

Wrocław is one of the most visited Polish cities. The capital of Lower Silesia is famous for its carefully renovated historical objects and streets and at the same time continues its dynamic development as the modern centre of culture and tourism. The unique atmosphere of the metropolis also adds to its popularity. This atmosphere is created by, among others, the famous **Wrocław Dwarfs**. These tiny and adorable figurines are noticeable practically at every step: lingering on the streets, climbing the street lamps, inviting to the theatres, galleries or museums. Their miniature army grows inconspicuously with each passing year, taking possession of every nook and cranny of the city. Today, Wrocław truly deserves to be called the world dwarf capital!

1 Boulevards and harbours

The city is honeycombed with numerous feeders and canals of the Oder River. The Oder boulevards form a beautiful trail, which is full of Wrocław attractions. For example, while walking along the Xawery Dunikowski Boulevard, you can call by the Market Hall (Hala Targowa), visit the National Museum or take a sidestep to see the Brick Bastion (Bastion Ceglarski). Then you may follow the footbridge under the Pokoju Bridge leading you towards the Maria and Lech Kaczyński Boulevard decorated with a large, spatial “WRO” lettering. The boulevards at the opposite side of the river include: the Cardinal Stefan Wyszyński Boulevard (with the Church of St. Mary), Piotr Włostowic Boulevard (next to the Piaskowy Bridge) and the Rev. Aleksander Zienkiewicz Boulevard (with a plant labyrinth). While crossing the boulevards, you may easily stop by any of numerous harbours and go on a cruise down the Oder River.



Maria and Lech Kaczyński Boulevard, photo from the WPM UMW collections

2 District of Mutual Respect

An evening walk around the light-flooded Four Denominations District (Dzielnica Czterech Wyznań), called also the District of Mutual Respect, is a must-see in Wrocław. This District embraces the following neighbouring churches: the Orthodox Church at św. Mikołaja Street, Roman Catholic Church at św. Antoniego Street, Synagogue at Włodkowica Street and the Lutheran Church at Kazimierza Wielkiego Street. It is also worth to explore the yard at 46 Ruska Street, hosting the Neon Side Gallery exhibiting more than 30 neon signs, which have decorated the renowned Wrocław buildings in the past. The District is full of superb venues, clubs and cafes.



Sculpture by Ewa Rossano “Crystal Planet”, photo from the WPM UMW collections

3 Centennial Hall with the Visitor Centre, multimedia fountain and the Four Domes Pavilion

✉ ul. Wystawowa 1  halastulecia.pl, mnwr.pl

Several major tourism destinations are located in the vicinity of the Szczytnicki Park. The principal among these is the **Centennial Hall** (Hala Stulecia) – a monumental building entered into the UNESCO World Heritage List, erected in 1913 according to the design of the prominent architect Max Berg and built of the then-innovative reinforced concrete, which stirred a sensation more than a hundred years ago. The world-largest dome (diameter of 65 m) and its heart – a dedicated pipe organ – were unique in the global scale.



Centennial Hall, photo from the WPM UMW collections

The history of the Hall is presented in the **Visitor Centre** – an interactive exhibition composed of the maps, touch screens, records and two virtual reality trips. During the trips you will virtually meet the creator of the Hall – Max Berg – and rise above the Spire to see the Centennial Hall complex and the captivating panorama of Wrocław from the height.



Visitor Centre, photo from the Centennial Hall collections

The shows of the largest in Poland and one of the largest in Europe **multimedia fountain** are held next to the Hall in the spring-autumn season. The fountain occupies the area of nearly a hectare, is equipped with three hundred water nozzles, three fire nozzles and numerous light points. It was opened in 2009, on the 20th anniversary of the first free election in the post-war Poland.



Multimedia fountain, photo from the WPM UMW collections

Another nearby attraction is the **Four Domes Pavilion** (Pawilon Czterech Kopuł), a building by Hans Poelzig. It was erected in 1912 as an exhibition space commemorating the Battle of Leipzig won by Prussia. Today, the white-shining rooms host the Contemporary Museum (a branch of the National Museum) exhibiting one of the largest collection of the Polish art from the 1950s to date. In 2006, this building was entered into the UNESCO List.



Four Domes Pavilion, photo from the WPM UMW collections

4 Hydropolis

✉ ul. Na Grobli 17  hydropolis.pl

The water lovers will find out all facts about it in Hydropolis – the water knowledge centre, which is unique in the national scale. Where did the water on Earth come from? What happens in the depths of the seas? How are waves and snow formed? You will find out all these from interactive exhibitions, games and multimedia installations. Get the unforgettable experience of adventure with simulators – reach the bottom of the Mariana Trench in a bathyscaphe, feel a snow squall the middle of summer, or swim with dolphins.



Hydropolis, photo from the Hydropolis collections

5 Kolejkowo

✉ ul. Powstańców Śląskich 95, Sky Tower, 1st floor  kolejkowo.pl

Wrocław is famous for its largest railway mock-up in Poland. It is composed of miniature, precisely copied steam engines and carriages, running under the bridges and through the railroad switches, stopping at the stations in Wrocław and other Lower Silesian cities. The Kolejkowo visitors experience the everyday life of the Wrocław inhabitants, visit the regional tourist attractions and transfer from the Wrocław Market Square to the Śnieżka Mountain in the blink of an eye. The exhibition is located in the Sky Tower – the largest building in the city (don't forget to visit the observation deck at the top floor).



Wrocław in miniature, photo from the Kolejkowo collections

6 Dwarfs

 krasnale.pl

Wrocław is inhabited by about a thousand of dwarfs. While their “progenitors” have helped to fight the communism in the 1980s, the contemporary dwarfs focus on their own passions and promoting the city. In the Market Square, **Well-wisher** (Zyczliwek) waves with a sunflower to the passers-by, while **Wroclover** (Wroclovek) standing near the Hansel and Gretel (Jaś i Małgosia) tenement houses offers the heart with the city's coat of arms to the walkers. At the St. Elisabeth's Church, the two **Firemen** (Pożarki) carry their extinguisher and vigilantly watch for fire, while the **Suffragette** (Sufrażystka) female dwarf at the Barbara bar continues to remind that women have vote. Want to meet more dwarfs? Use the “Dