek 6, tel. (+48) 61 852 95 02, [www.biennalefotografii.pl](http://www.biennalefotografii.pl).** Instant Curiosities is an exhibition focusing on good old instant photography - the much-loved polaroids of yesteryear (and it's the first retrospective exhibition dealing with this subject in Poland). The artists represent different backgrounds, generations, and styles, so the works are by no means one-note. ▶ Open 12:00 - 19:00, Sun 11:00 - 15:00. Closed Mon. Admission 7/zł.

FESTIWAL  
POZNAŃ  
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6-17 XI 2013



[www.poznanbaroque.com](http://www.poznanbaroque.com)

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## Festivals

**06.11 Wednesday - 17.11 Sunday**

### Baroque Festival

Event takes place in various locations, [www.poznanbaroque.com](http://www.poznanbaroque.com). When the days are short and cold, sightseeing isn't as fun. Luckily music makes everything better, and this lovely Baroque Festival will grant you the opportunity to enjoy masterpieces by Bach, Händel, Vivaldi, and Monteverdi in rather fetching locations, such as the Imperial Castle. Ditch the chilly streets and come listen to international artists play the chitarrone, liron, and arpa doppia. ▶ Tickets 15zł. Available at Poznań Estrada (C-1, ul. Masztalarska 8; Box office open 15:00 - 18:00; Tue, Fri 10:00 - 13:00), Muza (Cinema) (B-2, ul. Św. Marcin 30; Box office open from 14:00 until the last performance; Sat, Sun open from 30 minutes before the first performance until the last performance).

**29.11 Friday - 01.12 Sunday**

### Made in Chicago

Event takes place in various locations, [www.madeinchicago.pl](http://www.madeinchicago.pl). Ah, Chicago - according to all the stats we've heard, the Windy City has the biggest Polish populace of any metro area other than Warsaw. So it's really not a big surprise that a festival of this name would exist and would indeed be organized in collaboration with the Jazz Institute of Chicago. Yes, this is all jazz, which Poland has grown to wholeheartedly embrace. This year's edition is dedicated to Wojtek Juszcak, the festival's late co-founder. ▶ Tickets 40-60zł. Available at Poznań Estrada (C-1, ul. Masztalarska 8; Box office open 15:00 - 18:00; Tue, Fri 10:00 - 13:00) and [www.estrada.poznan.bilety24.pl](http://www.estrada.poznan.bilety24.pl)

## Misc. Events

**11.11 Monday**

### St. Martin's Day

**A-2, ul. Św. Marcin.** For Poznań, November 11th is not only Polish Independence Day, but also St. Martin's Day - a holiday that has been celebrated here since the Medieval times. The festival in its current form has been around since 1993, and takes the form of "St. Martin Street's Name Day". There will be a full day of attractions, including a parade at 14:00 (starting in front of St. Martin's Church), an Ania Rusowicz concert at 18:30, and fireworks at 21:00.

**18.12 Wednesday**

### Peter Pan on Ice

**Arena Hall, ul. Wyspiańskiego 33 (Grunwald), [www.makroconcert.com](http://www.makroconcert.com).** If you're not into talking teacups and hairy beasts but are dying to see something on ice, Peter Pan is another option to consider. The classic story of the little boy who didn't want to grow up, the fearsome Captain Hook, and the scantily-dressed Tinkerbell is here in a beautifully choreographed version with fantastic music composed by Silvio Amato. ▶ Event starts at 14:30 and 18:00. Tickets 40-120zł. Available at [www.eventim.pl](http://www.eventim.pl) and Empik (ul. Ratajczaka 44, B-2; open 09:00 - 21:00, Sun 11:00 - 18:00).

**19.12 Thursday**

### Beauty and the Beast

**Arena Hall, ul. Wyspiańskiego 33 (Grunwald), [www.makroconcert.com](http://www.makroconcert.com).** Disney / related storybook characters on ice: classic family fun this time of year. Spend an afternoon watching top-notch choreography by the renowned Giuseppe Arena and listening to music composed by Silvio Amato. Beautiful rendition of a timeless fairytale. ▶ Event starts at 14:30 and 18:00. Tickets 40-120zł. Available at [www.eventim.pl](http://www.eventim.pl) and Empik (ul. Ratajczaka 44, B-2; open 09:00 - 21:00, Sun 11:00 - 18:00).

Visitors to Poznań will be pleasantly surprised to find that the city is home to some of the most impressive hotel properties in the country. Poznań's role as Poland's epicentre for conferences and fairs has clearly benefited those who like plush accommodations and modern conveniences like flat screen televisions and lightning-fast Wi-Fi to come standard. On the flip side, those major conferences can cause prices to shoot up when space is in demand (rates tend to double during the annual MTP, Polagra, Budma and Infosystem fairs). Fortunately most hotels compensate by offering impressive weekend discounts to encourage travellers to stick around and explore the city. With the increasing irrelevance of official rack rates these days due to these special offers, online booking discounts and other price variations, we no longer find it particularly instructive to list room prices in our guide. Case in point, anyone who uses the **Hotel Calculator** function on our website - [www.poznan.inyourpocket.com](http://www.poznan.inyourpocket.com) - will find a better rate than the official prices we once printed; as such, we encourage you to do just that and you can thank us later.

Accommodation is categorised here subjectively based on a combination of lodging type, location, price and amenities, and in our print guide we only list those lodgings that we most recommend to tourists.

## Cream of the Crop

**Blow Up Hall 5050 G-4, ul. Kościuszki 42, tel. (+48) 61 657 99 80, [www.blowuphall5050.com](http://www.blowuphall5050.com).** If you want wow factor then look no further, Blow Up Hall is the most exciting hotel development that Poznań, nay Poland, has ever seen. Attached to the Stary Browar building this is little less than a work of art. Based on a project by Rafael Lozano-Hemmer, this hotel's aim is to allow guests to 'experience and participate in the creation of art'. Pretentious? You bet. But who cares, if there's one place you should scrimp and save to stay in, it's this one. Perks include in house spa, butler service, Bang & Olufsen equipment and iphones for guests. There's little point in describing the individually designed rooms, suffice it to say they make use of the latest fads, trends and techno gimmicks; you really have to see it to believe it. ▶ 22 rooms (22 singles, 18 doubles). [www.blowuphall5050.com](http://www.blowuphall5050.com) ★★★★★

**City Park Hotel & Residence E-4, ul. Wyspiańskiego 26a, tel. (+48) 61 221 84 00, [www.cityparkhotel.pl](http://www.cityparkhotel.pl).** An oasis of opulence and class, the City Park Residence offers luxury accommodation in a low-level fin de siècle building, whose exterior makes use of sandblasted brickwork and plenty of glass. Rooms are nothing less than the final word in designer living and sport 32 inch flatscreen TVs,

king size beds, safe and work desk, while the bathrooms come dripping with generous bathtubs. Since our last visit they have added an in-house restaurant, Cucina, to accompany the already classy Whisky Bar 88 which boasts over 500 types of whisky. The swimming pool - set under a curvy glass roof - is one of the seven wonders of Poznań. ▶ 88 rooms (88 apartments). [www.andersiahotel.pl](http://www.andersiahotel.pl) ★★★★★

**IBB Andersia Hotel G-4, Pl. Andersa 3, tel. (+48) 61 667 80 00, [www.andersiahotel.pl](http://www.andersiahotel.pl).** A well-located tower with an indoor pool and spa, air-conditioning throughout, and top-band conference facilities. Fitted with plasma screens and heated bathroom floors, rooms come with window side sofas proving a great spot to enjoy your complimentary morning paper. If you are here on business, check out one of the 11 new business suites which feature a larger work area, coffee machine, newspaper, iPod dock and laundry service included in the price. Long term guests have the choice of three luxury apartments located on the upper floors. ▶ 171 rooms (144 singles, 144 doubles, 27 apartments). [www.andersiahotel.pl](http://www.andersiahotel.pl) ★★★★★

**NH Poznań A-2, ul. Św. Marcin 67, tel. (+48) 61 624 88 00, [www.nhpoznan.pl](http://www.nhpoznan.pl).** Radiohead apparently deigned to lodge here, and if it's good enough for them it's good enough for you. Justifying the slightly steep prices are a meticulously restored 19th century frontage beyond which lies a highly modern hotel that would win five stars if it was left in the hands of this independent judge. Check-in is conducted by black-clad staff dressed in Bond villain attire, while rooms score points for a less-is-more style, rich colours, hardwood floors and generous, puffy beds. ▶ 93 rooms (93 singles, 93 doubles). [www.nhpoznan.pl](http://www.nhpoznan.pl) ★★★★★

**Sheraton Poznan Hotel E-3, ul. Bukowska 3/9, tel. (+48) 61 655 20 00, [www.sheraton.pl/poznan](http://www.sheraton.pl/poznan).** Just steps away from the Trade Fair, though this is more than the business travellers choice. The Sheraton Poznan is the number one hotel in town, with a chic modern style that covers every inch of the hotel. Accommodation comes with flat screen TVs, walk-in showers, top-notch sound proofing and the most comfortable beds in the country. Head to the upper floors to enjoy facilities like the swimming pool and luxury fitness club, or check out the executive lounge for video games, magazines and beverages. It's very impressive, but what really stands out here are the staff; experts in hospitality. ▶ 180 rooms (167 singles, 167 doubles, 13 apartments). [www.sheraton.pl/poznan](http://www.sheraton.pl/poznan) ★★★★★

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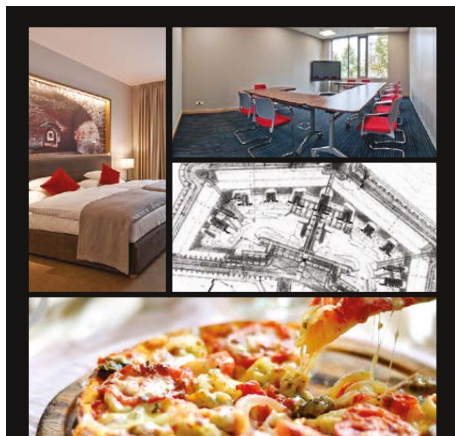
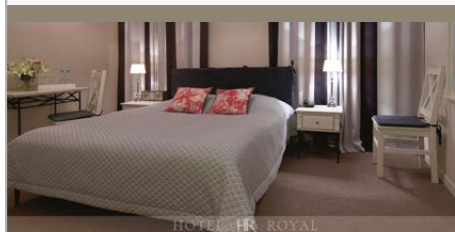


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### Upmarket

**Brovaria C-2, Stary Rynek 73-74, tel. (+48) 61 858 68 68, [www.brovaria.pl](http://www.brovaria.pl).** The lower floors are home to one of Poland's only micro-breweries, and if that doesn't convince you to stay, then a quick look around the rooms will. Furnished with taste, rooms bridge the gap between contemporary styles and the classic touches their old town location deserves. Cream coloured accommodation includes cable TV, dataports, complicated flower arrangements and some have views overlooking the main square. ▶21 rooms (3 singles, 17 doubles, 1 apartment). ★★

**Don Prestige C-2, ul. Św. Marcina 2, tel. (+48) 61 859 05 90, [www.donprestige.com](http://www.donprestige.com).** An excellent city centre location, just a couple of hundred metres from the square in one direction and the Stary Browar shopping and entertainment complex in the other. Featuring large serviced apartments and newly renovated modern rooms that come with wood floors, large comfortable beds and all the mod-cons like flat screen televisions and plush bathrooms. The restaurant has also had a refurb and now boasts a stylish green and plum décor and features an ever-changing menu. ▶66 rooms (5 singles, 30 doubles, 18 suites, 10 apartments). ★★

**Hotel Kolegiacki D-2, Pl. Kolegiacki 5, tel. (+48) 61 855 05 05, [www.hotelkolegiacki.pl](http://www.hotelkolegiacki.pl).** Renovated with exacting care, the new Hotel Kolegiacki is possibly the most charming boutique hotel near the Stary Rynek. While details like the 200 year old staircase were lovingly preserved, the modern updates are what stand out, including a three story atrium over the café and plush conference space. The 24 rooms all have different styles, and our favourites were the quirky options on the top floor: exposed beams, great views of Plac Kolegiacki and a houndstooth carpeting in #302 that we deeply envy. ▶24 rooms (24 singles, 21 doubles). ★★

**Hotel Regatta ul. Chojnicka 49 (Jeżyce), tel. (+48) 502 78 78 10, [www.regattahotel.pl](http://www.regattahotel.pl).** Located about as far as from the city centre as you can get, Regatta is the latest hotel on the Poznań scene and it has a distinctly modern feel to it. With 23 rooms and one apartment (all with separate balconies) it may not be the largest hotel you'll stay in, but it's more a mini complex than anything. As well featuring the Blue Marina restaurant and Lobby Bar / Club Cafe (with outdoor terrace), guests are able to enjoy the onsite pool, jacuzzi and gym free of charge. For those who really want to spoil themselves, there are additional extras such as massage rooms and beauty treatment parlours. ▶23 rooms (22 singles, 22 doubles, 22 triples, 1 apartment). ★★

**HP Park K-4, ul. Baraniaka 77, tel. (+48) 61 874 11 00, [www.hotelpark.pl](http://www.hotelpark.pl).** Tidy rooms and friendly service literally a stone's throw away from Lake Malta. The pastel coloured accommodation comes with all the standard three star accessories you would expect such as telephone, cable TV and minibar. There's also a large function room with an adjoining terrace decked out with tables and chairs which offers great views of the lake for those who prefer to do their dining and drinking outside. A perfect choice for those looking to take advantage of the nearby zoo, artificial ski slope or cycling options. ▶97 rooms (96 singles, 96 doubles, 1 apartment). ★★

**Mat's ul. Bułgarska 115 (Grunwald), tel. (+48) 61 868 78 31, [www.hotelmats.pl](http://www.hotelmats.pl).** An engaging combination of classic and modern; antique clocks and rococo-style armchairs next to shining glass and steel. This is not your

standard three star venture, and as such is well worth the taxi ride from the city centre. Rooms still have the fresh look from a refit three years back, and this remains one of the better choices in the city. ▶35 rooms (3 singles, 21 doubles, 9 suites, 2 apartments). ★★

**Mercure Poznań Centrum E-3, ul. Roosevelta 20, tel. (+48) 61 855 80 00, [www.mercure-poznan-centrum.com](http://www.mercure-poznan-centrum.com).** A two-minute walk for the International Trade Fair, so no prizes for guessing that most visitors hail from the business community. Excellent conference facilities and modern rooms equipped with Wi-Fi and cable TV. ▶228 rooms (227 singles, 187 doubles, 1 apartment). ★★

**Novotel Poznań Centrum G-4, Pl. Andersa 1, tel. (+48) 61 858 70 00, [www.accorhotels.com](http://www.accorhotels.com).** Smart, newly-renovated rooms found inside one of the tallest hotels in the city. Each room comes with pristine bathroom, dataport, CNN and minibar. An on-site massage studio is an added bonus. ▶480 rooms (160 singles, 310 doubles, 10 apartments). ★★

**Novotel Poznań Malta K-3, ul. Termalna 5, tel. (+48) 61 654 31 00, [www.accorhotels.com](http://www.accorhotels.com).** A cost-effective, squat hotel on the edges of Lake Malta. You know what you're getting with Novotel, and all codes of Western practice are tightly observed. It might not be the most imaginative of choices, but this place hits the mark with its international standard. ▶149 rooms (149 singles, 149 doubles). ★★

**Platinum Palace Residence ul. Reymonta 19 (entrance from ul. Wyspiańskiego) (Grunwald), tel. (+48) 61 882 39 40, [www.platinumpalace.pl](http://www.platinumpalace.pl).** Though the unfortunate name sounds like a place of ill-repute, the Platinum Palace is actually a new and stylish Poznań hotel devoted to high-end design - with not a stitch of platinum anywhere. Instead, this clean, white boutique hotel offers 14 rooms with all the modern amenities: flat screen TVs with satellite television, rainfall showerheads, Wi-Fi. Fair warning, though: the bathrooms are separated from the bedrooms with a glass wall, revealing whatever the bathroom-user is up to. This is a less than ideal set up for friends or siblings travelling together. The rest of Platinum Palace is similarly chic, with a restaurant focusing on modern Polish cuisine and a bar that calls for upmarket cocktails. ▶14 rooms (14 singles, 13 doubles). ★★

**Royal A-2, ul. Św. Marcina 71, tel. (+48) 61 858 23 00, [www.hotel-royal.com.pl](http://www.hotel-royal.com.pl).** Plenty of character and history inside this courtyard hotel. Having served as army HQ during the 1918 Wielkopolska Uprising, Royal is decorated with wood panelling, floral-patterned duvets and plum colour schemes. The Mr Fix-It staff can organize everything from car rentals to sightseeing tours, while guests can also enjoy a 24hr bar. The renovated bar and breakfast area add some serious class when you walk in the door. ▶39 rooms (11 singles, 26 doubles, 1 suite, 1 apartment). ★★

**Stare Miasto (The Old Town) C-3, ul. Rybaki 36, tel. (+48) 61 659 00 43, [www.hotelstaremiasto.pl](http://www.hotelstaremiasto.pl).** Prim rooms fully deserving the three stars they have been granted. All come with ensuite bathrooms and internet access, and given the old town location are surprisingly large. The studio and apartment are also open for business and are fully air-conditioned. ▶23 rooms (3 singles, 18 doubles, 1 suite, 1 apartment). ★★



## Excite your senses...

Regatta Hotel, Restaurant and Spa is an intimate 4-star property located next to the scenic Lake Kierskie in Poznań.

It is an ideal place for anyone who needs to relax or enjoy pleasant working conditions.

We offer a modern design that is reflected in simple forms and functions, while our interesting interior is covered with a glass exterior that is embedded in local nature.

Regatta offers a luxury holiday in an unpretentious style

ul. Chojnicka 49  
60-480 Poznań

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fax:+48 61 840 32 10  
[kontakt@regattahotel.pl](mailto:kontakt@regattahotel.pl)

### SALES AND MARKETING

m: +48 502 78 78 38  
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**HOTEL MATS**  
★★★★★

Fully air-conditioned luxurious hotel ★  
Period restaurant ★  
Coffee bar ★  
4 Conference rooms ★  
Parking ★  
sauna ★

60-378 Poznań, ul. Bułgarska 115, tel. +48 61 868-78-31, fax +48 61 861-41-78, www.hotelmats.pl

**Twardowski E-5, ul. Głogowska 358a, tel. (+48) 61 839 98 00, www.hotelrtwardowski.pl.** An upmarket four star effort found inside a low-lying three storey building. Pass through the squeaky floored lobby before entering rooms that have something of a classic style to them - dark woods, elegant lampshades and patterned duvets. To really spoil yourself book the presidential suite, complete with whirlpool tub, kitchenette and lounge. ▶62 rooms (58 singles, 58 doubles, 3 suites, 1 apartment). [Icons] ★★

**Vivaldi G-1, ul. Winogrody 9, tel. (+48) 61 858 81 00, www.vivaldi.pl.** A curvy, futuristic exterior shields one of Poznań's premier hotels. Upscale and comfortable, the highlight has to be the suite, with a bedroom, kitchenette and living room all to itself. Rooms come armed with all the modern trappings, including dataports and mini-bars. ▶48 rooms (38 singles, 9 doubles, 1 apartment). [Icons] ★★

## Mid-range

**Astra ul. Lutycka 31 (Jeżyce), tel. (+48) 61 848 94 72, www.astra.ta.pl.** With its vertical 'HOTEL' sign and roadside location Astra could easily be a motel in Nowhere, USA. Sterile and overpriced, the weary furnishings need an immediate update. Bonfires can be organized in the hotel's impressive garden for guests who want to take advantage of being six kilometres from town (which means you should add taxi fares to the price). ▶12 rooms (12 singles, 12 doubles, 7 triples, 1 quad). [Icons] ★★

**Campanile E-2, ul. Św. Wawrzyńca 96, tel. (+48) 61 845 66 00, www.campanile.com.** The Poznań Campanile is everything we've come to expect from such a good

value chain; high standard modern rooms furnished with a colourful flourish. Bathrooms, net connection and cable TV come as standard. ▶80 rooms (76 singles, 76 doubles, 4 apartments). [Icons] ★★

**Feniks ul. Czeremchowa 26 (Dębiec), tel. (+48) 61 832 60 75, www.feniks.poznan.pl.** Essentially decent rooms decorated with lurid yellow colour schemes that bring to mind a field of sick daffodils. Housed inside a modern, suburban townhouse, Feniks appears geared towards the traveller with agoraphobia; rooms feature private bathrooms and lounges furnished in a generic showroom style, meaning there's no reason to stray further than the front porch (some rooms even have kitchens). ▶25 rooms (16 singles, 12 doubles, 1 triple, 6 suites, 2 apartments). [Icons] ★★

**Garden Boutique Hotel D-1, ul. Wroniecka 24, tel. (+48) 61 223 66 35, www.gardenhotel.pl.** If you're bored of chain brands and their flatline character then book a room here, a petite, high impact venue which really has given the Poznań hotel scene a kick in the bottom. This boutique effort smacks of girly romance, with individually designed rooms touting floral patterns and other such touches - chandeliers, stripy walls, oil paintings. There's a real French Empire spirit here, with a design that The Sun King would most certainly have approved of. ▶18 rooms (3 singles, 12 doubles, 2 suites, 1 apartment). [Icons] ★★

**Henlex ul. Spławie 43 (Nowe Miasto), tel. (+48) 61 879 87 71, www.henlex.pl.** From the outside this stark, sand-coloured block appears quite forbidding, and the neon hotel sign adds to an eerie look that David Lynch would love. Step through the glass doors and Henlex takes on another guise: that of a superb mid-range hotel. Completed only

recently rooms are furnished with soft colours and modern finishes - with corner bathtubs in the suites. Finnish sauna also onsite. ▶30 rooms (28 singles, 26 doubles, 2 apartments). [Icons] ★★

**Hotel 222 E-4, ul. Grunwaldzka 222, tel. (+48) 61 869 91 40, www.hotel222.com.pl.** Excellent hotel with an absurd position atop of a shopping mall. Bright, modern rooms and a crimson restaurant in which to enjoy breakfast. ▶51 rooms (51 singles, 51 doubles). [Icons] ★★

**NEW**  
**Hotel ForZa ul. Dworska 1 (Stare Miasto), tel. (+48) 61 821 36 66, www.hotelforza.pl.** This modern and stylish hotel is situated north of the Old Town, making it ideal for those who are looking to escape the hustle and bustle of the city centre, yet still wish to have easy access to all its delights. Built around one of the city's red-brick 19th century forts, the blend of modern details and original architecture makes for a unique and striking contrast. The rooms are beautifully kitted out and the bright and elegant restaurant (with an outdoor seating area that's perfect in the summer) can also be hired for private functions. In addition to this, the hotel offers separate conference rooms - holding up to 40 people each - which are ideal for seminars, workshops, training sessions and the like. ▶24 rooms (24 singles, 24 doubles). [Icons] ★★

**Hotel Korel ul. 28 Czerwca 1956 r. 209 (Wilda), tel. (+48) 61 222 84 00, www.hotelkorel.pl.** A fine hotel with a warm homey feel which can be partly put down to the inviting chocolate colours and bright interior. Korel offers a total of 41 rooms ('Standard', 'Comfort' and 'Premium') but we're pretty confident you'll be happy with whatever you plunk for. The hotel's Karmell restaurant is ideal for those who don't want to trek back into the centre and tempts well with a wide array of dishes such as hot crumble cake with fruit and vanilla ice cream. ▶41 rooms (34 singles, 13 doubles, 4 suites, 3 apartments). [Icons] ★★

**Hotel Księcia Józefa ul. Ostrowska 391/393 (Nowe Miasto), tel. (+48) 61 872 63 19, www.hotelkj.pl.** A lovely little deal that almost fools guests into thinking they've stepped into a fairytale forest. Everything from the twisty wrought iron banisters to weird mottled wallpaper alludes to the outdoors, and never more so than inside the Narnia style restaurant. While they've been designed to look old world the rooms are positively 21st century, and complete with flatscreen TVs and those trendy standalone sinks. ▶24 rooms (6 singles, 17 doubles, 1 apartment). [Icons] ★★

**Hotel Poznański ul. Krańcowa 4, Luboń, tel. (+48) 61 649 99 88, www.hotelpoznanski.pl.** An excellent business class hotel located close to the Warsaw-Berlin A2 highway about 6km from the Rynek. Everything about this place looks like it was unpacked yesterday and the style and service are 21st century Europe with a modern, comfortable look, rooms that come with flat screen TVs and high speed internet and pleasant multi-lingual staff. Adjacent conference facilities and easy access make this a very good option if you want quality at a price and business is your goal. ▶107 rooms (100 singles, 100 doubles, 7 suites). [Icons] ★★

**Hotel Włoski G-5, ul. Dolna Wilda 8, tel. (+48) 61 833 52 62, www.hotelwloski.pl.** A fabulous newbie set behind a historic looking façade. This could be one of the fairest deals in the city, with rooms boasting a traditional style consisting of artwork and classic wood fixtures - if that's not enough, then they'll even scatter the bed with rose petals and flowers. Free wifi and some decent TV channels complete the picture. ▶70 rooms (70 singles, 70 doubles). [Icons] ★★



## Excite your senses...

The restaurant Blue Marina features dishes inspired by the flavors of the world as well as traditional Polish dishes. Depending on the time of year you'll find seasonal delicacies with vegetables and fruits and local specialties.

We offer our guests:

- \_ 23 spacious, modern, air-conditioned rooms
- \_ Lake view
- \_ Free Internet
- \_ Free monitored parking
- \_ Blue Marina restaurant for 150 persons
- \_ Lobby Bar with outdoor terrace
- \_ Intimate ClubCafe
- \_ A conference room for 80 people

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## WEDDINGS/FAMILY EVENTS

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Regatta offers a luxury holiday in an unpretentious style







Taste a hint of decadence  
in the stylish interiors  
of our hotel ...

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ul. 28 Czerwca 1956 r. 209, Poznań  
tel. +48 61 222 84 00, +48 504 156 555  
www.hotelkorel.pl, rezerwacja@hotelkorel.pl



**Ibis H-4, ul. Kazimierza Wielkiego 23, tel. (+48) 61 858 44 00, www.accorhotels.com.** If anything goes wrong, the staff get 15 minutes to fix it - otherwise you stay for free. It's almost tempting to sabotage the plumbing, but why would you want to. Ibis offers smashing value in clean, generic rooms. ▶146 rooms (146 singles, 146 doubles). ★★

**Ikar G-2, ul. Kościuszki 118, tel. (+48) 61 658 71 05, www.hotelewam.pl.** Located on the edge of Old Town and about a ten-minute drive from the train station, Ikar is modest but pleasant, with a lot of polished stone and wood, rattan furniture and Art Nouveau-style light fixtures. All rooms have satellite TV, a phone, a fridge and a bathroom with a shower. ▶145 rooms (57 singles, 80 doubles, 8 suites). ★★

**Lech A-2, ul. Św. Marcin 74, tel. (+48) 61 853 01 51, www.hotel-lech.poznan.pl.** Lech presents large, spotless rooms complete with satellite TV, wifi and bathrooms. Planted in the middle of Poznań, so no need for taxis. ▶77 rooms (77 singles, 44 doubles, 3 triples). ★★

**Meridian E-1, ul. Litewska 22 (Park Solacki), tel. (+48) 61 656 53 53, www.hotelmeridian.com.pl.** A charismatic hotel with the appeal of a private villa. The picturesque location on the fringes of a forest is complimented by warm earth tones in the rooms and all expected 21st century trimmings: cable TV, air conditioning, etc. ▶10 rooms (10 singles, 10 doubles). ★★

**Młyńskie Kóło (The Millwheel) ul. Browarna 37 (Nowe Miasto), tel. (+48) 61 878 99 35, www.mlynskiekolo.pl.** Outstanding accommodation inside an atmospheric timber lodge. Rooms, named after the seasons, feature hand-carved furniture, fresh flowers and paintings of peasant life. The 'May' apartment comes with a circular Roman bath, perfect for savouring the good life. Downstairs the restaurant serves big portions of hunter-ish dishes like duck, boar and ribs. ▶14 rooms (12 singles, 12 doubles, 2 apartments). ★★

**Olimpia ul. Taborowa 8 (Grunwald), tel. (+48) 61 864 42 00.** This ugly concrete block serves as a marvellous blast-to-the-past, with musty furnishings straight from the Cold War era. Basic, dated and gloomy, though the relative proximity to the Trade Fair keeps it ticking over with a stream of bewildered looking business travellers. ▶44 rooms (16 singles, 25 doubles, 6 triples, 3 suites). ★★

**Quality System - Hotel Poznań ul. Lechicka 101 (Stare Miasto), tel. (+48) 61 821 07 00, www.quality-hotels.pl.** A high standard, hi-tech affair featuring pleasant cream colour schemes and that great rarity in Poznań - a top-notch hotel swimming pool. Parking (not guarded) is also available for those who drive. ▶107 rooms (42 singles, 58 doubles, 7 apartments). ★★

**Rezydencja Solei B&B D-1, ul. Szewska 2, tel. (+48) 510 11 01 30, www.hotel-solei.pl.** Squirrelled away just beyond Old Town Square Solei present compact rooms decorated with floral patterns, IKEA water colours and wood furniture. It's on a quiet street, but close to all the action, though prices sky-rocket during trade fairs. Solei also offers two sister hotels, with Rezydencja Solei, ul. Walecka 2 (Jeżyce) offering much the same though is usually fully booked with groups using the conference facilities; and the new Solei City (H-3, ul. Wenecka 1-8). ▶11 rooms (7 singles, 2 doubles, 2 apartments). ★★

**Rzyski C-2, Al. Marcinkowskiego 22, tel. (+48) 61 852 81 21, www.hotelrzyski.pl.** Right in the city centre, so do ask for a room facing away from the street if you don't wish to be woken by a dawn chorus of trams and refuse trucks. A decent three star standard with rooms pleasantly decorated in neutral looking brownish colours. ▶87 rooms (28 singles, 53 doubles, 1 suite, 5 apartments). ★★

**T&T ul. Metalowa 4 (Grunwald), tel. (+48) 61 864 12 81, www.hoteltt.com.pl.** Situated at the end of a dead-end street, and with a tram stop and taxi rank just around the corner, T&T has spacious rooms that keep the business traveller in mind. Intriguingly, not even the staff know what T&T stands for. ▶17 rooms (15 singles, 15 doubles, 2 apartments). ★★

**Villa Atelier D-2, ul. Kłasztorna 19, tel. (+48) 61 224 94 22.** This converted tenement building is just steps from the Rynek and oozes old-world charm with modern upgrades. Six rooms with varying layouts (from singles to four beds) and a studio apartment perfect for families are spread over three floors. Our favourite is the bedroom where the bed's canopy was designed to arc with the sloping ceiling - a great design element that reflects the effort made to get every detail right. ▶6 rooms (6 singles, 4 doubles, 2 quads). ★★

**Zagroda Bąberska E-2, ul. Kościelna 43, tel. (+48) 61 842 77 90, www.zagrodabąberska.pl.** Wooden beams, patterned rugs and sturdy wooden furniture create a rural ambience in this recently renovated farm-style annex. For summer the garden boasts a huge open-air barbecue, and a collection of wood carved animals to trip over. ▶10 rooms (7 singles, 7 doubles, 3 apartments). ★★

## Budget

**Gold ul. Bukowska 127a (Jeżyce), tel. (+48) 61 842 07 74, www.goldhotel.pl.** A small suburban hotel with boxy modern rooms and a vase of sweets on the reception desk. A very decent, budget option. Close to the airport, so expect to be travelling to and from town by chariot. ▶11 rooms (11 singles, 11 doubles). ★★

**Hotel Zielony ul. Przelęcz 21 (Grunwald), tel. (+48) 61 662 30 06, www.hotelzielony.pl.** Seven single and eight double rooms make up the entirety of Hotel Zielony, a quaint and comfortable hotel that features flat screen TVs, in-room wi-fi, breakfast and an on-site salon. Zielony is a healthy distance from the city, but the helpful staff more than makes up for that by going out of their way to find the best way for guests to hit the Rynek or any other local attractions. ▶15 rooms (7 singles, 8 doubles). ★★

**Mini Hotelik A-3, Al. Niepodległości 8a (entrance from ul. Taylora), tel. (+48) 61 633 14 16, www.ppurobin.home.pl.** Not much chance of finding English spoken here, though sign language is always enough to get a place at one of the best budget deals in town. Spotless rooms occupy the top floor of a residential building, and though some share bathroom facilities the small scale of this operation guarantees queues for your morning shower are unlikely. Rooms come with TV and furniture that is kept religiously scrubbed. If you're returning late you'll need to be buzzed in by a member of staff. ▶11 rooms (2 singles, 5 doubles, 3 triples, 1 suite). ★★



## Excite your senses...

We also invite people to take advantage of our facilities for special occasions both private (weddings, banquets, family gatherings etc.) and business-related (meetings, team building events etc.).

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- \_ Paddling pool for children
- \_ Jacuzzi
- \_ Turkish sauna
- \_ Sauna
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We offer massages and cosmetic treatments performed by qualified therapists and experts. We also offer personal and group training sessions for the following: swimming, aerobics, aqua-aerobics, pilates, yoga, spine treatment and more.

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- Situated next to the A2 highway
- Only 5 km from the center of Poznań
- Complex of 5 conference rooms
- Banquets and receptions
- 107 comfortable rooms
- spacious parking free of charge



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Tel. 61 649 99 88  
recepca@hotelpoznanski.pl  
www.hotelpoznanski.pl

**Naramowice ul. Naramowicka 150 (Stare Miasto), tel. (+48) 61 822 75 43, www.naramowice.pl.** An ugly concrete building that wouldn't be out of place on a council estate hides a perfectly acceptable interior. The rooms are plain but smart, and although they won't fuel the poet lurking inside of you, they offer moderate comfort and fair value. Way in the north of the city, so save some money for a cab. ▶ 54 rooms (48 singles, 48 doubles, 6 suites). ★★

**Pomorski ul. Sierakowska 36 (Grunwald), tel. (+48) 61 867 28 31, www.hotel-pomorski.net.pl.** Pictures of Italy greet the guest from the newly renovated walls of Pomorski's corridors. After being completely overhauled, the hotel now has a better reception area and very comfy family rooms (3-bedded) but rather bland double rooms. It's a short walk to the tramstop on Grunwaldzka. ▶ 67 rooms (25 singles, 38 doubles, 4 suites). ★★

**Sport Hotel G-5, ul. Chwiałkowskiego 34, tel. (+48) 61 833 05 91, www.sporthotel.poznan.pl.** Although it's located in the Nautilus Sports Centre you're going to get enough exercise humping your bags up three flights of stairs. Rooms are clean, recently painted and fully renovated, but come with the sort of identikit furniture and carpets you'd find in an office. Beggars can't be choosers, and Sport isn't bad value. Pay extra to use the sports complex. ▶ 23 rooms (3 singles, 15 doubles, 3 triples, 2 suites). ★★

## Apartments

**Apartamenty Velvet E-4, ul. Śniadeckich 7, tel. (+48) 606 88 88 00, www.evelvet.pl.** Velvet Apartments offer 13 studio apartments configured with kitchenettes, desks and bathrooms inclusive to each unit. The units are spread between several buildings with a central reception office serving them all. Several of the kitchenettes and rooms are noticeably dated but functional, and if close proximity to the Fair and train station is a priority you can't go wrong here. ▶ 13 rooms (13 apartments). ★★

**Fancy House E-4, ul. Śniadeckich 18/4, tel. (+48) 660 75 09 16, www.fancyhouse.pl.** So it's the Blow Up Hall that's been grabbing the headlines, but that's not to say it's the only design hotel in town. Fancy House is a star in its own right, with a selection of accommodation that's both fun and stylish. Choose the Pop room for pics of Marilyn and wedding white colours, or go for Orient for svelte wood finishes and eastern flavour. Think you can do better than the local chefs? Prove so by cooking up in the fully-equipped kitchen. ▶ 3 rooms (3 singles, 3 doubles). ★★

**Glam House B-2, ul. Św. Marcin 43, tel. (+48) 507 18 28 00, www.glamhouse.pl.** You might question what's so glam about the dingy hallway that leads to the Glam House apartments, but that thought will be fleeting. The six apartments offer high style: bathrooms worthy of four-star hotels, giant flat screen televisions and classy kitchenettes with refrigerators and microwaves. The location is about 10 minutes from the main square and within striking distance of the train station, and while the rooms are museum-pristine, they can accommodate children as well. ▶ 6 rooms (6 apartments). ★★

**Pomarańczarnia C-3, ul. Rybaki 12, tel. (+48) 515 377 320, www.apartamenty-pomarańczarnia.pl.** Accommodation here feature kitchens, internet, flatscreen TVs, hardwood floors and an almost swank, modern style. Bargains don't come any better than this place, so cheapskates make hay. ▶ 34 rooms (34 apartments). ★★

## Hostels

**Explorer Hostel D-3, ul. Wszystkich Świętych 6, tel. (+48) 600 96 55 55, www.poznanhostel.eu.** A clean and well-kept hostel just five mins walk from the old market square. Set over five floors, Explorer Hostel only deals in private rooms (the maximum number of guests per room being four) meaning that there are no large dorms. There's a tidy kitchen area and common room for guests, but what gets this place the big thumbs up is the beautiful garden at the back (seasonal, of course). ▶ 22 rooms (22 singles, 12 doubles, 6 triples, 3 quads). ★★

**Frolic Goats Hostel C-2, ul. Wrocławska 16/6 (entrance from ul. Jaskółcza), tel. (+48) 61 852 44 11, www.frolicgoatshostel.com.** Here's a frolicking good hostel to look forward to, and one that comes with everything from private room to 12 man dorms. Everything looks and smells like it was installed minutes ago, and finer details include a kitchen featuring a preserved stone chimney, as well as the thoughtful pledge of round-the-clock hot water. A new apartment with fully equipped kitchen is also available for those who like a bit more space. ▶ 14 rooms (7 singles, 7 doubles, 1 apartment, 52 Dorm beds). ★★

**Fusion Hostel F-3, ul. Św. Marcin 66/72, tel. (+48) 61 852 12 30, www.fusionhostel.pl.** We've seen many hostels, but few to rival Fusion. Could this be the best in Poland? The design here is positively futuristic, with an excellent common room decked out with low-slung sofas. Everything shines and sparkles here, while a maximum of six to a room minimizes the risk of being woken by a snoring Ozzie. ▶ 17 rooms (3 doubles, 3 triples, 70 Dorm beds). ★★

**Hill Hostel C-1, ul. Zamkowa 1/2, tel. (+48) 61 853 09 10, www.hillhostel.pl.** The newly opened Hill Hostel is a great addition to Poznań's hostel scene; it's located within a block of the main square, offers plenty of character thanks to its location in a 19th-century villa, and is so clean you could eat off the floor, your mattress or the reception desk. Rooms range from a large 8-bedroom dorm to single bed en-suite and all feature familiar IKEA beds and furnishing. Despite playing *Gossip Girl* in heavy rotation in the hostel's spacious sitting room the real gathering spot is the patio, where guests can sneak a smoke and feast their eyes on Poznań's ever-growing club scene. ▶ 15 rooms (2 singles, 8 doubles, 2 triples, 20 Dorm beds). ★★

**Hostel Poznań E-3, ul. Słowackiego 40, tel. (+48) 61 843 31 02, www.hostelpoznan.pl.** It's not the most exciting of names, but at least you won't forget it. There's no gimmicks here, just very decent budget accommodation featuring woodcut beds, parquet floors and TVs and work stations in the smaller rooms. Break boundaries they don't, but if you want a clean bed at a good price you won't find many finer options. ▶ 26 rooms (9 singles, 9 doubles, 5 triples, 6 quads, 8 Dorm beds). ★★

**La Guitarra C-2, ul. Marcinkowskiego 20, tel. (+48) 61 852 20 74, www.lagitarr.com/poznan/.** A cool and well-kept two-floored hostel located smack-bang in the centre with a unique theme - every dorm and room is named after a guitar legend with Jack White and Chuck Berry being two particular IYP favourites. The comfy common room offers guests the chance to chill out in front of the TV or take advantage of the available computers and those with their own laptops can update their Facebook status using the free wi-fi. There's an adjoining kitchen area where breakfast is served daily (included in the price) and a car park which guests can use for 25 zł a night. ▶ 16 rooms (2 singles, 5 doubles, 6 quads, 60 Dorm beds). ★★

## St. Martin's Day

One of Poznań's younger traditions is the celebration of St. Martin's name day on **November 11**. In Poland, the days dedicated to certain saints are practically more important than birthdays. In 1994, the **Zamek cultural centre** organised the first nameday celebration of the

street it is on, Św. Marcin, bringing the ancient tradition of public celebrations of patron saints alive again. Poznań is associated with St. Martin's day thanks to **St. Martin's church**, which originally stood in a settlement outside the walls of Poznań beginning around the 12th century but was brought inside the boundaries at the end of the 18th century. Unsurprisingly the street gained its name from the church - though during communist times it was changed to Armii Czerwonej or Red Army street before being restored to Św. Marcin after 1989.

**The festival** naturally starts with a high mass in the aforementioned St. Martin's Church. Afterwards, St. Martin, dressed in a Roman legionnaire's costume and on a horse, heads a colourful parade up ulica Św. Marcin to the square in front of the Zamek (castle) building. There, the mayor hands him the keys to the city, marking the start of the celebrations.

Outside, there's a street market complete with knights enacting medieval jousting tournaments. Inside Zamek there are special exhibitions, concerts and performances. The day ends with fireworks lighting the skies above.

Such a special holiday calls for a very specific treat to honour St. Martin, and that's *rogale świętomarcińskie*, a crescent-shaped croissant-like pastry filled with a poppy seed and almond paste and topped with a healthy pile of sugar y glaze. Legend has it that the tradition of rogale began at the end of the 19th century when the parish priest of St. Martin's urged the richer parishioners to help the poor as winter approached. A baker by the name of Józef Melzer prayed to St. Martin for ideas and turning to the street was inspired as the horse carrying the saint in the parade slipped a shoe - hence the crescent shape of the pastries.

So just who was this Martin fellow, and why is he worthy of such sweets and fanfare (not to mention sainthood status)? Born in what is now Hungary in the fourth century, Martin was raised in Italy where he became a member of the Imperial Horse Guard in the Roman army. Stationed in France he came across a shivering beggar and decided to cut his cloak in half to share with the man.

That evening Martin dreamed of Jesus wearing the half-cloak (in some stories, Martin wakes to find his cloak fully restored) and decided at 18 to be baptised. After being discharged from the army he became a disciple of Hilary of Poitiers (Saint Hilary nowadays), a proponent of Trinitarian Christianity that was at odds with the Arianism of the day. Later Martin was made the bishop of Tours and as bishop Martin continued to live a largely hermitic existence, his work included sowing Christianity among the Druidic heathens and promoting the interests of the Church at the Imperial court in Trier. One such example includes Martin's efforts to save Priscillian, a Christian bishop he opposed, from punishment by a civil tribunal that accused Priscillian of heresy. Despite Martin's efforts Priscillian was the first person in the history of Christianity to be executed for heresy, and the sadly disappointed Martin died in Gaul in 397.



## Disco POLO!



Fanatic band © Wikipedia/User: FxJ/CC BY-SA 3.0

No, it's not an equestrian sport involving bell-bottomed jockeys (good guess, though), Disco Polo is a rather peculiar and uniquely Polish sub-genre of dance music. In fact you may have already been exposed to it without even realising it. It could have been blaring from a super-up *Fiat Duze* rolling by, pulsing from a radio in a *Żabka* convenience store or been the soundtrack to that local wedding you attended a few months back.

This cult genre first emerged in the early 90's as folk musicians and wedding bands finally were able to upgrade their antiquated audio gear and buy some shiny new keyboards with built in drum machines (and 70's disco presets). By mixing a little *Italo Disco* (read: Eurotrash Techno) into their Casiotone folk-anthems, a music revolution was born. Disco Polo quickly conquered every wedding hall, village disco and nightclub throughout the land. The mainstream media soon pined on and it was celebrated as a uniquely Polish form of 'pop'. By 1995 there were Disco Polo programmes on every major radio and television station and even former Polish President Aleksander Kwasniewski used a Disco Polo song during his presidential campaign that year. Times were good and Disco Polo labels like *Blue Star* and 'bands' such as *Bayer Full*, *Boys* and *Shazza* were pumping out the hits and rolling in the zillions. But alas, the good times couldn't last forever.

Disco polo was scoffed at from the very beginning by the likes of intellectuals, music critics and professional musicians who viewed it as hokey and primitive (which it was/is). The tide began to turn for the genre as a whole when a few scandals involving disco polo artists and local mafia bosses started to make headlines in '96 and '97 (it was estimated that at the height of the Disco Polo boom upwards of 70% of the Disco Polo market was controlled by the Polish mafia). These scandals coincided with a huge drop in cassette and CD sales. By the late 90's the wedding party was officially over and the long national hangover had begun. Public opinion and the mainstream media quickly turned and openly derided and lampooned the jovial genre.

Nowadays, the Disco Polo genre is about as respected as Country & Western or Smooth Jazz. Nonetheless, much like these similarly maligned musical outliers, Disco Polo artists continue to break album sales records and tour regularly despite being the butt of almost every musical joke. The truth is, while it's been officially cool to make fun of Disco Polo for the better part of a decade, it's every red-blooded Pole's guilty pleasure. If you want to see for yourself, watch what happens when a DJ spins the Boys' smash hit *Jesteś Szalona* [Yes-Tesh Shah-lone-uh] at a wedding, disco or nightclub near you. Viva la Disco Polo!

**Melange Hostel C-3, ul. Rybaki 6a, tel. (+48) 507 07 01 07, [www.melangehostel.com](http://www.melangehostel.com).** It's hard to remember that once upon time mentioning the word 'hostel' in Poznań would have thrown up images of bare-bones, atmosphere-free hovels where you might be screamed at for talking after a certain hour. Not anymore and Melange makes a super contribution to the budget market with a modern hostel both in terms of fixtures and attitude located a 5 minute walk from the square. Friendly staff, communal area and wireless Internet. ▶8 rooms (1 single, 3 doubles, 1 triple, 19 Dorm beds). 📶 📺 📶 📶

**Melody Hostel C-2, Stary Rynek 67 (entrance from ul. Kozia 16), tel. (+48) 61 851 60 60, [www.melody-hostel.pl](http://www.melody-hostel.pl).** Once hostelling in Poland meant curfews and growling staff. Then any Tomek, Ryszek or Harold with a room was throwing in a couple of bunk beds and getting listed by hostel booking sites as a legitimate business. Luckily the Melody Hostel has come up with a concept that they have clearly put some effort into. Their series of dorms and private rooms (some with impressive new bathrooms that many top hotels would envy) named after a style of music which then dictates the décor. Our favourite has to be the Disco room, with a cracking 70s colour scheme, disco vinyl on the walls and windows overlooking the square - but not a bunk bed in site despite its ability to sleep eight. Revolutionary. Friendly staff, air-conditioned communal area, market square location and free Wi-Fi complete the tune. ▶16 rooms (2 singles, 10 doubles, 1 quad, 22 Dorm beds). 📶 📺 📶 📶

**Poco Loco Hostel B-3, ul. Taczaka 23, tel. (+48) 796 23 05 55, [hostel.poco-loco.pl](http://hostel.poco-loco.pl).** Opened in mid-2012, you can't help but feel that the owners of Poco Loco know exactly what they're doing. Set over two floors, the 10 colourful rooms are inspired by different countries and continents (the Africa Room is a personal favourite) and the exciting atmosphere of the hostel is sure to bring out the traveller in anyone who sets foot inside. The standard features are all there - comfy common room with TV, fully equipped kitchen, free WiFi - but it's the little extras such as free parking, laundry options and a balcony for smoking that really tip the scales in its favour. Recently awarded 'Cleanest Hostel in Poznań' by Hostelbookers. ▶10 rooms (2 doubles, 4 quads, 38 Dorm beds). 📶 📺 📶 📶

**Retro Hostel C-1, ul. Kramarska 1, tel. (+48) 61 223 60 61, [www.retrohostel.pl](http://www.retrohostel.pl).** There are basic hostels for when you need a place to lay your head, and then there's Retro Hostel, which claims to be haunted by the ghost of a man named Leon Moustache and boasts "93 percent full retro flavour." Intrigued? Us too. Retro recently moved to its Rynek-hugging location on Kramarska after three years on Kwiatowa, and the new and decidedly modern space is pure backpacker heaven: think brightly coloured rooms, access to a Nintendo Wii and a stylish kitchen - papered with retro newspapers of course - for breakfast and snacks. A contender for Poznań's coolest (and kookiest) hostel. ▶9 rooms (7 singles, 7 doubles, 7 triples, 12 Dorm beds). 📶 📺 📶 📶

NEW

**Rosemary's Hostel C-2, ul. Wrocławska 13, tel. (+48) 61 855 27 61.** A right double whammy for film buffs and party-goers alike. Situated on one of Poznań's best streets (and within spitting distance of the Old Town Square), Rosemary's Hostel pays homage to one of Polish cinema's finest names - Roman Polański. Indeed, each room is themed after one of his films and the reception area/common room is plastered with posters including 'Carnage' and 'The Ghost Writer,' and even features a creepy corner

dedicated to 'Rosemary's Baby.' Friendly staff, beautifully-decorated rooms, kids under 12 stay free and a wide choice of breakfasts make this a great option for those who like their hostels a little bit off the cuff. Given its fantastic location, you won't be wandering up the stairs to bed sober. Just watch out for that pram... ▶9 rooms (9 singles, 9 doubles, 1 triple, 1 quad). 📶 📺 📶 📶

**Soda Hostel & Apartments E-3, ul. gen. Jana Henryka Dąbrowskiego 27a, tel. (+48) 793 27 27 20, [www.sodahostel.pl](http://www.sodahostel.pl).** Soda Hostel & Apartments is located slightly further away from the centre than the majority of hostels in the city, but that's by no means a reason to overlook it. The cool white and grey interior give this place a cleaner and more 'upmarket' feel than many hostels we've tried out over the years and the small but comfy common room features a couple of futons and a large television. ▶14 rooms (8 singles, 5 doubles, 3 quads, 36 Dorm beds). 📶 📺 📶 📶

**Very Berry Hostel C-2, Al. Marcinkowskiego 11/17, tel. (+48) 61 855 17 63, [www.very-berry.pl](http://www.very-berry.pl).** Very Berry looks more like a boutique hotel than a hostel thanks to exposed brick, artistic designs on the walls and brand new fixtures and fittings including sparkling bathrooms. Guests will appreciate the option of free DIY laundry and parking. ▶21 rooms (8 singles, 13 doubles, 4 triples, 3 quads, 24 Dorm beds). 📶 📺 📶 📶

## Out of Town

**Dwór w Podstolicach (Podstolice Manor House) ul. Kasztanowa 50, Podstolice, tel. (+48) 61 438 68 08, [www.podstolice.pl](http://www.podstolice.pl).** Indulge yourself at this restored 19th century manor house. Set in an old park, the Dwór's final effect is over-the-top, and the glut of antiques and peacocks pose an obstacle course. Activities include shooting, driving range and banisters for kids to slide down. Period furnishings, oil paintings and other lavish antique trappings decorate the interior. ▶15 rooms (14 singles, 13 doubles, 1 apartment). 📶 📺 📶 📶 📶 📶

**Euro Hotel Swarzędz ul. Cieszkowskiego 33, Swarzędz, tel. (+48) 61 647 47 47, [www.eurohotel.swarzedz.pl](http://www.eurohotel.swarzedz.pl).** Comfortable, sparkling clean, and with a boxish exterior that would not be out of place on a modern retail estate. Inside Euro has high-standard rooms with rich scarlet carpets and modern amenities. The hotel restaurant occupies a marble-floored atrium, and certainly looks the part. ▶53 rooms (42 singles, 11 doubles, 9 triples, 7 suites, 2 apartments). 📶 📺 📶 📶 📶 📶 ★★

**Green Hotel ul. Jeziorna 1a, Komorniki, tel. (+48) 61 810 80 75, [www.greenhotel.pl](http://www.greenhotel.pl).** If you're looking for accommodation away from the bright lights then Green Hotel presents a solid choice. Located in a wooded area 11km from the city centre, this hotel has a sleek American style, and a list of facilities as long as your arm. Modern interiors and pleasant colours. ▶43 rooms (40 singles, 36 doubles, 4 apartments). 📶 📺 📶 📶 📶 📶 ★★

**Ossowski ul. Dąbrówki 1, Kobylnica, tel. (+48) 61 815 81 00, [www.hotel-ossowski.com.pl](http://www.hotel-ossowski.com.pl).** A smart hotel offering three star standards and accommodation that comes with satellite TVs perched high in the corners, and smallish bathrooms that positively sparkle. Guests can enjoy hands-on activities like billiards, bike rentals, a foosball table, kids playground and a full football pitch as well as a spa. ▶79 rooms (74 singles, 65 doubles, 2 triples, 2 suites, 1 apartment). 📶 📺 📶 📶 📶 📶 ★★

Rosemary's  
HOSTEL

"This is no dream!  
This is really  
happening!"  
Rosemary Woodhouse

Ul. Wrocławska 13, Old Town  
tel. +48 61 855 27 61  
[wroclawskal3@gmail.com](mailto:wroclawskal3@gmail.com)  
[www.facebook.com/Rosemary.Hostel](http://www.facebook.com/Rosemary.Hostel)

## Superstitions

While it would be inaccurate to claim the Poles as being a deeply superstitious nation visitors will be delighted to know the country has more than its fair share of quirky beliefs and customs. The international code of fearing smashed mirrors and walking under ladders is of course commonplace.

More alien to the foreigner will be the belief that lighting a cigarette off a candle spells the imminent death of a sailor; something to bear in mind when sparking up down the pub particularly if you are near the sea. If you're thinking of getting married, getting hitched in a month that features the letter 'r' brings good luck. Get married in May (Mai) for instance and you could be tempting the early death of yourself or your partner. Beware when seating people for a meal. An unmarried woman should never sit at the corner of a table as this will ensure she stays unmarried.

Serial killers should be aware that keeping a corpse in a house over the weekend means a relative of the deceased will also die; a crafty way of increasing your killing tally. Spilling salt or cutting your hair before an exam also spells disaster. In fact, if you've got final exams coming up, don your finest red underpants; you'll pass with flying colours.

If you've got kids, tie a red ribbon around their pram to fend off evil. If you get defecated on by a bird, don't worry, good luck lies around the corner. Finally, our favourite; if a chimney sweep comes into view hold any button until you see a man in glasses, make a wish, and your desires will soon come true.



## Eating at a Glance

Poznań might have a reputation as an international centre of commerce but its restaurant scene is still very much in its infancy. You will find a scattering of world-class restaurants, but you're ethnic options are limited in both number and quality. The opening hours we list are flexible, and most will stay open past their closing times if customers are still lingering. The prices we list in brackets denote the cost of the cheapest and dearest dish on the menu. Where the venue is not on our map we have included the district it is located in brackets.

**Splurge:** Any 'Best of' list in Poznań is invariably going to see a slew of nominations for the **Blow Up Hall 50 50**. Find (very) modern versions of Polish cooking in a neo-industrial setting that couldn't be more cutting edge if it tried. For town square dining, think nowhere else but **Le Palais**, or for something out of centre the daringly modern **Hugo** is an ideal destination.

**Couples:** **Figaro** is so OTT you half expect to be served by Cupid himself. For something completely different why not eat in the pitch black at **Dark Restaurant**. And what could be more intimate than dining in Poznań's smallest restaurant? **Vine Bridge** promises the cosiness of only two other tables besides your own, and creative dishes you can share with your date.

**Polish:** **Ratuszowa** is ideal for the seminal 'meat piled three feet high' experience. **Oberża Pod Dzwonkiem** serves up Polish food like pierogis and pork loin in a rustic mountain lodge setting, while **TOGA** takes Polish cuisine and gives it a fresh, organic makeover with seasonal ingredients.

**Ethnic:** There are a few ethnic options in Poz, but most of them are not very good. To get your insides really sizzling then pay a visit to **Warung Bali**, an outstanding Indonesian restaurant that's become something of a fave. Sushi has been the big thing in Poland in recent years and **Kyokai** and **Zindo** are recommended. And if you're on the Rynek pop in to **Tapas Bar** for Spanish snacks layered with Serrano ham and spicy chorizo.

**Square:** The options here can be overwhelming, but **Brovaria** is always a reliable choice for a meaty meal or beer snacks to accompany your Pils. If you're craving high quality Polish fare **Gospoda Pod Koziołkami** is the place to go for traditional food served by costumed waitresses. And the **Post Office Café** has a dual purpose: you can buy stamps and mail your postcards while sipping a latte over a light breakfast.

## American

**Niku Restauracja** ul. Piątkowska 200 (Piątkowo), tel. (+48) 61 826 74 27, [www.niku.pl](http://www.niku.pl). Good value food that fills any gap you've acquired while using the squash, bowling and fitness facilities. Quality goes way beyond the standard you'd expect from such a place, as do the artsy cocktails and steaks. ▶ Open 13:00 - 24:00, Fri, Sat 13:00 - 02:00, Sun 10:00 - 24:00. (18-55zł) [Icons]

**Sioux Classic D-2**, Stary Rynek 93, tel. (+48) 61 851 62 86, [www.sioux.com.pl](http://www.sioux.com.pl). Spaghetti Western décor and staff dressed as ranch hands lend a bit of a theme park atmosphere to this place, and the wagon and wig wam style goes well with long, lazy nights where drinking is every bit as important as dining. Good fun with a decent menu of mid-west bites. ▶ Open 12:00 - 23:00, Fri, Sat 12:00 - 24:00. (21-99zł) [Icons]

**SomePlace Else E-3**, ul. Bukowska 3/9 (Sheraton Poznań Hotel), tel. (+48) 61 655 20 00, [www.poznan.someplace-else.pl](http://www.poznan.someplace-else.pl). Some balk at the prices, but there's no escaping SomePlace Else is the full monty - here's a place that gets both food and drink completely right, with a largely American/Tex-Mex menu hitting points for the best burger for miles - sometimes that's just what you need. The diner design is straight out of road-trip USA, and a great spot for ties-off, after-office chow and beers. Check out their menu specials and make it one of the options if you're looking for that game - European or American. ▶ Open 17:00 - 00:30, Fri, Sat 17:00 - 01:30, Sun 12:00 - 23:30. (18-84zł) [Icons]

## Asian

NEW

**Full House Asian Restaurant & Bar C-3**, ul. Półwiejska 26, tel. (+48) 730 35 03 70. Something of a newbie on Poznań's Asian scene, Full House offers up a selection of Chinese, Korean and sushi options and if the other meals are as good as our pork dish and fried ice cream then it should be poised to become a local culinary staple. Situated on one of the main shopping streets, it's hard to miss and we're sure you won't be disappointed with the results. ▶ Open 12:00 - 23:00, Fri, Sat, Sun 12:00 - 24:00. (20-40zł) [Icons]

**Wook A-2**, ul. Fredry 12, tel. (+48) 61 855 00 88, [www.wook.pl](http://www.wook.pl). This cheap Polish chain of middling Chinese fare opened a giant new location in Poznań, and it's heavily populated with students having awkward meals with their parents. The dark interior is lit with extensive red neon lighting that would make any stripper feel at home, though it makes

watching the flames used by the chef in the open kitchen more dramatic. Order multiple dishes to share and marvel at the small bill. ▶ Open 12:00 - 23:00, Fri, Sat 12:00 - 24:00, Sun 12:00 - 22:00. (13-50zł) [Icons]

## Brunch

**Fusion Restaurant E-3**, ul. Bukowska 3/9 (Sheraton Poznań Hotel), tel. (+48) 61 655 20 00, [www.fusion-poznan.pl](http://www.fusion-poznan.pl). The Sheraton Sunday Brunch is one of the best reasons to get out of bed. Adults pay 130zł (half price kids between 6-12, free for anything younger), which covers a lavish buffet spread and a free flow of booze. Popular with high rolling Poles and expats who've just gotten out of bed, you'll be hard pressed to find a better use for a Sunday afternoon. With SomePlace Else just feet away, you can also build the live games into your schedule as well. ▶ Brunch served 13:00 - 17:00. [Icons]

## Chinese

**Azalia B-2**, ul. Św. Marcin 34, tel. (+48) 61 853 24 42, [www.azalia.poznan.pl](http://www.azalia.poznan.pl). When a place asks us to come back to take another look we normally end up having a worse time than before. Azalia bucked that trend and the two house specialties we dined on were very acceptable especially considering our soup, main course and drink didn't break the €10 mark. A tasty sour soup was followed by chicken with bamboo shoots, chilli and special fried rice served up in a smart room featuring solid furniture and lots of shrubbery (some of it real) by one of the two Chinese owners who have been doing this for nearly 20 years. A central location on Św. Marcin and a brightly coloured façade make it easy to find. ▶ Open 12:00 - 22:30. (15-40zł) [Icons]

## French

**Le Palais du Jardin C-2**, Stary Rynek 37, tel. (+48) 61 665 85 85, [www.lepalaisdujardin.pl](http://www.lepalaisdujardin.pl). A standout restaurant that's been winning the plaudits for years. The main square location may mark it out as a tourist trap, but that couldn't be further from the truth - Le Palais scores points for excellent nouvelle cuisine, as well as a wine cellar that knocks spots off the competition. As evening hits expect this modern, cream coloured eatery to fill out with big shots making full use of the expense account. ▶ Open 12:00 - 23:00, Sun 12:00 - 22:00. (29-89zł) [Icons]

## Fusion

**Fusion Restaurant E-3**, ul. Bukowska 3/9 (Sheraton Poznań Hotel), tel. (+48) 61 655 20 00, [www.fusion-poznan.pl](http://www.fusion-poznan.pl). Top class dining in the Sheraton's showpiece restaurant. Chic and sexy this is designer dining the way it's meant to be with inventive dishes like Thai style noodles appearing from out of the open kitchen. Floor to ceiling windows allow for plenty of light, as well as views of the proletariat scurrying to work. Also of interest is their intimate wine room which can be booked in advance for up to 4 people, a menu created with the chef and where over 60 wines are available to go with the meal of your choice. ▶ Open 06:30 - 11:00, 12:00 - 22:30, Sun 07:00 - 11:00, 13:00 - 17:00. (58-86zł) [Icons]

**Pracownia D-2**, ul. Woźna 17, tel. (+48) 508 13 16 64, [www.pracowniacafe.com](http://www.pracowniacafe.com). There was a time back when non-carnivore tourists had to make do with either cheese-based pierogi, boiled cabbage or potatoes. But the times they are certainly a-changing. This little restaurant sets the standards high and the garden, with its perfect mix of



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**Full House** 폴 하우스  
FULL HOUSE ASIAN RESTAURANT & BAR  
ul. Półwiejska 26, Poznań  
tel. 730 350 370  
[Facebook icon] fullhouse26



candles and plants, makes for the perfect romantic setting. In a country not known for its love of spicy cuisine, the 'hot Thai curry' goes down very well and the samosa starters are a great way to get you prepared for your main dish. Big thumbs up all round. ▶ Open 11:00 - 24:00, Mon, Tue, Wed 11:00 - 23:00, Sun 12:00 - 23:00. (16-35zł) ☎ ☎ ☎ ☎ ☎ ☎ ☎ ☎

**ShaDes C-2, ul. Św. Marcin 2 (Don Prestige Hotel), tel. (+48) 61 859 05 05, www.donprestige.com.** The Don Prestige has seen an impressive reboot from top to bottom, with the new ShaDes restaurant the final touch on one of the better city centre hotels. The space is a cozy mix of plums and greens with an elaborate bar that promotes an impressive array of cocktails and a seasonal menu of simple sandwiches and entrees that prove ShaDes was not an afterthought in the hotel's redesign. ▶ Open 12:00 - 23:00, Sat, Sun 16:00 - 23:00. (12-80zł) ☎ ☎ ☎ ☎ ☎ ☎ ☎ ☎

## Meteorite Craters

Some 10,000 years ago, the unsuspecting inhabitants of the forests 10km north of what is now Poznań were in for a nasty surprise when 4,500 tonnes of white-hot rock slammed into their backyard. Forgotten in the years that followed the Morasko meteor craters were only rediscovered in 1914, when soldiers who were digging trenches during World War I came across a 77kg lump of meteorite. In total, several chunks (containing 90 per cent iron) totalling 255kg have been found at the site, often by farmers. When the disintegrating Morasko meteorite came crashing from the cosmos, the impact created eight large craters, of which seven remain today (one having been destroyed by ploughing). The meteorites came from the northeast, as the crater rims are highest to the south and southwest, allegedly as part of a Perseid meteor shower linked with the wonderfully named comet 'Swift Tuttle'. After 10,000 years of erosion, the largest crater is still 100m wide and 13m deep.

Since 1976 the area has been protected as a nature reserve and is today easily accessible from Poznań. For your slice of intergalactic drama take tram number 12, 14 or 15 from ul. Roosevelta to the terminus at Os. Jana Sobieskiego, and then follow the bicycle route which goes under the railway and northwest towards Morasko forest. You can also get off the tram one stop earlier at Szymanowskiego, and change to bus N°88, which goes to Morasko village every 40 minutes. The craters are 600m from Morasko and 4km from the tram terminus and the surrounding beech forest is also home to numerous endangered plants.

## Greek

**Mykonos Grecka Tawerna B-2, Pl. Wolności 14, tel. (+48) 61 853 34 36, www.tawerna-mykonos.com.pl.** Relive your Mediterranean summer at this Greek owned joint. Blue and white interiors come adorned with pics of Greek beach scenes and scale models of fishing vessels while the menu is a romp through classics like souvlaki and lamb ribs. ▶ Open 11:00 - 23:00, Sat, Sun 12:00 - 23:00. (30-56zł) ☎ ☎ ☎ ☎ ☎ ☎ ☎ ☎

## Indian

**Shivaz C-2, ul. Podgórna 6, tel. (+48) 61 855 75 57, www.shivaz.com.pl.** Regular readers of our Poznań guide will know that the city has had some issues with ethnic food over the years, none so much as Indian. Not here though. The décor is snappily modern with huge murals and lots of nice touches that give the place a snappy look not typically found in European Indian restaurants. The menu has the main bases covered and the staff is markedly better and more attentive than in other ethnic eateries. If it's Indian you want then this is the recommended place in this city though because of the paucity of the competition that's not the plaudit it might sound. Lunches from 11:00-16:00 include a 15zł vegetarian option and an 18zł meat option. A little bit of trivia as well: German President Paul von Hindenburg, the man who was to appoint 'the Austrian corporal' as German Chancellor, was born in this building in 1847. ▶ Open 11:00 - 23:00, Sun 12:00 - 22:00. (19-36zł) ☎ ☎ ☎ ☎ ☎ ☎ ☎ ☎

**Taj India J-4, ul. Wiankowa 3, tel. (+48) 61 876 62 49, www.tajindia.pl.** For those staying in the centre, it's easy to overlook Taj India due to its location up at Lake Malta. But if a walk around Malta is on your to-do list then you could do a lot worse than pop in for a bite to eat. Granted, from the outside it doesn't look much but the inside decor is authentic without being too over the top and the staff are extremely helpful. The menu provides all you'd expect from an Indian restaurant, including Chicken Vindaloo, Lamb Roghan Josh, a good selection of veggie options and all the extras - naans, beers, poppadoms and the like - required to supplement the meal. ▶ Open 12:00 - 23:00. (18-44zł) ☎ ☎ ☎ ☎ ☎ ☎ ☎ ☎

## International

**3 Kolory K-4, ul. Wiankowa 3, tel. (+48) 501 40 28 27, www.3-kolory.pl.** Overlooking Lake Malta, 3 Kolory is a bright and welcoming restaurant which is definitely worthy of a visit despite its location on the far side of the lake. The menu is pretty varied and caters for all tastes (salads, fish, steaks, pizzas, spaghetti) and the dishes are so beautifully presented (steaks served on cedar planks!) that it's almost

a shame to have to eat them. But don't let that stop you. The food is cooked via the sous vide technique (low temps) and on grill stones to create unique flavors. The karkówka steak would be our personal recommendations, but to be fair every dish being brought out of the kitchen looked tempting and a return visit is certainly on the cards. ▶ Open 13:00 - 21:00, Sun 11:00 - 19:00. Closed Mon. (25-105zł) ☎ ☎ ☎ ☎ ☎ ☎ ☎ ☎

**84 Kroki D-2, ul. Wodna 24, tel. (+48) 882 83 06 46, www.84kroki.pl.** A trendy little place where the food on offer is every bit as smart as the interior. Exposed white brickwork mixed with wonky mirrors make for a slight arty feel and the warm lighting is down to a combination of well-positioned lamps and natural sunlight. On the menu front there's something for everyone with salads, meat dishes and pasta dishes all available. We tucked into the sirloin steak marinated in whisky and tuna steak with Dutch sauce and we were more than happy to polish off the lot. ▶ Open 10:00 - 20:00, Mon 15:00 - 22:00, Fri, Sat 11:00 - 21:00. (15-65zł) ☎ ☎ ☎ ☎ ☎ ☎ ☎ ☎

**Bagels & Friends ul. Wyspiańskiego 26 (Grunwald), tel. (+48) 61 222 39 40, www.bagelsandfriends.pl.** A smart, airy eatery located inside a small shopping arcade on the City Park complex just west of the centre. While the complex is built around a hotel, offices and apartments, it is likely that it will be its eateries that will make its name. Bagels and Friends maintains the high standard with a menu featuring filled bagels, soups and breakfasts. A wide range of teas and coffees, served in very generous sized mugs, are also on offer with 8 am opening during the week meaning you can start your day the NY way. ▶ Open 08:00 - 19:00, Sat 09:00 - 18:00, Sun 10:00 - 17:00. (14-49zł) ☎ ☎ ☎ ☎ ☎ ☎ ☎ ☎

**Bellview C-2, Stary Rynek 62, tel. (+48) 602 29 22 29, www.bellview.pl.** Located where the expat HQ that was Dom Wikingow was once housed. The restaurant attempts a look of New York chic with large images of the Brooklyn Bridge and plush black seating to make it look more upmarket and possibly justify the high prices on the menu. In our experience it doesn't. A chicken club sandwich shouldn't come in processed toast bread with garnish provided by spraying a ketchup and mayonnaise bottle at the finished article - a sandwich the restaurant claims it took off the menu, but which we just ordered - while the ribs served up were towards the 'well-cooked' end of the scale. Becomes more of a club from 21:00 onward. ▶ Open 16:00 - 02:00. Closed Tue, Wed. (25-55zł) ☎ ☎ ☎ ☎ ☎ ☎ ☎ ☎

**Bistro Friendly Food B-3, ul. Taczaka 17, tel. (+48) 665 45 08 58, www.friendlyfood.pl.** Located slap-bang in student central this little cafe bar is sure to become a hit. There's a very warm organic feel about the place and this is reflected in its delicious menu which features a number of light meals and snacks such as pancakes, hotdogs and salads. We sampled a salmon sandwich and fresh fruit milkshake and were left very impressed. What sets Bistro Friendly Food apart are two things. One is its claim to be the first Gluten-free bistro in Poland. The second is that it also doubles up as a shop, giving clients the chance to stock up on a number of healthy products including breads, natural jams, spices and a whole host of other tasty treats which we guarantee you won't be able to refuse. As if you needed any more reason to return, customers are handed a loyalty card which rewards regulars with free coffees and salads. Breakfast is served from 10:00-12:00. ▶ Open 10:00 - 18:00, Sat 11:00 - 16:00. Closed Sun. (12-20zł) ☎ ☎ ☎ ☎ ☎ ☎ ☎ ☎

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## Creepy Poland

You have not come to Poland to visit a pyramid, but that's exactly what you can do if your journey takes you up north. Near the town of Rapa, 120km north of the Mazurian city Olsztyn, you'll find a pyramid dating from 1795. Set in the middle of the Romnicka forest the eerie tomb is modelled on the Gaius Cestius pyramid in Rome, and was commissioned by the Farenheid family. The creepy structure is akin to something you'd find in the works of Edgar Allen Poe, and it was inside it that bodies of the Farenheid family were put to rest. During WWII it was vandalized by Soviet troops, and many of the tombs were smashed open and robbed. Today it is still possible to see the mummified remains of some of the corpses.



Photo: Merlin, pl.wikipedia.org, CC-BY 3.0

If that doesn't freak you out then head to the Polish/Czech border town of Kudowa-Zdrój (www.kudowa.pl). There you'll find the **Kaplica Czaśzek - the Chapel of Skulls**. Over 3,000 skulls and bones decorate the chapel, lining the walls and hanging off the ceilings. The project was undertaken in the 18th century by parish priest Václav Tomaek, who saw this spooky spectacle as the only way to remind locals of the horror of the wars and epidemics of the previous century. His own remains are kept in the glass case by the altar. Truly macabre.



## Have Your Say

If you have an opinion about any of the venues listed in this guide, let the two million regular unique visitors to our website, [poznan.inyourpocket.com](http://poznan.inyourpocket.com), know about it. Every venue on our website now has a function for comments, be they critical, complimentary or comical, so spill it.

## Proletaryat

"At the back is a bit rough but friendly crowd with some great USSR memorabilia. Beer and double Bacardi for 20zł, can't complain."

*Richard, United Kingdom, October*

## Hotel Wloski

"Hotel Wloski is in the heart of Poznan. It is located very close to the old market which allowed me to move freely around the city...this is a hotel for the most demanding with a focus on hospitality."

*Ann, Poznan, September*

## Czerwona Papryka

"I've been here quite a few times so far and have to admit this is one of the best restaurants you can visit at the Poznan old square. Great customer service, beautiful smiley girls, good wine, great Polish beer."

*Marko, Rome, June*

## Bigfoot Coffee

"The best 'Little America' in the ex-Eastern bloc! I must say that the tunes are more than cool - they rock!"

*Matt, Poland, March*

## Kriek Belgian Pub and Cafe

"Yes, visit this Belgian bar while in Poznan! It's an absolute must. Great selection and excellent barman. We liked the environment, very chill. We'll be back soon!"

*Melissa, USA, February*

## Brovaria

"This place is fantastic. Spent three days and nights there a few years back when in Poznan for a football match (Manchester City). Superb beer brewed on site. One of the best bars in Europe."

*Kippax Steve, UK, February*

## Bazar 1838

"We dined here last month, on the patio, which was a beautiful setting. The service was superb, the descriptions on the menu had such interesting details. The only problem was when the plates were delivered I found the food bland and lacking in seasoning, but I'm sure we'll give them one more try. I have to agree with IYP, it looks more expensive than it is."

*Lois, USA, July*

## Chwirot

"I find it the best place to eat out when it comes to vegetarian restaurants in Poznan. The ladies who take your order and make your meal are just amazing."

*Tomek, Poznan, April*

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**Blow Up Hall 5050** G-4, ul. Kościuszki 42, tel. (+48) 61 657 99 90, [www.blowuphall5050.com](http://www.blowuphall5050.com). Blow Up 5050 is a combination of gastronomy and art that will blow your socks off. The name is a combination of the 1966 Antonioni thriller combined with the owner's philosophy of making all her enterprises 50% art and 50% business. Complimenting the award winning hotel and bar is the restaurant, where prices are at the very top end of the Poznań market - as is the quality. Pop in for the four course lunch from 13:00-17:00 and you'll only be shelling out 46zł. The surroundings will leave you feeling you've become part of a living art exhibition, making it a truly unique experience in Poland if not Europe. ▶ Open 07:00 - 10:30, 13:00 - 23:00. (40-90zł)

**Blue Marina** ul. Chojnicka 49 (Regatta Hotel), (Jeżyce), tel. (+48) 502 78 78 82, [www.regattahotel.pl](http://www.regattahotel.pl). Blue Marina is the newly opened smart-looking restaurant located within the grounds of the Regatta Hotel. With 25 year experience under his belt, the head chef knows how to perform and the international dishes on offer include many local and fresh organic products including a fine selection of fish from the nearby lakes. Other options are salads and soups or steaks and lamb cutlets. It's bright and modern without being too formal and if it was located in the city centre it's fair to say that this place would be packed most nights. ▶ Open 12:00 - 22:00. (17-97zł)

**Brovaria C-2, Stary Rynek 73-74 (Brovaria Hotel), tel. (+48) 61 858 68 68, [www.brovaria.pl](http://www.brovaria.pl)**. Go formal and pick the right hand room for a smoothly subdued dining area or else do as the rank-and-file and head either to the brewing hall outback, the bar to the side, or the al fresco terrace. Brovaria have something for everyone, with the premium prices reserved for a tender fillet steak served with a separate bowl of swirly mashed potato. Or consider tucking into the beer feast - essentially a huge platter piled inches high with a mix of sea food and meat. Not for nothing have Brovaria been crowned king of the expatriate scene. ▶ Open 12:00 - 23:00, Sun 12:00 - 22:00. (23-64zł)

**Concordia Taste E-3, ul. Zwierzyniecka 3, tel. (+48) 61 667 44 19, [www.concordiadesign.pl](http://www.concordiadesign.pl)**. Set inside the Concordia Design Centre, this smart restaurant gets the IYP thumbs up. The design is what you would call post-industrial and the clientele sharp-dressed and out to impress. The food on offer comes beautifully presented by efficient staff and ranges from breakfast dishes for the early risers to main meals like beef tenderloin with veal marrow, savory venison, and cottage cheese dumplings, all of which come highly recommended. Due to its location (a business design and innovation centre) there's usually something going on and on our visit the restaurant was housing a small photography display. Local house DJs have been known to take to the decks on occasion to provide a chilled-out party atmosphere, so check out what's on beforehand. ▶ Open 09:00 - 21:00, Sun 10:00 - 22:00. (18-69zł)

**Corcovado D-1, ul. Wroniecka 16, tel. (+48) 61 663 63 34**. While Corcovado occupies the middle ground between café and restaurant, the owners say it leans slightly more toward the restaurant end of the scale. Sure enough, the menu is comprised of rather upscale European dishes that wouldn't be out of place in a more formal spot. But a café atmosphere prevails: brick walls adorned with artsy black-and-whites, a mellow atmosphere, and a slightly bohemian middle-class crowd. ▶ Open 13:00 - 22:00, Sun 13:00 - 18:00. Closed Mon. (26-78zł)

## NEW

**Dąbrowskiego 42 E-3, ul. Dąbrowskiego 42 (Jeżyce), tel. (+48) 797 99 79 95, [www.dabrowskiego.com](http://www.dabrowskiego.com)**. Climb up the steps and enter what is one of the city's more innovative and fresh-looking restaurants. The light and airy wood-filled rooms make it a great place to drool over the menu (while we weren't able to sample everything this time, the pork tenderloin with chanterelle mushroom sauce has certainly given us an excuse to return) and a great little kids area allows you to enjoy your meal in peace. ▶ Open 10:00 - 23:00, Sat 11:00 - 23:00, Sun 11:00 - 22:00. (17-62zł)

**Fanaberia D-1, ul. Wroniecka 24, tel. (+48) 61 853 33 99, [www.fanaberia-restauracja.pl](http://www.fanaberia-restauracja.pl)**. Froufrou interiors hand an almost theatrical style to Fanaberia, while the courtyard garden is a welcome inner sanctum at a time when Poznań is heating like a cooked duck - filled with cherubs, a fountain even, this is a moonlight marvel. The menu on the other hand is short and concise - just how we like them - and features some very tasty ice cream. ▶ Open 09:00 - 22:00, Sun 10:00 - 22:00. (29-69zł)

**Flavoria G-4, Pl. Andersa 3 (IBB Andersia Hotel), tel. (+48) 61 667 80 81, [www.andersiahotel.pl](http://www.andersiahotel.pl)**. Flavoria is tucked inside the IBB Andersia Hotel and took over from the hotel's original restaurant Mosaica. Flavoria features an international menu of dishes and breakfast from 06:30 - 11:00 daily, a perk for business travellers on the move. ▶ Open 06:30 - 23:00. (33-95zł)

**Hugo ul. Wojskowa 4 (Grunwald), tel. (+48) 697 99 01 93, [www.hugorestaurant.pl](http://www.hugorestaurant.pl)**. We're pretty sure Hugo is where the term 'food porn' was invented. The menu of modern European fare is so artfully presented it's hard to

## Polish Friends of Beer Party



[polskapartianarodowa.org](http://polskapartianarodowa.org)

Sure, it started out as a joke: In 1990 satirist Janusz Rewinski formed the Polish Friends of Beer Party (*Polska Partia Przyjaciół Piwa* or PPPP in Polish) to promote the country's second most beloved beverage during the

new shift in government. The concept was popular enough, in fact, to inspire a similar party in Russia as well. And thanks to some disillusionment with Poland's democratic transition after the end of communism a number of Poles voted for the prank party, and in the 1991 parliamentary elections 16 seats were nabbed by the PPPP. What started out as a joke - their slogan regarding the party running Poland: "it wouldn't be better but for sure it would be funnier" - evolved into a semi-serious platform thanks to the newly acquired seats. Of course, the divided cannot conquer, so when the party split into Large Beer and Small Beer factions it signalled the end of the jokey era, and eventually the Large Beer faction transformed into the far less humorous Polish Economic Program. Today little remains of the group except for well-earned entries in top ten lists of most ridiculous political parties and Facebook groups celebrating the original idea: that consuming quality beer is a symbol of freedom and a better standard of living.

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## Christ the King statue









**Christ the King statue (Pomnik Chrystusa Króla) ul. Sulechowska, Świebodzin.** In November 2010 the people of Świebodzin welcomed a new resident: a giant statue of Jesus Christ, dubbed "Christ the King," that overlooks the plains. The stark-white statue with the bold golden crown stands with arms outstretched and, ideally for this small Polish town, welcomes pilgrims and tourists.

The 400 ton statue took around 5 years to complete and was the culmination of a dream for local priest Sylwester Zawadzki, who originally envisioned a simple garden sculpture. Instead the gargantuan statue incited debate over whether the monument was tacky or tasteful, with many claiming accidents surrounding the project (Zawadzki suffered a heart attack and the statue's head fell, crushing a worker's foot) were a sign that it shouldn't go forward.

Upon completion last year Christ the King was declared the world's largest statue of Jesus Christ, a statement that elicits plenty of debate. At 33 meters high (one meter for each year Jesus lived, naturally) he is shorter than Rio's famed Christ the Redeemer statue. But factor in his crown (three meters) and the mound he stands on (another 16 meters) and he easily dwarfs Rio's Redeemer. Of course, the folks in Cochamba, Bolivia might have something to say about that - their Cristo de la Concordia statue is over 40 meters tall, which tops both statues if the mound isn't a factor.

Debate aside, the statue is an impressive feat to find in the Polish countryside regardless of his dimensions, and is worth a visit if you find yourself near Świebodzin.

The best way is to get to Świebodzin by train, with five direct trains a day leaving from Poznań Główny station. You can go by the EuroCity train, where the journey takes 50 minutes and costs around 70zł for 2nd class ticket, or you can ride the "Osobowy" train - which at 1.5 hours and around 20zł is a better deal. From the train station it is roughly 1km to the monument, so the walk should take about 15 minutes. Tours to the monument from Poznań can be arranged by request with local companies like PTTK .

decide whether to grab your fork or your camera. The menu changes so often that the only static dish we can mention is the worthy truffle egg starter. And after some of the OTT interiors found in the restaurants of Old Town the muted, chic sparseness (the restaurant is inside a renovated barracks building) and soft lighting of Hugo makes you feel like an actual adult, not a bull in a knick-knack shop. ▶ Open 12:00 - 22:00, Sat 16:00 - 22:00, Sun 13:00 - 20:00. (39-80zl)      

**Madagaskar H-3, ul. Wielka 7, tel. (+48) 61 852 35 24, [www.restauracjamadagaskar.pl](http://www.restauracjamadagaskar.pl).** Set over two levels, Madagaskar's menu has typically been more European than their name would suggest. Fortunately a new five-dish offering of "specialities from Madagaskar" means you can skip past the usual Polish pork chops in favour of a spicy white bean curry, pork stewed with peas and tilapia cooked in red curry paste. If given the choice dine in the basement, a white cave-like space filled with trees and the odd animal-print furniture. ► Open 12:00 - 22:30, Thu, Fri, Sat 12:00 - 24:00. (22-60zł)

**Panorama K-4, ul. Baraniaka 77 (HP Park Hotel), tel. (+48) 61 874 11 00, [www.hotelepark.pl](http://www.hotelepark.pl).** Views of Lake Malta are the main selling point here, and come sunset it really does get quite romantic. An inoffensive, play-it-safe interior reflects the hotel location, but the chefs do well in creating good value dinners that merit the drive. ▶ Open 13:00 - 23:00. (18-692)        

**Papavero B-1, ul. 3 Maja 46, tel. (+48) 61 853 24 82, [www.papavero-poznan.pl](http://www.papavero-poznan.pl).** It's all very day of the Triffids in Papavero, a lovely little restaurant that could easily be mistaken for an overgrown garden. Peer beyond the leaves and the cherubs and one finds a rather fine restaurant, with an American sirloln that does just enough to distract diners from engaging in daring flower theft. ▶ Open 12:00 - 23:00, Sun 12:00 - 21:00. (39-118zł)

**Piatto Bianco** C-3, ul. Rybaki 20A, tel. (+48) 792 59 63 18, [www.piattobianco.pl](http://www.piattobianco.pl). A right little odd-ball joint, decked out to look like what could well pass as your grandma's living room. Old rugs, battered radios and china ornaments make up the decor and the dull glow from candles and lamps make for a nice feel. The menu isn't going to set the world alight but does serve up a nice little selection of pizzas, pasta dishes and risottos that aren't going to break the bank. You can't help but feel that if this place was located just a little bit closer to the Rynek then it would be very popular. ▶ Open 14:00 - 02:00, Fri, Sat 14:00 - 04:00. (14-262z)   

**Pod Pretekstem (Under a Veil)** A-2, ul. Św. Marcina 80/82 (entrance from ul. Kościuszkzi), tel. (+48) 61 818 28 24, [www.podpretekstem.pl](http://www.podpretekstem.pl). A quirky café/bar/restaurant situated round the back of the Zamek. Trumpets hang from the ceiling and giant beetles adorn the walls. Art nouveau details abound with several oddities thrown in, and while the staff can frustrate with their mute and meek approach this remains one of the top café bars in the city. What it isn't is a top restaurant. The menu has flip-flopped from European and Polish dishes to Spanish and then back to the original plan, yet this remains a choice spot for drinks, snacks and, most importantly, soaking up an atmosphere that is second to none. ► Open 12:00 - 22:00. (11-592)

**Restauracja u Myśliwych A-1, ul. Karola Libelta 37, tel. (+48) 61 852 99 03, [www.umysliwych.com](http://www.umysliwych.com).** The majority of visitors to Poznan will stick to the restaurants dotted around the main market square but *U Myśliwych*

offers a great alternative. This is a top-notch joint with some of the most mouth-watering dishes you will encounter in the city. Specialising in game, the menu boasts plenty of venison dishes as well as a fine selection of fish and other meats. As you'd imagine, the setting is pretty smart, so make sure you dress accordingly and keep enough change for a taxi fare as there's not much chance you'll want to be doing any walking afterwards. ▶ Open 12:00 - 20:00. (30-100z)

**SPOT.** G-5, ul. Dolna Wilda 87, tel. (+48) 61 835 88 40, [www.spot.poznan.pl](http://www.spot.poznan.pl). A beautiful looking place with a post-industrial swagger inside a former red brick factory complex. Black/White colours, retro kitsch plastic chairs and a few bare bricks give it a sharp, design look, while the petite international menu is certainly worth investigating further. Featuring a unique menu and some Belgian lagers this is Poznań at its cutting edge best. ▶ Open 12:00 - 23:00, Sat 11:00 - 23:00, Sun 11:00 - 21:00. Closed Mon. (20-50zł)

**Vine Bridge I-3, ul. Ostrówek 6, tel. (+48) 61 875 09 34, [www.vinebridge.pl](http://www.vinebridge.pl).** Is Vine Bridge the smallest restaurant in Poland? Their three-table dining room sure makes a good case for their claim. Each table is garnished with a tiny tomato plant, echoing the wee-ness of the experience. The menu offers intriguing dishes like "stone soup," "meat in clay" and "bear paw," which are meant to echo items made hundreds of years ago in Ostrówek (appropriately, Poland's smallest city), where the restaurant is located. The restaurant is the brainchild of the Dark Restaurant folks, which means it's unlikely you will leave unsatisfied - and the dishes themselves will be worthy of photographs. And though it's the last place we'd bring kids, they even have a tiny two-item children's menu. ▶ Open 16:00 - 22:00, Sun 12:00 - 20:00. Closed Mon. (20-45zł)        

**Weranda Lunch & Wine** G-4, ul. Półwiejska 42 (Stary Browar), tel. (+48) 61 859 69 69, [www.werandafamily.com](http://www.werandafamily.com). Weranda is a restaurant worthy of its setting at the confluence of the old and new portions of the vast Stary Browar shopping centre, with an open two-story skylit space (what the hell are those colourful things hanging from the ceiling?) that is breathtaking even in a building that's known for its architecture. If upscale mall dining exists then Weranda has perfected it, with a dish of the day (25zl from 12:00-16:00) that can be anything from pasta to grilled meat to whatever strikes the chef's fancy. All of it (even the ice cream, we suppose) can be paired with wine, easily making shopping an afterthought. ▶ Open 09:00 - 22:00. (30-37zl)

Italian

**Bernardino Ristorante** B-2, ul. Św. Marcin 40, tel. (+48) 61 852 40 00, [www.bernardino.pl](http://www.bernardino.pl). We're big fans of Bernardino, a super spot that makes use of a clean and crisp design and lots of light, bright colours. The street level setting is great for pedestrian watching, while the pizza is among the best you'll find in Poznań. ▶ Open 11:00 - 22:00, Fri, Sat 11:00 - 03:00. (15-80zł)       

**Da Luigi D-2, ul. Woźna 1, tel. (+48) 61 851 73 11, [www.daluigi.pl](http://www.daluigi.pl).** Low, low prices, a friendly welcome - sometimes by Luigi himself - and excellent pizza are enough to earn this restaurant its stripes. Actually, calling this place a restaurant is a little fanciful. This is more of a foggy trattoria, and mostly frequented by the students who spill out of the bars opposite. ► Open 12:00 - 21:00, Fri, Sat 12:00 - 22:00. (10-55z)      



## Traditional Polish Cuisine

### Sous Vide Technique



Traditional beef roulade served with black lentils and beetroot puree

## Restauracja RATUSZOVA

Stary Rynek 55, 61-722 Poznań


Tel.: +48 618 510 513, [www.ratuszova.pl](http://www.ratuszova.pl)

## Breakfast

**Brovaria C-2, Stary Rynek 73-74 (Brovaria Hotel),** tel. (+48) 61 858 68 68, [www.brovaria.pl](http://www.brovaria.pl). An open buffet costing 38zł in one of Poznan's top locations, right on the square. ▶ Breakfast served 07:00 - 10:00. (38zł)

**McDonald's** B-2, ul. 27 Grudnia 17/19, tel. (+48) 694 49 59 68, [www.mcdonalds.pl](http://www.mcdonalds.pl). Also at (E-4) ul. Głogowska 14 and (E-3) ul. Dąbrowskiego 38. ► Breakfast served 07:00 - 10:30, Sat, Sun 07:00 - 11:00. (11-14zl) 

**Republika Róż** D-2, Pl. Kolegiacki 2a, tel. (+48) 61 852 20 31, [www.republikaroz.pl](http://www.republikaroz.pl). A recommended spot for breakfast in a cosy cafe close to the centre.

► Breakfast served 08:00 - 23:00, Sat 09:00 - 23:00, Sun 11:00 - 21:00. (10-25zł)      

**Rzymianka C-2, Al. Marcinkowskiego 22 (Rzymski Hotel), tel. (+48) 61 852 81 21, [www.hotelrzymski.pl](http://www.hotelrzymski.pl).** This bright, informal bistro in the Hotel Rzymski is a popular breakfast spot. The continental breakfast is a fair deal and they also do omelettes and sausages from dawn. Note that the hotel's other restaurant, De Rome, also serves breakfast and guests have their choice about where to dine between the two options. Lunch and dinner are also available, and worth considering whether you're staying in the hotel above, or just in the neighbourhood. ► Breakfast served 07:00 - 11:00. (10-342)      







**TRATTORIA DONATELLO**  
**60-783 POZNAŃ**  
**ul. GRUNWALDZKA 29C**  
**tel. 61 865 32 99**

**Donatello** E-3, ul. Grunwaldzka 29c, tel. (+48) 61 865 32 99, [www.donatello.poznan.pl](http://www.donatello.poznan.pl). If five pages of pizzas to choose from doesn't convince you of what Donatello's star attraction is, then the swift trade in takeout will: we watched one employee whose sole task it was to assemble pizza boxes for delivery. Toppings include everything from mussels to anchovies, and you can even build your own if the double-digit options somehow don't appeal to you. The customary trattoria décor is easily outshined by the food, which also includes plenty of pasta dishes and crispy garlic bread. Also at ul. Tatrzańska 1-5 (Jeżyce). ▶ Open 10:00 - 22:00, Fri 10:00 - 23:00, Sat 12:00 - 23:00, Sun 12:00 - 22:00. (15-60zł)     

**Estella D-2, ul. Garbary 41, tel. (+48) 61 852 34 10, [www.estella.pl](http://www.estella.pl).** A spacious, traditional pizzeria with 45 types of pizza and an equally daunting number of pasta

An advertisement for Trattoria Donatello. On the left, there is a photograph of a plate of spaghetti topped with lobster tails and mussels. To the right of the image, the text 'Włoski smak' is written in a stylized, cursive font. Below this, the restaurant's name 'Trattoria Donatello' is displayed in a large, elegant serif font. Underneath the name, the phone number 'tel. (61) 628 21 62' is provided. At the bottom, the address 'ul. Tatrzńska 1/5' and the location 'C.H. Plotki i Paweł' are listed.

dishes. Long established, with a faithful set of followers who won't eat pizza anywhere else. ► Open 12:00 - 23:00, Fri, Sat 12:00 - 24:00, Sun 12:00 - 22:00. (18-69zt)



**Fidello H-3**, ul. Garbary 50, tel. (+48) 61 852 67 94, [www.fidello-ristorante.pl](http://www.fidello-ristorante.pl). A Venetian-style restaurant with so much garlicky dangling from the ceiling that vampires should beware. The rustic and romantic décor also includes the traditional empty wine bottles and piles of fake fruit, not to mention 'amore mio' scratched into one wall. A good spot for an intimate twosome, where you can fill your date with fresh pasta and gnocchi. ▶ Open 12:00 - 22:00, Fri, Sat 12:00 - 23:00, Sun 12:00 - 21:00. (19-78z)

**Figaro C-3**, ul. Ogrodowa 17, tel. (+48) 61 856 01 89, [www.restauracjafigaro.eu](http://www.restauracjafigaro.eu). Romantic repasts and serious business dinners take place amongst these starched tablecloths and vases of flowers. Prices are steep, but well within the spending power of most Western visitors. Diners can choose from a large list of pastas, beef tenderloin, veal and an expansive wine list. What Figaro is famous for though is its fish menu, said to be the best in the city. Those wanting to really push the boat out may wish to take advantage of the restaurant's newly-opened VIP room, which can be hired out for those extra special occasions. ▶ Open 13:00 - 23:00, Sun 13:00 - 18:00. (25-83zt)      

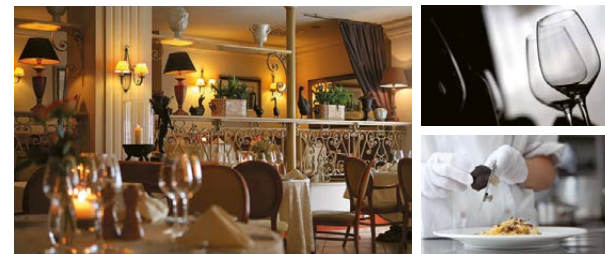
**Girasole D-1, ul. Żydowska 27, tel. (+48) 61 851 37 29.** Easily overlooked on account of their end-of-old town location, though that doesn't mean you should. Simple but stylish, decorations include a wooden fittings, tiled floors and vases of cheerful flowers, and the menu hits the spot each time with some highly recommended pizzas. ► Open 12:00 - 22:00, Mon, Sun 12:00 - 21:00, Fri, Sat 12:00 - 24:00. (12-49zt)

**Massimiliano Ferre B-2, Pl. Wolności 14, tel. (+48) 61 852 81 12, [www.mf-poznan.pl](http://www.mf-poznan.pl).** Poznań's good at keeping secrets, and they don't come much better than this place. Not that it looks like much - stone cladding and a cheapish interior give it the slapdash look that suggest a seriously hurried/panicked opening. So it's a pleasant surprise to find that MF stands alongside the best Italian eateries in Poznań. The pizza is our personal highlight, though we've also heard lofty words about the beef fillet in black pepper sauce. An unexpected gem, and well worth the look.

► Open 09:00 - 22:00, Sat, Sun 12:00 - 22:00. (18-61zl)      

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**Milano Ristorante F-2, Al. Wielkopolska 42, tel. (+48) 61 852 87 45, [www.milano.poznan.pl](http://www.milano.poznan.pl).** An interior of polished woods, potted palms and crisp linen is the backdrop for one of the best meals in Poznań. The waiters are immaculate, the cooking creative. The prices can be steep, but you're rewarded with excellent lamb, and seafood choices. ► Open 12:30 - 23:00, Sun 12:30 - 19:00. (21-13024)

**Mollini B-2, ul. Św. Marcin 34, tel. (+48) 61 852 53 33, [www.mollini.pl](http://www.mollini.pl).** This charming Italian venture sets itself apart by letting the food speak for itself with simple dishes that will knock you out. The 19zł lunch special (which includes soup and a main course) is a steal and easily one of the city's best-kept secrets. We aren't kidding about the simple - your pasta can be as basic as spaghetti noodles with olive oil, garlic, tomatoes and parmesan, and in your snobbier moments you might think it sounds like something you could easily do at home. You can't. Even the straightforward grilled veggies seem elevated somehow. An Italian restaurant delightfully free of cliché but full of flavour. ▶ Open 11:00 - 23:00, Sun 11:00 - 22:00. (20-50zł)    






**Paderewski Restaurant** C-2, ul. Paderewskiego 11, tel. (+48) 604 79 56 03, [www.paderewskirestaurant.com](http://www.paderewskirestaurant.com). A pizza-loving reader tipped us off to Paderewski, an Italian venture that occupies a prime corner of the Rynek and slings made-to-order pies as well as fresh homemade pastas. The pizza list covers nearly three pages of the menu, and diners can spy the chef as he works at the back cobbling together custom pies that are the perfect size for a pair to split. The talkative owner mentioned adding a piano and decorative upgrades to the plain space, but there's no need to focus on anything other than your slice. ▶ Open 13:00 - 22:00. (14-502) 

**Piano Bar Restaurant & Cafe C-3, ul. Półwiejska 42 (Stary Browar Shopping Mall)), tel. (+48) 61 859 65 70, [www.pianobar.poznan.pl](http://www.pianobar.poznan.pl).** Attached to the side of the Stary Browar Shopping Mall, Piano Bar rates as one of the top options in Poz. The background aesthetics are fantastic, with cream shades paired with moody lighting and striking art exhibitions. Although you'll find all the expected pasta and meat meals it's the fish that tends to steal the show here, which is something of a result in landlocked Poznań.







► Open 12:00 - 23:00, Sun 12:00 - 20:00. (28-140zł)

►        

**Trattoria Castellana** A-1, ul. Fredry 7, tel. (+48) 535 720 780, [www.castellana.com.pl](http://www.castellana.com.pl). Found inside one of the castle outbuildings Castellana has an unmistakably Latin air, with a comfortable trattoria design and a menu that includes all the usual Italian hits including Italian dumplings made on

the spot. The menu is massive, and better still, well within practically all but the lowest of budgets. Certainly a decent interruption to any look round the castle. ► Open 12:00 - 22:30. (14-38zt)     

**Umberto G-1**, ul. Armii Poznań (Cytadela Park), tel. (+48) 660 89 73 68, [www.umberto.com.pl](http://www.umberto.com.pl). See Citadel Park in Sightseeing. ▶ Open 10:00 - 22:00. (25-36zł)

**Valpolicella C-2**, ul. Wrocławska 7, tel. (+48) 61 855 71 91, [www.valpolicella.poznan.pl](http://www.valpolicella.poznan.pl). This place hasn't changed since our debut issue; find a wide selection of antipasti, the usual meat and pasta dishes and wines from Veneto inside a crazily asymmetrical decor painted in cartoon colours. Certainly reliable if nothing else. ▶ Open 13:00 - 23:00. (22-642)      










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## Hot Beer?






There are a number of ways to survive the winter in Poland, and we've tried them all, from dressing up like an Eskimo to staying in bed and refusing to get dressed at all. Of all the methods known, however, none rewards as much as a pint of **'grzane piwo'**. That's hot beer in layman's terms – essentially a frothing hot pint spiced with artificial ginger syrup, clove, cinnamon and other mulling spices. For some an acquired taste, for others an early Christmas present and others still an utter profanity, but an invention necessary for everyone to try at least once. There are a couple things to consider with regards to hot beer: Firstly, it takes a while (5-10 minutes) to properly heat the drink without exploding it, so prepare to wait and be patient. Secondly there is a tendency to immediately stab a straw into the glass to mix the syrup at the bottom throughout the drink. If the beverage is too hot this will result in it erupting all over you. This common rookie mistake is an event many twisted bartenders wait for with relish; you can avoid it by simply letting your drink cool slightly and gingerly testing its reaction to the straw. [We're telling you this to save you some face. Ours has had egg on it too many times.] Similarly popular is **'grzane wino'** – or sweet mulled wine – which you'll find is suddenly okay to drink in public places once the holidays come around and barrels of it dispensed on Poland's market squares. You can also order it at the bar and even buy it in the shop and heat it up at home – a popular brand is Grzaniec Galicyjski.





Japanese

**77 Sushi D-2, ul. Woźna 10, tel. (+48) 61 853 33 86, [www.sushi77.com](http://www.sushi77.com).** A narrow restaurant serving fresh cuts of sushi to Poznań's growing band of Japanistas. Complimenting the fine raw fish are import beer and sake, as well as an international wine card to go with your choice. You could visit in daytime, and indeed many people do, but our suggestion is to wait till dusk when the lights dim and the atmosphere steps up a notch. ▶ Open 12:00 - 22:30. (21-602)     

**Art Sushi** G-4, ul. Półwiejska 42 (Stary Browar), tel. (+48) 61 859 65 90, [www.artsushi.pl](http://www.artsushi.pl). Flamboyant sushi combos served inside a pleasing interior of dark bamboo ceilings and rice paper lanterns. Both Japanese and Korean recipes to choose from, including a tongue teasing Kimchi soup and crunchy tempepo dishes. ▶ Open 12:00 - 21:30, Fri, Sat 12:00 - 22:30. (30-60zł)

**Goko D-2, ul. Woźna 13, tel. (+48) 61 639 06 39, [www.goko.com.pl](http://www.goko.com.pl)** Goko should shorten their name to Go: it's good, and that's all you need know. The Poznań sushi race is hotting up, and Goko are a good bet if you want to land fresh fish in a decent atmosphere. Seen as a narrow space kitted out with red leather seating, the only disappointment are whited out windows that render people watching impossible. An additional reason to dine: there are regular discounts on various dishes and drinks depending on when you stumble in. ► Open 12:00 - 23:00, Sun 12:00 - 22:00. (11-792)                         

**Hanami Sushi** C-2, Al. Marcinkowskiego 16/6, tel. (+48) 61 855 13 09, [www.hanamisushi.pl](http://www.hanamisushi.pl). The previous Hanami was a pretty basic affair as far as interior went and the new location can hardly be accused of over-elaboration either. The inside is pretty bland save for a few token bits and bobs passing for decorations and the odd red chair adding a spark of colour here and there. But, much like the old venue, there are still other reasons to visit - the highly-recommended raw fish that's on offer as well as a damn good selection of more substantial dishes. We've had the teriyaki chicken on more than one occasion and are more than happy to endorse it. ▶ Open 12:00 - 23:00. (29-55zt)     

**KURO by Panamo D-2, ul. Wodna 8/9, tel. (+48) 61 887 04 30, [www.kuro.pl](http://www.kuro.pl).** The tendency in Poland is for a new cuisine to be launched and then a procession of new restaurants to open all serving pretty much the same 'fashionable' cuisine. Here Kuro have taken the cuisine of a few years ago - Sushi - and mixed it with the cuisine of the last year - Thai. The results to be fair are very, very good and the ul. Wodna location means you won't have to go far to find it. Find both hot and cold Japanese dishes and some very tasty Thai in a handsome room with remarkably friendly people working there. ▶ Open 13:00 - 22:00, Thu, Fri, Sat 12:00 - 23:00. (20-40zł)    

**Kyokai Sushi Bar** ul. Wojskowa 4 (Grunwald), tel. (+48) 519 37 61 82, [www.kyokai.pl](http://www.kyokai.pl). The City Park development just to the west of the centre (past the Trade fairs) is home to some of the city's best eating establishments and this is true for Kyokai, one of Poznań's best Japanese efforts. Sushi sets revolve around a circular bar, Tokyo-style, while a sushi sensei multitasks in the thick of it all. The surroundings, set in a series of converted red brick buildings, look chic and sexy as do the clientele. Definitely one to check out. ► Open 12:00 - 23:00, Sun 12:00 - 22:00. (35-60zł)



**Happy hour**

**12:00 - 17:00**

*All week!*



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*Eat all you want*

**60zł per person**



**Matii Sushi Restaurant** G-4, Pl. Andersa 5, tel. (+48) 61 850 50 20, [www.matii.pl](http://www.matii.pl). The competition for Poznań's best sushi is seriously heating up and this place looks like a real contender for the title. Standing in the shadow of the Stary Browar mall Matii makes use of imported sushi masters to create a comprehensive range of top-notch aquatic choices that delight the masses. ▶ Open 12:00 - 23:00, Thu, Fri, Sat 12:00 - 24:00. (15-69zt) 

**Sakana Sushi Bar** D-2, ul. Wodna 7/1, tel. (+48) 61 853 16 39, [www.sakana.pl](http://www.sakana.pl). Five star sushi served inside a pale vanilla coloured interior equipped with all the necessary rice paper panels and bamboo extras. Raw fish circles the bar in small wooden boats, ready to be snapped up by wasp-waisted fashionista revelling in the chance to showoff deftly executed chopstick moves. ▶ **Open** 12:00 - 23:00; Sun 13:00 - 22:00; (40-80zł)        

**Violet Sushi** C-2, ul. Św. Marcin 9, tel. (+48) 61 852 67 23, [www.violetsushi.pl](http://www.violetsushi.pl). Adjust your eyes before entering, everything in Violet comes in deep purple, a good name for a band, but a ropey colour scheme for a restaurant. Ouch. Still, bring a good pair of Oakleys and you'll be happy enough, primarily in part to the Yakitori dishes - we went for the sake teriyaki, and it received a unanimous thumbs up from our team of panellists. ▶ Open 12:00 - 23:00. (19-119z)

**Yi Fan Sushi & Wok** D-3, ul. Zielona 5/3, tel. (+48) 666 83 56 76. Poznań has indeed gone sushi-crazy over the last few years and this place offers another decent choice for anyone wanting to test out the ever-growing local sushi scene. But that's not all. Tucked in just next to Frederic Chopin Park, here you'll find a top selection of traditional Japanese and Chinese dishes, as well as some cheap lunch

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## Three Kings

The holiday of Three Kings or *Trzech Króli* (January 6) marks the end of the Christmas season in impressive style throughout Poland. A wholly Catholic holiday, 3 Kings honours Kaspar, Melchior and Balthazar, the three wise men who visited Jesus at his birth. Celebrations range from small to grand but often include a parade welcoming the wise men, with characters passing out candy and children dressed in colours signifying Asia, Africa and Europe (the respective homelands of the wise men). Mass is also a compulsory part of the Three Kings holiday as well, with families picking up a piece of blessed chalk during the service that is taken home and used to write the year and the initials “KMB,” with a cross between each letter, above the front door. This tradition is said to protect the family from sickness and misfortune for the year. Fun is also had during the day’s feast when a Three Kings cake is served with either an almond or coin baked inside. Whoever is fortunate enough to land the surprise slice is considered king (or queen) for the day and lucky for the rest of the year. If your cake – which varies by region and can be anything from sponge to fruitcake – is decorated with a crown the lucky almond-eater gets the honour of wearing it. An additional reason to celebrate: In 2011 Parliament officially restored the date as a non-working national public holiday in Poland for the first time since it was cancelled by the communists 50 years earlier, so there’s no need to go work!



## Polish Food



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Those wanting to take a quick foxtrot through the world of the Polish kitchen should consider putting the following to the test:

**Smalec:** Fried lard, often served complimentary before a meal with hunks of homemade bread. It sounds evil, but it works like a miracle any day, especially an arctic one. Ideally partnered with a mug of local beer. Any Polish restaurant worth its salt should give you lashings of this prior to your meal. You only need ask.

**Soup:** Keep your eyes peeled for Poland's two signature soups; żurek (sour rye soup with sausages and potatoes floating in it) and barszcz (beetroot, occasionally with dumplings thrown in). Table manners go out of the window when eating these two, so feel free to dunk bread rolls in them.

**Bigos:** You'll either love it or vomit. Bigos, a.k.a. hunters stew, is made using meat, cabbage, onion and sauerkraut before being left to simmer for a few days. If you have second helpings then consider yourself a Pole by default.

**Golabki:** Boiled cabbage leaves stuffed with beef, onion and rice before being baked in a tomato sauce. Urban myth claims Poland's King Kazimierz fed his army golabki before his victory outside Malbork in a battle against the Teutonic Order. The unlikely victory was attributed to the hearty meal his troops had enjoyed before hand.

**Kielbasa:** Sausages, and in Poland you'll find several varieties made primarily with pork, but sometimes using turkey, horse, lamb and even bison. Few varieties to watch for including Krakowska, a Kraków specialty which uses pepper and garlic, kabanosy which is a thin, dry sausage flavoured with caraway seed and wiejska; a monster-looking u-shaped sausage. Kielbasa was also the nickname of one of Poland's most notorious gangland figures of the 90s.

**Pierogi:** Pockets of dough traditionally filled with meat, cabbage or cheese, though you will also occasionally find maverick fillings such as chocolate or strawberries.

**Placki:** Nothing more than potato pancakes, often paired with lashings of sour cream. Again, all your traditional folksy Polish restaurants will have these on the menu, if not you have every right to raise a few questions in the direction of the kitchen.

**Zapiekanki:** Also known as Polish pizza. Take a stale baguette, pour melted cheese on it and then cover it with mushrooms and ketchup from a squeeze bottle. Best eaten when absolutely plastered. Where to buy it: various fast food cabins dotted around the city centre.

and discount deals served in a pleasant atmosphere with soft music. We recommend the 'Mix Futomaki' but we'll let you make up your own minds. ▶ Open 12:00 - 22:00, Sun 12:00 - 21:00. (19-35zl) ☎ 📞 📱 📺 📺

**Zindo Sushi Korean - Japanese Restaurant D-1, ul. Kramarska 15, tel. (+48) 61 853 01 78, www.zindo.pl.** An expansion from their Warsaw and Wrocław operations, Zindo's modern beige-heavy space still appears to be struggling to attract attention from the folks in Poznań. A lunchtime sushi buffet was the busiest we saw the place, and provides more of a bang-for-your-buck experience than the pricier dinner option. The Korean menu is a standout, and adventurous eaters can indulge in octopus, fried squid or raw fish with vegetables to test their mettle. More traditional options like kimchi are reliably well done. ▶ Open 12:00 - 22:30. (30-70zl) ☎ 📞 📱 📺 📺

## Jewish

**Ludwik do Rondla D-2, ul. Woźna 2/3, tel. (+48) 61 851 66 38.** Poznań's classic Jewish restaurant Cymes has morphed into Ludwik do Rondla (Ludwik to the Man, a way of saying "make my dinner!"), which means the menu is now a mix of traditional Polish cuisine as well as the consistent Jewish dishes (like herring in marinade and a Jewish caviar) that were the hallmark of Cymes. Note that you will have to stifle a giggle while paging through the English translations of the Jewish dishes as the poultry stomachs brewed in curry have been randomly translated as "goose cunt." Yes, we snapped a picture too. ▶ Open 13:00 - 22:00. (14-32zl) ☎ 📞 📱 📺 📺

## Mexican

**Cactus Factoria D-2, ul. Ślusarska 5, tel. (+48) 510 11 18 02, www.cactusfactoria.pl.** This devil-red dining spot seems to be half-heartedly attempting a Tex-Mex theme. Our margarita, though delicious, was curiously served in a martini glass, and the bar offers significantly more vodka than tequila for sampling. The schizophrenic 20+ page menu features everything from a list of pastas to aztec soup along with a smattering of quesadillas, which only adds to the confusion. Despite its flaws the back garden appears popular, and at night the second-story club makes it easy to forget that your entrée of grilled pork neck wasn't particularly Tex or Mex - especially if you're downing one of the bar's more exotic fruit-laden cocktails. ▶ Open 13:00 - 22:00, Fri, Sat 13:00 - 24:00. (16-64zl) ☎ 📞 📱 📺 📺

**Czerwone Sombro B-3, ul. Piekary 17, tel. (+48) 61 852 61 01, www.czerwone-sombro.pl.** Granted, it's better than The Mexican, but then so is sifting through a hospital bin. Mexican food hasn't exported well to Poland, and here's more proof. The salsa is tame, the tortillas from a packet and the food buried under verdant fields of cabbage. It's two star stuff frankly, though what makes it palatable is a cracking atmosphere that's just perfect for tanking back the tequila. Also at (C-2) Stary Rynek 2. ▶ Open 12:00 - 22:00, Sun 12:00 - 19:00. (16-46zl) ☎ 📞 📱 📺 📺

**The Mexican C-1, ul. Kramarska 19, tel. (+48) 61 851 05 36, www.mexican.pl.** Is the Polish food in Mexico this bad? Boyish waiters dressed as cowboys greet diners at the door, then lead you to take your chances on what might stand out as the most shocking meal of your year. We'd like to see a picture of the cook added to the Wanted posters, as the man is clearly a charlatan of the most sinister design. Barely defrosted tortillas arrive hidden under sickly green gunk that wastes no time in letting the guts know they're in serious trouble. ▶ Open 13:30 - 24:00, Wed, Thu, Sun 11:30 - 24:00, Fri, Sat 11:30 - 01:00. (20-41zl) ☎ 📞 📱 📺 📺



Stary Rynek 95, Poznań  
tel.: 61 851-78-68  
gospoda@avanti.poznan.pl  
www.podkoziolkami.pl

## Polish

**Bazar 1838 C-2, ul. Paderewskiego 8, tel. (+48) 61 222 68 64, www.bazar1838.pl.** Set in the historic building that once housed (and will house again from 2013) the Hotel Bazar, the name of this smart restaurant honours both the building and the year it was built. Looking far pricier from the outside than it actually is, the menu offers a very well presented range of Polish dishes served by a friendly English-speaking staff. The food scores well in the price to quality ratio and along with more imaginative servings of typical Polish dishes such as Golonka (pork hock or knuckle) you'll find pastas, salads and a variety of original dishes. Definitely a place to impress without buckling the credit card set as it is among some of Poznań's more exclusive shops. ▶ Open 08:00 - 22:00, Mon, Sat 09:00 - 22:00, Sun 09:00 - 20:00. (29-54zl) ☎ 📞 📱 📺 📺

**Chłopskie Jadło B-2, ul. Kantaka 8/9, tel. (+48) 61 853 50 70, www.chlopskiejadlo.pl.** The Chłopskie Jadło chain is something of an institution in Poland, and this one's exactly the same as the rest: lots of hams and

sausages hanging from the walls, while country wench waitresses rush around with plates of caveman food. This is the classic Polish experience, with pretty much anything that ever lived on a farm hacked up and presented before you. ▶ Open 12:00 - 22:00, Sat 12:00 - 24:00. (14-65zl) ☎ 📞 📱 📺 📺

**Dramat C-2, Stary Rynek 41, tel. (+48) 61 856 09 38, www.dramat.com.pl.** One of the few places in the Rynek where you can enjoy a pile of food without peeling off a number of banknotes. Serving a breakfast menu of sausages and eggs, late risers will head straight into their main menu which includes a pretty definitive list of Polish dishes - ranging from pierogi and their assorted fillings to pork chops. Count on an amiable staff keeping a watchful eye on their customers. ▶ Open 11:00 - 22:00, Fri, Sat 11:00 - 24:00. (13-22zl) ☎ 📞 📱 📺 📺

## Tipping Tribulations

Polish tipping etiquette can be a bit confusing for foreigners. While in other civilized countries it's normal to say 'thanks' when a waiter collects the money, you'll be horrified to learn that in Poland uttering the word 'dziękuję' (thank you), or even 'thank you' in English, is an indication that you won't be wanting any change back. This cultural slip-up can get very embarrassing and expensive as the waiter/waitress then typically does their best to play the fool and make you feel ashamed for asking for your money back, or conveniently disappears having pocketed all of your change, no matter what the cost of the meal and size of the note it was paid with. We suggest that you only say 'thank you' if you are happy for the waitstaff to keep all of the change. Otherwise we advise you to only use the word 'proszę' when handing back the bill and the payment. Despite the fact that the average waitress in PL only makes a paltry 10-15zl/hr, a customary tip is still only around 10% of the meal's total (though being a foreigner may make staff expectant of a bit more generosity). As such, we encourage you to reward good service when you feel it's deserved. Finally, it is not common to add the tip to your credit card payment because waitstaff are forced to then pay tax on the gratuity; most likely you will not even be able to leave a tip on your card. Have some change handy so you can still leave a cash tip, or ask your server for change.

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## Quick Eats

**Fiszka B-2, ul. Taczaka 17/3, tel. (+48) 535 06 82 63.** Plenty of ears pricked up among the expat community when news broke that there was a 'British fish & chips' shop opening in town... and rightly so. The owners have done their research and the deep-fried battered cod we sampled went down a treat, although the chips are not the type you'd expect from a chippy back in the UK. Fiszka is located in the student end of town and the lads stress that they are tailoring the food more to Polish tastes rather than trying to copy the British style, but that's alright with us. Having a few different sauces (including proper Heinz ketchup) and decent malt vinegar to douse your grub in gets a big thumbs up. Be aware that opening hours can fluctuate. ▶ Open 12:00 - 21:00, Sun 12:00 - 20:00. (7-12zł) 🍷 🍴 📞 📱 📧 📧

**Kokoko The Chicken Bar C-2, ul. Szkolna 15, tel. (+48) 61 897 44 81, www.kokoko.pl.** If you like chicken then this is the quick food option for you. The menu serves up chicken in many international forms - chicken burgers, chicken shoarmas and chicken with pastas. And being Poland there's the grilled chicken fillet with fries. The idea is simple, the food is cheap (there are even student discounts) and the trade is brisk. ▶ Open 10:00 - 05:00, Fri 10:00 - 06:00, Sat 11:30 - 06:00, Sun 11:30 - 05:00. (10-24zł) 🍷 🍴 📞 📱 📧 📧

**Manekin C-3, ul. Kwiatowa 3, tel. (+48) 61 222 00 01, www.manekin.pl.** Some places just seem to get it spot on and Poznań's Manekin is one of them. Set on three levels this place is pancake heaven and boasts all the usual options plus a fair few maverick choices for the more adventurous such as chicken curry or camembert, raspberries and almonds. With over 50 different fillings to choose from you won't be going home disappointed, providing you can find yourself a table as, despite being huge, this place is usually packed to the rafters with happy punters who know a good deal when they see one. The quirky and homely interior (with zany lamps, murals and of course mannequins) makes eating here feel more like a full-on restaurant experience. Chains also in Toruń, Bydgoszcz, Gdansk and Łódź. ▶ Open 10:00 - 22:00, Fri, Sat 10:00 - 23:00. (5-16zł) 🍷 🍴 📞 📱 📧 📧

**McDonald's B-2, ul. 27 Grudnia 17/19, tel. (+48) 694 49 59 68, www.mcdonalds.pl.** Also at (E-4) ul. Głogowska 14, (E-3) ul. Dąbrowskiego 38 and ul. Alpa A. Baraniaka 8 (Galeria Malta, K-5). ▶ Open 07:00 - 01:00, Fri, Sat 07:00 - 02:00. (14-18zł) 🍷 🍴 📞 📱 📧 📧

**Spaghetteria Avanti C-2, Stary Rynek 76, tel. (+48) 61 852 32 85, www.avanti.poznan.pl.** If the chips are down and you're in an 'insufficient funds' situation then Spaghetteria does the trick. This is the best bargain on the Rynek, with a variety of spaghetti combos in a bare bones interior. ▶ Open 10:00 - 22:00, Fri, Sat 10:00 - 24:00, Sun 11:00 - 22:00. (5-18zł) 🍷 🍴 📞 📱 📧 📧

**Subway C-3, ul. Półwiejska 20, tel. (+48) 61 223 22 52.** The international chain also cover Poznań. Expect the same quality and standards. Also at ul. Alpa A. Baraniaka 8 (K-5, Galeria Malta). ▶ Open 07:00 - 24:00, Thu 07:00 - 03:00, Fri 07:00 - 05:00, Sat 09:00 - 05:00, Sun 10:00 - 22:00. (7-24zł) 🍷 🍴 📞 📱 📧 📧

**Gospoda Pod Koziolkami C-2, Stary Rynek 95, tel. (+48) 61 851 78 68, www.podkoziolkami.pl.** One of the best places in town to experience good quality Polish food in an olde worlde atmosphere. Costumed wait staff buzz around the bare brick, medieval-style grill cellar serving up dishes that can hit your protein count in one go while the more conventional ground floor section, known as the Butler's Pantry is a good spot to enjoy some of their lighter offerings. ▶ Open 11:00 - 22:00, Fri, Sat 11:00 - 23:00. (18-82zł) 🍷 🍴 📞 📱 📧 📧

**Młynskie Koło (The Millwheel) ul. Browarna 37 (Nowe Miasto), tel. (+48) 61 878 99 35, www.mlynskiekoło.pl.** Filled with dusty bottles and timber touches, the Mill Wheel is a signature Polish restaurant with a menu that takes its ingredients seriously; the fish are caught first thing in the morning, while the duck apparently comes from the adjacent lake. Tell them in advance and they'll spit-roast a pig for you. Recommended. ▶ Open 12:00 - 21:00. (30-70zł) 🍷 🍴 📞 📱 📧 📧

**Nowa Bazancarnia C-2, Stary Rynek 94, tel. (+48) 61 855 33 58, www.nowabazancarnia.pl.** This Market Square restaurant recently saw a new owner take over the reins (hence a small change in name) but everything, from the menu to the interior, remains exactly as it was before. Find yourself surrounded by a selection of faux pheasant carcasses, dried flowers and oil paintings of fruit as you scour through a menu featuring all the animals you'd expect to find on a forest floor. There's lamb, boar and oven-baked pheasant with a purée of potatoes in mushroom sauce. ▶ Open 12:00 - 22:00, Sun 12:00 - 21:00. (43-159zł) 🍷 🍴 📞 📱 📧 📧

**Oaza ul. Koszalińska 15 (Jeżyce), tel. (+48) 61 848 31 29, www.strzeszynek.pl.** Set under a thatched roof Oaza isn't the olde worlde hunters lodge you'd expect. On the contrary the design is clean and modern, with plenty of open spaces and natural light. It looks great, but how many times have we seen a restaurant put style over substance. That doesn't happen here, and that's all credit to a rather special chef. The menu is best described as modern Polish, and includes fresh catches from the local rivers and lakes, as well as fine interpretations of dishes like baked salmon in French mustard and honey. Reservations advisable. ▶ Open 13:00 - 23:00. Closed Mon. (35-80zł) 🍷 🍴 📞 📱 📧 📧

**Oberża Pod Dzwonkiem D-2, ul. Garbary 54, tel. (+48) 61 851 99 70, www.oberza.com.pl.** Resembling something like a traditional mountain lodge, 'Under the Bell' is about as rustic as Poznań gets - and that's not necessarily a bad thing. Giant timber beams, beautiful 200-year-old wooden furniture and shelves bursting with rusting machinery, old pots and piles of dusty books help create a great atmosphere while the bar stools are fashioned out of saddles enabling drinkers to enjoy their cold pints in comfort. The menu focuses on traditional Polish fare and customers can expect mouth-watering dishes such as zurek soup, pork loin, pierogi (dumplings) and other assorted local options. A great introduction to the world of the Polish kitchen. ▶ Open 12:00 - 22:00, Fri, Sat 12:00 - 24:00, Sun 12:00 - 20:00. (18-99zł) 🍷 🍴 📞 📱 📧 📧

**Passja C-2, Stary Rynek 64/65, tel. (+48) 607 09 70 61, www.restauracjapassja.pl.** Premises that once housed a Chinese restaurant years back have now re-opened as an international restaurant/club although the Chinese styled menu case outside continues to survive. Featuring a few booths, a glass back bar and a group of friendly ladies running the place, the fact it is located on the square is what

gets it into the guide. The food - a mix of cuisines with a lot of American and Italian fare - is fine but quite frankly not worth walking across the square for. Harsh perhaps but there really is a lot better food just metres away. ▶ Open 12:00 - 24:00. (18-129zł) 🍷 🍴 📞 📱 📧 📧

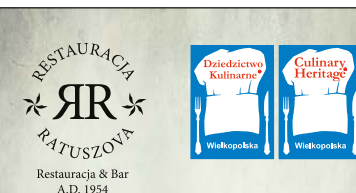
**Przy Bamberce C-2, Stary Rynek 2, tel. (+48) 61 852 99 17, www.bamberka.com.pl.** A long-standing restaurant squirmed away in the complex of buildings at the centre of the town square. Tiffany lamps, stained glass panels and other classic touches add an awkwardly formal feel to the restaurant, though that does nothing to detract from a strong European menu that includes several local dishes. The pierogi are excellent. ▶ Open 12:00 - 22:00. (20-50zł) 🍷 🍴 📞 📱 📧 📧

**Ratuszowa C-2, Stary Rynek 55, tel. (+48) 61 851 05 13, www.ratuszowa.pl.** One of the longest established places in town but don't let that put you off. The young owners here have balanced the traditions of the place (it is rumoured a Polish king dined here as long ago as the mid-17th century) with a high quality dining experience. Czernina (duck blood and poultry broth soup), duck and pierogi have joined the excellent meat dishes on offer while those with less of an appetite will find salads and a range of tasty appetisers. One of the places in town where you can truly say the meal was worth every penny. ▶ Open 11:00 - 23:00. (19-99zł) 🍷 🍴 📞 📱 📧 📧

**TOGA B-2, Pl. Wolności 13, tel. (+48) 61 853 03 45, www.toga.poznan.pl.** ToGA is devoted to making Polish dishes using organic, seasonal ingredients, which results in an ever-changing menu (maybe that's why it shows up uncereemoniously on a photocopied piece of paper?) with fresh options like goose, beef cheeks in Calvados and pancakes covered in ripe tomatoes. The basement location is surprisingly bright and cosy, though the organic theme is taken a little far when a basic water arrives with what looks like a salad floating in it: berries, sprigs of greens and lemon take up more room than the beverage itself. ▶ Open 12:00 - 22:00, Sat, Sun 13:00 - 22:00. (25-60zł) 🍷 🍴 📞 📱 📧 📧

**Wiejskie Jadło D-2, Stary Rynek 77 (entrance from ul. Franciszkańska), tel. (+48) 61 853 66 00, www.wiejskie-jadlo.pl.** What was once known as Chłopskie Jadło has changed it's name and absolutely nothing else. Which is good news all round; complimentary bread and lard precede hefty portions of traditional farmers fare. The menu here is meat and potatoes classic Polish, with tables positively sinking under the weight of all that cabbage, meat and vodka. Decorated with jars of pickles and rusty saws this is the definitive local dining experience, and a highly recommended way to kick off your visit. ▶ Open 12:00 - 22:00, Fri, Sat 12:00 - 23:00. (19-55zł) 🍷 🍴 📞 📱 📧 📧

**NEW**  
**Yeżycze Kuchnia ul. Szamarzewskiego 17 (Jeżyce), tel. (+48) 61 663 05 06.** Yeżycze Kuchnia offers the perfect opportunity to feel like "part of the scene" and mingle with Poznań's young, local in-crowd. The cool common room/café-style decor is enough to keep people returning, but combine that with an ever-changing top-draw menu and you'll soon see why this new place is one of the most talked about venues in town. Food-wise, it's traditional Polish fare served up with a bit of imagination, but the desserts and cakes make a visit to Yeżycze Kuchnia worth it alone. During the summer months, shade-totting hipsters sit in the tiny outdoor garden playing board games and swinging on hammocks. ▶ Open 10:00 - 22:00, Mon 12:00 - 22:00, Sun 10:00 - 20:00. (20-40zł) 🍷 🍴 📞 📱 📧 📧



## Traditional Polish Cuisine Sous Vide Technique



Sous - Vide beef sirloin steak in cracked pepper sauce

Where King Jan II Kazimierz Waza resided in 1657-1658 you may savour authentic traditional Polish cuisine and dishes of an international flavour expertly prepared by our highly experienced Chef.

Four different areas are available for our Guests:  
Restaurant, Cafe, Bar & Summer Garden



Traditional polish Ginger cake with vanilla ice - creams

**Restauracja RATUSZOVA**  
Stary Rynek 55, Poznań  
Tel.: +48 618 510 513  
www.ratuszowa.pl



**CZERWONA PAPRYKA**  
TAPAS BAR & RESTAURANT

**Stary Rynek 49, 61-722 Poznań**  
tel.: +48 61 855 04 13  
[www.tapasczerwonapapryka.pl](http://www.tapasczerwonapapryka.pl)

## Dark Restaurant

**Dark Restaurant D-2, ul. Garbary 48, tel. (+48) 61 852 20 57, [www.darkrestaurant.pl](http://www.darkrestaurant.pl).** "Adventurous" isn't a word we often like to pair with the word "dining" - after all, that's how folks on reality television end up downing a bucket of spiders - but Dark Restaurant proves to be the exception. As its name implies, Dark Restaurant is devoted to having diners eat their dinner in inky blackness. We're not talking mood lighting, either; the cavernous room is so dark that the waiters wear night vision goggles and you can't see your hand in front of your face (a fact that can prove highly claustrophobic to some). The idea behind Dark Restaurant is that by impairing your sense of sight, you enhance your other key senses, which makes for a potentially more exciting (and tasty) dining experience. It's also a great excuse to eat with your hands, because utensils are completely useless without the benefit of eyesight. Before being led to your table your waiter will inquire about any food allergies and then offer up a list of menu themes: bizarre food, mood food, or a more standard option. Each comes with a variety of courses, and you aren't told what you're digging into until the meal is over.

All these factors add up to a messy and intriguing meal that will have you guessing with every bite. Sure, some of the foods are obvious - you can't really disguise a potato - but basil ice cream? Oranges with sea salt? Your tongue will undoubtedly be tantalized. Fortunately, your meal ends with a chance to talk with your waiter and the head chef, who delight in making you guess what you ate.

► Open 12:00 - 21:30, Sun 13:00 - 18:00. (60-120zł)  
☎ ☎ ☎ ☎ ☎ ☎ ☎ ☎ ☎ ☎

## Spanish

**Czerwona Papryka D-2, Stary Rynek 49, tel. (+48) 61 855 04 13.** There's a distinct pre-party feel to Czerwona Papryka - from the huge black bull welcoming you out front to the lively buzz and Spanish music found inside, those looking for a decent restaurant to kick-start their evening could do a lot worse. The menu allows you the chance to relive those magical mediterranean moments with a choice selection of tapas and other dishes to get you in the mood for the night ahead. For those not wanting to wander too far from the local flavours, there are also a few Polish standards such as zurek and pierogi to tuck into. As you'd imagine, there's a decent selection of Spanish wine to work through and plenty of bubbly staff willing to keep your glasses full.

► Open 12:00 - 23:00, Fri, Sat 12:00 - 01:00. (5-35zł)  
☎ ☎ ☎ ☎ ☎ ☎ ☎ ☎ ☎ ☎

**Tapas Bar D-2, Stary Rynek 60, tel. (+48) 61 852 85 32, [www.tapas.pl](http://www.tapas.pl).** Right on the corner of the Rynek this Spanish spot has long been popular with a cashed up local crowd. Service is stone faced but everything else wins gold stars; from a warm interior littered with wrought iron and Hispanic paintings to the specialty gambas al a jilo. The kitchen is right at the entrance, allowing diners the opportunity to hear their food sizzle and chefs clattering around cursing less competent colleagues. Always a good night, and sometimes excellent.

► Open 12:00 - 24:00. (28-96zł)  
☎ ☎ ☎ ☎ ☎ ☎ ☎ ☎ ☎ ☎

## Thai

**Fast Wok B-2, ul. Ratajczaka 18 (Pasaż Apollo), tel. (+48) 508 52 89 89, [www.fastwok.pl](http://www.fastwok.pl).** A little gem of a place if you fancy quick, simple and tasty Thai favourites at lunch special prices. Found through an archway leading from ul. Ratajczaka, Fast Wok, while having a Pole in the open kitchen, does seem to have got the basics of this ethnic dish right, something which isn't a given in Poland. Nasi Goreng, red and green curry and chicken in black bean sauce are a few of the dishes on the concise menu.

► Open 11:00 - 20:00, Sat 12:00 - 18:00. Closed Sun. (17-28zł)  
☎ ☎ ☎ ☎ ☎ ☎ ☎ ☎ ☎ ☎

## Vegetarian

**Chwirot C-3, ul. Rybaki 10, tel. (+48) 61 851 04 10.** Poznań's veggie restaurant scene isn't exactly buzzing and this place will do little change that. Nondescript and with next to nothing in the way of decorations, Chwirot is more a canteen than a restaurant, offering all the standards such as macaroni dishes, vegetable stews and potato outlets. The service is fast and friendly and the ladies are more than happy to go through the menu in more detail with customers which does partly compensate for the lack of atmosphere. Perhaps a few extra touches and decorations here and there would add the something it's missing and help transform it into a decent little eatery.

► Open 11:00 - 19:00, Sat 11:00 - 16:00. Closed Sun. (11-17zł)  
☎ ☎ ☎ ☎ ☎ ☎ ☎ ☎ ☎ ☎

**Green Way B-1, ul. 23 Lutego 11, tel. (+48) 61 852 52 41, [www.greenway.pl](http://www.greenway.pl).** A chain of vegetarian restaurants that are a Polish success story. Often packed with students who know a good deal when they see one, find a well prepared and generous range of vegetarian dishes including excellent pancakes and juices. Also at ul. Taczaka 2 (B-3) and ul. Zeylanda 3 (E-3).

► Open 11:00 - 19:00. Closed Sun. (4.50-18zł)  
☎ ☎ ☎ ☎ ☎ ☎ ☎ ☎ ☎ ☎

**Bigfoot Coffee Shop B-3, ul. Ratajczaka 18.** A very warm welcome awaits you in Bigfoot, which despite its tiny size is full of friendly locals and hipsters enjoying a mixture of frothy coffees and espressos. What it lacks in floor space it certainly makes up for in atmosphere with stacked book shelves, cool tunes and American owner Eric who is happy to sit and chat with anyone who enters looking for their next quick caffeine fix. On our last visit we bumped into a couple of pretty students, a girl from Barcelona and a couple who popped in for a coffee-to-go. It made for an enjoyable experience and we're sure you'll find the same.

► Open 07:30 - 18:00, Sat 10:00 - 17:00. Closed Sun.  
☎ ☎ ☎ ☎ ☎ ☎ ☎ ☎ ☎ ☎

**Cafe Bordo D-1, ul. Żydowska 28/3, tel. (+48) 61 851 00 81, [www.cafebordo.com](http://www.cafebordo.com).** The seasonal garden is one of the best in town; stuffed with flower pots, vines and a fountain. When it's closed for winter head indoors where the aroma of herbal tea hangs thick in the air, and a middle-aged crowd whisper amid flickering candles and bottles of wine.

► Open 10:00 - 23:00, Mon, Tue 10:00 - 22:00, Sun 12:00 - 22:00.  
☎ ☎ ☎ ☎ ☎ ☎ ☎ ☎ ☎ ☎

**Cafe Misja D-2, ul. Golebia 1, tel. (+48) 61 415 14 43, [www.cafemisja.pl](http://www.cafemisja.pl).** Set overlooking the inner courtyard of the City Hall building next to the Lesser Basilica of St. Stanislaus, Cafe Misja is a cultural meeting place as much as anything. With a range of artistic events this is a wonderful place to sit back in what feels like someone's lounge with fair trade coffee and cake during the day or a beer in the evening. The very friendly staff make you feel right at home and seem happy to give you advice of how best to enjoy their city.

► Open 10:00 - 23:00, Fri, Sat 10:00 - 24:00, Sun 10:00 - 22:00.  
☎ ☎ ☎ ☎ ☎ ☎ ☎ ☎ ☎ ☎

**Cafe Sekret C-2, ul. Sieroca 5/6, tel. (+48) 605 41 33 28, [www.cafesekret.pl](http://www.cafesekret.pl).** A right little treasure this place, with a scattering of chambers set amid vaulted bricks walls and cobbled flooring. Dimly lit, and decorated with bursts of flowers and fruit, the owner appears to have something of a liking for brown - a nice colour for chocolate, yes, not so striking when thrown on furniture. Nevertheless, this café is a corker, and a bit of a favourite with the local cognoscenti. The house specialty is the apple fantasy, a dessert of apple mousse, nuts, jelly and whipped cream. Now added is a ground floor level which makes this place a little less secret, but just as good as before.

► Open 09:00 - 23:00, Thu, Fri, Sat 09:00 - 24:00.  
☎ ☎ ☎ ☎ ☎ ☎ ☎ ☎ ☎ ☎

**Cocorico D-2, ul. Świątosławska 9, tel. (+48) 61 852 95 29, [www.cocorico.pl](http://www.cocorico.pl).** Couples wallow under starlight in a backyard that's potted with plants and almost grotto-like in magic (they've even won an award for the space, which is closed in winter). There's no doubt about it, it's a garden of memories. If the sun falls out of the sky seek shelter inside where a topsy-turvy interior comes sprinkled with chintz. Recently expanded to include a restaurant in an adjacent room.

► Open 10:00 - 24:00.  
☎ ☎ ☎ ☎ ☎ ☎ ☎ ☎ ☎ ☎

**Czekolada D-1, ul. Żydowska 29, tel. (+48) 61 851 92 91, [www.czekoladacafe.pl](http://www.czekoladacafe.pl).** A trendy version of Willie Wonka's chocolate factory. Aside from artsy exhibitions this chill-out den features a space age toilet, black-clad, laptop carrying customers and a menu that covers all possible chocolate tastes.

► Open 11:00 - 24:00.  
☎ ☎ ☎ ☎ ☎ ☎ ☎ ☎ ☎ ☎

**POST-OFFICE CAFE**  
STARY RYNEK 25/29  
TEL: 61 855 00 06

## NEW

**Juice Drinkers E-3, ul. Dąbrowskiego 8, tel. (+48) 517 59 41 59.** This little juice bar hasn't been open that long but it's already developed something of a loyal following thanks to its cosy lighting, light snacks and freshly-made smoothies. With wooden crates for tables and chairs and a basic industrial design, there seems to be a steady flow of student and business bods coming in and out of the door at all times; on our stop, we tried the 'Cherry Hill' smoothie (a mixture of cherry, banana, mint and apple) and can now understand why.

► Open 09:05 - 21:05, Sat 11:05 - 21:05, Sun 11:05 - 17:05.  
☎ ☎ ☎ ☎ ☎ ☎ ☎ ☎ ☎ ☎

**Lavenda Caffè Drinks Food D-2, ul. Wodna 3/4, tel. (+48) 61 852 49 95, [www.lavenda-cafelunch.pl](http://www.lavenda-cafelunch.pl).** There are a shedload of cosy little cafes dotted around the back streets of the Stary Rynek and competition is indeed tough - but Lavenda slots right in there with the very best of them. A relaxed atmosphere and a great array of hot drinks, wines and snacks (salads and pasta etc.) make this the perfect place to share a lunchtime coffee or to meet for an intimate first date.

► Open 09:00 - 23:00.  
☎ ☎ ☎ ☎ ☎ ☎ ☎ ☎ ☎ ☎

**Post Office Café C-2, Stary Rynek 25/29, tel. (+48) 61 855 00 06.** A café that doubles as a post office, this delightful oddity on the main square will sell you French toast and stamps for your postcards on the same bill. There's even a giant red mailbox in the centre of the café, and we watched the mailman relax at the counter while sorting through his stacks. The menu is filled with international options ranging from a full English breakfast to Japanese cuisine. The place packs out on weekends, but fortunately the tiny stamp-sized entry is just the beginning - the café meanders into a basement level for more space and a smoking room.

► Open 09:00 - 23:00, Fri, Sat 09:00 - 01:00.  
☎ ☎ ☎ ☎ ☎ ☎ ☎ ☎ ☎ ☎

## Christmas in Poland



Przykuta/Wikipedia  
CC-BY-SA 3.0

Holiday season in Poland officially kicks off on December 6th, which is known as *Dzień Świętego Mikołaja* to some and the feast day of St Nicholas to the rest. Tradition demands that children clean and polish their shoes the evening of the 5th and leave them by the front door. If they have been good during the year they will wake to find that St. Nicholas has filled those shiny shoes with treats.

While St Nicholas day is the opener, the main act begins on December 24. The focal point of the celebration is the evening meal (*Wigilia*), with festivities officially launched the moment the first star appears in the sky. Technically speaking the consumption of alcohol on Christmas Eve is a no-no, though Poles sometimes turn a blind eye on this one.

Before dinner can begin the family shares the Christmas wafer; each person breaks off a piece before sharing it with the others while simultaneously making a blessing. It's a tradition cherished by many Poles and one that intrusive foreigners should not use as an opportunity to joke around. So, what to expect once the dinner trolley gets wheeled out? Well, bad news if you don't like Polish cooking, basically. Supper consists of a whopping 12 courses – one for each apostle – with the food reflecting various agricultural elements (fields, forests, water) so that each will bear fruit in the forthcoming year. It's for this reason you're expected to try a bit of everything, whether or not you'd prefer to hide it under the table or in your napkin. Furthermore, the more you eat the more prosperous you will be. The dinner is meant to be meatless, and though the church lifted this age-old ban in recent years, the majority of Polish families will still maintain the meatless tradition. Don't expect a turkey to be making his way onto the table; the main course is usually carp, and this traditionally comes served 'the Polish way'. That means in a grey sauce with almonds and raisins - - which is every bit as appetizing as it sounds - - or sometimes fried in breadcrumbs. If you're staying with a Polish family the night before, don't be surprised to find the fish kept swimming in the bathtub in the run-up to Wigilia.

If all this sounds a little awkward to the uninitiated then don't panic. With the carp out of the way you're on easy street, with the rest of the dishes including the whole galaxy of Polish pot au inventions. On top of that you'll be looking at lapping up bowls of barszcz, meatless gołąbki, herring, pickles and poppy seed cake. Symbolism and tradition play a big part in the whole shebang, so don't be surprised to find hay under the table (to remind everyone of Christ's manger), and an empty seat set inside in case a stranger comes knocking. Consider arriving with some glue on your fingers, as a spoon hitting the floor is taken as a sure sign it's your last year alive. Alternatively, if you throw poppy seed cake at the ceiling and it sticks, then you'll be expecting wedding bells sometime soon. With the feeding done it's time to hand out the presents, after which you'll find most Poles wrapping up like penguins to make it in time for midnight mass (pasterka). It's at this hour, so they say, you'll find animals taking on human voices.

**Republika Róż D-2, Pl. Kolegiacki 2a, tel. (+48) 61 852 20 31, [www.republikaroz.pl](http://www.republikaroz.pl).** A three-room affair (although the downstairs room sometimes opens later than the rest) a couple minutes walk from the Market Square and directly opposite the beautiful, if rather pink, offices of the local city government. Wooden floors, floral prints and flowers are the backdrop to a bustling little place staffed by pretty, black uniformed women where you can enjoy a coffee and babeczka (a Polish muffin) or settle in for one of their light eats such as pierogi or salads. A local favourite famed for its breakfasts and child friendly atmosphere. ▶ Open 08:00 - 24:00, Sat 09:00 - 24:00, Sun 11:00 - 22:00. ☺ ☺ ☺ ☺ ☺ ☺ ☺ ☺

**Stacja Cafe (The Station) D-2, ul. Woźna 1 (entrance from ul. Klasztorna), tel. (+48) 509 50 80 49.** Sink into one of the armchairs and enjoy one of Poznań's best kept secrets. Cluttered with board games and framed pictures expect a murky Krakowian ambience. Clarinets and violins hang from walls, the music is soft and moody and the interior complete with stone cobbles and a street light. A recent expansion into the basement provides some much needed room. ▶ Open 12:00 - 24:00, Fri, Sat 12:00 - 02:00, Sun 14:00 - 23:00. ☺ ☺ ☺ ☺ ☺ ☺ ☺ ☺

**Starbucks B/C-2, ul. Św. Marcin 24 (Galeria MM), tel. (+48) 713 86 18 52, [www.starbucks.pl](http://www.starbucks.pl).** There's not much to say about Starbucks that hasn't been written before. You all know the tall/grande/venti drill. The latest store has opened up in the new Galeria MM shopping centre and does exactly what it says on the tin - a variety of coffee and muffins for when trekking around the stores gets too much. Also at ul. Półwiejska 42 (G-4, Stary Browar Shopping Mall) and ul. Dworcowa 1 (E-4, Main Train Station). ▶ Open 08:00 - 21:00, Sat 09:00 - 21:00, Sun 10:00 - 20:00. ☺ ☺ ☺ ☺ ☺ ☺ ☺ ☺

**Taczaka 20 B-3, ul. Taczaka 20, tel. (+48) 509 82 54 45.** The owners of the popular Kawiarnia Nocna Kisielice bar have taken over the space upstairs and opened an equally cool (if not cooler) café space sure to draw the artsy crowd during daylight hours when they're in need of coffee and sandwiches. The interior has received an impressive overhaul, with one wall covered in stray pieces of wood - we promise it's more intriguing than it sounds. The menu is a simple array of salads, pastas and snacks like hummus, while the true standout is their minimal beer selection. The bottled beer made locally by nearby shop Ministerstwo Browaru is on hand, as are selections like the German Kirsch Porter and Berliner. A low-key winner. ▶ Open 08:00 - 22:00, Sat 12:00 - 22:00, Sun 12:00 - 18:00. ☺ ☺ ☺ ☺ ☺ ☺ ☺ ☺

**Zielona Weranda C-2, ul. Paderewskiego 7, tel. (+48) 61 851 32 90, [www.werandafamily.com](http://www.werandafamily.com).** Not the easiest place to find despite being only a stone's throw from the square, which makes its discovery (head into what looks like a shop to find it tucked away at the back) even more of a pleasant surprise than would normally be the case. Clearly a labour of love as reflected in the hundreds of paper birds hanging from the ceiling which create a riot of colour set against the mismatch of wooden furnishings, exposed brick and copious shrubbery. Spread over a number of small rooms, Zielona Weranda is one of our favourite lunch spots with a tasty, well-prepared range of soups, salads, sandwiches and snacks. The tea, coffee and cake options are also encyclopaedic and that if anything would be our only complaint. It takes us ages to decide what to have. ▶ Open 10:00 - 24:00. ☺ ☺ ☺ ☺ ☺ ☺ ☺ ☺

## Bars &amp; Pubs

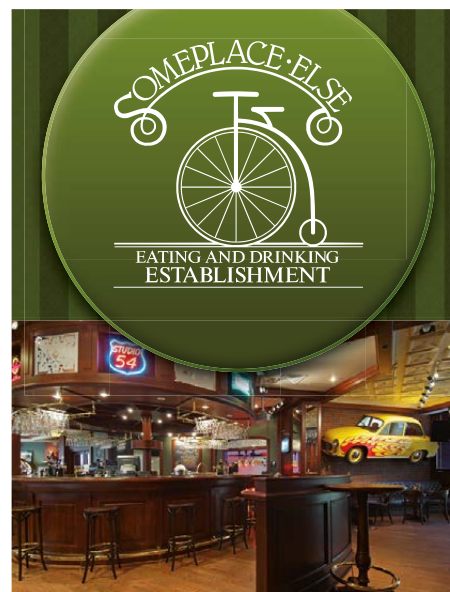
**Basilium D-2, ul. Woźna 21, tel. (+48) 798 33 54 83, [www.basilium.pl](http://www.basilium.pl).** A smart and cosy little location found just off the Rynek which comes highly recommended by the IYP team. Warm lighting and decorations ranging from old gramophones to flattened beer bottles suspended from the ceiling help create a cracking atmosphere, but the main reason for parking yourself in one of the comfy chairs or propping up an empty wooden barrel is the vast selection of beer that you can find on offer. Whilst there are a few on draught, it's the rows and rows of bottles on the shelves that will have you gawping (150 at our last count) and unsure quite where to start. In addition to this, there's a nice selection of snacks. ▶ Open 14:00 - 02:00, Fri, Sat, Sun 12:00 - 02:00. ☺ ☺ ☺ ☺ ☺ ☺ ☺ ☺

**Bee Jay's C-2, Stary Rynek 87, tel. (+48) 61 853 11 15, [www.beejays.pl](http://www.beejays.pl).** When last we visited, Bee Jays was a bland and easy-to-overlook club on Poznań's main square that was in danger of dying a slow death at the hands of more popular venues. But the club has clawed its way back, with a respectable queue of revelers waiting outside, a crowded dance floor, and tables filled with the kind of tie-wearing elder statesmen we wouldn't expect to find around blaring pop music. We're not sure what the appeal is, but Bee Jays seems to have found its niche with an older crowd. Fair warning: the glass elevator connecting Bee Jays to the more youthful Van Diesel venue downstairs is heavily guarded by hired muscle, so you won't be getting a ride. ▶ Open 11:00 - 24:00, Fri 11:00 - 04:00, Sat 11:00 - 04:00. ☺ ☺ ☺ ☺ ☺ ☺ ☺ ☺

**NEW Billaboom Billiards Club E-3, ul. Mickiewicza 32, tel. (+48) 61 847 58 18, [www.billaboom.com](http://www.billaboom.com).** A few games of pool is always a good way to start a night out and this is the perfect choice for those staying in the close-by Mercure or Sheraton hotels. There's an ever-so-slight 'clubby' vibe to Billaboom, with the downstairs bar looking more like something you'd see on the main square. But it's upstairs where you'll find all the action taking place as groups of lads battle it out for bragging rights and seven ball supremacy. ▶ Open 12:00 - 01:00, Fri 12:00 - 02:00, Sat, Sun 16:00 - 01:00. ☺ ☺ ☺ ☺ ☺ ☺ ☺ ☺

**Blow Up Hall 5050 G-4, ul. Kościuszki 42, tel. (+48) 61 657 99 91, [www.blowuphall5050.com](http://www.blowuphall5050.com).** Woah, if there's one place that keeps leaving an impact it's the Blow Up. The bar is the final word in industrial chic, with metal floors, exposed brickwork and ceilings that stretch to the clouds. The artwork is mad, and deliberately messes with your head, as do the cocktails, truly the work of a scientific hand. As for the bar itself, that's a multi-angled, zinc plated masterpiece that has no rival, and features a Davidoff Lounge where you can buy cigars. It's not often we attach the words unmissable to a venue, so take note and visit. ▶ Open 15:00 - 23:00. ☺ ☺ ☺ ☺ ☺ ☺ ☺ ☺

**Blue Note Jazz Club A-1, ul. Kościuszki 79, tel. (+48) 61 851 04 08, [www.bluenote.poznan.pl](http://www.bluenote.poznan.pl).** A vast multi-level jazz club whose spangly interior has shades of 90s club tragedy written all over it - don't let that fool you, this venue is a legend, with some of the biggest names in Polish and international jazz performing in the past. Do check what's cooking beforehand mind; this space has been known to be rented out for teen hip hop nights and other hooded-top twaddle, and if there's no jazz or other concerts scheduled then they aren't open. ▶ Open 19:00 - 01:00; Thu, Fri, Sat 19:00 - 03:00. ☺ ☺ ☺ ☺ ☺ ☺ ☺ ☺



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## Nightlife at a Glance



Poznań bars are flexible - no matter what the official closing times are, most bars and pubs will stay open until the last customer has stumbled out. Most night spots are concentrated around the Old Town Square area, but also check out ul. Nowowiejskiego and ul. Taczaka both of whom draw students in their droves. Where the venue is not on our map we have included the district it is located in brackets.

Here are a few suggestions depending on what you are looking for:

**Lads:** Newcomer Ministerstwo Browaru emphasizes plenty of obscure beers (including their own brew) for connoisseurs. If you're looking for something more upmarket then check **Someplace Else** in the Sheraton, while **Brovaria** has excellent lagers brewed on-site. Also consider heading to **Kriek** to sample more than 160 types of beer poured into their appropriate glasses.

**Splurge:** The best cocktails in Poznań are found in the **Blow Up 50 50**, which is conveniently situated close to the most exclusive danceteria in town - **SQ**. Look the part if you want to be accepted into either. **Cocktails of Dreams** is focused on exciting drinks produced with plenty of bartender flair, while **Piano Bar** mixes luxury drinks and atmosphere for a well-roundedly swank experience.

**Couples:** Another vote for **Blow Up 50 50**, the best destination for seduction cocktails. If it's entertainment you're after check out **Blue Note Jazz Club**, which attracts great international performers to serenade your better half. **Basilium** does an excellent job of combining cocktails with cosy spaces as well.

**Local:** Brave the dark basement to experience **Kawiarnia Nocna Kisielice**, a Poz mainstay that locals love for the music and unique 'K-hole' atmosphere. Glimpse the past by drinking in the commie themed confines of **PRL** and **Proletariat**. And be sure to end your night in typical Polish style at **Biale Wino i Owoc**, a 24-hour eatery on the Rynek that will help you offset your hangover with piles of white sausage and tripe soup.

**Square:** Without doubt the most popular place to drink on the square is **Brovaria**, which regularly sees people queuing for tables to become available from where they can enjoy the in-house brewed beers. **Bee Jays** is popular with a slightly older club crowd, and **Crime Story** never lacks a full dance floor. Recent addition Lollipop will cure your craving for something sweet and decidedly sexy (yes, those are girls behind the glass).

**Brogans Irish Pub D-1**, ul. Szewska 20a, tel. (+48) 504 03 72 19, [www.brogans.pl](http://www.brogans.pl). The atmospheric Brogan's is everything you'd want an Irish bar to be: dark, noisy and always busy. Head down a set of narrow stairs to find a basement bolthole decorated with tankards and book cases, as well as the usual faded vintage signage so beloved by many Irish watering holes. Looking scruffy and faded this is a piece of folklore, with the back room housing local bands who like to live the lifestyle. Aiding and abetting them are some great international lagers from across the border - and the Irish stuff isn't bad either. ▶ Open 16:00 - 03:00. ☎ ☑ ☑ ☑ ☑ ☑

**Brovaria C-2, Stary Rynek 73-74 (Brovaria Hotel)**, tel. (+48) 61 858 68 68, [www.brovaria.pl](http://www.brovaria.pl). Brovaria feels an integral part of Poznań life, and it's certainly become established as the main expat haunt since the demise of Dom Vikingow. Yet while it feels an ingrained piece of Poznań one look at the design reveals a modern, industrial space, one where steel and glass combine to create a sharp looking area that looks as edgy now as when it first opened. However, coming here to admire the interiors would be missing the point; this place is all about beer, namely the excellent house lagers that are brewed out back in the copper vats. Here's one of the best microbreweries in Poland, quite possibly the best: enjoy it. ▶ Open 10:00 - 01:00. ☎ ☑ ☑ ☑ ☑ ☑

**Browar Pub C-3**, ul. Półwiejska 42 (Stary Browar Shopping Mall), tel. (+48) 61 859 65 70, [www.slodownia.com](http://www.slodownia.com). Set inside the old malt house (Slowdownia) of the former Brewery Huggerów which has now become the vast Stary Browar mall, Browar Pub attracts a monied and grown-up crowd you're unlikely to see filling clubs around Poznań's main square. The arched brick ceilings add architectural interest, though all eyes are typically focused on the dance floor. Theme nights are popular here, with Tuesdays offering hip-hop and Thursdays slinging funk. Weekends are devoted to hits from 70s through to the present day, which might explain the classier crowd. Our only complaint is that Browar's location deep inside the mall can make it tough to spot from outside, but follow the dolled up crowd up the outside stairs on Półwiejska as it's worth the effort. ▶ Open 21:00 - 03:00, Tue 22:00 - 03:00, Fri, Sat 20:00 - 03:00. Closed Mon, Sun. ☎ ☑ ☑ ☑ ☑ ☑

## NEW

**Bunuba Cafe D-1**, ul. Szewska 20a, tel. (+48) 691 82 32 98, [www.bunubacafe.pl](http://www.bunubacafe.pl). A nice vibe awaits you in Bunuba from the moment you walk in the door due to a combination of soft lighting and warm orange colours. The ground floor 'cafe' area is perfect for chilling with a beer or wine in one of the comfy sofas with friends while the rest of the world whizzes by outside. But it's the downstairs cellar bar that you'll find most heading to come the weekend, where DJs spin a mix of Latin sounds and old-school disco numbers to keep the beautiful people shaking their stuff on the dance floor. ▶ Open 16:00 - 21:00, Fri, Sat 16:00 - 04:00, Sun 18:00 - 12:00. ☎ ☑ ☑ ☑ ☑ ☑

**Cactus Factoria D-2**, ul. Ślusarska 5, tel. (+48) 510 11 18 02, [www.cactusfactoria.pl](http://www.cactusfactoria.pl). A multi-level restaurant and bar mutant with black/red colours, latin music and some mysterious spongy fabric on the walls out back. Strangely, in spite of being in possession of enough booze to sink the Titanic, they couldn't fix a margarita; fortunately with staff this stunning it's a fault that gets quickly overlooked. ▶ Open 13:00 - 22:00, Fri, Sat 13:00 - 24:00. ☎ ☑ ☑ ☑ ☑ ☑

**Falstart C-3**, ul. Długa 11, tel. (+48) 61 853 59 88. Formerly known as BSA Sports Pub, this bar is something of a Poznań institution amongst sports fans and hardcore boozers alike. Its recent makeover has seen a name change and a lick of paint but little else appears to have been altered. It's a no-frills affair with framed shirts, old tennis rackets and a shedload of TVs blasting out every sport from boxing to NBA to footy from around the globe. Above the bar is a list of the 100-some different shots on offer - including 'King Kong', 'Highway to Hell' and the stickily-named 'Cumshot' - to bring on the afterglow. A welcome change from the soulless glam and glitz sports bars that seem to be all the rage these days. ▶ Open 16:00 - 24:00, Sat, Sun 14:00 - 24:00. ☎ ☑ ☑ ☑ ☑ ☑

**Kawiarnia Nocna Kisielice B-3**, ul. Taczaka 20, tel. (+48) 509 82 54 45. Kawiarnia Nocna Kisielice (formerly just Kisielice) has somehow always managed to divide opinion and its refurb will continue to do just that. Gone are the knackered old sofas and warm red and orange colours that used to don the walls, replaced instead by smart new chairs, a predominantly white decor and an extremely low bar, which might take the regulars a little while to get used to. The K-Hole has always been one of the city's more experimental and off the walls bars when it comes to its music policy (think hardcore punk to electronica to African Tribal chants) and if our recent trip is anything to go by, little here has changed. Definitely worth a look for those who like their bands and DJs with a bit of originality. ▶ Open 18:00 - 02:00, Fri, Sat 20:00 - 04:30. Closed Sun. ☎ ☑ ☑ ☑ ☑ ☑

**Kriek Belgian Pub & Cafe D-2**, ul. Wodna 23, tel. (+48) 508 26 75 70. If ever we were pushed to name a favourite bar then this would be up there. Setting it apart is a collection of 170 Belgian beers, admirably promoted by Slawek, a gregarious giant whose principal aim is to spread the good gospel of lager. Permanently cast in shadow, Kriek is a sure-fire winner, and a hefty bill is as expected as the heavy head that follows. Highly recommended. ▶ Open 16:00 - 02:00, Fri, Sat 16:00 - 04:00. ☎ ☑ ☑ ☑ ☑ ☑

**La Rambla Tapas Bar i Vino D-2**, ul. Wodna 5/6, tel. (+48) 618 52 37 21, [www.larambla.pl](http://www.larambla.pl). You'll love La Rambla, a scarlet venue whose principle pull is a top selection of wines and a range of tapas snacks to go with them. Better still, with summer in swing then sit street-side next to heavy wood shutters and flower pots. ▶ Open 13:00 - 22:00, Sat, Sun 13:00 - 23:00. ☎ ☑ ☑ ☑ ☑ ☑

## NEW

**Masakra C-2**, ul. Szkolna 4, tel. (+48) 792 88 01 69. There's nothing to distinguish the doorway to this dingy basement bar from the numerous other doorways situated in the side streets around the Stary Rynek. But if you manage to find it, then you may well be in for one of maddest nights of your stay. It's not glamorous, it's not big and it's not clever, but it does employ staff who are happy to match you shot for shot and that can sometimes lead to some very messy exploits. A good antidote to the main square's more flashy options and just a 30 second walk away. ▶ Open 18:00 - 05:00. ☎ ☑ ☑ ☑ ☑ ☑

**Meskalina D-1, Stary Rynek 6**, [www.meskalina.com](http://www.meskalina.com). Design, what design? Meskalina - little sister of Meskal - doesn't offer much to distinguish itself in the visual department, and proves not dissimilar to a university common room: think of big, basic spaces and plastic glasses. Strangely, mind you, it's proved a bit of a winner on the circuit, with tables snapped up by a hip twenties crowd dressed in student fashion. Find it bang in the middle of the Rynek, inside that tangle of sixties shockers added to the square by an architectural psycho. ▶ Open 17:00 - 02:00, Fri, Sat 17:00 - 03:00, Sun 17:00 - 01:00. ☎ ☑ ☑ ☑ ☑ ☑

## Smoking

After holding out to be one of the few remaining EU countries with no or very few prohibitions on smoking, a new law brought in on the 15th November 2010 aimed to limit the activities of smokers in public places.

Smoking is now completely banned on public transport including taxis, trains, company cars, public transport stops, children's playgrounds, schools, universities, workplaces, sports arenas and other places where the public gather. Owners are obliged to clearly place a clear and visible 'No Smoking' sign and anyone caught smoking by either the police or local city guard is subject to a 500zł fine.

There are, however, exceptions. It is possible to smoke in some bars, clubs, restaurants and other public places. The law states that there can be a SEPARATE ROOM created for smokers as long as it is properly ventilated and closed off from the other public areas (originally this was only going to be permitted in premises over 100m<sup>2</sup>, but that make the final version of the law). As many places listed in this guide are simply too small to allow for a separate room, this has automatically made them subject to the ban. To help you to find or avoid places which will continue to allow smoking on the premises we have used the following symbols throughout the guide

☎ This place has a complete ban on smoking on the premises

☑ This place has a smoking section on the premises

Having now had some time to gauge reaction it appears that owners have followed one of three courses of action. Firstly they have through choice or necessity obeyed the law and the whole premises are now non-smoking. A second group, generally those with bigger premises, have exercised their right to build a smoking room. The third group have examined the wording of the law and then driven an articulated lorry through the holes left by incompetent legislators. We have seen examples of entire bars allowing smoking by making the vast majority of the place smoking with a small area in the front, back or downstairs, set aside for non-smokers. We have even seen an example of two restaurants joining together and claiming the smoking area is in one restaurant while the non-smoking area is in the one next door. The latest twist is some bars openly flouting the law by allowing smoking due to the lack of enforcement. A regular in one bar told us that everyone has agreed to be fined making it impossible for the owner to be punished and difficult for the city police to enforce. The looseness of the wording of the new law and the apparent inability or will to police it suggest that while it will certainly reduce smoking in many public places, it will still allow it to continue in a lot of others. Choose carefully.







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## Polish Snacks & Shots

A very Polish phenomenon that has swept the country in recent years is the 24-hour snack and shot bar. Known locally as 'Zakąski Przekąski' (literally 'Appetisers & Snacks'), or 'Polish Tapas' as it's been dubbed by some, these trendy, formulaic budget bars cash in on communist nostalgia and the appeal of low prices by offering a small selection of simple, local appetisers (typically served cold) for about 8zł each, with drinks typically fixed at 4zł. Familiar as the bar food of the lean communist years, the menu reads like a list of correct answers to the *Jeopardy* question 'Foods that follow vodka' and typically includes *śledz* (pickled herring in oil), *galaretki* (pig trotters in jelly), *kielbasa* (sausage), *pierogi*, pickles and tartare.

**Białe Wino i Owoce C-1, ul. Stary Rynek 92, tel. (+48) 514 20 42 84, www.bialewinioowoce.pl/poznan/.** Sopot exports the successful Białe Wino i Owoce to Poznań with excellent results. Open 24 hours, this eatery has a prime location on the Rynek and the kind of cheap late-night eats that promise to offset your oncoming hang-over - think heaps of herring in sour cream and steaming bowls of tripe. ▶ Open 24hrs. ☺ ☺ ☺ ☺ ☺

**Pijalnia Wódki i Piwa C-1, Stary Rynek 85, tel. (+48) 791 85 95 55.** Given the success of their Wroclawska joint, the good people of Pijalnia have decided to open up a new venue right on the Rynek for those who can't quite muster up the energy to stumble to the old place when everywhere else rings time at the bar. The interior and idea is exactly the same: dirt cheap booze and dirt cheap grub to soak up the aforementioned booze. ▶ Open 09:00 - 05:00, Fri 09:00 - 06:00, Sat 10:00 - 06:00, Sun 10:00 - 05:00. ☺ ☺ ☺ ☺ ☺

**Mielzynski Wine Bar ul. Wojskowa 4 (Grunwald), tel. (+48) 61 866 00 57, www.mielzynski.pl.** Set in a scrubbed up industrial brick building Mielzynski is the wine bar that Poznań has been crying out for. It's not central, but it is worth the ride, as a lengthy lurk among the crates soon proves. Educated service, hard-to-find labels, a dash of neo factory chic and a winning menu make this a true destination of distinction. ▶ Open 10:00 - 23:00, Mon 16:00 - 23:00, Sat 11:00 - 23:00, Sun 12:30 - 18:00. ☺ ☺ ☺ ☺ ☺

**Piano Bar C-3, ul. Półwiejska 42 (Stary Browar Shopping Mall), tel. (+48) 61 859 65 70, www.piano-bar.poznan.pl.** The perfect spot to take clients. A clean cream interior punctuated by some well chosen local art. The mobile drinks cabinet can be dispatched to your party if an emergency surfaces, such as an inability to walk. Waiters are decked out suitably and can handle any cocktail you should require. ▶ Open 12:00 - 24:00, Sun 12:00 - 21:00. ☺ ☺ ☺ ☺ ☺

**Piwko Naprzeciwiwo D-2, Stary Rynek 42, tel. (+48) 61 852 00 18.** The 'snacks and appetizers' fad hits the main square with this bare-bones bar and its tiny terrace. It's packed at all hours and that's down to its 5zł (YES 5zł) 0.5ltr beers and 8zł food. The food fills a hole and features a choice of herring, cheese, sausage and goulash soup among other Polish snacks and the trade is so brisk that the success of these places around the country is easy to understand. By the way did we mention that they sell 0.5 litres of Lech Pils for 5zł and they are on the market square. Madness. ▶ Open 11:30 - 02:00, Fri, Sat 11:30 - 03:00. ☺ ☺ ☺ ☺ ☺

**PRL D-1, ul. Żydowska 11 (entrance from ul. Mokra), tel. (+48) 61 852 31 62, www.prlpub.pl.** There's two communist theme bars in Poznań, and this place has the lower profile, the non-existent ad budget and a tiny entrance that's easy to miss. But it's certainly not second best, and if anything its dingy, cave-like confines make it all the more convincing in its role as a hidden piece of history. Set inside a couple of subterranean chambers this place is packed with memorabilia from the People's Republic, and that includes pictures of Soviet icons and even a riot shield once used to suppress the striking prole. ▶ Open 16:00 - 24:00, Thu, Fri, Sat 16:00 - 02:00. ☺

**Proletariat D-2, ul. Wroclawska 9, tel. (+48) 61 852 48 58, www.proletariat.pl.** So what if Stalin killed umpteen times more people than Hitler? Communism can be a hoot, at least it is if you're drunk, so head to this commie bar and raise a glass to Uncle Joe. Quality local lager ensures nights aren't dull, and you'll find this piece of socialist paradise decidedly stuffed with cold war keepsakes and Iron Curtain mementos - pride of place goes to Lenin, with his giant plaster head peering through the street-side window. ▶ Open 13:00 - 02:00, Fri, Sat 13:00 - 03:00, Sun 15:00 - 02:00. ☺ ☺ ☺ ☺ ☺

NEW

**Setka C-2, ul. Św. Marcin 8, tel. (+48) 604 77 75 81.** Decorated with chipped tankards, rusty bike wheels and jumble sale furniture that looks like it's just climbed out of a nearby skip, Setka is as rough and ready a drinking experience as you could hope for in Poznań. There are plenty of different beers to work your way through (including a damn fine selection of IPAs) as well as a smoking room and a small space for concerts. It's always good fun, sometimes brilliant. ▶ Open 16:00 - 02:00. ☺ ☺ ☺ ☺ ☺

**SomePlace Else E-3, ul. Bukowska 3/9 (Sheraton Poznań Hotel), tel. (+48) 61 655 20 00, www.poznan.someplace-else.pl.** SPE is a natural born winner - few places are better geared to meet foreign demands, and while the prices are undoubtedly steep (do you expect anything else from the Sheraton?), it's a place where foreigners and locals mix with seamless ease. American in spirit, you'll find Route 66 extras mingled with rock pics, as well as more whimsical touches such as a car bonnet bursting from the wall. Taking centre stage is a circular bar, the perfect base to chat to staff while they fix earthquake cocktails and velvet smooth Guinness. ▶ Open 17:00 - 01:00, Fri, Sat 17:00 - 02:00, Sun 12:00 - 24:00. ☺ ☺ ☺ ☺ ☺

**Strefa Kultuwater D-3, ul. Zielona 8, tel. (+48) 605 61 12 71, www.strefakultuwater.com.** We spent a lot of last year's summer months in this top venue, which is quite unlike any other bar in the city. Inside the interior is almost warehouse-esque and the bright seating and pallet-style tables help create a chilled atmosphere, perfect for relaxing and taking in whatever's going on. And there's a lot on offer. With a decent stage area at one end, the venue regularly puts on a number of great bands and DJ nights as well as hosting various events and projects such as art displays, dance workshops and literary festivals. Definitely one of the more innovative places around. ▶ Open 11:00 - 01:00, Fri 11:00 - 03:00, Sat, Sun 15:00 - 03:00. ☺ ☺ ☺ ☺ ☺

**Tanki Pub B-3, ul. Taczaka 22, tel. (+48) 600 04 61 87.** We were pretty surprised when Tanki hit the Poznań scene as there was little mentioned about it. At first glance it looks just like many of the pubs in the ul. Taczaka student ghetto, but the main reasons to sup a scoop here are the 'bright beer' brewing tanks which ensure the pints are as fresh as the kielbasas you'll need to help cure your hangover. We're told this is the first pub in the city that serves such beer and set to a backdrop of The Stones, The Kinks and The Clash, it's worth having a (bleary-eyed) look. ▶ Open 14:00 - 02:00. ☺ ☺ ☺ ☺ ☺

**The Dubliner A-2, ul. Św. Marcin 80/82 (entrance from Al. Niepodległości), tel. (+48) 61 851 01 69, www.dubliner.com.pl.** The most venerable of the city's three Irish pubs, the Dubliner is on an upswing of late with regular live music acts booked and a Sunday special that knocks 50 percent off the food prices (we enjoyed the Irish stew) and regular student discounts. This timber cut pub tucked inside a ground floor location in the city's landmark Zamek Castle feels like a secret clubhouse complemented with stained glass windows. The prices for Guinness or one of the many Irish whiskeys ensures the students stay away - not a bad thing in our book. Squeeze onto one of the wooden benches and face the stage for a guaranteed good time, or come in on Sundays at 20:30 to test your mettle in their pub quiz. ▶ Open 13:00 - 01:00, Fri 13:00 - 03:00, Sat 15:00 - 03:00. ☺ ☺ ☺ ☺ ☺

**Za Kulisami D-2, ul. Wodna 24, tel. (+48) 61 853 23 97.** An editorial favourite, this is the sort of place you'd imagine a young Philaeas Fogg enjoying, and the scraps of paper above the bar are actually travellers notes from the days before iPhone. Set with heavy wood extras and a predominantly post-uni crowd, this place feels like an adventure from the moment you enter, and its bravery awards all round to anyone who survives closing time encounters with the toilet. ▶ Open 16:00 - 01:00, Thu 16:00 - 02:00, Fri, Sat 16:00 - 03:00. ☺ ☺ ☺ ☺ ☺



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## Clubs

**Baker Street B-3, ul. Piekary 22/23, tel. (+48) 607 78 99 52, [www.bakerst.pl](http://www.bakerst.pl).** Baker Street has the makings of a hit: 2 levels, 2 dance floors, an easily accessible bar and effortlessly modern design. Yet the sparsely-populated club felt more like a night in our parents' rec room, complete with Sir Mix-A-Lot on the boombox. Small groups of very young revellers clung together at tables instead of mixing on the dance floor (Fear of cooties? We can't be sure), which added to the secondary school vibe. The popped-collared bartender was left with little more to do than stare at the flat screen TVs pumping in music videos. ▶ Open 21:00 - 04:00. Closed Mon, Tue, Sun. ☎ 📍 📺 📶 📱

**Crime Story C-2, Stary Rynek 67, tel. (+48) 61 852 93 38, [www.crime-story.eu](http://www.crime-story.eu).** Located in what was for many years a Sioux restaurant, Crime Story have cleared out all the cowboy dross and replaced it with a gangster theme (do Travolta and Jackson know they're the faces of this place?). Find an open, modern space aimed at the city's biggest minority: students. Renovations separated the restaurant area, which is on the main floor and serves up good Czech style food, while the club has now moved into the basement. The restaurant is open 12:00-24:00 (Fri, Sat until 04:00) while the club opens around 19:00 and stays open until the last guest (04:00). ▶ Open 12:00 - 02:00, Fri, Sat 12:00 - 04:00. ☎ 📍 📺 📶 📱

**Cuba Libre C-2, ul. Wroclawska 21, tel. (+48) 61 855 23 44, [www.cuba-libre.pl](http://www.cuba-libre.pl).** Set down a shadowy courtyard basement the newly expanded Cuba Libre is a bouncy Latin venue replete with whitewashed walls, pics of Che and wall space dedicated to an assortment of Cuban goodies. This place goes for detail, so much so drinkers can even take a seat in one of those clapped out vintage bangers you see pootling round the streets of Havana. The Fiesta Latino

## Adult Entertainment

**Deep Go Go C-2, ul. Wroclawska 5 (entrance from ul. Kozia), tel. (+48) 785 55 94 28, [www.deep-gogo.pl](http://www.deep-gogo.pl).** Head through the door, make your way down the steps and prepare to feast your eyes as you find yourself presented with some of the city's top talent. Unlike a number of clubs of its ilk, Deep Go Go caters for both stag dos and hen parties, with a number of set-price options on offer depending on both budget and number of guests. Anyone looking for an evening of spicy adult entertainment will not leave the club disappointed, however those looking for something a little different might want to check out the club's out of town villa which is available for hire. Located close to the city, guests can expect a number of luxuries such as an indoor pool, sauna, billiard room, fine food and of course a fine selection of ladies. Check out the website for more details and enjoy. ▶ Open 21:00 - 04:00. ☎ 📍 📺 📶 📱

**Melody Gentlemen's Club C-1, Stary Rynek 92, tel. (+48) 666 38 63 41, [www.melody.com.pl](http://www.melody.com.pl).** A centrally located 'Gentleman's Club' a stone's throw from the Old Market Square which, although conveniently positioned and attractively decorated, never seems to be that busy. Expect the typical pricier than usual drinks while the ladies entertain with the typical removal of clothes while performing gymnastics to pop music. A recent enlargement has added more room (namely 30 seats) to the establishment along with a new VIP room for 15 that features its own waiter. ▶ Open 21:00 - 05:00. Closed Sun. ☎ 📍 📺 📶 📱

nights on Friday and Disco Latino nights on Saturday prove seriously popular, though if you've got two left feet then consider brushing up on your dance jiggles at one of their salsa classes held on Monday. ▶ Open 21:00 - 05:00, Mon, Tue 21:00 - 03:00. Closed Sun. ☎ 📍 📺 📶 📱

**Czekolada C-2, ul. Wroclawska 18, tel. (+48) 61 851 00 05, [www.klubczekolada.pl](http://www.klubczekolada.pl).** Credit crunch you say? Not in Poznań, people. While the rest of the world staggers around like a shot pig the denizens of Poznań are living the high life in places like Czekolada. To call this place sexy would be a disservice, this is the final word in design drinking and the sort of cocktail spot/lounge club the city deserves. Huge chandeliers, shiny surfaces and black finishes lend a real svelte look to this spot, and you'd be a fool to turn up looking like anything less than a celebrity. ▶ Open 22:00 - 05:00. Closed Mon, Tue, Sun. ☎ 📍 📺 📶 📱

**Post Dali B-2, ul. Św. Marcin 40 (11th floor), tel. (+48) 61 852 40 00.** Open till late, very late, Post Dali is the final word in Poznań by night, and frequently the undoing of those who visit; our notes are little more than scribbles, a suggestion that a belting good time was had. There's a few points to set it aside from the competition, the first being it's sky high location - find it occupying a chunk of the eleventh floor of a Poznań office block, with views that stretch across the city. Typical clubby sounds keep the party going till memory fades, with a committed crowd lapping up the shenanigans. ▶ Open Sat only: 20:00 - 06:00. ☎ 📍 📺 📶 📱

**SQ C-3, ul. Półwiejska 42, tel. (+48) 61 859 65 78, [www.sqklub.pl](http://www.sqklub.pl).** Dance with the fittest and the hippest in SQ, by far the most envied dance space in town. Silly haircuts and expensive wardrobes abound here, and they're here for the music not the design - DJs arrive from all across Poland to play here, sometimes even further. The interior isn't all that, but the nights are legend, and you'll find no better place to puff the chest out and behave like a big time Bertie. Note that they are only open Wednesdays and Thursdays (22:00-04:00) and Fridays and Saturdays (22:00-06:00). ▶ ☎ 📍 📺 📶 📱

**Van Diesel C-1, Stary Rynek 88, tel. (+48) 515 06 54 59, [www.vandiesel.pl](http://www.vandiesel.pl).** If the list of Polish celebrities and the length of the queue out front are anything to go by then Van Diesel is the 'in' place on Poznań's market square. Negotiate face police to discover a more mature crowd than in most Poznań nightspots grooving to a mix of the classics from the 70s through to the present day. Alcohol is half-price on Thursdays until 23:00 (a day everyone gets in free) and until 21:30 on Fridays while there is a 30 percent discount on Saturdays until 21:30. Only open three times a week which is just as well really. ▶ Open 21:00 - 05:00, Thu 21:00 - 04:00. Closed Mon, Tue, Wed, Sun. ☎ 📍 📺 📶 📱

## Wine Bars

**Voyager WineClub C-2, Al. Marcinkowskiego 16/5, tel. (+48) 61 222 59 99, [www.voyagerwineclub.pl](http://www.voyagerwineclub.pl).** There's plenty of wine stores / drinkeries that have opened up around Poznań recently but this one is a little different. Located slap bang in the centre of town, Voyager is a cosy club which aims to bring wine lovers together and promote small and local producers as well as stocking a vast range of Australian, European and South American options. Those spending a bit of time in the city may wish to get more involved by treating themselves to one of the membership cards, which brings about all kinds of special offers, or by getting themselves along to one of their wine-tasting sessions. For those just passing through, it makes for an ideal place to sample a glass or two before deciding on which bottle to take home. ▶ Open 12:00 - 22:00. ☎ 📍 📺 📶 📱



POZNAŃ

Wroclawska 5 street  
entrance from the street Kozia

Contact:

Phone: +48 785 559 428

+48 531 393 636

E-mail: [info@deep-gogo.pl](mailto:info@deep-gogo.pl)[www.deep-gogo.pl](http://www.deep-gogo.pl)

f /NightClubDEEP





Some highlights of Poznań's millennium-long journey from Dark Ages settlement to 21st-century city commercial awakening.

#### 10th century

In 968 the first Polish cathedral is erected here. In 992 Mieszko I, the first ruler of Poland, is buried in Poznań Cathedral.

#### 12th century

Poznań begins to develop.

At the end of the century, members of the Knights of Malta settle at St. Nicholas' Church and found the earliest hospital in Poznań.

#### 13th century

In 1253, Przemysł, Prince of Wielkopolska, bestows Magdeburg Law rights to the town of Poznań. A regular street system is laid out around a central marketplace and a castle is added to the fortifications.

#### 14th century

Poznań goes through its greatest period of expansion and is soon a major centre of European trade.

#### 16th century

A golden age in the city's development, though in 1536 a fire devastates the Jewish quarter, the Market Place, the Town Hall and the Castle.

#### 17th century

Prosperity falls after the devastatingly expensive Swedish Wars of 1655-1657 and a series of fires and floods. Swedes occupy Poznań in 1655, Brandenburgians in 1656.

#### 18th century

Poznań runs out of luck. During the Northern War, Russian and Saxon troops besiege the city in 1704. In 1710 a plague largely depopulates the town and its suburbs. In 1725 a hurricane destroys the towers of the Town Hall and the Cathedral. And in 1736, the worst flood in the town's history wipes out almost a third of the town's houses.

#### 19th century

Napoleon has his headquarters here for two weeks in 1806. As the Prussians convert Poznań into a military stronghold, the local Poles resist the Germanisation process and form their own cultural and economic organisations.

#### 20th century

The Wielkopolska Uprising of December 1918 starts in Poznań and wins freedom for the region. In 1918-1919, Poznań is the base of the National People's Council and the administrative centre for lands formerly under Prussian rule. From 1939-1945, the local Jewish community is wiped out, much of the town's population is killed or displaced and about half of the city's buildings are destroyed. On January 23, 1945, Russian troops reach Poznań. With 5,000 mobilised locals, they drive out the Germans after a month. The Warsaw Pact is created in 1955.

#### 1956

**June 28** - 120,000 protestors in Poznań demand "bread, truth and freedom", and 76 are killed in street fighting with the army. A political thaw begins that year under Władysław Gomułka.

#### 1970

Gdańsk shipyard workers strike in December to protest poor living standards and rising prices. The police and army intervene, killing 44 strikers. Unrest forces Gomułka out of government.

#### 1978

Cardinal Karol Wojtyła is elected Pope and takes the name John Paul II.

#### 1980

The fledgling Solidarność trade union, led by shipyard electrician Lech Wałęsa, calls a general strike.

#### 1981

**December 13** - The Prime Minister, General Wojciech Jaruzelski, declares martial law.

#### 1983

Pope John Paul II makes his first visit to Poznań. Martial law is lifted and Wałęsa wins the Nobel Peace Prize.

#### 1985-88

Poland's economic crisis deepens and popular frustration grows.

#### 1989

Solidarność is legalised and the government agrees to meet 21 demands for improved living and working conditions. Partly free elections are held. When Solidarność sweeps the elections the communist regime collapses. Nonetheless, the parliament elects General Jaruzelski president. August - The first post-communist prime minister, Tadeusz Mazowiecki, forms a coalition government.

#### 1990

**January 1** - Price and monetary restrictions are abandoned in an attempt to find a natural economic equilibrium. Inflation leaps, at one point reaching 79% per year. December 9 - Lech Wałęsa becomes the first popularly elected president of post-communist Poland.

#### 1995

**November 19** - Former communist Aleksander Kwaśniewski defeats Lech Wałęsa in presidential elections.

#### 2001

**September 23** - Populist parties enjoy unprecedented success in parliamentary elections and Solidarność, a major force in 1989, disappears from the political scene.

#### 2004

Poland enters the European Union on May 1, 2004 sparking a mass exodus of young Poles seeking their fortune.

#### 2005

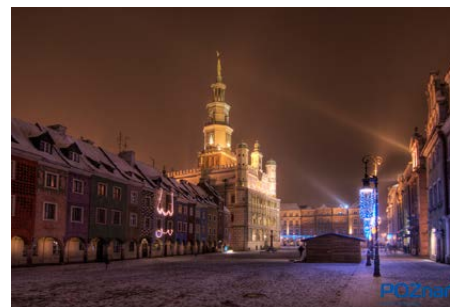
**April 2** Following a long battle with illness Pope John Paul II passes away. His funeral in the Vatican is attended by a million Poles.

#### 2010

Poland hits world headlines after the sign above Auschwitz concentration camp is stolen to order. The original sign has since been recovered. Poland enters national mourning after a plane carrying president Lech Kaczyński crashes killing all on board in April.

#### 2012

Poland successfully co-hosts the Euro 2012 football tournament with neighbouring Ukraine (though the Polish team didn't make it out of the group stage).



Poznań Old Town

Part of the beauty of Poznań lies in aimlessly roaming the streets and alleys, making chance findings from one turn to the next. That said there are a number of must-see sights whose discovery should not be left to chance. Your natural start point should be the main square, the glorious Rynek. Taking centre stage is the Old Town Hall (C-2, Stary Rynek 1), once renowned as the most beautiful building north of the Alps. Today it is home to the Historical Museum of Poznań as well as a pair of mechanical goats who emerge at noon to the delight of the sightseers gathered below. Of course there's more to the Rynek than just the town hall, and visitors should make time to troll round the other museums that line the perimeter of the square including the Musical Instruments Museum (D-2, Stary Rynek 45-47); the Military Museum (D-2, Stary Rynek 9), stocked with a collection of weaponry; and the Wielkopolska Uprising Museum (C-2, Stary Rynek 3) which chronicles the 1918 Uprising which culminated in Poznań switching from German to Polish hands.



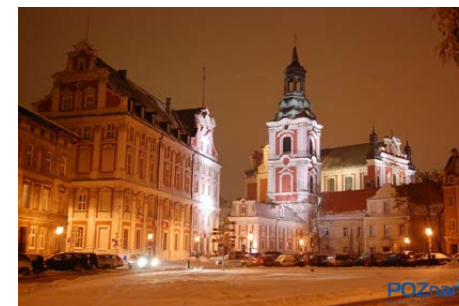
Poznań City Hall

Other noteworthy museums in the vicinity include the excellent Archaeological Museum on Wodna 27. Exhibits here include Egyptian mummies and obelisks, as well as bits and pieces from prehistoric Poland. Definitely the wackiest museum in town, and compulsory viewing for anyone with aspirations to follow in the footsteps of Indiana Jones.

Art fans should head to the National Museum (C-2, Al. Marcinkowskiego 9), an excellent museum with a rich collection of modern Polish art (including interesting impressionistic works) in the new wing, and medieval art, impressive Italian, Dutch and Flemish paintings in the connected old building. Also, don't miss a visit to the Models of Poznań (C-2, ul. Franciszkańska 2), a huge model that shows Poznań in its for mas presented

in Brau-Hogenbur g's picture sketched in 1618. Constructed over a period of six years the model takes up a space of 50m2 and is built on a scale of 1:150. The decorative details are impressive, and it's more than just a great way to get out of the rain.

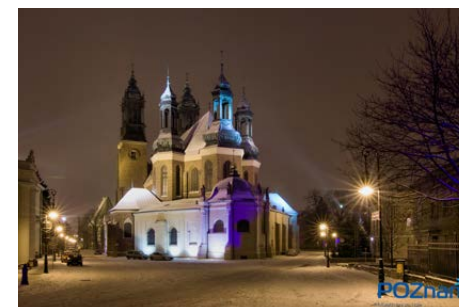
To avoid churches in Poznań would take a serious case of river blindness. They're everywhere, no more so than on Ostrów Tumski. The island is dominated by the Cathedral with its twin towers and surrounding chapels. The oldest remains are in the cathedral crypt, where you can see sections of excavated walls that date back to the founding of Poland. Trek back to the old town though to find Poznań's most impressive church: that of St Stanislaus (C/D-2, ul. Golebia 1). Created as a Jesuit temple in the 17th century it boasts an interior by a veritable who's who of Roman Baroque artists as well as a beautiful pink exterior.



St. Stanislaus

Poznań was also affected deeply by the war, and a visit to the former Gestapo penal camp (Wielkopolska Martyrs Museum, Al. Polska) is a disturbing daytrip. Hardly more uplifting is the Poznań Army Museum (G-1, Poznań Citadel, Closed for renovation), which aside from boasting displays of modern military hardware documents the defence of Poznań in 1939. It's close to here you'll find Soviet, Polish and Commonwealth Military Cemeteries - Brit visitors should note it's here that Roger Bushell, leader of 'The Great Escape', is buried. Equally saddening are the few remaining traces of Poznań's former Jewish community.

Poznań wasn't much more fortunate when the war ended, and to hear the story behind its struggle with communism visit the June 1956 Uprising Museum, a moving exhibition set inside a castle formerly used by Kaiser Wilhelm II.



Ostrów Tumski



## Stary Rynek

**The Old Town Square (Stary Rynek) C/D-1/2.**

The Old Town Square was the centre of old Poznań, and to this day is rich in historic architecture, museums and restaurants. Around 60 per cent of the old town was flattened during WWII, though most of the houses were meticulously rebuilt in the 1950s following Baroque and Renaissance styles. Aside from the two concrete carbuncles planted needlessly in the middle, the town square remains one of the most picturesque in Central Europe. Behind the town hall lies the City Scales building that once housed the hardware for weighing merchandise on its way to the market.

Keep your eyes peeled for several interesting buildings that rim the Rynek:

**Stary Rynek 43** - Poznań's oldest chemist, Under the White Eagle has been operating since 1564.

**Stary Rynek 48** - Originally built in the 12th century the house boasts the oldest gothic cellars in the city. During the 16th century it was the residence of town mayor Kacper Goski. Author of *Plague in the Air*, Goski also dabbled in astrology. His unlikely, but ultimately accurate, prediction of the Turkish defeat at the Battle of Lepanto immortalized him across Europe.

**Stary Rynek 50** - Worth noting for its gothic façade and the small portico over the doorway. During a bawdy drinking bout King August II of Saxony tumbled out of the window; the roof broke his fall and saved his life. Nearby a tablet marks the level that floodwaters reached in 1736.

**Stary Rynek 52** - Once owned by Mikołaj Ridt, the trader was apparently turned into a werewolf after a foul-mouthed outburst directed at a neighbouring convent. Following war damage the house was rebuilt in 1945 in renaissance style.

## Churches

**Corpus Christi Church (Kościół Bożego Ciała)**

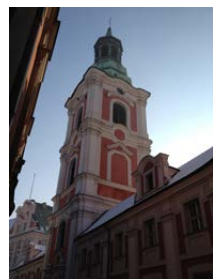
**H-4, ul. Strzelecka 40, tel. (+48) 61 852 32 00, [www.bozeczialo.poznan.pl](http://www.bozeczialo.poznan.pl).** A strange legend attaches to the church, involving the theft and unsavoury use of three communion wafers. The unfortunate wafers were later found on the common, and King Władysław Jagiełło had the Gothic Church of Corpus Christi erected on the spot. Construction ended in 1470 and renovations were added during the Baroque period. The Gothic elevations and Baroque gable and tower are preserved in their original state. Points of interest include paintings of King Jagiełło and Queen Hedwig from 1685, the high altar designed by Pompeo Ferrari, and the Baroque Chapel of the Virgin Mary. To this day, Corpus Christi processions are remarkably colourful and impressive, with the local houses brightly decorated and women and girls wearing Bamberg costumes. ▶ Open during mass or by prior arrangement.

**Dominican Church (Kościół Dominikański) A-1,**

**Al. Niepodległości 20, tel. (+48) 61 852 31 34, [www.poznan.dominikanie.pl](http://www.poznan.dominikanie.pl).** Built in the 13th century, this church was later given a Baroque interior, tower and gables. The stalls feature sculpted mannerist scenes from the legends of Saints Dominic and Hyacinth. The Late Gothic Rosary Chapel dates to the early 16th century and features a stellar vault and neo-Gothic furnishings. In the small courtyard outside the presbytery you'll find the entrance to the Jesuit Gallery, where you can see the mannerist interiors of the library and cloister. ▶ Open 07:00 - 20:00. No visiting during mass please.

**Franciscan Church (Kościół Franciszkanów) C-2,**

**ul. Franciszkańska 2, tel. (+48) 61 852 36 37, [www.poznan.franciszkanie.pl](http://www.poznan.franciszkanie.pl).** Erected 1674-1728. Hidden behind the bland exterior is a riot of baroque decoration, with carved wood, stucco and paintings by local monk Adam Swach. His brother, Antoni, designed the high altar and ornamented stalls. Lavish decorations aside, visitors flock to the church to see the Marian shrine, which has housed a famous picture of the Miracle-Working Virgin Mary, also known as the Lady of Poznań, for 300 years. ▶ Open 06:30 - 19:00. No visiting during mass please.

**Lesser Basilica of St. Stanislaus (Bazylika**

**Mniejsza Św. Stanisława Biskupa) C/D-2, ul. Golebia**

**1, tel. (+48) 61 852 69 50, [www.fara.archpoznan.org.pl](http://www.fara.archpoznan.org.pl).**

One of Poznań's most impressive historic monuments, the The Lesser Basilica of St. Stanislaus, which it became in October 2010, was created as a Jesuit temple in the 17th century. It boasts an interior by a veritable who's who of Roman

Baroque artists. The striking interior is 55 metres long, 35 metres wide and 27 metres high, with huge columns providing dramatic light-and-shade effects. Fine specimens of Baroque ornamentation can be found in the chapels of the Holy Cross, which features a 16th-century crucifix, and the Virgin Mary, which has a precious copy of the painting of *The Mother of God of Incessant Help*. The Basilica hosts organ concerts played on an instrument dating from 1876 on Saturdays at 12.15. Incidentally, the full name is actually 'Bazylika Mniejsza Matki Bożej Nieustającej Pomocy, Św. Marii Magdaleny i Św. Stanisława Biskupa' - we've gone for the version you've got some chance of pronouncing. ▶ Open 10:00 - 18:30. No visiting during mass please.

**St. Adalbert's Church (Kościół Św. Wojciecha)**

**G-3, ul. Wzgórze Św. Wojciecha 1, tel. (+48) 61 852 69 85, [www.swietywojciech.archpoznan.pl](http://www.swietywojciech.archpoznan.pl).** This small, uniquely-shaped Gothic building was constructed in the early 15th century and is notable for its adjacent wooden belfry and Art Nouveau murals. The high altar features a Late Gothic relief of the assumption of the Holy Virgin Mary and the other altars are manneristic, dating from around 1630. Since 1923 it has held the Crypt of Eminent Citizens of Wielkopolska, the resting place of Józef Wybicki, who wrote the words of the Polish national anthem, and the urn containing General Jan Henryk Dąbrowski's heart. The church also contains the sarcophagus of Karol Marcinkowski, the famous doctor and social activist. Every Christmas, visitors come to see the nativity scene with its mechanical figures of Polish kings, scholars, artists and other national heroes. ▶ Open before mass and by prior arrangement.



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**St. Francis of Assisi Church**

**(Kościół Św. Franciszka z**

**Azyżu) D-3, ul. Garbary 22,**

**tel. (+48) 61 851 26 00, [www.franciszkanie.net](http://www.franciszkanie.net).**

This church was built in the late 17th century on a spot chosen according to the principles of Baroque town planning. Its two-towered façade, designed by Jan Adam Stier and decorated with figures of saints, was added in the early 18th century. The original furnishings and decorations were destroyed in the war and replaced with replicas. ▶ Open 06:30 - 19:00, Sun 06:30 - 21:30. No visiting during mass please.

**St. Joseph's Sanctuary (Sanktuarium Św. Józefa)**

**G-2, ul. Działowa 25 (St. Wojciech Hill), tel. (+48) 61**

**852 92 93, [www.karmelici.info](http://www.karmelici.info).** Opposite St. Adalbert's

Church you'll find St. Joseph's, a Carmelite sanctuary whose late 17th century design typifies the Wielkopolska Baroque style. It houses the grave of Mikołaj Skrzetuski, who defended the town of Zbąra against the Tartars and Cossacks in 1649 and inspired the main character in Henryk Sienkiewicz's novel, *With Fire and Sword*. ▶ Open 08:00 - 13:00, 15:00 - 19:00.

**St. Martin's Church (Kościół Św. Marcina) C-2/3,**

**ul. Św. Marcin 13, tel. (+48) 61 852 32 63, [www.swmarcin.d2.pl](http://www.swmarcin.d2.pl).**

First mention of a church standing on the site dates from 1252 though it owes its current Gothic look from the 16th century. Although this was Poznań's most damaged church in WWII its interior is still a sight to behold. The wooden Gothic sculpture of the Madonna in the nave dates back to 1510, and the Gothic Silesian altar triptych is from 1498. Don't miss the grotto that stands outside the church, built in 1911 after the vicar Tadeusz Wierbiński was miraculously cured of blindness by the healing waters of Lourdes. The grotto was built in thanks, and features St. Bernadeta Soubirous kneeling in front of Jesus. ▶ Open 09:00 - 17:00. No visiting during mass please.

## Monuments

**Adam Mickiewicz Monument (Pomnik Adama**

**Mickiewicza) F-3, Pl. Mickiewicza.** Head to pl. Mickiewicz

for the real bombastic and monumental bombshells. It's here you'll find Adam Mickiewicz, one of the 'three bards of Polish literature'. Set in bronze and sculpted by Bazyl Wójcicki, the 19th century patriot and romantic has been rooted to that spot since 1960.

## Guided Tours

**City Guide Poznań, tel. (+48) 608 28 42 08,**

**[www.cityguide-poznan.com.pl](http://www.cityguide-poznan.com.pl).** Excellent local guides offering tours in English, German, Polish and Spanish to attractions throughout Poznań and further afield (the Piast Route). Last year City Guides was chosen to show delegates of the European Commission around the city during Poland's EU presidency - solid credentials indeed. Walking tours run 2-5 hours, with prices depending on length of tour and language required.

**Justyna Ciupa, tel. (+48) 609 60 51 15, [www.przewodnik-poznan.pl](http://www.przewodnik-poznan.pl).**

English speaking guides covering Poznań and surrounds as well as the Piast Route. Prices negotiable.

**KulTour.pl, tel. (+48) 601 87 16 61, [www.kultour.pl](http://www.kultour.pl).**

City guides offering tours of Poznań and the surrounding area. Languages spoken include German, English, Russian, Ukrainian, Spanish. Please call in advance to book a tour.

**PTTK Poznań C-1, Stary Rynek 90, tel. (+48)**

**604 97 91 97, [www.bort.pl](http://www.bort.pl).** Guided tours of Poznań

and surrounds including the Piast Route, Kórnik and Rogalin for groups and individuals in English, French, German, Spanish, Italian, Russian and others. Check their multi-lingual website. ▶ Open 10:00 - 16:00, Wed 10:00 - 18:00. Closed Sat, Sun. Up to 1 hr 150zł, up to 2 hrs 220zł, up to 3 hrs 290zł, up to 5 hrs 360zł.

**Tour Guide Services, tel. (+48) 61 852 61 56,**

**[www.cim.poznan.pl](http://www.cim.poznan.pl).** Tour guide services provided by the Tourist Information Centre. Tours in English, German, French, Spanish, Italian, Russian, Ukrainian and Czech. Call at least 2 days in advance to book a guide or organise a tour. ▶ 160zł/hour, 210zł/2 hours, 285zł/3 hours, 370zł/5 hours.

## Tourist Information

**City Information Centre (Centrum Informacji**

**Miejskiej) B-2, ul. Ratajczaka 44, tel. (+48) 61**

**851 96 45, [www.cim.poznan.pl](http://www.cim.poznan.pl).** Tourist office with

detailed tourist and business information. ▶ Open 10:00 - 19:00, Sat 10:00 - 17:00. Closed Sun.

**City Information Centre E-4, ul. Dworcowa 2**

**(Main Train Station), tel. (+48) 61 633 10 16, [www.cim.poznan.pl](http://www.cim.poznan.pl).**

Large information desk in the new train station loaded with maps, guides and all the assistance a new arrival could need. ▶ Open 08:00 - 21:00, Sat, Sun 10:00 - 17:00.

**Tourist Information Centre C-2, Stary Rynek**

**59/60, tel. (+48) 61 852 61 56, [www.cim.poznan.pl](http://www.cim.poznan.pl).**

Maps and guides in Polish, English and German. Assistance in those languages plus French, Spanish, Italian and Portuguese. ▶ Open 10:00 - 18:00; Sat, Sun 10:00 - 17:00.

[www.inyourpocket.com](http://www.inyourpocket.com)



## Lost Poznań



An exploration of the back streets of Poznań reveals countless corners hitherto left untouched by the guidebooks, and this is never more evident than standing at the foot of Góra Przemysła (C-1/2). While at first glance the hillcock looming in front of you appears to be little more than a steep path and a scattering of ruins it is of course much more than that.

This was formerly the site of a royal castle, with original construction dated to approximately 1274. It was built on the whim of Przemysł II and served as a royal residence for the next couple of centuries. By the time Kazimierz Wielki had finished expanding it the castle stood out as the biggest non-ecclesiastical building in Poland, though its fortunes took a dramatic turn for the worse when marauding Russians destroyed much of it in 1704. From there on it ceased to operate as a royal residence, used instead to house an archive and a court. A special chamber was kept aside to display the rotting corpses of executed villains, and one courtier, Józef Rufus Wybicki, would go on to achieve fame by penning the Polish national anthem in 1791. The 18th century marked a patchy time for the castle; it enjoyed spurts of restoration and renovation, interspersed with neglect, eventually falling into complete disrepair until 1783 when Kazimierz Raczyński opted to construct a classicist building on the site to function as his HQ. Alas, just ten years later the Prussians had other designs, and flattened Raczyński's palace to make way for a rather boring one storey building.

The area was smashed to pieces during the Soviet siege of 1945 and in 1959 the decision was taken to rebuild Raczyński's contribution to the hill, which today houses the Applied Arts Museum (currently closed for renovation). Today the only original elements to survive are the ancient cellars, though plans are now afoot to rebuild the castle using a blend of Gothic, renaissance and contemporary styles.

And what of the hill itself? Apparently that's the work of the devils. According to local legend a group of demons were irritated by the number of churches springing up in the Poznań region and so hatched a plot to flood the area by dumping the Nia hill – found in the neighbouring forests – into the river Warta. The nasty buggers stood in a circle and used their collective energies to lift it, before flying off in the direction of the river. Fortunately the shriek of a rooster startled them mid-flight, and they dropped the hill onto what is now Poznań, hence scuppering their dastardly plan.

**Monument of 15th Regiment Poznań Lancer (Pomnik 15. Pułku Ułanów Poznańskich) C-2, ul. Ludgardy.** This feisty fellow mounted on horseback commemorates the 15th Poznań Lancers Regiment, which fought against the Bolsheviks in 1920 and with the Poznań Army in 1939. The original was created by Mieczysław Lubelski (a student of Xawery Dunkowski) and Adam Ballenstaedt and unveiled in 1927, but it was destroyed by the Nazis during World War II. The version that exists today was installed in 1982 and created by Józef Murlowski and Benedykt Kasznia and is the site of military ceremonies and the annual Poznań Lancers Day event.

**Monument of Goddess Hygieia C-2, Pl. Wolności.** Making a return after a bit of beauty work is the Greek Goddess Hygieia. The story begins in 1841 when Edward Raczyński constructed the city waterworks, choosing to place a well, decorated with intricate reliefs, between Marcinkowskiego and Lutego. In 1908 the well was moved down to Podgórna, with Albert Wolf choosing to embellish it further with the addition of Hygieia. The well was on the move once more in 1971, and since then can be found - complete with Greek Goddess - on pl. Wolności.

**Monument of Hipolit Cegielski G-4, Pl. Wiosny Ludów.** The area where Podgórna and Św. Marcin converge has in the past been known for one thing - its super all night chicken stand. Now, at least as of September 19, 2009, it's known for a 2.5 metre tall bronze cast of Hipolit Cegielski. Unveiled by his granddaughter, the statue commemorates one of the great industrialists of 19th century Poznań, and the man who founded the Cegielski factory. Not just a fat cat though, Cegielski was known for his philanthropy and patriotism.

**Monument of Polish Underground State and Home Army (Pomnik Polskiego Państwa Podziemnego i Armii Krajowej) A-1, Between ul. Wieniawskiego and Al. Niepodległości (Wieniawski Park).** Get to Wieniawski Park to view one of Poznań's newer monuments, a cracking installation dedicated to the wartime Polish Underground State and Home Army. Set at the intersection of al. Niepodległości and ul. Libelta, and the work of Gdańsk artist Mariusz Kulpa, this really takes some deciphering. Unveiled on September 26, 2007, to coincide with the 68th anniversary of the founding of the Polish underground movement, this piece consists of numerous tablets commemorating both individuals and organizations, as well as six stone eagles seemingly suspended in mid-air - they're there to represent Poland's flight and fight for independence. Truly a stunning work, and even more so in the evening when illuminated by the dim red flicker of the candles placed in tribute.

**Monument to Victims of Katyn and Siberia (Pomnik Ofiar Katynia i Sybiru) A-1, Between ul. Fredry and Al. Niepodległości (The Casteled Garden).** A walk around the castle grounds is a must, especially the rose garden out back. It's here one finds the Katyn monument, a 6.5 metre bronze effort permanently festooned with flowers and candles. Unveiled on September 17, 1999 - the 60th anniversary of the Soviet invasion - the piece commemorates the 22,000 Polish officers massacred by Beria's NKVD.

**Poznań June 1956 Monument (Pomnik Poznańskiego Czerwca 1956) F-3, Pl. Mickiewicza.** See 1956 Uprising.

**Stary Marych C-3, Corner of ul. Półwiejska and ul. Strzelecka.** The bronze statue of a man with a bicycle that you may find yourself colliding into is that of Stary Marych, one of Poznań's best loved exports. Found on the corner of ul. Półwiejska and Strzelecka the figure is based on a fictional character who came to symbolize the typical Poznanian. Regarded as one of Poznań's most famous natives this grumpy but decent man was the creation of Juliusz Kubel and featured heavily in the writers columns, all the time speaking a particular brand of local Poznań dialect. The statue was the work of Robert Sobociński and it hit the headlines last year when one local master thief made off with the old mans left pedal. The missing article was finally replaced in 2006, thereby restoring the statue to its full glory.

**Wilson Monument (Pomnik Wilsona) E-5, Between ul. Głogowska, ul. Matejki and ul. Berwińskiego.** Woodrow Wilson himself can be found standing in the park of his name (Park Wilsona). Put simply, few outsiders did more than Wilson to ensure Poland's existence and independence after WWI, and the Poles were so grateful to this American chap that they decided to erect a monument in his honour. The competition to sculpt the freshly laid-to-rest American ex-president's likeness was won by John Gutzon de la Mothe Borglum, who at the same time was famously profaning the Black Hills of South Dakota with the profiles of four other former American presidents (now known as Mount Rushmore National Monument). Erected in the presence of Wilson's widow in 1931, the original monument was soon toppled by the Nazis, and after the war the communist authorities were quick to rename the park after Marcin Kasprzak. The fall of communism reversed the renaming and an original design proposal by Polish sculptress Zofia Trzcicka-Kamińska was uncovered and executed by Jerzy Petruk, whose work has stood in the park since 1994.

## Museums

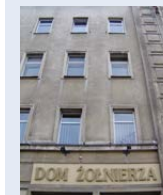


© Radomil

**Archeological Museum (Muzeum Archeologiczne) D-2, ul. Wodna 27 (Pałac Górków), tel. (+48) 61 852 82 51, www.mu-zarp.poznan.pl.** Ever wanted to see the Egyptian mummy of a woman called Hat? Then step right in. Poznań's Archaeology Museum contains a collection of 42,000 rare and mystifying objects that chart life in Ancient Egypt and prehistoric Poland. The first part of the museum takes you through the earliest settle-

ments in the region, with life-sized figures as well as miniature-sized dioramas depicting life from the Older Stone Age to the Iron Age. It's here you'll find everything from flints and urns to models of hairy men holding aloft dead rabbits. The other permanent exhibit, Death and Life in Ancient Egypt, features 120 rare pieces - of note are the granite obelisk of Rameses II that stands in the courtyard outside, and the granite statue of the lion-headed god Sachmet. The section on death presents colourful coffins, guides to the afterlife titled 'Book of what is on the other side' and the mummified remains of Hat, a boy called Padiseb and sacred animals including two cats, a falcon and a crocodile. ▶ Open 9:00 - 15:00; Fri, Sat 10:00 - 18:00, Sun 12:00 - 17:00. Closed Mon. Admission 8/4zł, family ticket 20zł. Sat free. Guided tours by prior arrangement 70zł. Audio guides available in English for 5zł per person. **TC**

## WWII Poznań



After being annexed by Nazi Germany in 1939 Poznań was incorporated into the Third Reich and saw an aggressive Germanisation policy with over 100,000 civilians expelled from the city, replaced with Volksdeutsch settlers from the Baltic States and other far-flung regions. Of those exiled many died in mass executions conducted in 1940 in the area surrounding Lake Rusalka (E-1). Gestapo HQ was located in Dom Żołnierza (ul. Niezłomnych 1), in a building that was opened in March 1939 to serve as home to a Polish military garrison. Housing around 200 Gestapo officers the building was primarily used as an interrogation centre with thousands tortured in the basement. It was stormed by the Red Army in February 1945, and fiercely defended by SS military students who ultimately opted for mass suicide over capture. Completely battered by this siege, the only original remnant of the building is its tower, spared the brunt of Soviet aggression for the fact it was used as a reference point by artillery units. Prisoners processed through Dom Żołnierza usually ended up in the (still functioning) prison on ul. Młyńska (B-1), or the notorious Fort VII (Al. Polska) in the far west of the city. Used as a penal camp this network of 19th century fortifications today serves as the Museum of Martyrdom, and its gloomy subterranean chambers are filled with relics recovered from the site - photographs, cutlery, wallets and roarsies. Outside the death wall commemorates the thousands shot by firing squad. The Jews faced a particularly vile fate, and it was in Poznań in 1943 that Himmler delivered his speech declaring Nazi intentions to exterminate Jewish life. Today little survives of Poznań's Jewish heritage, with the early 19th century graveyard on ul. Głogowska (E-4) destroyed by the Nazis, before being commandeered by the authorities in the post-war period and incorporated into the MTP trade fair. Earmarked to serve as the palatial quarters of Gauleiter Arthur Greiser heavy reconstruction work on the Zamek (A-2, ul. Św. Marcin 80/82) by Albert Speer meant that in reality Gresier spent much of the war residing on ul. Berwińskiego 5, today the home of a local radio station. Once the Soviet siege began Poznań was as good as doomed, with the old town faced with around 90% total destruction. A few images of the city in ruins can be viewed in the Historical Museum of Poznań inside the town hall (C-1, Stary Rynek 1). Another area defended to the last man was the citadel in the north of the city, which today houses the Poznań Army Museum (G-1), which is currently closed for renovations with no reopening date set. A good alternative is the Museum of Armaments (G-1, Park Cytadela), which features military displays as well as Polish, German and Russian weaponry. Also of note are the cemeteries that lie on the south west of the park boundaries. A commonwealth graveyard includes the remains of allied airmen shot down over Poland during WWII and is also the resting place for several of those captured during The Great Escape - yes it was a true story (minus Steve McQueen and a few other Hollywood touches). Next to it a cemetery dedicated to Red Army soldiers killed during the 1945 siege, with a soaring monument standing out as an awesome display of Socialist Realism. The red star that once topped it was long removed, the rumours that it was filled with jewels proving to be an urban myth. Jammed in between Soviet and Commonwealth memorials are plots dedicated to Poles killed under Fascism, and also during the 1956 Wielkopolska Uprising.



## Enigma

The vital role played by Polish exiles during the Battle of Britain, who represented one in eight Allied pilots and whose 303 Squadron boasted the best hit rate against the Luftwaffe, is today common knowledge. As is the role Polish forces played in breaking the siege of Monte Cassino, and the daring raid on Dieppe in 1942. A lesser known Polish contribution towards the Allied victory in 1945, but equally significant, is the battle that took place inside the minds of Poland's finest academics to crack the German Enigma code. And it all began in Poznań.

While studying at the mathematics class of the university, ace students Jerzy Różycki, Marian Rejewski and Henryk Zygalski came to the attention of Polish intelligence services on account of their excellent German skills and sharp mathematical minds. Recruited to attend cryptology courses in Warsaw alongside 17 other Poznań University alumni, the three were set to work in 1932 on cracking German ciphers. It was here they made the first vital Enigma breakthrough using a mathematical theorem since described as 'the theorem that won WWII.'

With invasion by Germany imminent, the Poles handed over their research and a copy of an Enigma machine and the sheets created to break the codes to British intelligence in Warsaw. Then on August 31st 1939, the day before the Nazi invasion of Poland, the three fled to Romania where they immediately sought contact with the Allies. Originally they turned up at the British Embassy in Bucharest, but having been told to 'come back in a few days' decided to try their luck with the French instead. This proved more successful and from there they found themselves in France, working in Cadix, a secret intelligence cell operating in the unoccupied south. With the risk of discovery by the Germans growing greater the team were forced to flee. Różycki drowned at sea in 1942 after the boat carrying him sank in suspicious circumstances, Zygalski and Rejewski however made it to Spain, in spite of being robbed by the man guiding them over the Pyrenees. More calamity followed: the pair were arrested by Spanish police and imprisoned, only freed the following year after intervention by the Red Cross. Seeking sanctuary in England they were employed in Boxmoor cracking simple SS codes. In spite of having done the groundwork that broke the original Enigma code their knowledge was not called on by the American and British codebreakers who were cracking new and improved Enigma codes at Bletchley Park, hence the vital Polish contribution has been allowed to fade in the memory. After the war Rejewski returned to Poland where he spent the rest of his days under scrutiny from internal security services, and working as a bookkeeper. When he published his life story in 1973 he became an unwitting superstar, and his work was finally recognized with a series of honours. He died in 1980, buried in Warsaw's Powązki Cemetery. Zygalski chose to remain in England and spent the post-war years working as a maths teacher. He died in 1978 and is buried in London. Although the trio have since received numerous posthumous awards their role in winning the war remains a little-known fact in the West, a cause not helped by silver screen rubbish like the 2001 movie Enigma. Since 1983 a memorial tablet at Poznań University's Collegium Majus has been in place honouring the three, and in 2006 an obelisk bearing their names was unveiled on ul. Św. Marcin in what was formerly the Maths Department of the university.



Ethnographic Museum

**Atelier of Józef Ignacy Kraszewski (Pracownia Józefa Ignacego Kraszewskiego) D-1, ul. Wroniecka 14, tel. (+48) 61 855 12 44, www.bracz.edu.pl.** Original manuscripts, over 200 rare first-editions and assorted writing equipment that once belonged to the author of *Stara Baśń* (Old Legend), a fanciful account of Polish prehistory. ▶ Open 10:00 - 15:00. Closed Sat, Sun. Admission free.

**Environment Museum (Muzeum Wiedzy o Środowisku) E-3, ul. Bukowska 19, tel. (+48) 61 847 56 01, www.isrl.poznan.pl.** Displays of stuffed and mounted Polish animals with accounts of their living habits, and information on indigenous plants. ▶ Open 10:00 - 15:00. Closed Sat. Admission free.

**Ethnographic Museum D-2, ul. Mostowa 7, tel. (+48) 61 852 30 06, www.mnp.art.pl.** Once one of Europe's greatest Masonic lodges, this 19th century building used to house an impressive collection of Wielkopolska folk culture but is now down to a small two-room rotating exhibit space that is now home to "Things Talk: 100 Years of the Ethnographic Collection in Poznań" that takes no more than 20 minutes to view in its entirety. With a building so large and clearly unutilised we're left to wonder why the Wielkopolska textiles had to be sacrificed at all. ▶ Open 09:00 - 15:00; Fri 12:00 - 21:00; Sat, Sun 11:00 - 18:00. Closed Mon. Last entrance 30 minutes before closing. Admission 7/5-1zł, Sat free. **TC**

**Historical Museum of Poznań (Muzeum Historii Miasta Poznania) C-2, Stary Rynek 1, tel. (+48) 61 856 81 93, www.mnp.art.pl.** The show-stealing Town Hall proves a fitting venue for a museum of this stature. The gothic cellars - originally the municipal prison - hold exhibits dating back to the earliest times of settlement in the 10th century. On the ground floor, rooms built in the 16th century hold exhibits covering the city's urban and economic development during that time. The Renaissance Hall, Royal Hall and Court Hall on the first floor hold the most valuable documents and artifacts, and the opulent vaulted ceilings - depicting griffins, lions and eagles - are worth the photography surcharge alone. Exhibits include a 13th century *crozier* from Limoges, a table clock with the Poznań coat of arms from 1575 and a globe from 1688 - resist the temptation to give it a spin lest you wish to incur the wrath of hawkish curators. Much of the second floor is dedicated to the 19th century when the city was under Prussian rule, and features everyday objects and portraits of prominent citizens. The final part of the museum depicts the history of 20th century Poznań, and exhibits include the disturbing photograph of a swastika fluttering from the town hall. ▶ Open 09:00 - 15:00; Fri 12:00 - 21:00; Sat, Sun 11:00 - 18:00. Closed Mon. Last entrance 30 minutes before closing. Admission 7/5-1zł, Sat free. **TC**

**June 1956 Poznań Uprising Museum (Muzeum Powstania Poznańskiego - Czerwiec 1956) A-2, ul. Św. Marcin 80/82.** See 1956 Uprising.

**Musical Instruments Museum (Muzeum Instrumentów Muzycznych) D-2, Stary Rynek 45-47, tel. (+48) 61 852 08 57, www.mnp.art.pl.** The only Polish museum of professional and folk instruments, with over 2000 items from Poland and around the world. The ground and first floors are given over to harmoniums and brass and wooden wind instruments. The stringed instruments include a selection of lutes dating back to the 15th century. A collection of 160 pianos illustrates the development of the instrument from 1750 to the early 20th century. A separate room holds the relics of Frederic Chopin such as documents and personal effects. The second floor rooms contain Polish and European folk instruments as well as fascinating instruments from all other continents. Rounding off the exhibit is a collection of mechanical instruments: music boxes, barrel organs, juke boxes, player pianos and gramophones. ▶ Open 09:00 - 15:00; Fri 12:00 - 21:00; Sat, Sun 11:00 - 18:00. Closed Mon. Last entrance 30 minutes before closing. Admission 7/5-1zł, Sat free. **TC**

**National Museum (Muzeum Narodowe) C-2, Al. Marcinkowskiego 9, tel. (+48) 61 856 80 00, www.mnp.art.pl.** An excellent museum with a rich collection of modern Polish art (including interesting impressionistic works) in the new wing, and medieval art, impressive Italian, Dutch and Flemish paintings in the connected old building. The museum also holds the largest collection of Spanish art (including Zurbarán and Ribera) in Poland and plenty of Polish art from the 16th century onwards. In addition, a Monet painting stolen in 2000 was recently recovered and is back on display. Selected paintings have extensive English explanations about the artist and topic. ▶ Open 09:00 - 15:00; Fri 12:00 - 21:00; Sat, Sun 11:00 - 18:00. Closed Mon. Last entrance 30 minutes before closing. Admission 12/8-1zł, Sat free. **TC**

**Pharmaceutical Museum (Muzeum Farmacji) C-2, Al. Marcinkowskiego 11, tel. (+48) 61 851 66 15.** One of the smallest museums in Poznań, and certainly the trickiest to find - go through the courtyard, ring the doorbell then climb to the second floor. The series of rooms here are filled with rusty pots, scales and cast iron mortars from the 19th century, and vials dating from as far back as the 17th century. While once upon a time you'd find yourself wandering around in ignorance, with just the thick smell of medicine and scattering of pots for mixing potions to bring out the Harry Potter in you, the museum now offers small guides in English, German and French. One room has been designed to mimic a 19th century pharmacy - complete with a box for morphine - while another includes over 1,200 rare medical books, a stuffed alligator and an inmates uniform recovered from Mathausen. ▶ Open 09:00 - 15:00. Closed Tue, Thu, Sat, Sun. Last entrance 60 minutes before closing. Admission free.

**Poznań Bamber Museum (Muzeum Bambrów Poznańskich) D-2, ul. Mostowa 7/9, tel. (+48) 605 62 16 11, www.bambrzy.poznan.pl.** Learn everything you ever wished to about the Bamber people inside an interesting museum that includes a 19th century timber house once owned by a wealthy Bamber farmer. Inside displays number a 17th century bonnet, spinning wheels, paintings, clothing and timber furniture - everything you'd expect in an ethnographic museum. ▶ Open 10:00 - 14:00. Closed Mon, Tue, Wed, Thu, Sun. Admission free.

## Napoleon's Poznań



A cult figure in military history, Napoleon Bonaparte made several visits to what is now modern day Poland, with Poznań hosting him a couple of times during his forays into the east. He first arrived in the city on November 27, 1806, in a time sandwiched between victorious campaigns against the Prussian and Russian empires respectively. In the words of the German chronicler Hugo Sommer, 'for three weeks

Poznań took on the role of the center of the European world'. Seen as a liberating hero by the natives (many of whom had fought in his ranks against the Prussians, and later against Russia), Bonaparte took residence at the former Jesuit College (D-2, ul. Golebia) adjacent to the Church of Stanislaus. For the duration of his stay the college was decorated with gifts from the people, and renamed Château de Posen, while other tributes included the rechristening of Al. Marcinkowskiego to rue Napoleon. An official reception was held in the throne room on November 28, while the anniversary of his coronation on December 2 witnessed a celebratory mass in St. Stanislaus, before the party of nabobs headed off to a ball thrown in his honour in what was then the Municipal Theatre (nowadays the Arkadia building, B-2, ul. Ratajczaka 44). The ball, organized by General Dąbrowski, proved to be one of the society events in Poznań's history, with the mini Frenchman arriving with rose petals scattered in his path. Nine days later Napoleon signed a peace treaty between France and Saxony in the Redutowa Hall of the Hotel Saski (C-3, ul. Wrocławska 25). It wasn't to be his last visit to the Saski, and he took lodgings here in 1812 on a stop-off during his ill-fated march on Moscow. The Saski itself is worth a visit; although now nothing more than a row of shops it is recognized as being Poznań's first hotel. Designed by Józef Malczewski, it was constructed between 1796-1797, and its hall served as the social centre for the local glitterati for the next half a century. Few signs remain of the Frenchman's tours to this corner of the world, though die hard fans will make the pilgrimage to Kórnik Castle to view his fork and spoon.





## The Goats

### Butting Heads Poznań Town Hall, Stary Rynek 1.

The crowd you see outside the Old town Hall just before noon each day is waiting for the goats to appear. At 12:00 precisely, the two tin creatures appear from a door in the façade and butt heads a dozen times. The first goats were installed in 1551 by Bartłomiej of Gubin, and over the years have been restored and replaced. The present goats date from 1954. The legend goes as follows: when the clock was unveiled in 1511, it was to be shown off to the governor of the Poznań province. The hapless cook preparing the celebratory feast burnt the venison. Panicking, he went out and stole a pair of goats to cook instead. But they escaped to the City Hall tower where the bemused guests saw them butting heads up on a ledge. The governor whimsically decreed that mechanical goats be added to the clock. The fate of the cook remains a mystery, though the chances are he would have been tied up to the whipping post directly outside and given a bloody good thrashing.



JvM

## The Bambergers

If you've explored the side alleys hidden behind the town hall you will have come across a fountain featuring a peasant girl carrying pails of water. What's it all about? She's the Bamberg girl, and to answer your next question the Bamberg people were poor Catholic farmers from the Bamberg district of Bavaria, Germany. They originally arrived in Poznań nearly 300 years ago at the invitation of the city authorities. They were to help rebuild villages devastated by the Northern War of 1700-1721 and depopulated by the spread of plague. Within a century of arriving, the Bambergers had assimilated into the local community, becoming patriotic Poles and later even resisting Prussian attempts to re-Germanize them. The bambrzy, or bammers as they were called, played an important part in helping Poznań become prosperous and in 1915 a fountain with a statue of a small bamberka girl in traditional costume was erected behind the town hall.



**Residence & Workshop of Kazimiera Iłakowiczówna (Mieszkanie-Pracownia Kazimiera Iłakowiczówny) E-3, ul. Gajowa 4, tel. (+48) 61 847 36 45, [www.bracz.edu.pl](http://www.bracz.edu.pl).** The works of the poet and writer Kazimiera Iłakowiczówna (1892-1983) stand preserved in the studio in which she formerly lived. Everything remains as it once was, from writing desks to personal possessions such as original manuscripts, books and paintings. Although Iłakowiczówna's fame is largely limited to native academics the exhibition isn't a bad diversion if you have a passing curiosity in how poets live. If not, give it a miss. ▶ Open Mon 13:00 - 15:00 and Thu 16:00 - 18:00 only. Admission free.

**Wielkopolska Martyrs Museum (Muzeum Martyrologii Wielkopolan - Fort VII) Al. Polska (Jeźyce), tel. (+48) 61 848 31 38, [www.muzeum-niepodleglosci.poznan.pl](http://www.muzeum-niepodleglosci.poznan.pl).** Completed in 1880 to serve as a Prussian fortress, Fort VII gained notoriety when it was used as a Gestapo penal camp between 1939 and 1944. It processed around 18,000 Polish prisoners, of which 4,500 are estimated to have been killed. The windswept grassy grounds make for a thought provoking walk and visitors can view the 'death wall' where up to seven prisoners were executed daily during Nazi rule, as well as dark tunnels used as improvised gas chambers - a metal plaque outside reads: 'Here in October 1939 Nazi Germany began the mass extermination of mentally ill people with the use of poisoned gas'. Elsewhere a vaulted brick room holds a small but haunting display that includes a guillotine, an execution block, truncheons, whips and arrest warrants. The personal effects of prisoners have also been preserved including hand written letters, playing cards, rosaries and identity papers. Chillingly graffiti etched into the walls by prisoners can still be discerned, the writing framed with red and white ribbons. Reaching Fort VII is not an easy task however. Found in the western suburbs your best bet is a taxi, with reputable drivers charging around 20-22zł for the journey. To get back into town you'll usually be able to flag a cab down on the main road, though you may wish to avoid this game of chance by getting your driver to wait for the half an hour it takes to view the museum. ▶ Open 09:00 - 16:00, Sun 10:00 - 16:00. Closed Mon. Admission free. From December admission 6/3zł. Fri free.

**Wielkopolska Military Museum (Wielkopolskie Muzeum Wojskowe) D-2, Stary Rynek 9, tel. (+48) 61 852 67 39, [www.mnp.art.pl](http://www.mnp.art.pl).** Situated inside a brutal post WWII pavilion the Military Museum documents the history of the Polish military from the 11th century onwards. Starting with scythes and halberds the collection includes the armour of winged hussars, sabers, muskets and cannon, as well as portraits of Polish military commanders and famous moments in their history. The unwieldy musket 'kolowy' is a particularly impressive effort, and surely completely useless in combat. The 20th century section features grenades, compasses and medical kits, and the upstairs is devoted to the Wielkopolska Uprising, with medals, uniforms and postcards from the era. The collection was decimated with WWII, with the only surviving item being a fragment of Wojciech Kossak's 1901 painting, *The Battle of the Pyramids*. ▶ Open 09:00 - 15:00, Fri 12:00 - 21:00; Sat, Sun 11:00 - 18:00. Closed Mon. Last entrance 30 minutes before closing. Admission 7/5-1zł. Sat free.

**Wielkopolska Uprising Museum (Muzeum Powstania Wielkopolskiego 1918-1919) C-2, Stary Rynek 3.** See Wielkopolska Uprising.

## Places of Interest



**Models of Poznań (Makiety Poznania) C-2, ul. Franciszkańska 2 (basement of the Franciscan Church, entrance from Ludgardy Street), tel. (+48) 61 855 14 35, [www.makieta.poznan.pl](http://www.makieta.poznan.pl).** A huge model that shows Poznań in its form as presented in Brau-Hogenburg's picture sketched in 1618. Constructed over a period of six years the model takes up a space of 50m2 and is built on a scale of 1:150. The decorative details are impressive, and you can expect lots of kids as well as anoraked model enthusiasts pulling up the school seats around it as they wait for the show to begin. As the lights dim a recorded commentary begins and visitors are taken through the area-by-area story of Poznań's development. Foreigners get given headsets to listen to heavily accented commentary in the language of their choice, though this is at times drowned out by hilarious background noise that includes medieval soldiers screaming in agony. And it doesn't end there. Now added are similar models depicting Poznań in the 10th century, as well as a detailed model of the main square. ▶ Open 11:00 - 17:00. Admission 14/10 zł.



**Old Town Hall & Historical Museum (Ratusz) C-2, Stary Rynek 1, tel. (+48) 61 856 81 93, [www.mnp.art.pl](http://www.mnp.art.pl).** First built at the beginning of the 14th century, the seat of Poznań's municipal authorities was rebuilt following the great fire of 1536. Italian architect Giovanni Quadro of Lugano was commissioned to oversee the reconstruction, and a renaissance loggia and attic were added, offset by a classical tower.

Once revered as the most beautiful building north of the Alps, the town hall has been beset by a catalogue of disasters. A fire in 1675, a hurricane in 1725 and then bomb damage during WWII mean that little of the original structure remains. The oldest surviving parts are the cellars with their early-Gothic cross-vaulted ceilings. Today it houses the Historical Museum of Poznań, whose collection encompasses exhibits from the 10th century till the present day. The biggest draw is the Great Entrance Hall with its elaborately decorated vault, supported by two huge pillars. The tableaux are inspired by the bible, astrology and figures from mythology. The crowds you'll see gathering outside the building at noon are waiting for the two mechanical Billy goats to emerge, and a bugle call also comes from the tower; legend has it that a town-hall bugler took care of the King of Ravens, and in return the birds helped to save the city during a siege. Directly outside the town hall is a whipping post, dating from 1535. It was here that miscreants were whipped, executed or led to the city boundaries before being banished from Poznań. The recently repaired figure standing on top depicts the executioner of Poznań. ▶ Open 09:00 - 15:00, Fri 12:00 - 21:00; Sat, Sun 11:00 - 18:00. Closed Mon. Last entrance 30 minutes before closing. Admission 7/5-1zł, Sat free.

## Great Walls of Poz



Back in the old days it was a good idea to have your city defended by a set of walls, and this was never truer than in the case of Poznań. This was, after all, a city continually facing attack from all sides - even Sweden. From its inception Poznań was craftily positioned, with a location between hills and floodplains adding an element of security to the habitants of the town. Even still it was necessary to add to these natural defences, and so over 1,700 metre of walls were constructed to ward off potential invaders. They stood seven metres high and one and half metres thick, and were supplemented with over 30 towers. Best of all, they worked - in 1331 the city was besieged for a week by King John of Luxembourg and survived to tell the tale.

The middle of the 15th century saw the addition of an outer brick wall, itself fortified further with 12 towers and a network of moats. Many of these included gateways to the city, though for the most part new arrivals would head through entrances on ul. Wrocławska, Wodna, Wielka and Wroniecka. While the lion's share of fortifications were defended by regular soldiers the locals also weighed in to do their bit with guilds and assorted associations manning certain towers - it's for this reason certain defences became known as 'Butchers Tower' and 'Tailors Tower'. There was even one guarded by an ensemble of chimney sweeps.

And don't think for a moment these defences served a single purpose. Many of the towers had dual functions - St Catherine's Tower has held a monastery since the 16th century, while the Fireman's Tower was - guess what - home to the local fire station. Another was inhabited by the city executioner, and the Merchants Tower used as a dank prison. However as the centuries passed the defences became increasingly obsolete when faced with evolving military technology. By the time the 18th century came along many of the walls were a sorry sight having born the full brunt of countless sieges and artillery rounds. With the city now under Prussian rule it was decided to get rid of the majority of walls altogether, and many found themselves torn down to allow the city to grow outwards.

In recent times work has been undertaken to unearth and restore some of these original fortifications, and today it's possible to traipse around many of the defences that once kept the citizens of Poznań safe from outsiders. Most impressive of the lot is the stretch of wall that begins at the top of (D-1) ul. Wroniecka - from here a cobbled walkway, illuminated at night, has been added to run past St Catherine's and the Fireman's Tower, before concluding at the rotund looking Artillery Tower. For the full story, as well as a very handy map outlining the trails, pick up 'The Historic City Wall of Poznań', an excellent English language booklet available for free at Tourist Information.



## Lech Visitors Centre

**Lech Visitors Centre** ul. Szwa-jcarska 11 (Nowe Miasto), tel. (+48) 61 667 74 60, [www.zwiedzaniebrowaru.pl](http://www.zwiedzaniebrowaru.pl).

A must for all beer aficionados. What could be better than half a day out at one of Poland's biggest breweries? The Poznań Brewery, which produces Lech, Tyskie, Żubr and Redds lies on the outskirts of the city.



There is no minimum number of people required for a tour so you can happily book by yourself. They do ask that you make an appointment for a tour the day before or at very least on the morning of your planned visit. Despite this, our unannounced arrival presented no significant problems - although we were naturally disappointed that we would have to wait half an hour in the bar before a guide could be rustled up.

The first hour consists of a waltz through the production process, fermenting and mashing as well as the usual guff about water purity and the like. The most striking thing about the first hour's tour through the production plant is the lack of humans and the sheer amount of steel and technology. The two hour tour, which is available in English and German, is both informative and thorough and your guides are employees of the brewery chosen for their years of experience and interest in the brewing process. The brewery, dating from 1980, is fairly impressive, and having been treated to a facelift in the 1990s is thoroughly modern; you'll find yourself surrounded by sparkling steel on all sides.


For your second hour you'll be whisked off to the multimedia centre. Here you'll be treated to a film on the history of the company as well as a galaxy of new attractions telling the story of Lech. We recommend that you take notes because you will be quizzed on the film when it finishes, we kid you not. Take the opportunity to have your photo taken inside a huge can of Lech which you can then instantly email to all of your friends or get involved in the bottling process which is guaranteed to bring out the child engineer in all of you.

After your exhausting cultural experience you'll finish the tour with a well-earned beer which you can choose from their portfolio of brands, and you can complete your immersion into the world of Lech by buying up fleeces, keyrings, pens and beer mugs from the souvenir shop.

To get to the Brewery from the city take tram 16 from Pl. Teatralny to the M1 shopping centre and you can't miss the brewery opposite as it has three huge towers draped in bright green Lech flags. Alternatively a taxi ride from the centre will set you back about 20zł. ▶ Open 10:00 - 20:00. Closed Sun. Tours start every two hours from 10:00 onwards with the last tour at 18:00. You should book a day in advance. Admission 12/6zł. 



**Palm House (Palmiarnia)** ul. Matejki 18 (Grunwald), tel. (+48) 61 865 89 07, [www.palmiarnia.poznan.pl](http://www.palmiarnia.poznan.pl).

Built in waves beginning in 1910, the Palm House in Wilson Park began as a small showcase for palm trees and cacti and is now one of the largest of its kind in Europe. After the Red Army liberated Poznań in 1945 the heavily damaged Palm House lost almost all of its tropical plants, though quickly restocked and reopened again in 1946. Today the interior is filled with 1100 species of plants from all over the globe and 170 species of fish - including some of the largest goldfish we've ever seen. While all of the minimal signage is in Polish and Latin, it doesn't inhibit your visit if the goal is awe. The soaring greenhouses include plants from savannahs, deserts and tropical climates (and the temperature reflects that; layers are recommended when visiting this humid site) interspersed with tanks that host creatures like iguanas and giant snakes. The lone non-greenhouse space is reserved for temporary exhibits and always worth a peek. ▶ Open 09:00 - 16:00, Sun 09:00 - 17:00. Closed Mon. Last entrance 1 hour before closing. Admission 7/5zł. Children under 3 free. 



**The Castle (Zamek) A-2**, ul. Św. Marcin 80/82, tel. (+48) 61 646 52 60, [www.zamek.poznan.pl](http://www.zamek.poznan.pl).

Construction on Poznań's fearsome castle began in 1905, with the keys officially handed over to Kaiser Wilhelm II in 1910. Designed by Franz Schwechten the building was built following neo-Roman aesthetic with living quarters for the Kaiser located in the west wing, and the throne room in the east. The small park and rose

garden in the back was inspired by the Lion's Courtyard in the Alhambra. Between the wars it became the seat of Poznań University though Poznań's incorporation into the Third Reich saw sweeping changes. Albert Speer, Hitler's pet architect, set to work transforming the castle, with a view of turning the tower chapel into the Führer's office, and the second floor into the residence of Arthur Greiser (Nazi governor of the Warthegau district). By 1944 renovation work had finished, with all the original interiors completely remodelled. The castle was badly damaged during the Soviet liberation and there was even a post-war campaign to have the structure bulldozed. In the end the drastic measures stopped with reducing the principal tower to a third of its original height. Used by the university in the two years following the war, and then as the seat of local government, the castle building has operated as a cultural centre since 1962. Guided tours of the castle in English are available for 120 zł but must be booked in advanced by calling 61 64 65 288. ▶ Open 10:00 - 22:00. Admission depending on repertoire.



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Just outside the center of Poznań sits Ostrów Tumski (Cathedral Island), the island where Poznań originated and "where Poland began" according to Pope John Paul II. According to legend, three Slav brothers known as Lech, Czech and Rus met on the tiny island after not seeing each other for many years.

To commemorate their reunion the brothers named the place *poznać*, after the Polish word for 'to meet.' From there the island thrived, with a castle erected in the 9th century and Ostrow Tumski becoming a major centre of the Piast state. More than a millennium ago one of Poland's first rulers, Mieszko I, ushered the country into Catholicism here and soon after the first bishopric was established in 968. The first iteration of the Cathedral of Poznań was built in the second half of the 10th century, and in the island's thousand-year history it has been home to kings and bishops alike. Remains of 19th century Prussian fortifications are still visible on the Cybina riverside, easily viewable from the Jordan Bridge. In more recent times the Communists showed their disdain for the Catholic Church's heavy presence in Poznań by building a road across the island that bisected the Archbishop's garden.

**Archdiocese Museum (Muzeum Archidiecezjalne)**  
I-2, ul. Lubrańskiego 1, tel. (+48) 61 852 61 95, [www.muzeum.poznan.pl](http://www.muzeum.poznan.pl). Adjacent to the Cathedral is the large Lubrański Academy building, once home to Bishop Jan Lubrański's institute of higher learning and today the Museum of the Archdiocese. The space has been well renovated and houses plenty of treasures worth a gander. There are many impressively preserved robes from Poznań's many bishops, one dating back to 1480, as well as a spread of all their heavily-bejeweled rings. You can even see the large black handles taken from the doors of the Cathedral. ▶ Open 10:00 - 17:00, Sat 09:00 - 15:00. Closed Mon, Sun. Admission 8/5zł, family ticket 12zł.

**Cathedral I-3, Ostrów Tumski 17, tel. (+48) 61 852 96 42, [www.katedra.archpoznan.pl](http://www.katedra.archpoznan.pl).** The most stunning (and oldest) site on Ostrów Tumski is the building it's named for, Peter and Paul Cathedral. More commonly called the Poznań Cathedral, the original version was erected in 968 on the same spot as today's existing Gothic structure. The

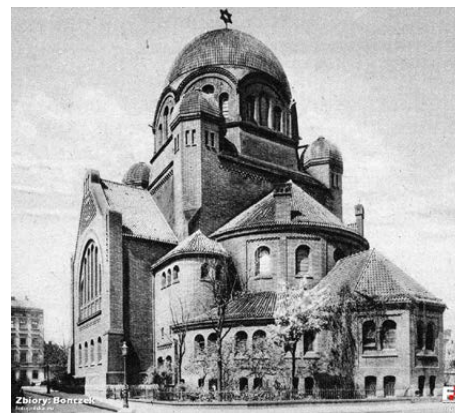
building itself has been destroyed, rebuilt and remodeled numerous times, and every renovation added a new style to the Cathedral: a 1622 fire resulted in a Baroque finish, while a 1722 fire meant a change to the neo-Classical style. During the 1945 battle to liberate Ostrów Tumski 65 percent of the cathedral was (once again) burned down. This tragedy proved prophetic, as the fire exposed the cathedral's Gothic elements and led to it being restored in the manner visitors see today.

Inside the Cathedral, which is still operational and welcomes visitors, are a number of elements of interest. Surrounding the interior are 12 different chapels, including the Chapel of the Holy Sacrament. This chapel has several outstanding examples of Renaissance art (the tombstones of the Gorka family and Bishop Benedykt Izbiński, to be specific) and the Baroque altar houses a miraculous crucifix brought to the Cathedral from the former Wrocław town gate. The Golden Chapel was designed as the mausoleum of the first Polish monarchs and houses the sarcophagus of Mieszko I and Bolesław Chrobry. You can also see these two monarchs in all their glory thanks to a bronze monument that depicts the two kings together. Above the monument is a painting by Januarius Suchodolski showing Mieszko I, the instigator of Catholicism in Poland, destroying pagan idols.

The eye-catching high altar at the center of the Cathedral is a polyptych created by 14th and 15th century Silesian artists depicting Our Lady surrounded by 14 female saints like St. Catherine and St. Barbara. The altar's outer wings feature eight paintings depicting the Passion of the Christ. The Cathedral's lavish Baroque pulpit is equally stunning and dates to 1720. Also worth noting are the Cathedral's five Gothic and early Renaissance bronze tomb slabs, which originated at the famed Nuremberg workshop of Herman and Peter Vischer. The slabs were originally on the Cathedral floor to cover the entrances to tombs, but were moved and mounted on pillars and chapel walls. Stolen during the war, the slabs were returned to Poznań in 1993 and are back on display. One of the newer elements of Poland's oldest Cathedral is the giant 52-pipe organ at the rear of the building, which perfectly frames the large stained glass window.

The cathedral's crypt is certainly worth a look (visit the vestry to request entry). Visitors can feast their eyes on the remains of the pre-Romanesque and Romanesque versions of the Cathedral and a 10th century baptismal font most likely used to baptize the first Polish sovereign and his subjects. The Cathedral also unearthed two tombs, most likely of the first Polish monarchs Mieszko I and King Bolesław Chrobry. The second crypt houses an exhibition of various pieces found during the excavation like plates and stones, and it also leads to crypt of the Poznań archbishops. Be aware that the lights in the crypt are motion-activated, so if you stand too long admiring a certain tomb, you're bound to suddenly end up in the dark. ▶ Open 09:00 - 16:00. No visiting during mass please. Crypt entrance 3.50/2.50zł, rest of the Cathedral free.

**Genius Loci Archeological Park (Rezerwat Archeologiczny Genius Loci - Przekrój Poznania)**  
I-3, ul. Ks. I. Posadzego 3, tel. (+48) 61 852 21 67, [www.muzarp.poznan.pl/rezerwat](http://www.muzarp.poznan.pl/rezerwat). When Genius Loci Archeological Park first opened there were complaints that it was on the small side. Granted, it's not huge, but that's not to say it's not worth visiting. There's plenty on offer - a 3D film, multi-media devices and the chance to look down at part of the city's oldest infrastructure. The walk-through headphone guides come in both Polish and English and help explain why the Poznań was designed in the way it was. ▶ Open 10:00 - 16:00; Fri 11:00 - 18:00, Sat 09:00 - 17:00, Sun 10:00 - 15:00. Closed Mon. Admission 6/4zł, family ticket 10zł. Sun free.



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The history of Jews in Poznań dates back to the first days of the city, though like so many other towns in Central and Eastern Europe this rich heritage was all but extinguished with the horrors that came with Hitler's rise to power. Although first recorded mention of a Jewish presence is dated to 1364 it is commonly accepted that the first Jewish settlers would have arrived at some stage during the 13th century, around the time when Prince Bolesław the Pious issued a decree granting Jews his protection. As Poznań grew so did the Jewish population, as well as their reputation as money lenders and big shots in Poznań's financial spheres. The centre of this burgeoning community was to be ulica Sukienicowa. By the start of the 15th century it's estimated that one in four buildings on this street were occupied by Jews, a fact not lost on city planners who promptly rechristened it ulica Żydowska (Jewish Street). Find it on D-1 on our map.

But bad times were around the corner. Żydowska found itself gutted by fire twice, first in 1447, and then once more in 1464. This, and an influx of German burghers, marked a period of decline for Poznań's Jews, though in spite of lingering racial tensions by the 1600s Poznań's Jewish population stood at around 3,000. Most of those citizens were employed as traders and craftsmen, some enjoying trading links as far afield as Italy and Turkey. Poznań would face numerous trials over the next few centuries, including plagues, fires and invasions, though none would have as grave consequences as the 'Swedish Deluge' in the middle of the 17th century. Poznań was left in ruin by the invaders, and for the Jews the job of rebuilding lost businesses was made all the trickier by persistent rumours of ritual sacrifice - this reached a nadir with an infamous trial in 1736 when Rabbi Yossef was found guilty of such charges and burnt at the stake.

When the city fell under Prussian jurisdiction in the 19th century Jews slowly found themselves accepted into the fold. Following the Great Fire of 1803 they were allowed to live freely throughout the rest of the city and as such ties between Jews and Germans strengthened. In fact, so solid were these relations that the Jewish community rallied around the Germans during the 1918-1919 Wielkopolska Uprising, a fact not lost on the local Poles. When Poznań was absorbed into the Polish nation in 1919 the Jews found themselves once more on the wrong end of local hatreds, and a significant number migrated westwards to Germany, to what they thought would be a more tolerant reception.

With WWII looming Poznań's Jewish population stood at around the 1,500 mark, a number that would vanish soon after Poznań was annexed into the Third Reich in 1939. The city was named capital of the Wartegau province, and a plan was hatched to rid the city of its Jews within three months. Deportations began on December 11 of the same year, with Jews packed into cattle trucks bound for the ghettos of Warsaw or Lublin, and on April 15, 1940, the fascist rag *Ostdeutscher Beobachter* gleefully reported the removal of the Star of David from the last synagogue left standing. Those who remained in the Poznań region were sent to a labour camp next to the city stadium where their duties primarily consisted of road building and other back breaking manual graft. The camp operated until August 1943, when the decision was taken to liquidate both camp and inmates. Indeed, Poznań was something of a model Nazi city, and on October 4, 1943, Heinrich Himmler gave a sordid speech to his Nazi cronies about the extermination of the Jewish people. A small number of Jews survived in hiding, and after the war several hundred returned to settle in the city. However no effort was made by the government to re-establish Jewish culture, and the subsequent anti-Zionist policies of the post-war communist government saw the number of Jews dwindle to its current number: sixty.

The Nazi's were meticulous in their destruction of Jewish heritage and today traces of it are few and far between. The early 19th century cemetery on ul. Głogowska was destroyed by the Nazis, the tombstones used to pave roads, and the area found itself incorporated into the Trade Fair grounds after the war. A special dispensation was granted to exhume hundreds of bodies, and today you'll find them buried in the municipal cemetery in Miłostowo. However in recent times steps have been taken to commemorate the existence of the former graveyard, and in November 2007 a memorial plaque was unveiled on (E-1) ul. Głogowska 26a. Most recently, on June 3, 2008, a ceremony took place to unveil an ohel marking the hitherto unmarked grave of Rabbi Akiva Eiger, commonly accepted as being Poznań's greatest ever Rabbi. Previously used as a parking lot, the site of his grave has now been turned into a grassy square, and has also been renamed to honour his memory. The fate of the Jews who perished in the stadium labour camp is commemorated by a memorial which stands by the Multikino, and Poznań's only functioning prayer house can be visited on (D-1) ul. Stawna 10. Other efforts have also been made to reintroduce Jewish culture to the city, and August sees the Annual Tzadik Poznań Festival, a feast of music aimed at celebrating the past and building bridges and opening dialogue between local communities.







After Germany invaded Poland in 1939 the fort returned to its role as a home for prisoners of war (British, Russian and Polish soldiers ended up here) until it was finally thrust into prominence as the final stronghold of German soldiers

Yet Winiary Hill's history didn't end with World War II. Under the PRL the land was turned into the Monument Park of Polish-Russian Friendship and Brotherhood in 1962, which is why you will find both a Russian cemetery and a large obelisk monument to the Red Army soldiers who were killed there. After Poland regained independence it was given its current name in 1992 and is now the city's largest park. Today visitors will find this former military stronghold is home to art installations, monuments, several museums, cemeteries and even the odd Easter play. There are few better ways to spend an afternoon in Poznan than exploring all there is to offer at Citadel Park.

**British Military Cemetery (Cmentarz Wojskowy Wspólny Brytyjskiej) G-2, Park Cytadela.** Citadel Park plays host to a number of cemeteries, but the one that is typically of most interest to tourists is British Military Cemetery (also known as the Commonwealth Cemetery). Why? The British Military Cemetery includes the graves of several of the men involved in what is now known as “The Great Escape” -- it wasn't just a movie folks! In addition to the 174 servicemen from the First World War (all of whom died in various parts of Poland as prisoners of war) there are also 283 Second World War servicemen buried in the cemetery. Many of those graves are airmen who died in bombing operations over what is now the Polish city of Szczecin. But there are also several graves of soldiers involved in the mass escape from Stalag Luft 3 in Żagan, a feat that was depicted in the Steve McQueen film *The Great Escape*. The man considered to be the mastermind of the escape is Squadron Leader Roger Bushell, renamed “Bartlett” in the film and portrayed by Richard Attenborough. Keep the name change in mind when looking for Bushell's grave, and be sure to sign the visitor's book that can be found inside a small door on the large white cross monument.



If the weather is nice there's no reason not to walk to Citadel Park from the Rynek. The stroll is just under 2km and will take 25-30 minutes. For those who prefer a quicker route can grab a bus at the Fredry stop (near Pl. Ratajskiego) and take it up four stops to the Armii Poznań stop outside the park. Another option is tram #3 from Male Garbary near the Rynek. Seven stops later you jump off at Armii Poznań and you're there.

**City Guide Poznań, tel. (+48) 608 28 42 08, [www.cityguide-poznan.com.pl](http://www.cityguide-poznan.com.pl).** City Guide Poznań offers thorough tours dedicated solely to Citadel Park upon request that will invariably knock your socks off. From detailed descriptions of the Prussian-era fort's original construction to pointing out the sites of various World War II exchanges between Russian and German soldiers their knowledge puts the term "in depth" to shame.

**Headless Figures H-1, Park Cytađela.** Unveiled as part of Poznań's 750th birthday celebrations in 2002 (we can't figure a connection either), the installation of 112 cast iron figures making their zombie way across the grass of Cytađela Park is officially titled "Unrecognized." Weird enough, but it gets even weirder as you approach when you realise not only are these things massive (two metres tall), but rather lacking in the head department. What does it all mean? Some claim they're there to reflect the empty emotions of modern living, others that their form is a trigger for individuals to confront their inner selves. That all sounds like waffle to us, but they're the best explanation seeing that the artist in question, local arts graduate Magdalena Abakanowicz, is keeping mum on the subject (those from Chicago will recognise these figures as similar to an Abakanowicz installation at Grant Park). Find more about the artist on [www.abakanowicz.art.pl](http://www.abakanowicz.art.pl), as well as a few more of her headless fright patrol standing in the courtyard of the Imperial Castle.



Archiwum Urzędu Miasta Poznania, fot. D. Krakowiak

### Monument to the Heroes of the Poznań Citadel

**G-1, Park Cykada.** One of the most noticeable features of Citadel Park is the Soviet Obelisk (also known as the Monument to the Heroes of the Poznań Citadel) located prominently at the top of the grand staircase as you enter the park from Aleja Armii Poznań. The giant Socialist Realism column is dedicated to the Russian soldiers killed during the 1945 siege of the fort. But the most interesting aspect of this monument is something you can no longer see: the large red star that used to rest at the very top of the obelisk. After the fall of Communism in Poland in 1989 the star disappeared in the dead of night. Complaints by the Russian Embassy to



the Polish police to track down the star and its thieves were, unsurprisingly, largely ignored and for years Poles and Russians alike were left to speculate what had become of the red emblem (a rumour that the star was filled with jewels proved to be one popular urban myth). In recent years a local journalist looked into the matter and swiftly solved the mystery: local firemen had removed the star (and when you see the towering obelisk you'll understand why access to monstrous ladders would be required) and it is now in the hands of the city, which is awaiting funds to restore it and eventually put it on display at the Historical Museum of Poznań.

**Museum of Armaments (Muzeum Uzbrojenia) G-1, Park Cytađela, tel. (+48) 61 820 45 03, [www.muzeum-niepodleglosci.poznan.pl](http://www.muzeum-niepodleglosci.poznan.pl).** The remains of the Prussian for which was used as a war laboratory to produce gunpowder and shells during World War II) prove to be the perfect location for the Museum of Armaments, which features displays of various weaponry and ammunition as well as photos of battles from Poznań's history. Most interesting for military buffs however is the outdoor exhibition laden with a whole host of war machinery including a T-34 tank, a 'Katyusha' rocket launcher, bombers and a MIG-15. Pick up the 0.50zł English language guide to get the most out of the place. ▶ Open 09:00 - 16:00, Sun 10:00 - 16:00. Closed Mon. Admission 6/3zł. Fr free.

## The Bell of Peace and Friendship Among Nations

**H-1, Park Cytadela.** The Bell of Peace and Friendship Among Nations was erected in 1986, so relatively late in comparison to many of the park's other monuments. The bell itself weighs 850 kg and hangs 10m above the ground. Because it's a Bell of Peace visitors will note that it is ornamented with impressions of doves. Nowadays the bell is rung to celebrate holidays and anniversaries such as Liberation Day (February 23) when the Germans capitulated at the fort during World War II. Rumor has it the bell can be heard from 10km away.

**Umberto G-1**, Park Cytadela, tel. (+48) 660 89 73  
**68, www.umberto.com.pl.** Umberto's move from Poznań's busy café quarter to the quieter spot inside a former tele communications bunker in Citadel Park was a genius one. The location is a relaxing oasis surrounded by an elaborately landscaped garden, drawing in Citadel visitors refuelling on simple salads and an extensive list of pizzas. A small window allows folks on the move to buy drinks, snacks and ice cream quickly as well. But we advise you to grab a seat and enjoy one of their trattoria staples, especially since a large playground abuts the restaurant, making Umberto an ideal spot for families using the park (there's even water dishes available for pets). Also at ul. Grunwaldzka 222 (Grunwald). ▶ Open 12:00 - 20:00, (25-362) ☑ ☒ ☓ ☔ ☕ ☎ ☏ ☐





June 2006 marked the 50th anniversary of The Poznań Riots, the first recognized strike and street demonstration in Communist Poland. Although brutally suppressed this show of people's strength remains an intense source of pride for the local community, and though it would be another 33 years until the people of Poland would enjoy complete freedom from the Kremlin the uprising led to a significant liberalization of Soviet policy in Poland, and would act as a prelude to the 1980 Lenin Shipyard Strikes in Gdańsk that saw the birth of the Solidarity movement.

The death of comrade Stalin in 1953 provoked a certain degree of optimism among Poles and promised an end to the social and political terror associated with the Soviet Union's hegemony of Central and Eastern Europe. But these hopes were to prove short-lived and Nikita Khrushchev's address to the 20th Convention of the USSR's Communist Party in 1956 spoke of strengthening socialism's grip on the East, and of the dangers of individualism. Simmering with discontent the Polish media helped stir local discord and on June 28 strikes broke out in Poznań's factories - originally in the Stalin brick factory (later the Hipolita Cegielskiego Factory), before spreading to the city's other major industrial plants. An estimated 100,000 workers descended on the Municipal National Council (now the Zamek building), chanting slogans like 'Bread and Freedom' and 'Out with Bolshevism', while demanding lower prices, higher wages and a reduction in work quotas.

Initially peaceful, the protests took a violent turn when it was revealed that the team negotiating on behalf of the strikers up in Warsaw had been arrested and detained by the authorities. Infuriated by this break in protocol the demonstrators stormed Poznań prison, liberating 257 inmates, destroying records and seizing armaments. Armed with 188 assorted small arms and petrol bombs the insurgents marched back to the city centre to continue their protests. With a volatile atmosphere threatening to run out of control the communist authorities reacted in their traditional manner - by overreacting. Under the command of Stanisław Popławski 10,300 soldiers were deployed to Poznań, as well as 400

tanks and 30 armoured personnel carriers. Fierce street battles followed, but with the city cut off from the outside world, order was eventually restored on June 30. The clashes left 76 civilians (unofficial estimates claim the number to be vastly higher) and eight soldiers dead, and over 600 strikers injured. Victims included Roman Strzałkowski, a thirteen year old boy shot through the heart while waving a Polish flag, and the news of the riots helped spark off an equally heroic anti-communist uprising in Budapest. Although Poland was to suffer another three decades of Communist control the riots had a huge influence in the shaping of post-war Poland. The Polish Communist Party was left reeling from the chaos, and several Stalinist hardliners found themselves dismissed in a bid to appease the people. Władysław Gomułka was appointed First Secretary and limited social reforms and a small-scale lifting of press censorship followed. A museum commemorating the events of 1956 has been opened in the Zamek on ul. Św. Marcin. It is definitely worth taking a while to visit to really understand the momentous events of the Poznań June.

**June 1956 Poznań Uprising Museum (Muzeum Powstania Poznańskiego - Czerwiec 1956) A-2, ul. Św. Marcin 80/82, tel. (+48) 61 852 94 64, www.muzeumniepodleglosci.poznan.pl.** The Zamek is an impressive building alright, but pride of place goes to the 1956 Uprising exhibition, honouring the first armed resistance the communist regime faced. Hidden down a side entrance this basement masterpiece features stretchers used to carry the wounded to hospital, a tank, a display of arms and rifles, a room of Socialist propaganda posters, a typical Poznań family's flat from the 1950s and a direct copy of a detention cell. Most poignant of all, though, is the space set aside for 13 year old Roman Strzałkowski, the youngest to die in the troubles. Exhibits include his harmonica and domino set, and newspaper clippings showing Strzałkowski picking up prizes for his piano skills. ▶ Open 09:00 - 17:00, Sat, Sun 10:00 - 16:00. Closed Mon. Last entrance 30 minutes before closing. Admission 6/3zl, Sat free. **TC**

**Poznań June 1956 Monument (Pomnik Poznańskiego Czerwca 1956) F-3, Pl. Mickiewicza.** However impressive the nearby Mickiewicz is, he finds himself outshone by the soaring 1956 Uprising Monument. Made of steel, the two crosses (21 and 19 metres for the number crunchers) were unveiled on June 28th, 1981, the 25th anniversary of the first rebellion against Soviet control. A tablet commemorates a visit by Pope John Paul II in 1997, while close by find an excellent multi-lingual electronic information point filled with facts about the rising.



We demand bread

pl.wikipedia.org



Adam Szelański "Wiek XX", Warszawa 1937

Since the Third Partition of 1795 Poland had effectively ceased to be a country, wiped off the map and carved between Imperial Russia, Prussia and Habsburg Austria. Poznań enjoyed brief freedom in 1806, when Napoleon's conquering troops marched eastwards, liberating much of Poland and placing the city under the independent jurisdiction of the Duchy of Warsaw. But Napoleon's military disaster on the plains of Russia was to prove just years away, resulting in the 1815 Congress of Vienna which saw Poznań once more delivered back into Prussian hands. There it was to remain for over a century. With Europe reeling after years of war, Germany in collapse and Russia plunged into revolutionary chaos patriotic fervour once more simmered to the surface. The people of Poznań, overwhelmingly Polish, could sense independence was round the corner, but there remained one crucial sticking point: German stubbornness to relinquish the Wielkopolska region. Woodrow Wilson's plans for an independent Poland had failed to set any boundaries, and while Warsaw was back in the hands of a Polish government Poznań was still answerable to Berlin. Ever since the Kaiser's abdication on November 9, 1918, the native Poznanian's had been plotting an uprising. Positions in local government and industry were forcibly seized by Poles and the countdown was on for outright war. Following weeks of tension the fuse was finally lit on December 27. Historical accounts of how the Uprising started vary; some sources claim it was the shooting of Franciszek Rajtaczak and Antoni Andrzejewski on the steps of the police headquarters that started the initial fighting, though most point to a stirring speech given by the pianist and patriot Ignacy Jan Paderewski on the balcony of what was then the Bazar Hotel. While addressing the Polish crowd assembled below a German counter-demonstration passed by - within moments shots had been fired and the Uprising had begun. Historians disagree on which side started the hostilities, but either way there was no turning back the clock. Within hours Polish forces had captured the train station and post office, while elsewhere in the region other towns rose up in rebellion.

Under the temporary charge of Stanisław Taczak the Polish forces followed up with numerous swift successes against a German army shattered from four years of world war. Neighbouring towns like Kórnik, and Mogilno were liberated though several counter attacks suggested a stiffening in German resolve. Fighting continued into the New Year and by January the situation was out of hand. To save the region from a descent into anarchy the government in waiting (christened NRL) took charge of all civil and military issues, conscripting all men born between 1897 and 1899 into military service. Taking their oaths of allegiance in what is today (B-2) pl. Wolności, the Polish troops continued to march into increasingly fierce battles with their German counterparts.

Thankfully, peace was just around the corner, due in no small part to French intervention. February 14, 1919 saw the beginning of international peace talks, and within two days the French delegation had persuaded the Germans to sign an extension of the Allied-German armistice, this time including the Wielkopolska front. Sporadic fighting continued for the next few days, but to all intents and purposes, Poznań, and with it Wielkopolska, were liberated.

**Bazar Hotel C-2, Al. Marcinkowskiego 10, www.hotel-bazar.pl.** So what of the hotel at the centre of the Wielkopolska Uprising. Built on the initiative of Karol Marcinkowski, the Bazar was constructed between 1838 and 1841 to the designs of Ernst Steudener. The multi-purpose institution housed a hotel, shopping centre, concert hall and casino and by all accounts became a centre of Polish social, political and cultural life during the years of Prussian rule. It's Paderewski's December visit that it's best known for today, and a plaque on the corner commemorates his fleeting but eventful stay. Throughout the Uprising the Bazar served as official HQ for the rebels and its colourful history prompted Professor A. M. Skalkowski to write a book celebrating its centenary. Nazi occupation marked an end to its glory days and it suffered horrendous damage during the 1945 siege. Renovations began immediately after liberation and the building became the property of the Orbis group in 1950 who operated a hotel from there until 1990 when it was returned to its pre-war stockholders. While no hotel currently exists work is underway (due for completion in 2013, it now looks like 2014 is more likely) on a brand new hotel within the building which has enjoyed a remarkable renaissance with its shopping arcades filled with designer stores and eateries. Note that for the next four months the hotel itself will be closed, but one restaurant and a ballroom will be open.



Radomil, pl.wikipedia.org

strike in Września, famed Polish revolutionary Marcin Kasprzak and the death of the first upriser Franciszek Rajtaczak. Standing proudly next to the monument are statues of two uprisers: one is an officer with a sabre, the other a private holding a gun.

**Wielkopolska Uprising Museum (Muzeum Powstania Wielkopolskiego 1918-1919) C-2, Stary Rynek 3, tel. (+48) 61 853 19 93, www.muzeum-niepodleglosci.poznan.pl.** Primarily hronicing the 1918 Wielkopolska Uprising (though the exhibition starts at the time of partition) this museum occupies a rebuilt structure that once served as home to the Royal Guard. The exhibition includes a 1908 Maxim heavy machine gun sitting behind a row of sandbags, a copy of the uniform worn by the risings commander-in-chief, as well as original state decorations awarded to him. Other points of interest include a replica banner flown on the night of the Uprising's outbreak, photos of troop formations and a series of postcards issued to commemorate the event. ▶ Open 10:00 - 17:00, Sun 10:00 - 15:00. Closed Mon. Admission 6/3zl. Sat free. **TC**





## Sightseeing

**Holy Trinity Church (Kościół Św. Trójcy) ul. Farna 6, tel. (+48) 61 426 15 55, [www.fara.gniezno.pl](http://www.fara.gniezno.pl).** An interesting church with a Gothic tower whose key feature is a 'millennium clock' complete with a moving figure of St Adalbert. Much of the church was destroyed by fire and its interiors were thereafter treated with a baroque brush. Outside are the only skeletal remains of the ancient city walls which once ringed Gniezno. ▶ Open 08:00 - 18:00, Sun 14:00 - 18:00. No visiting during mass please.

**Museum of Gniezno Archdiocese (Muzeum Archidiecezji Gnieźnieńskiej) ul. Kolegiaty 2, tel. (+48) 61 426 37 78, [www.muzeumag.pl](http://www.muzeumag.pl).** If your eyes are still hankering for the sight of more treasure then head here to view a lavish collection of ecclesiastical riches: gold goblets, embroidered vestments, state gifts received by cardinals, oil paintings, coffin portraits and even a chalice purporting to have once belonged to St. Adalbert are all presented here. An absolute feast for the eyes that is sure to present moral dilemmas for kleptomaniacs. A recent renovation has added an additional floor of riches for you to peruse. ▶ Open 09:00 - 16:00. Closed Mon, Sun. Admission 6/4zł.

**The Museum of the Origins of the Polish State (Muzeum Początków Państwa Polskiego) ul. Kostrzewskiego 1, tel. (+48) 61 426 46 41, [www.mppp.pl](http://www.mppp.pl).** Housed in a functional concrete carbuncle this museum features numerous audio-visual presentations designed to appeal to the numerous school trips that file through the doors, as well copies of archaeological relics dating back to the founding of the Polish state - that means lots of pots, vases, bowls and daggers. A new addition is a 3D movie about the beginning of the Polish state, which is fortunately run in several languages. ▶ Open 09:00 - 17:00. Closed Mon. Last entrance 1 hour before closing. Admission 10/7zł, family ticket 30zł, group ticket over 10 people 9/6zł per person, Sun free.

## Old Town

Gniezno received its city charter in 1285, and as with all towns the action came firmly centred around the market square (Rynek). The great fire of Gniezno in 1819 gutted this area, and most buildings have been rebuilt since that day. Look closely and you'll see red bricks marking what once formed the town perimeter, as well as nameplates dedicated to the cities and firms who have funded more recent restoration work. The little pyramid structures denote where the town gates once were. What remains of the old city walls can be found south of the Rynek close to ul. Słomiani and the Holy Trinity Church. You'll notice religious buildings at every turn, though predictably none representing the Jewish faith; the town's one synagogue suffered a fiery fate after a high-ranking Nazi official broke his leg while clambering up it in a post-party alcoholic stupor. Infuriated by his misfortune the budding fascist ordered the building's destruction. In recent years the town's finest moment came when the Congress of Gniezno was held here in 2000. The leaders of Germany, Poland, Czech Republic, Hungary and Slovakia met in Gniezno to celebrate the town millennium, and in a symbol of unity planted five oak trees in the 'reconciliation valley' running north of the Rynek. The German chancellor later dined in the restaurant of the Hotel Pietrak (itself a former vodka factory), and diners have the opportunity to order exactly what he ate.

**The Gniezno Cathedral (Archikatedra Gnieźnieńska) ul. Łaskiego 7, tel. (+48) 61 424 13 89.** Gniezno's cathedral is regarded as the spiritual home of Poland's former monarchy - it's here Poland's first five kings were crowned. To truly enjoy it requires two visits; a guided tour sees all manner of stories and legends revealed, while a follow up solo tour allows you to take stock of the riches and relics before you.

Ask anyone and they'll tell you the principal highlight of the cathedral is the 'Gniezno doors', a pair of winged bronze doors dating from the 12th century, and it's here you'll begin your tour. Regarded as one of the most important pieces of Romanesque art in Poland the doors feature 18 panels, each masterfully engraved with scenes from the life of St Adalbert. Start from Adalbert's birth on the bottom left panel, and then follow his story upwards and around. Of note are an exorcism illustrated on the sixth panel, and his murder on the fourteenth. That's his head on a stick in the next. Now, here's the interesting part. This might be one of the most important treasures in Poland, but no one has a clue who designed it. In fact, it's highly likely the pair of doors weren't even made together. Look closely and you'll see that the left side is higher and wider, as well as more detailed in its engravings, indicating that the set of doors are possibly the work of a master and his apprentice. We do know they probably originated in Germany, but the trail stops there. The portal that frames the door is worth further investigation in its own right. Dating from 1400 it features an engraving of Jesus sitting on a rainbow (rainbows were believed to mark the entrance to heaven). The two swords in his mouth are symbolic of the power he wields in both heaven and earth, while the animals carved in stone represent human vices - for instance the rabbit is cowardice, the squirrel greed and the fox cunning. Keep your eyes peeled for the scratching on the left side - what looks like the work of vandals key is actually the sign of the craftsmen who built the portal (in those days artists marked their work with a sign, not a signature).

Next up on your tour is a trip to the crypt. In it there's Poland's oldest gravestone, as well as the remains of a fireplace that pre-dates the cathedral - indication that the site was most probably a pagan place of worship. Early foundations and details have also been excavated, and one can view remains of an early altar, walls and tiled flooring (whose patterning is copied on the ten złoty note). It's here you'll also be able to view the coffins of the past primates of Poland, as well as a collection of mysterious looking urns and pots.

And so, onto the cathedral proper. Recently subject to renovation work, Gniezno Cathedral looks finer than ever. Originally built between 1324 and 1370 the cathedral has been patched up and embellished over the course of time, and nowadays it is the baroque flourishes that steal the show. It's impossible to put a figure on the number of must-see details, and it's at this stage where having a guide becomes invaluable. First off, you'll have differences between the nave and presbytery pointed out - the style of the former suggests it was built in Germany, while the latter has a design more familiar with English and French workshops. The 13 arcades around the presbytery are symbolic of Jesus and

the 12 apostles, and there's a heavy emphasis on allegorical symbolism. At the rear of the cathedral you can spot one of only two works by Wit Stwos found outside Kraków. In total the cathedral is surrounded by 13 side chapels, whom when grouped together constitute the largest collection of ecclesiastical grating in the country. Behind these metal grills are a number of points of interest, including a miracle working crucifix found in the Chapel of Jesus.

The cross has accompanied the Polish army into battle since the 17th century when it was first seen to bleed. The elaborate gold confession, situated at the top end of the cathedral, is stunning, and said to be modelled on the Confession of St Peter's in Rome. Beneath it is the silver sarcophagus of St Adalbert, designed by Gdańsk master craftsman Peter van Rennen. Considered the most important relic in the country the silver coffin is balanced on six eagles, and carried on the figures of a priest, peasant, townsman and knight.

Unfortunately visitors are denied the opportunity to view the library. Treasures here include Poland's oldest book (dating from 880AD), a papal edict that features the first recorded use of the Polish language, and numerous letters penned by Poland's former regents. As frustrating as this locked door policy is it's fully understandable. The cathedral has had misfortune served up in spades. Its significance to the Polish state has not been lost on invaders and as a result it's been burned, looted, battered and destroyed on numerous occasions. Napoleon's troops turned it into a stable, while the 'liberating' Red Army shelled it for no apparent reason. The Nazis, on the other hand, had other plans. Hitler's portrait replaced that of St Adalbert and the cathedral was earmarked to serve as a concert venue for high ranking fascists. However on the opening night, just when these Nazi nabobs were settling into their seats, a bishop drifted unannounced across the hall and disappeared into the crypt below. Shots were fired at the unannounced gatecrasher, but none hit their mark. Was this a ghostly apparition, or simply the work of a local prankster? Thoroughly spooked the Nazis weren't hanging around to find out, and plans to turn the cathedral into a concert hall were shelved thereafter. Although the German occupiers refused to set foot in the cathedral it still wasn't safe from their beastly designs. Employing Volksdeutsch workers they set about stripping the building of its valuables, melting the gold and shipping off countless treasures to shady vaults. The confession escaped them, however, hidden single-handedly by one conscientious worker. The organ too survived, only to be blown to smithereens by the Soviets in 1945. The bell shared the same fate, and the original one now lies outside the main entrance. The bell tower is open in better weather (though closed in winter) and its 231 steps lead to panoramic views across town. What you won't find however is a bell - ever since the Russians re-arranged the cathedral all the bells have been housed in a separate building. ▶ The Cathedral is open 09:00 - 11:45, 13:00 - 16:00. Closed Sun. There are different tickets depending on what you want to see but the 3 tickets together come to less than 2 euros. Cathedral 1.5zł/1zł, Underground 2.5zł/2zł, Doors 2.5zł/2zł.

To get the most out of your visit you should hire one of the local guides who will bring your attention to things you might otherwise miss plus give you some of the great stories connected to the Cathedral. There are separate prices for each part of the Cathedral. Note the price is to hire the guide, not the price per person plus you will also need to pay for the ticket. Cathedral 30zł, Underground 20zł, Doors 10zł.



## Getting to Gniezno

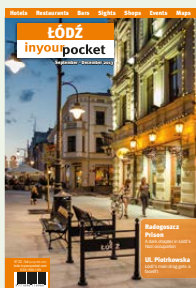
Nothing could be easier than getting to Gniezno from Poznań. Trains run frequently throughout the day with the last one in the evening leaving Gniezno at 22:10 Mon-Fri and Sun, and 20:49 on Sat. You've got two trains to choose from: the TLK is direct and costs 19zł; and the REGIO which is the slower as it lurches to a stop at every hamlet and costs 13,50zł. Journey time will take 35-55 minutes. Travellers using the TLK train should note that Gniezno is the first stop on the route; don't expect any announcements alerting you to your arrival. The train station is a simple affair featuring an ATM, newsagent and cafe. Getting to town is ABC stuff with the Rynek lying little more than a ten minute from the station. Simply follow ul. Dworcowa until you reach ul. Mieszka I, and then follow the latter to its conclusion. Alternatively live the high life and splash out on a cab: ten złoty should be enough to get you dropped off in the Rynek.



## Łódź In Your Pocket

Your first lesson in Polish.

Łódź may look like it's pronounced Lodz, but it most certainly isn't. Think of it as Woodge, and three hundred years ago a visit here would have produced the sight of little more than one man and his dog. In terms of age Łódź is one of the youngest cities in the country, and a direct product of the Industrial Revolution. And while Łódź cannot boast the twee charisma of Prague and Kraków a scratch of the surface rewards the intrepid traveller with a city stuffed with wacky stories, dark history and some of the country's finest after-dark venues – you'll find them all inside the current issue of *Łódź In Your Pocket*; Poland's first comprehensive English-language guide to the city.



300,000 Jews perishing in what was to become known as the Litzmannstadt ghetto. Following the war, and with much of Warsaw in ruins, Łódź was used as Poland's temporary capital until 1948. The wholesale war-time destruction of Warsaw also saw many of Poland's eminent artists and cultural institutes decamp to the nearest big city; that city was Łódź, and today the town can boast a rich cultural heritage, with Poland's leading film school, one of the most important modern art galleries in Europe, and an exciting underground culture.

Today Łódź is a city slowly rediscovering itself, growing in confidence and coming to terms with its patchy history. Overlooked by many visitors to Poland, this is a city full of hidden charms: from the awesome palaces that belonged to the hyper-rich industrialists who made the city, to Europe's longest pedestrian street (Piotrkowska) to the largest municipal park in Europe. You'll find everything you need to know about the city in our print guide to Łódź, as well as our full content online at [www.inyourpocket.com](http://www.inyourpocket.com).

## Manufaktura

How many times have you heard a shopping centre call itself 'More than a shopping centre?' In the case of Manufaktura, for once the hyperbole is entirely justified. For this is indeed more than a shopping centre. In fact, we really shouldn't be calling it a shopping centre at all. Covering a space of 150,000m<sup>2</sup> Manufaktura does of course feature a mall with endless shopping opportunities, but that would not tell the full story.

Manufaktura today is the result of Poland's largest renovation project since the reconstruction of Warsaw's Old Town in the 1950s. Originally a series of factories that were constructed in the latter part of the 19th century the restoration of the old factories quite simply has to be seen to be believed. Enter through the Poznański gate, where workers used to file through everyday on their way to the mills, and you'll arrive at the projects ground zero: the 30,000m<sup>2</sup> Rynek (main square). Featuring Europe's longest fountain the square is the cultural hub, with restaurants, fitness club and IMAX cinema crowded around it. A full program of events is planned to keep things lively, including pop concerts, beer festival and big screen showings of sports events.

Manufaktura is visited by close on 20 million visitors a year and has become the new heart of the city. For the more languorous character two electric tramlines have also been added to ferry visitors from one end of the complex to the other. And in spite of all this Manufaktura remains very much a work in progress with new additions and changes happening all the time. The complex can boast a state of the art 4-star Andels hotel, a Museum of Art as well as the History of Łódź museum set in the palace of the former mill owner Izrael Poznanski.



## City in the City

[www.manufaktura.com](http://www.manufaktura.com)

# manufaktura

We would like to invite you to Manufaktura, the biggest cultural, business and amusement centre in Europe. This is where the historic, and now revitalised, 19th century complex of Izrael Kalmanowicz Poznanski displays its brilliance and beauty. In historic buildings and newly built facilities spread over 27 hectares you will find 306 shops (including a shopping centre which includes Real and Leroy Merlin), an interactive science museum called Experymentarium, a Cinema City with 15 screens including an IMAX 3D theatre, a 28-lane bowling alley, restaurants, the longest fountain in Europe at 300m (with its Light and Sound spectacular) and a 3.5 hectare Market Square in the centre of Manufaktura with the biggest LED screen in Poland positioned on the side of a discotheque.

Manufaktura  
58 Drownowska Street  
91-002 Łódź  
Phone: 042 664 92 60  
Fax: 042 664 92 90  
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- 1 Shopping Mall
- 2 Museum of Art
- 3 Museum of the Factory
- 4 Craftsman's alley
- 5 Andels Hotel
- 6 Restaurants
- 7 Bowling alley, restaurant
- 8 Restaurants
- 9 Cinema City with 15 screens including 3D IMAX
- 10 Kids play and Experymentarium - interactive science museum
- 11 Museum of the History of Łódź
- 12 Mid-size store\*
- 13 Food court
- 14 The Family entertainment centre and restaurants
- 15 The Market Square 'Rynek'
- 16 Disco - Elektrownia



## Adrenaline Sports

**Magnum Shooting Range** ul. Witosa 45 (entrance from ul. Dojazd 6), tel. (+48) 602 51 04 68, [www.strzelnica-magnum.pl](http://www.strzelnica-magnum.pl). Shooting club covering 50m2 with 15 shooting ranges whose arsenal includes Glock and AK-47s. An instructor is on hand to give free advice on how to handle the various weapons. ▶ Open 12:00 - 20:00, Sat 12:00 - 18:00. Closed Mon, Sun. Gun rental 20zł/person. Ammunition costs extra. Glock Pistol 9mm - 2.35zł per bullet. AK 47 - 4zł. UZI machine gun - 2.35zł. Shotgun - 5zł. 357 Magnum revolver - 3.5zł. Dragunov sniper rifle - 8zł. Targets 2zł.

**Paintball Fort Dębica** ul. 28 czerwca 1956 352 (Wilda), tel. (+48) 511 20 58 55, [www.poznan-paintball.pl](http://www.poznan-paintball.pl). Add authenticity to the paintball experience by killing your mates in a 19th century military fort. ▶ Open by prior agreement. Prices are available via their website and depend on the type of route and play selected.

**Trygon** ul. Lewkoniowa 11 (Grunwald), tel. (+48) 502 28 32 94, [www.trygon.pl](http://www.trygon.pl). Indoor and outdoor paintball by Poznań's premier paintball specialists. Paintball takes place in Złotniki (town near Poznań) and Kórnik. Don't be fooled by impersonators. ▶ Open by prior arrangement. Prices negotiable.

**Worldkarts** ul. Bolesława Krzywoustego 72, (Nowe Miasto), tel. (+48) 61 872 01 97, [www.gokartypoznan.pl](http://www.gokartypoznan.pl). Poznań's premier Go Karting track with over 2,600 metres of track and carts for both kids and adults. ▶ Open 14:00 - 24:00, Sat, Sun 10:00 - 24:00. Admission 22.50-37.50 zł per 12min.

## Bowling & Billiards

**Niku Bowling (Centrum Rekreacji Niku)** ul. Piątkowska 200 (Piątkowo), tel. (+48) 61 826 33 66, [www.niku.pl](http://www.niku.pl). Bowling from 7-18zł per person per game, or 65-90zł per hour in one of Poznań's best leisure centres. ▶ Open 13:00 - 24:00, Fri, Sat 13:00 - 02:00, Sun 10:00 - 24:00.

**Ośrodek Przywodny Rataje** os. Piastowskie 106a (Nowe Miasto-Rataje), tel. (+48) 61 871 06 42, [www.bowling.poznan.pl](http://www.bowling.poznan.pl). ▶ Open 15:00 - 22:00, Thu 15:00 - 23:00, Fri 15:00 - 01:00, Sat 10:00 - 01:00, Sun 12:00 - 22:00. 20-80zł per hour.

## Fitness & Gyms

**Centrum Jogi Harmonia** A-2, ul. Gnieźnieńska 2, tel. (+48) 616 65 81 59, [www.jogaharmonia.pl](http://www.jogaharmonia.pl). Group and individual sessions available. To join a group session you can simply show up, and the cost is 25zł for 1.5 hours. Classes occur every day in the morning and evenings except Sundays.

**Sheraton Fitness** E-3, ul. Bukowska 3/9, tel. (+48) 61 655 20 00, [www.sheraton.pl/poznan](http://www.sheraton.pl/poznan). On the top floor of the Sheraton with facilities including two saunas, swimming pool, high-quality gym equipment and massage. Monthly membership from 300zł per month, admission free for guests. ▶ Gym open 24 hours. Pool open 06:00 - 11:00, 16:30 - 22:30, Sat, Sun 08:30 - 19:30.

**Yoga Poznań** ul. Langiewicza 2 (Wilda), tel. (+48) 601 81 06 20, [www.jogapoznan.pl](http://www.jogapoznan.pl). Yoga Poznań, which moved from its former location at Grochowe Łąki 3 offers yoga classes, massages and rehabilitation in the center of Poznań. Classes last 1-1.5 hours and cost around 26zł.

## Horse Riding

**Black Horse** ul. Chryzantemowa 4, (Grunwald), tel. (+48) 601 83 18 21, [www.stadninablackhorse.pl](http://www.stadninablackhorse.pl). Riding school and stable with the option of organising bonfires as well. ▶ Open by prior arrangement. One hour horse riding 30zł.

**Stajnia Gołęcin** ul. Gołęcijska 9 (Jeżyce), tel. (+48) 696 04 60 56, [www.nbkonie.pl](http://www.nbkonie.pl). single ride: 45 zł, 5 rides pack 190 zł, group (min 2 persons) single ride 30 zł, 6 rides pack 150 zł, individual 50 zł, 6 rides pack 250 zł. ▶ Open by prior arrangement.

## Ice Skating

**Bogdanka H-2**, ul. Północna 9, tel. (+48) 61 851 60 78, [www.bogdanka.poznan.pl](http://www.bogdanka.poznan.pl). Entrance and skate hire from 8-12zł. Opens once the weather cooperates. ▶ Open 08:00 - 21:30.

**Chwiałka F-5**, ul. Chwiałkowskiego 34, tel. (+48) 61 831 67 16, [www.chwialka.poznan.pl](http://www.chwialka.poznan.pl). Open from 8:00-21:00, but is often being used for hockey teams and school programs. Visitors are advised to check the "hours for the public" section of the website before showing up with their skates. ▶ Admission 9zł/6 zł and Sat, Sun 11/7 zł. (45 minutes), 15/10 zł and Sat, Sun 18/11 zł (2x45 minutes)

**Malta Skating Rink (Lodowisko Malta)** J-4, ul. Jana Pawła II. For full review see Lake Malta.

## Indoor Attractions

**Aktiv E-5**, ul. Gąsiorowskich 4, tel. (+48) 61 865 01 81, [www.aktiv.pl](http://www.aktiv.pl). An indoor adventure playground with various themed rooms (space, a pirate ship, the jungle) and plenty of slides, inflatables and ball pools to chuck the toddlers into. Also at ul. Obornicka 337 (Giant Shopping Mall, Piątkowo). ▶ Open 11:00 - 20:00; Sat, Sun 10:00 - 20:00. Admission 15zł/h; 25zł/5h

**Jupi Park J-4**, ul. Abpa A. Baraniaka 8 (Galeria Malta), tel. (+48) 783 55 55 01, [www.jupipark.pl](http://www.jupipark.pl). Kids can partake in mini-basketball, trampolines, ball ponds, a climbing wall and slides as well as quieter pursuits like board and computer games. ▶ Open 10:00 - 21:00, Sun 10:00 - 20:00. Admission 12zł for the 1st hour, 7zł each additional hour. Sat, Sun 15zł for the 1st hour, 7zł each additional hour. Special offer: get 3 hours for 15zł between 10:00-13:00 Mon-Fri.

## Racquet Sports

**Centrum Fitness Olymp** ul. Smoluchowskiego 15, tel. (+48) 61 661 76 31, [www.olymp.org.pl](http://www.olymp.org.pl). Gym, sauna and squash. ▶ Open 06:00 - 22:00, Sat 08:00 - 18:00, Sun 09:00 - 18:00. Admission 25-50zł.

**Park Tenisowy Olimpia E-1**, ul. Warmińska 1, tel. (+48) 61 845 54 17, [www.parktenisowy.pl](http://www.parktenisowy.pl). Park Tenisowy Olimpia is a tennis lovers dream, with 5 courts (a mix of indoor and outdoor), including 2 mini courts for racket-swinging kids. ▶ Open 08:00 - 23:00. Indoor courts 50-85 zł, weekend 70zł; indoor mini-courts 35zł.

## Sleigh Rides

**OKI-event**, tel. (+48) 693 27 77 78, [www.oki-event.pl](http://www.oki-event.pl). Sleigh rides begin when the snow falls. A minimum of 10 people is required, and prices are negotiable depending on what customers want organized along with the ride. A bonfire and mulled wine are part of a normal trip.

**Pony Poznań** ul. Biskupińska 10a (Jeżyce), tel. (+48) 506 14 52 61, [www.pony-poznan.pl](http://www.pony-poznan.pl). 10zł per person per ride with a minimum of five needed, and rides must be pre-arranged by calling 61 842 28 45. Sleigh rides depend on weather (aka snow).

## Racquet Sports

**Akademia Tenisa Prince** ul. Dojazd 7 (Jeżyce), tel. (+48) 600 18 10 26, [www.tenispoznan.pl](http://www.tenispoznan.pl). Four tennis courts situated in the University of Environment area. Courts charge per hour per court, and individual classes with English speaking instructors are 80zł during the summer, 120zł beginning in October. Equipment is included in the price. You must call ahead to check court availability. ▶ Open 07:00 - 22:00.

## Spa & Beauty

**Harmonia SPA G-4**, Pl. Andersa 3 (IBB Andersia Hotel), tel. (+48) 61 667 83 00, [www.spaharmonia.pl](http://www.spaharmonia.pl). Beauty salon and wellness club all in one 500m2 space on the 2nd floor of the Andersia Hotel building. Including a swimming pool with hydromassage, Jacuzzi, Finnish and steam sauna, gym, relaxation room, aerobics room, bar and solarium you'll find pretty much all you need in this one centrally located place. Memberships available. ▶ Wellness section open 06:30 - 22:30; Sat, Sun 08:00 - 22:30 (sauna, solarium, gym, jacuzzi). Spa open daily 10:00 - 22:30 (body treatment)

**Regatta Wellness & Spa** ul. Chojnicka 49 (Regatta Hotel), (Jeżyce), tel. (+48) 502 78 78 81, [www.regatta-hotel.pl](http://www.regatta-hotel.pl). Found inside the brand new Regatta Hotel complex, the Wellness & Spa centre offers something for everyone and reinforces the old adage that "size is not important". Yep, it's small and cozy, but the pool and jacuzzi look as inviting as you could wish for and the separate beauty parlour, massage and gym rooms are ultra-modern and relaxing. Hotel clients get access to the gym, jacuzzi and pool for free but the competitive prices make this the perfect little retreat for an afternoon of indulgence and luxury. ▶ Open 08:00 - 22:00, Sat, Sun 09:00 - 22:00.

**Thai-Land Massage (C-3)**, ul. Długa 14, tel. (+48) 510 40 45 04, [www.thai-land.pl](http://www.thai-land.pl). Experience everything from a traditional Thai foot massage to a full body massage at Thai-Land, which features monthly promotions and passes that give customers a welcome discount. The Długa location also offers a special Thai Evening for couples that includes massages and a Thai meal. Also at Pl. Andersa 1 (G-4). ▶ Open 12:00 - 22:00.

**NEW Thai Smile Massage B-3**, ul. Ogrodowa 17/4, tel. (+48) 727 90 52 96, [thai-smile.pl](http://thai-smile.pl). Anyone looking to escape the raucous buzz of Poz's city centre nightlife could do a lot worse than relaxing with a fine massage. Sound game? Then let us direct you towards Thai Smile Massage, a five minute walk from the main square and well worth a visit. A peaceful, modern environment (with English speaking staff) makes for a great place to forget about the day's woes while you let one of the authentic Thai massage therapists work their wonders. Two rooms to choose from (massage room and the oil room) and a cup of tea afterwards is enough for the IYP staff to give this place a thumbs up. ▶ Open 12:00 - 22:00.

## Swimming

**Atlantis** os. Stefana Batorego 101 (Stare Miasto), tel. (+48) 61 827 60 70, [www.atlantis-plywalnia.pl](http://www.atlantis-plywalnia.pl). ▶ Open 06:00 - 22:30, Sat, Sun 07:00 - 22:00. 10/8zł per hour.



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Pl. Andersa 1

61-898 Poznań



[www.thai-land.pl](http://www.thai-land.pl) [massage@thai-land.pl](mailto:massage@thai-land.pl)





Courtesy of POSiR

Of Poznań's many lakes it's Malta - to the east - that is the best known, and its surroundings are well worth further investigation. Formed in 1952 as a result of damming the Cybina, this 2.2 km long lake is the largest man-made lake in the city, with an average depth of 3.1 metres. Built using forced labour it is today one of the principal recreation areas in the region with an ice-rink, ski slope (the first in former communist Europe), a world class regatta course and it's on the banks of the Malta that the city's annual festival reaches its fever pitch.

## History

What you see before you wasn't always a lake, more of a river running by Poznań. In 1178 Prince Mieszko sportingly invited representatives of the Knights Hospitaller to the region, and they in turn built a small church that's now regarded as the oldest brick place of worship in the country - but more of that later. By 1530 the West European branch of the knights had resettled on Malta, and so their order found itself renamed The Knights of Malta. The chaps who had come to Poland followed suit, and sooner rather than later locals started referring to the area they decamped to as Malta.

For the next few hundred years it went largely unnoticed, and it was only in the 19th century that things started looking up. The people of Poznań suddenly realized they had a great place to head to for a weekend stroll, as well as a place where you wouldn't get jostled/arrested/chased if you were wobbling around on a new-fangled contraption called a bicycle. Adding to Malta's appeal was its dense greenery and relative isolation from prying eyes - aside from being popular with frisky couples this also attracted other people looking for privacy; in 1912 Polish scouts started holding covert meetings here during which they received military training. Needless to say, this would prove invaluable in the struggle for independence that would shortly follow.

With independence, temporarily at least, sorted in 1918 new ideas for Malta were touted. Adam Ballenstaedt released plans to establish a national park, one which would feature holiday homes and theatres set in the thick of a verdant paradise - in the end, the only idea of his to leave the drawing board was for the construction of 'the freedom mound'. A decade later Władysław Czarnecki suggested an idea for heavy forestation around the river banks, though this too hit a wall. Not ones to faff around and wait for planning permission it was the Nazis who actually changed Malta to the Malta we know. It was on their initiation that thousands of slave workers were drafted in and began work on damming the river to create a lake, and while they never saw their plans realized, the communists who took over did. The job started so many years back by the Germans was finally completed in 1952, and the results you can see for yourself.

## Getting There

Lake Malta is situated just to the east of the city centre and is easily accessible by public transport or taxi. Here are the public transport options from three main points in the centre.

**From the main train station area (E-4):** Take tram 6 from the Most Dworcowy stop directly to Rondo Śródką. The journey takes about 15 minutes.

**From the ul. Podgórna area (C-3):** There is no direct tram connecting Podgórna with Rondo Śródką. You should take trams 5 or 16 from the Wrocławska stop and get off at the Kórnicka stop. Then take trams 4 or 7 to the Rondo Śródką stop.

**From the Male Garbary area (D-1):** Take tram 17 from the Male Garbary stop and get off at Rondo Śródką.

It immediately proved a recreational hit, however it was still a long way off the finished article. Between 1980 and 1989 the lake was completely drained, restored and facilities added, only opening again in time for the World Canoeing Championship in 1990. Today it's still regarded as a top-quality course, as proved by the decision to hold the 2009 World Rowing Championships here.

## The Festival

If there's one highlight on the local cultural calendar then it has to be the Malta Festival, staged in early July each year, which has been something of a Poznań institution since its original conception back in 1991 as the International Theatre Festival. In the past the festival has seen performances by Nine Inch Nails, Goran Bregovic, Jan A.P. Kaczmarek, Elvis Costello, Sinead O'Connor and the Buena Vista Social Club. Strangely, however, the musical focus is something of a recent trend - when it all started twenty-odd years ago the festival focused on theatre alone, and was promoted as something of a Polish version of the Edinburgh Festival - full of fringe acts performing abstract plays. Fortunately, and in spite of the growing pull towards the mainstream, alternative theatre still plays a huge part in the Malta Festival. On top of that, there'll be plenty of film screenings, workshops and exhibitions conducted both inside and out, both at Lake Malta and around venues across town. Check the official website (and indeed ours) on [www.malta-festival.pl](http://www.malta-festival.pl) for details of future festivals. For the record, and here's the best bit, attending events is almost giveaway cheap, with most priced from ten to thirty five zloty.



Courtesy of POSiR

## Polish Name Days (Imieniny)

In Poland, name days (*imieniny*) are widely celebrated and have traditionally been given a greater importance than birthday celebrations, particularly as one gets on in years. Printed in every local calendar, these name days represent the feast days of Catholic saints. Every day of the year is assigned two saints - one male, one female - and chances are if you share a name with a saint (as almost all Poles do), you too have a name day. Some names are even repeated more than once in a calendar year, in which case you celebrate the first name day after your birthday.

Name Day celebrations in Poland are social events, traditionally involving the gathering of friends and family at the celebrant's home or in the bar of their choice. Differing slightly from western birthday celebrations in which the celebrant is often seen as a 'guest of honour' and might expect to be bought drinks all night, in name day gatherings the celebrant traditionally plays the role of host, buying drinks for friends and ensuring that guests are taken care of. In return, guests should bring small gifts (typically chocolate, flowers or vodka) as you would on someone's birthday. The Polish birthday song 'Sto Lat' (A Hundred Years) is sung, and its mindless simplicity might be tempting for foreigners to criticise until they reflect on just how dreadful the English happy birthday song actually is. Name Days are so important to Polish culture that they are prominently displayed in most of the country's trams and buses, thereby ensuring that you know who you should be buying flowers for that day; information that you'll find less readily available on public transport is the name of the line or the destination of its next stop.

[www.maltaski.pl](http://www.maltaski.pl)

## What to Do

**Adrenaline Alpine Coaster (Kolejka Górska Adrenaline) K-4, ul. Wiankowa 2, tel. (+48) 61 878 22 40, [www.maltaski.pl](http://www.maltaski.pl).** New 500 metre long roller coaster filled with twisting loops (even a 360 degree twist) that hauls screaming visitors around the track at 40 km per hour. ▶ Opening hours depend on the weather. 1 ride in a 1-person cart 7/9zł; 5rides 25/40zł. 1 ride in a 2-person cart 12/15zł; 5 rides 45/65zł.

**Equipment Rental Malta Ski (Wypożyczalnia Sprzętu Sportowego Malta Ski) K-4, ul. Wiankowa 2, tel. (+48) 61 878 22 41, [www.maltaski.pl](http://www.maltaski.pl).** Rent bikes, eco-bikes, rollerblades etc. in summer and skis and snowboards during the winter (Those looking for equipment for Malta Ski should visit the internal ski rental situated near the Malta Ski slopes). ▶ Opening hours depend on the weather. **IG**

**Galeria Malta J-4, ul. Abpa A. Baraniaka 8, tel. (+48) 61 658 10 22, [www.galeriamalta.pl](http://www.galeriamalta.pl).** A huge shopping and entertainment complex located on the southern bank of Lake Malta featuring over 160 shops, restaurants, cafes and a Multiplex cinema.

**Malta Skating Rink (Lodowisko Malta) J-4, ul. Jana Pawła II (corner of ul. Abpa A. Baraniaka), tel. (+48) 61 877 03 54, [www.malta.poznan.pl](http://www.malta.poznan.pl).** Skate rental available, and for something completely different why not visit on the weekend between 19:00 and 23:00. That's when DJs enter the ring and play 'hot hits with hot girls'. Note that the November start date depends on the weather. ▶ Open 08:00 - 22:00, Fri, Sat 08:00 - 23:00. Weekdays 7/5zł, weekends 9/6zł, though prices are subject to change.

**Narty i Snowboard Malta Ski K-4, ul. Wiankowa 2, tel. (+48) 61 878 22 12, [www.maltaski.pl](http://www.maltaski.pl).** Two ski slopes, one 150 metres in length, the other over 30 metres. Hours depend heavily on the weather. ▶ Prices are 18-61zł for normal passes, 15-47zł for reduced passes. Private lessons with an English speaking instructor are 115zł (requires booking two days in advance). Ski rental is included in price, snowboard is an additional 30zł. **IG**

**Park Tysiąclecia J/K-3, between ul. Warszawska and Lake Malta.** A park located on the bank of Lake Malta covering 26 hectares where, in the warmer months, you'll find the residents of Poznań taking walks. Completed by the socialist masses in the 1970s, bullets and other ordnance can still be found lodged in trees and the ground - before its current function this park served as a military rifle range.

**Vistaria SPA Malta Poznań ul. Wiankowa 3 (Nowe Miasto), tel. (+48) 61 876 62 78, [www.spamalta.pl](http://www.spamalta.pl).** Spoil yourself in Vistaria, a veritable world of sauna. Features here include a Finnish sauna, steam room, Kneipp wading room, rain showers and a range of massage treatments that run from mud to hot stone therapies. Swimming, cosmetic and beauty treatments also available. ▶ Open 11:00 - 21:00. Closed Sun.

## Sightseeing

Visiting a man-made lake doesn't sound like the greatest of days, but then Lake Malta is no ordinary stretch of water. Surrounding it are scores of sites, the major of which we list here.

**Mound of Freedom (Kopiec Wolności) K-5, ul. Wiankowa.** Walk along ul. Majakowskiego until you reach the Mound of Liberty. Work on this man-made hillock began on May 3, 1919 with workers from across Poland volunteering to take part in its construction. It was built to celebrate the success of the Wielkopolska Uprising and was typical of the Polish tradition of marking important events or people by building similar mounds elsewhere in the country. Completed in 1922, the Nazis could not wait



## Zoo



Chilean flamingos in the New Zoo

© Kwolana

**New Zoo (Nowe Zoo)** ul. Krańcowa 81 (Nowe Miasto), tel. (+48) 61 877 35 17, [www.zoo.poznan.pl](http://www.zoo.poznan.pl). The 116 hectare New Zoo was opened to the public in 1974 after seven years of construction. Housing over 2,000 beasts representing 140 species, it's comprised of 60 per cent pine and mixed forests with an artificially-created creek and string of ponds running through the grounds. This way, the creatures live in recreations of their natural habitats rather than inhumane concrete pens. Recent additions include the unveiling of an 'elephant house' (open 10:00-14:00; Sat, Sun 10:00-15:00). Circling the whole shebang is a mini-railway, meaning visitors can jump off at whatever creature cage takes their fancy. ▶ Open 10:00 - 16:00. Last entrance 1 hour before closing. Admission 8-10zł. **TC**

## Termy Maltańskie

[www.termymaltanskie.com.pl](http://www.termymaltanskie.com.pl)

**Termy Maltańskie (Maltese Baths)** K-4, ul. Termalna 1, tel. (+48) 61 222 61 61, [www.termymaltanskie.com.pl](http://www.termymaltanskie.com.pl). This new complex adds a whole new dimension to the Poznań leisure market. Located on the north shore of Lake Malta this year-round facility offers **Sport Pools** (Olympic-sized and a diving one with 10-metre tower), a **Water Park** (a series of 11 pools including a wave pool and children's play pool) and 12 water slides along with two wild rivers. There is also the **World of Saunas** (13 saunas, two of which are outdoors, and a vapour bath). The spa amenities will open sometime in the near future, with no specific date set as of yet. The complex will use underground thermal springs to offer a range of health benefits and treatments as well as a team of fully trained staff to make you feel like a king. ▶ Opening hours: sport pools 06:00 - 23:00; Sun 07:00 - 23:00; Water Park 09:00 - 23:00; World of Saunas 15:00 - 23:00; Sat, Sun 13:00 - 23:00.

to destroy this symbol of Polish victory when they arrived in 1939 and promptly levelled it. In 1982 plans were unveiled to rebuild it from scratch and work began four years later. It is still unfinished and the plan is to build it up to a height of 30m above the surrounding land to a level of 107 metres above sea level. Until then it is closed to the public but with its location next to the ski slope and toboggan run it is there for you to admire.

**SS Poznań Monument (Pomnik SS Poznań)**

**J-3, ul. Jana Pawła II.** A rusty, graffiti covered monument commemorating the bulk carrier SS Poznań. Built in Caen, France, in 1927, the ship was part of a series of 5 new vessels along with its sister ships the SS Wilno, Kraków, Katowice and Toruń. Docked in Luleå, Sweden at the start of WWII it sailed to Gothenburg using the cover of Swedish ships before sailing for Newcastle in the UK and is reputed to be the last Polish vessel that evaded the Nazis and make it to friendly waters. During the Normandy invasion it sailed to one of the huge temporary Mulberry harbours built by the Allies off the coast of Normandy to land men, equipment and supplies where it was caught in a huge storm on June 18, 1944. Packed full of ammunition and under enemy fire it started to sink and despite being officially given up as lost it survived thanks to the heroic efforts of its crew eventually returning to Cardiff under its own power. After a refit it returned to Poland after the war where it continued to sail on the Baltic sea until 1962. Decommissioned and used as a floating warehouse in Szczecin it was finally scrapped in Świnoujście in 1975, the last of the 5 vessels to survive.

**St. John of Jerusalem Church (Kościół Św. Jana Jerozolimskiego za Murami)** J-3, ul. Świętojańska 1, tel. (+48) 61 877 17 17, [www.janjerolimski.pl](http://www.janjerolimski.pl).

The oldest standing church in Poznań and the city's second-oldest building after the Cathedral. It was built for the Knights of Malta at the turn of the 12th century in the Romanesque style, with the nave and presbytery in a Venedic arrangement. After a fire in 1512 a star-vaulted ceiling was built over the nave and a nave and tower were added to the north side. Age aside, the building's main draw is a rare Late Gothic triptych from the early 16th century. ▶ Open during mass only for individuals, and by prior arrangement for groups.

**Wielkopolska Uprising Scouts' Monument (Pomnik Harcerzy - Powstańców Wielkopolskich)** ul. Wiankowa (Nowe Miasto).

A short walk on from the Mound of Freedom lies the Scouts' Clearing and the base of a monument designed by Wawrzyniec Kaím to honour those scouts who died in the Wielkopolska Uprising. The memorial was unveiled in 1937 but didn't survive for very long - within a few years it had been destroyed by the Nazis and its sculptor murdered in Auschwitz. A new, yet unfinished, monument was placed in the same spot in 1992.

## Restaurants

**Galeria Malta** J-4, ul. Abpa A. Baraniaka 8, tel. (+48) 61 658 10 22, [www.galeriamalta.pl](http://www.galeriamalta.pl). The Galeria Malta shopping mall on the southern bank of Lake Malta has a huge food hall featuring all the big names including McDonald's, KFC, Salad & Co and Subway. Those looking for something a bit more substantial can head for one of the restaurants there - Sphinx and a decent Polish restaurant called Altana. **Palacu Wąsowo** can be found in the centre as well as a selection of cafes and ice cream outlets. ▶ Open 10:00 - 22:00, Sun 10:00 - 20:00.

## 24hr Shops

**Lewiatan B-1, ul. Karola Libelta 6.**

**Lotos J-3, ul. Jana Pawła II 2, tel. (+48) 519 34 92 20.**

## Alcohol

Of course you didn't come to Poland just for the booze, but while you're here it'd be rude not to check out what the country has to offer. Primarily that means vodka, with the two most highly regarded clear Polish vodkas being Belvedere and Chopin. Find them in any alcohol store. Others to watch for include Żubrówka - that's the one with the blade of bison grass inside - krupnik, a sweet honey vodka, and wiśniówka, a sickly sweet cherry drink usually consumed after meals. Finally, check Goldwasser, a unique elixir characterized by the 22 karat gold flakes floating in it. Bottle shops are numerous in Poland, as common as cabbage, though the ones we list come guaranteed to have no tramps or underage teens.



fot. Jakub Pindych

**Basilium D-2, ul. Woźna 21, tel. (+48) 798 33 54 83, [www.basilium.pl](http://www.basilium.pl).**

A shop for serious beer lovers, Basilium stocks around 150 different types of the stuff, giving you a good chance to take home a few quality local flavours with a bit more

character than the mass-produced brews found stocked in supermarkets and local chain stores. There's also a good selection of wines for those looking for something a bit classier to go with their evening meal and the friendly staff are more than happy to go through the choices with anyone looking for advice before making their purchase. ▶ Open 14:00 - 02:00, Fri, Sat, Sun 12:00 - 02:00.

**Ministerstwo Browaru B-2, ul. Ratajczaka 32, tel. (+48) 601 53 37 47, [www.ministerstwobrowaru.pl](http://www.ministerstwobrowaru.pl).**

If you like beer and you particularly enjoy sampling the local brews from the comfort of your own armchair/hotel room, this is the place for you. Featuring an excellent selection of beers from around Poland and its neighbours keep an eye out for a few of our favourites - the unpasteurised Żywe from Pomerania, the Mazovian Ciechan beer or the Lithuanian Svyturs. ▶ Open 10:00 - 22:00. Closed Sun.

**Świat Alkoholi ul. Poznańska 35, tel. (+48) 61 847 39 24, [www.alkohole.poznan.pl](http://www.alkohole.poznan.pl).** ▶ Open 09:00 - 23:00, Sun 13:00 - 22:00.

## Amber &amp; Jewellery

Vodka isn't the only golden nectar popular in Poland; the country is renowned for its amber and the craftsmen who handsomely shape the fossilised resin into unique and coveted pieces of jewellery. Come back from PL without bringing baby some Baltic Gold and you've booked yourself a stint in the doghouse.

**Galeria Yes C-2, ul. Paderewskiego 7, tel. (+48) 61 851 58 48, [www.galeria.yes.pl](http://www.galeria.yes.pl).** Yes jewelry stores can be found throughout Poland, but this location on Paderewskiego sets itself apart by featuring only up-and-coming Polish designers. The basement gallery offers a rotating collection of jewelry exhibits that's always worth a peek. ▶ Open 11:00 - 19:00, Sat 11:00 - 15:00. Closed Sun.

## Shopping at a Glance

Yes, that's a Burberry store you see in Poznań. And Armani. Even Versace. You can wander through the vast, award-winning Stary Browar mall or the expansive Galeria Malta on scenic Lake Malta and spend zlotys until you've solved the European debt crisis. But if you're bringing gifts back to show your loved ones what a trip to Poznań is like, a Burberry bag made in London won't cut it. That's why we've made suggestions for what to get for your list of nearest and dearest that actually says, "I went to Poland."

**Wife or girlfriend:**

Yes is a Poland-wide chain of jewellery stores you can find in nearly any mall, however the store on Paderewskiego off the Rynek in Poznań is set up as a showcase of Polish jewellery artists that constantly rotate through the store. Find amberwood earrings by Marta Włodarska or a sparkly pendant by Tomek Ogródowski.

**Husband or boyfriend:**

One word: alcohol. Take home any variety of Poland's famous vodka and a few bottles of local lager and you'll make any man happy. **Ministerstwo Browaru** is a minuscule basement shop that is wall-to-wall, floor-to-ceiling bottles (including making their own brews) while **Świat Alkoholi** (that's 'World of Alcohol' to you) lives up to its moniker.

**Brother:**

Euro2012 may be just a memory now, but you can still help your brother support the hometown team by visiting the official Lech Poznań shop for scarves, jerseys and all the footy paraphernalia you could ever hope to find under one roof.

**Sister:**

If sis is a stylish gal head to **Coco Boutique** near the Rynek to pick up modern designs that are sure to please - even the simple accessories will impress if you don't know her size. For high-end options visit the **Stary Browar** shopping mall, but don't let the impressive architecture distract from your mission.

**Child:**

For something a bit nicer than what the overstuffed souvenir stalls on the Stary Rynek have to offer visit **Salon Posenania**, a souvenir shop where the word 'tacky' doesn't even come into play. We like the child's t-shirt with the famous city hall butting goats comically rendered in the recognizable Poznań blue.

**Mom:**

When we think of what mom would like, one word comes to mind: amber. Poland is renowned for its handsomely shaped fossilized resin, and you can easily find mom a piece of unique jewellery. **Świat Bursztynu** makes amber shopping easy since it is literally all they carry. Another option is **W. Kruk**, the oldest jewellery company in Poland and highly revered as a result.

**Dad:**

If your dad is anything like ours he can lose hours of his life in interesting vintage bookshops. Poznań is packed with them, and **Antykwariat** just off the Stary Rynek is one of the best for old postcards, unique prints, old books and yellowing maps from last century.



**Jubiler Pluciński B-2, Pl. Wolności 5, tel. (+48) 61 850 14 79, [www.plucinski.pl](http://www.plucinski.pl).** If your jewellery needs are more upscale than Baltic amber then Jubiler Pluciński has you covered. Sitting across from Plac. Wolności this classy showroom offers Cartier watches, Chopard necklaces and all the diamond options you can imagine. The knowledgeable staff (which speaks English and German) makes fine jewellery accessible, so have your wallet at the ready. ▶ Open 10:30 - 18:30, Sat 10:00 - 14:00. Closed Sun.

**Świat Bursztynu C-3, ul. Półwiejska 42 (Stary Browar Shopping Mall), tel. (+48) 61 859 66 88, [www.swiatbursztynu.pl](http://www.swiatbursztynu.pl).** Major amber retailer and wholesaler with over 20 years of experience to their name. ▶ Open 09:00 - 21:00, Sun 10:00 - 20:00.

**W. Kruk C-2, ul. Paderewskiego 2, tel. (+48) 661 98 05 61, [www.wkruk.pl](http://www.wkruk.pl).** Poland's oldest and most revered chain of jewellery stores caters to men and women with tastes that range from classic amber pendants and Tag Heuer watches to modern designs of their own making. Also at ul. Półwiejska 42 (G-4, Stary Browar) and ul. Abpa A. Baraniaka 8 (J-4, Galeria Malta). ▶ Open 11:00 - 19:00, Sat 11:00 - 15:00. Closed Sun.

## Antiques & Art Galleries

The historic centre is filled to bursting with dusty little stores selling antiques, a quick exploration of the side streets will reveal everything from WWII memorabilia to 19th century coins and navigational charts. Do remember when purchasing that permission will be required if you're planning on taking anything pre-1945 out of the country - for the most part such a certificate will be provided by the shop, though do check beforehand.

**Antykwiariat Kolekcjoner (Antique Shop) D-1, ul. Kramarska 20, tel. (+48) 61 853 07 82.** Eclectic mix of antiques including pre-war sculptures, postcards, paintings and an assortment of coins. ▶ Open 12:00 - 18:00, Sat 12:00 - 14:00. Closed Sun.

**Antykwiariat Naukowy C-2, ul. Paderewskiego 3/5, tel. (+48) 61 852 63 12, [www.antykwiariat.pl](http://www.antykwiariat.pl).** A vintage bookseller that rewards those who are patient enough to dig through boxes of old postcards, prints and telegrams. It's easy to lose track of time while meandering along the well-stocked shelves. Also at (D-2) ul. Wielka 10. ▶ Open 10:00 - 18:00, Sat 10:00 - 14:00. Closed Sun.

**Filatelistyka B-2, ul. Św. Marcin 37, tel. (+48) 61 853 63 68.** Postcards and coins from 19th and 20th centuries and, as the name well implies, stamps from across the globe. ▶ Open 10:00 - 16:00. Closed Sat, Sun.

**Horn D-2, ul. Wielka 8 (entrance from Szewska), tel. (+48) 61 851 56 27.** Antique and art gallery on the main square whose collection includes paintings, furniture and icons from the early 19th century, but no coins, stamps or other trifling buys. ▶ Open 11:00 - 18:00, Sat 11:00 - 14:00. Closed Sun.

## Books, Music & Films

**Empik B-2, ul. Ratajczaka 44, tel. (+48) 22 461 05 16, [www.empik.com](http://www.empik.com).** Also at ul. Półwiejska 42 (C-3, Stary Browar) and ul. Abpa A. Baraniaka (J-4, Galeria Malta). ▶ Open 09:00 - 21:00, Sun 11:00 - 18:00.

**Księgarnia Uniwersytecka (University Bookshop) E-3, ul. Zwierzyniecka 7, tel. (+48) 61 847 02 81, [www.ksiegarnia-uam.win.pl](http://www.ksiegarnia-uam.win.pl).** The main university bookshop. ▶ Open 09:30 - 17:30, Sat 10:00 - 14:00. Closed Sun.

## Fashion & Accessories

For your high street fashions search out any of the malls we list, though for something with a little more dazzle then look no further than the boutiques which line ul. Paderewskiego. Among others it's here you'll find stores dedicated to Burberry, Max Mara, D&G and many others.

**Coco Boutique B-1, ul. 23 Lutego 42, tel. (+48) 61 852 56 17, [www.coco-boutique.pl](http://www.coco-boutique.pl).** An oasis of modern after wandering the antique-laden Rynek, Coco Boutique offers stylish women's clothing, jewellery and handbags. The selection is small but well-chosen in this simple space, which won't take more than a few minutes to peruse. ▶ Open 10:00 - 18:00, Sat 10:00 - 14:00. Closed Sun.

## Food & Sweets

Food-wise Poland has plenty of edible delights that will tempt (or shock) your friends, from delicious sausages and preserves to jars of smalec (yep, that's spreadable lard for your bread). Dine in true Polish style long after you've leapt the border by bringing home traditional staples or any number of the hearty sweets that end every Polish meal.

**Kuchnie Świata E-4, ul. Wyspiańskiego 26a, tel. (+48) 61 221 85 60, [www.kuchnieswiata.com.pl](http://www.kuchnieswiata.com.pl).** Import food including salsas, soft drinks, chocolate and crisps, as well as tinned and packet food from abroad - an expat lifeline. Internet ordering also available. ▶ Open 10:00 - 21:00, Sun 10:00 - 19:00.

**Produkty Benedyktyńskie C-2, ul. Św. Marcin 12/2a, tel. (+48) 504 47 91 59, [www.benedicite.pl](http://www.benedicite.pl).** This shop, set up by and in support of the Benedictine monks of Tyniec Abbey, sells such an astounding variety of products - cheese, jam, wine, beer, honey, tea, herbs, syrups, meats - it raises two eyebrows over how they find the time. All the products are completely natural, without pigment, and unilaterally excellent. They make excellent gifts and can even be purchased through their multilingual website - and yes, the beer is every bit as good you'd expect. ▶ Open 09:00 - 17:00. Closed Sat, Sun.

**Vita E-3, ul. Janusza Zeylanda 11, tel. (+48) 61 843 28 67, [www.vitanatura.pl](http://www.vitanatura.pl).** Supplements, organic products as well as groceries aimed at those with eating allergies and diabetes. ▶ Open 08:00 - 18:00, Fri 08:00 - 16:00. Closed Sat, Sun.

## TAX FREE SHOPPING - GLOBAL BLUE



Service. For full details check [www.global-blue.com](http://www.global-blue.com).

Non-EU residents can claim VAT refunds on purchases made in shops bearing the Global Blue logo. The only condition is a minimum outlay of 200zł on your part on the item purchased. Claim your Tax Refund Cheque, have it stamped at customs before claiming your money back at your nearest Global Blue Customer Service. For full details check [www.global-blue.com](http://www.global-blue.com).

## Gifts & Souvenirs

Polish glass and amber are highly thought of, though if you want something clutz-proof then Polish linen, lace and woodwork all look lovely on someone else's mantle. Folk art is an easily recognizable symbol of Poland, as is a magnet of the country's favorite hero and saint-in-waiting Pope John Paul II. For the lads, pick up a Polski football shirt or Lech Poznań jersey to represent the hometown team.

**Cepelia D-2, ul. Klasztorna 21, tel. (+48) 61 852 58 14, [www.cepelia.pl](http://www.cepelia.pl).** A leading chain of souvenir shops selling native arts and handicrafts. ▶ Open 10:00 - 18:00, Sat 10:00 - 14:00. Closed Sun.

**Ceramika Bolesławiecka B-2, ul. Mielżyńskiego 16, tel. (+48) 61 853 47 98, [www.ceramicboleslawiec.com.pl](http://www.ceramicboleslawiec.com.pl).** Hand-crafted and hand-painted ceramics originating in the south-west of Poland with many of the patterns forming an important part of the shared Silesian culture of Germans and Poles. The ceramics available cover a wide range of designs and functions with everything from small egg cups to huge flower pots on offer. The designs are often attractively simple and can make for an interesting present. ▶ Open 10:00 - 18:00, Sat 10:00 - 14:00. Closed Sun.

**Lech Poznań Official Shop ul. Bułgarska 17 (Poznań City Stadium, Grunwald), tel. (+48) 882 12 95 09, [www.lechpoznan.pl](http://www.lechpoznan.pl).** Make friends (or enemies) by popping round the club shop of Poland's best supported side. Find your usual collection of mugs, scarves, shirts and flags, as well as oddities such as jewelry and the Lech coat of arms. ▶ Open 10:00 - 18:00, Sat 10:00 - 14:00. Closed Sun.

**Salon Posnania B-2, ul. Ratajczaka 44, tel. (+48) 61 851 96 45, [www.cim.poznan.pl](http://www.cim.poznan.pl).** A wide selection of souvenirs connected with Poznań including lots of stuff with the most popular symbols of Poznań. Pick up t-shirts, cups, ornaments, post cards, and the like all associated with the head-banging goats for instance. You'll also find the most popular selection of books and albums relating to Poznań, Wielkopolska and Poland in foreign languages as well as locally produced art. A smaller selection of the above is also available at (C-2) Stary Rynek 59/60 and ul. Bukowska 285 (Airport). ▶ Open 10:00 - 19:00, Sat 10:00 - 17:00. Closed Sun.

## Shopping Malls



**FACTORY Outlet ul. Dębiecka 1, Luboń, tel. (+48) 61 652 30 30, [www.factory.pl](http://www.factory.pl).** This outlet centre is preoccupied with fashion, offering top brand names at 30-70% discounts over other shopping malls.

Recognisable names among the brands include Levi's, Adidas, Benetton, Ingnot, Molton, Brugi and more. One of the only such outlet centres in Europe, you can access it by catching tram 10 at Dworzec PKS and take it to the Dębiec stop where you'll then catch bus 610 (you need a ticket for zone A+B for the 610 bus) and get off at the Luboń Factory Outlet stop. Better yet catch the free 630 bus from Rondo Rataje in Poznań and you'll have more money to spend on clothes. ▶ Open 11:00 - 21:00, Sat 10:00 - 21:00, Sun 10:00 - 19:00.

**Galeria Malta J-4, ul. Abpa A. Baraniaka 8, tel. (+48) 61 658 10 22, [www.galeriamalta.pl](http://www.galeriamalta.pl).** The largest retail and entertainment centre in western Poland with over 162,000 square metres of shopping and leisure opportunities. Opened in March 2009, Malta features a Multikino as well as a Marks & Spencer, Cottonfield, H&M, TK Maxx, Benetton, Tatum, Pull & Bear, Vero Moda and Empik. Dining opportunities include Salad&Co and Coffee Heaven. Bus lines 57, 100 and 84 go right to the door, as do trams number 4, 6 and 7. ▶ Open 10:00 - 22:00, Sun 10:00 - 20:00.

**Stary Browar Shopping Mall G-4, ul. Półwiejska 32, tel. (+48) 61 859 60 50, [www.starybrowar5050.com](http://www.starybrowar5050.com).** Housed in an old brewery dating from 1844, the award-winning Stary Browar complex has been dubbed an art, leisure and shopping extravaganza, and its success a sign of Poznań's economic renaissance. Its opening in 2003 also marked a successful move away from out-of-town developments, and a new trend for inner-city regeneration projects. Originally home to the Huggerów Brewery, the building produced beer until 1980, then mineral water until 1998 when it was bought by the Fortis Group and a \$66 million USD investment transformed it into the shopping and entertainment Mecca it is today. Covering an area of over 100,000m<sup>2</sup>, and drawing an average of 40,000 people daily, Stary Browar features over 210 retail units, including the Van Graaf designer store, Alma gourmet delicatessen, several bookshops and much, much more. Summer 2007 marked the completion of phase II of the Stary Browar project - the expansion of a new wing, thereby nearly doubling it in size. ▶ Open 09:00 - 21:00, Sun 10:00 - 20:00.

## Poznań City Center

NEW

**Poznań City Center E-4, ul. Stanisława Matyi 2, tel. (+48) 61 627 01 90, [www.poznancitycenter.pl](http://www.poznancitycenter.pl).** Shopping 'centres' simply don't get any more 'central' than this new modern marvel located right next to Poznań's impressive new train station, meaning you can grab that new winter coat as soon as the first blast of cold air hits you off the train. Featuring over 200 retail spaces, including Saturn, H&M, TK Maxx and Toys R Us (a rarity in PL), Poznań City Centre also offers plenty of cafes, restaurants and fast food eateries, as well as a multi-level parking garage. Considering its location right in the centre of the city next to the train and bus stations, it couldn't possibly be better connected to public transport or easier to get to. Opening as recently as October 2013, if nothing else this new mega-complex is worth checking out just to appreciate how much Poznań has developed and progressed over the last several years. ▶ Open 09:00 - 22:00.





## Currency Exchange



Changing money is increasingly less fretful to do, but as with most international destinations it is still worth checking rates, particularly at entry points such as airports or in major tourist areas. We check rates at a selection of money exchange offices (kantors) every four months. Here were their buying rates (how many zloty you would get for one unit of foreign currency) for **18.10.13** compared to the following rates published by the National Bank of Poland (NBP) for that morning: **Euro 1 = 4.1325zł, US\$ 1 = 3.0231zł, GBP 1 = 4.8786zł.**

**Currency Express ul. Bukowska 285 (Lawica Airport), tel. (+48) 61 849 21 74, www.lce-forex.com.** One point in arrivals and another in departures.  
1 Euro = 3.38zł,  
1 Dollar = 2.47zł,  
1 Pound = 4.00zł,  
No commission.

**Kantor Gold C-3, Pl. Wiosny Ludów 2 (Kupiec Poznański), tel. (+48) 61 850 89 51, www.kantor-gold.pl.**  
1 Euro = 3.00zł,  
1 Dollar = 2.97zł,  
1 Pound = 4.82zł,  
No commission.

**Kantor Poker E-5, ul. Głogowska 83, tel. (+48) 61 866 14 23.**  
1 Euro = 4.09zł,  
1 Dollar = 2.97zł,  
1 Pound = 4.82zł,  
No commission.

**Kantor Pomarańczarnia K-5, ul. Abpa A. Barańska 8 (Galeria Malta), tel. (+48) 61 658 11 54, www.pomarańczarnia.com.pl.**  
1 Euro = 4.09zł,  
1 Dollar = 2.97zł,  
1 Pound = 4.82zł,  
No commission.

**Kantor Przemeks D-2, ul. Garbary 62, tel. (+48) 61 855 76 10, www.kantorprzemeks.pl.**  
1 Euro = 4.10zł,  
1 Dollar = 2.98zł,  
1 Pound = 4.83zł,  
No commission.

**Kantor Przemeks G-4, ul. Półwiejska 42 (Stary Browar), tel. (+48) 61 859 64 66, www.kantor-przemeks.pl.**  
1 Euro = 4.10zł,  
1 Dollar = 2.98zł,  
1 Pound = 4.83zł,  
No commission.

## 24hr Pharmacies

**Apteka Centralna DOZ C-1, ul. 23 lutego 18, tel. (+48) 61 852 26 25.**  
**Apteka Galenica C-3, ul. Strzelecka 2/6, tel. (+48) 61 852 99 22, www.aptekagalenica.pl.**

## Conference Facilities

**IBB Andersia Hotel G-4, Pl. Andersa 3, tel. (+48) 61 667 80 00, www.andersiahotel.pl.** Number of meeting rooms: 8. Rooms 40 - 278 s/m in size. Air conditioning, complete audio visual and production services. Free wireless internet access. Meeting and event facilities with natural lighting. Prices vary according to event, season and time - for specific price quotes contact the conference host.

**Kochtex G-2, ul. gen. Kutrzeby 16e, tel. (+48) 697 10 55 85, www.kochtex.pl.** Three locations found in Poznań include  
1. G-2, ul. gen. Kutrzeby 16e- headquarters  
2. F-4, ul. Towarowa 35 (Delta building)  
3. E-3, ul. gen. Dąbrowskiego 79a (Omega building)  
Locations include shuttle service, accommodation and dining facilities (dinners, coffee machines etc.)

**Mercurie Poznań Centrum E-3, ul. Roosevelta 20, tel. (+48) 61 855 80 58, www.mercurie-poznan-centrum.com.** Number of meeting rooms: 11. Rooms 24 - 248 sq/m in size. Air conditioning, complete audio visual and production services. Free wireless internet access. Meeting and event facilities with natural lighting. Prices vary according to event, season and time - for specific price quotes contact the conference host.

**NH Poznań A-2, ul. Św. Marcin 67, tel. (+48) 61 624 88 00, www.nhpoznan.pl.** Number of meeting rooms: 3. Rooms 33 - 70 sq/m in size. Air conditioning, complete audio visual and production services. Meeting and event facilities with natural lighting. Prices vary according to event, season and time - for specific price quotes contact the conference host.

**Sheraton Poznań Hotel E-3, ul. Bukowska 3/9, tel. (+48) 61 655 20 00, www.sheraton.pl/poznan.** Number of meeting rooms: 6. Rooms 32 - 204 sq/m in size. Air conditioning, complete audio visual and production services. Free wireless internet access. Meeting and event facilities with natural lighting. Prices vary according to event, season and time - for specific price quotes contact the conference host.

## Consulates & Embassies

**Czech Republic ul. Koszykowa 18, Warsaw, tel. (+48) 22 525 18 50, www.mzv.cz/warsaw.**  
**Denmark ul. Marszałkowska 142, Warsaw, tel. (+48) 22 565 29 00, www.polen.um.dk.**  
**Great Britain ul. Kawalerii 12, Warsaw, tel. (+48) 22 311 00 00, www.ukinpoland.fco.gov.uk.**  
**Ireland ul. Mysia 5, Warsaw, tel. (+48) 22 849 66 33, www.embassyofireland.pl.**  
**Netherlands ul. Kawalerii 10, Warsaw, tel. (+48) 22 559 12 00, www.nlembassy.pl.**  
**Russia E-3, ul. Bukowska 53a, tel. (+48) 61 841 77 40. Consulate.**  
**Slovakia ul. Litewska 6, Warsaw, tel. (+48) 22 525 81 10, www.mzv.sk/warsaw.**  
**Turkey ul. Malczewskiego 32, Warsaw, tel. (+48) 22 854 61 10, www.warsaw.emb.mfa.gov.tr.**  
**USA C-2, ul. Paderewskiego 8, tel. (+48) 61 851 85 16, poland.usembassy.gov.** Consular agency.

## Emergency Rooms

**HCP - Centrum Medyczne ul. 28 Czerwca 1956 r. 186 (Wilda), tel. (+48) 61 831 29 03, www.centrum-medyczne-hcp.pl.**  
**Szpital Miejski im. Józefa Strusia ul. Szwajcarska 3 (Nowe Miasto), tel. (+48) 61 873 93 46, www.szpital-szwajcarska.poznan.pl.**

## Language Schools

**Berlitz G-4, Pl. Wiosny Ludów 2, tel. (+48) 61 850 95 95, www.berlitz.pl.**  
**EMPIK B-1, ul. 27 Grudnia 17/19 (2nd floor), tel. (+48) 61 851 00 62, www.empikschool.com.**

## Private Clinics

**Klinika Grunwaldzka E-4, ul. Grunwaldzka 324, tel. (+48) 61 867 99 01, www.klinikagrunwaldzka.pl.**  
**Luxmed E-3, ul. Roosevelta 18, tel. (+48) 22 33 22 888, www.luxmed.pl.**

## Real Estate

**Global Invest ul. Powidzka 3 (Nowe Miasto), tel. (+48) 602 21 55 09, www.globalinvestpoland.com.**  
**Mamdom, www.mamdom.com.**  
**Ober-Haus Real Estate Advisors G-4, ul. Św. Marcin 2, tel. (+48) 61 851 90 00, www.ober-haus.pl.**

## Religious Services

**5N Church Os. Bolesława Chrobrego 117 (Stare Miasto), tel. (+48) 514 919 664, www.k5n.pl.** Polish services translated to English at 10:00 every Sunday.  
**Muslim Culture & Recreation Centre (Muzulmańskie Centrum Kulturowo-Oświatowe) ul. Biedrzyckiego 13 (Wilda), tel. (+48) 61 864 10 48, www.mcko.pl.** ▶ Services on Fridays at 13:30.  
**Poznań International Church E-3, ul. Bukowska 3/9 (Sheraton Poznań Hotel), tel. (+48) 791 99 04 94, pastor@international.pl, www.international.pl.** Poznań International Church is a non-denominational Christian church that meets every Sunday morning at 10:30 on the 1st floor of the Sheraton Hotel. Includes the Word of God Sunday school for children (and wonderful childcare for smaller children) as well as coffee and tea after the service. ▶ English-speaking service at 10:30 every Sunday.

## Relocation Companies

**Corstjens Worldwide Movers Group ul. Nowa 23, Stara Iwiczna-Piaseczno, tel. (+48) 22 737 72 00, www.corstjens.com.** Worldwide removal services, excellent storage facilities and relocation to and within Europe. Office and local moves also handled.  
**Universal Express Worldwide Movers ul. Księdza Wawrzyniaka 2, Komorniki, tel. (+48) 61 665 01 61, www.uer.pl.**

## Translators & Interpreters

**Biuro Tłumaczeń Delta ul. Starowiejska 1a/5 (Stare Miasto), tel. (+48) 61 828 80 81, www.btd.pl.** Translation services including English and German as well as many European and Asian languages.  
**Business Service ul. Szeherazady 47 (Grunwald), tel. (+48) 61 868 44 47.** European and oriental languages.



## What's going on in Poland?

**The New Poland Express**  
Friday 18th October 2013 Issue 99 (239)

**Putin Skype halts PiS briefing**  
Macierewicz accuses 'hackers'

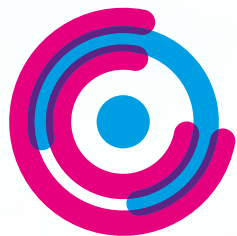
**NATIONAL** p.3  
Russia criticises Gdansk statue  
A statue depicting a soldier saving a pregnant woman was removed by police in Gdansk this week after appearing on television news as a memorial to the Soviet liberation of the city in 1945.  
The police decided to remove the statue after a woman reported that it was a potential target for a Russian missile. The statue was removed on 17th October. The police said they will be assessing the situation and will remove the statue if there is a risk of it being damaged.

**REGIONAL** p.7  
Pyramid collapse  
A 72-year-old Italian man, Pierangelo L., pleaded guilty this week to setting up a pyramid scheme and sending over a thousand people out of a sum of money of PLN 3 million. He entered a plea bargain and is expected to be sentenced to two years in prison and a fine of PLN 100,000. The judge accepted the plea and the man will remain in custody until the trial is over.

**BUSINESS** p.9  
LOT airlines on the up  
Dutch airline KLM is to postpone adding the new financial aid to its postponed this week. Deputy Treasury Minister Rafal Bank.  
December 2012 was the European Commission's first annual report on the state of the Polish economy. The report said that the Polish economy has a high potential for growth and that the Polish government's policies are aimed at improving the country's economic situation.

Get a round-up of the major Polish news, business, entertainment and sports in English each week by subscribing free to our PDF. Visit us at [www.newpolandexpress.pl](http://www.newpolandexpress.pl)





# POZNAŃ CITY CENTER



welcome to the new  
shopping center!  
opened on October 25th

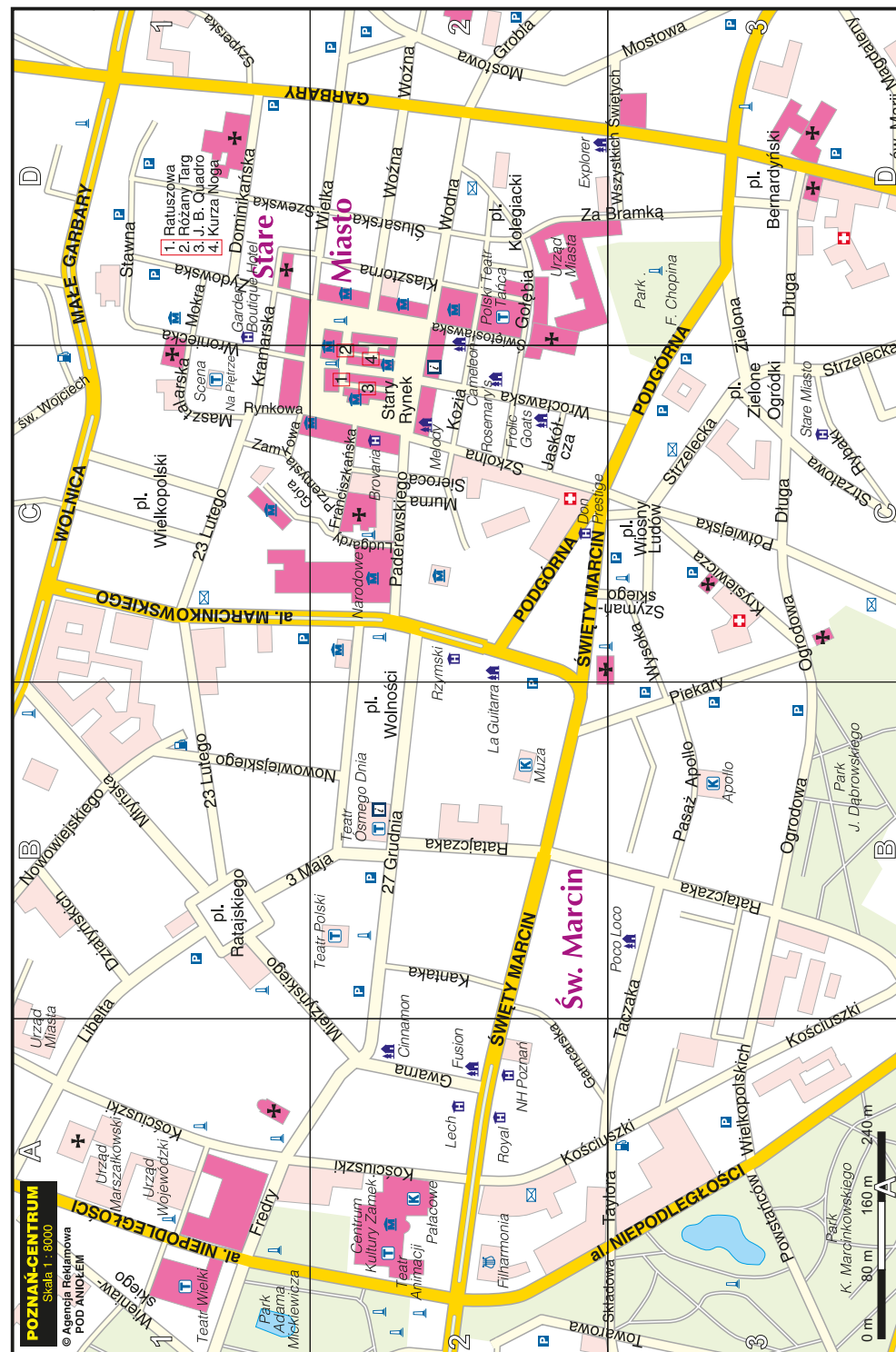


Visit Poznań City Center near the Poznań Główny railway station.

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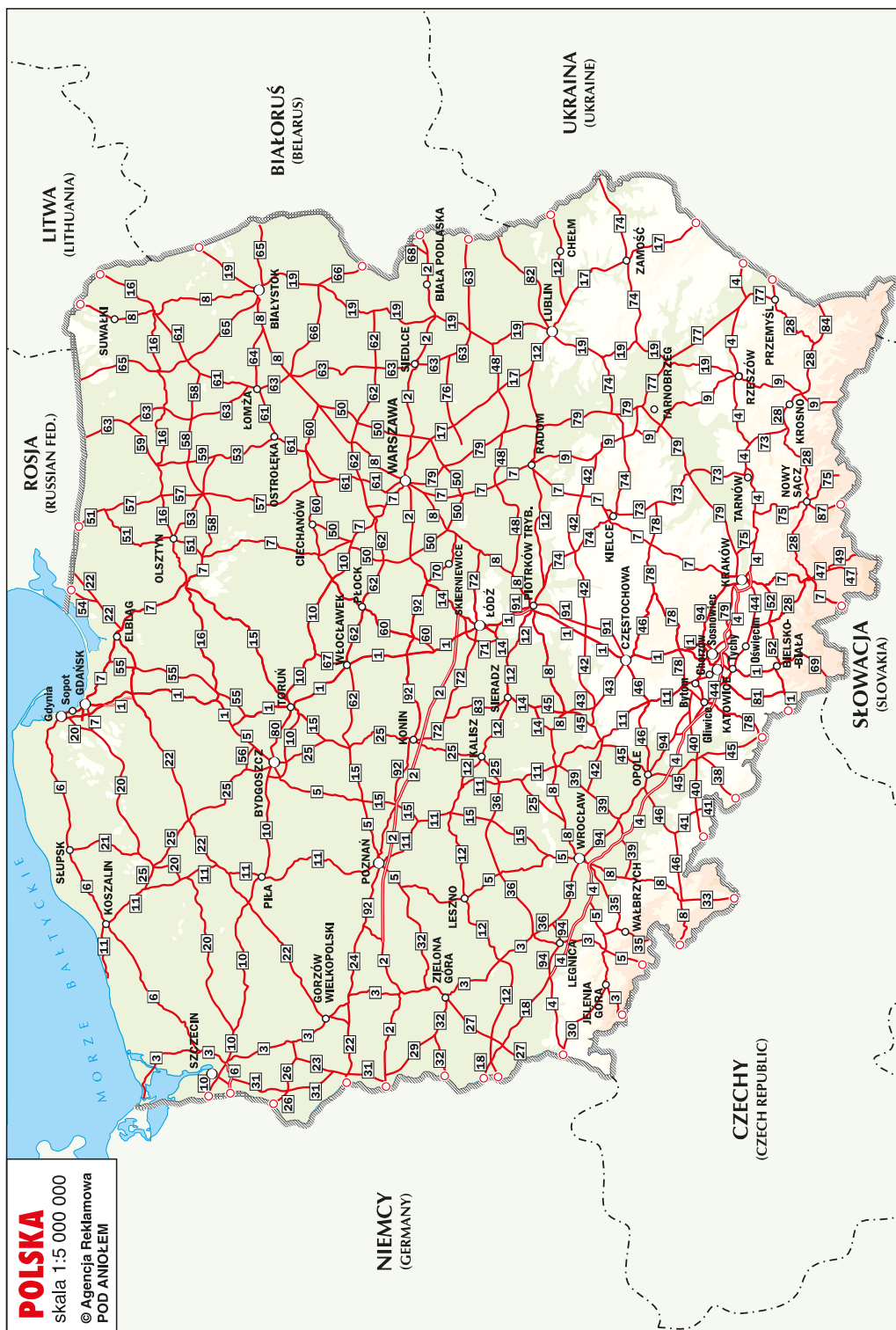
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23 Lutego	B/C-1	Kopernika	G-4	Podwale	J-2/3	św. Marcin	A/B-2/3
27 Grudnia	B-2	Koronarska	J-2	Powstańców		św. Marii Magdaleny	D-3
3 Maja	B-1/2	Kościuszki	A/B-1/2/3	Wielkopolskich	A-3	św. Michała	J/K-3
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## Symbol Key

❄️ Air conditioning	💳 Credit cards accepted
🎰 Casino	🏢 Conference facilities
👶 Child friendly	♿ Facilities for the disabled
🌐 Internet	🅑🅖 Guarded parking
🏋️ Fitness centre	🚭 No smoking
🍴 Restaurant	🚬 Smoking room available
🧺 Sauna	🏊 Swimming pool
🎵 Live music	📶 Wi-Fi
🐾 Animal friendly	🍷 Take away
🔥 Fireplace	📍 Old Town location
📇 Tourist Card accepted	🚚 Home delivery

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## Georgia

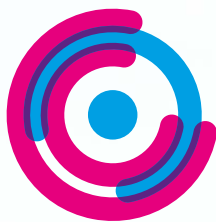
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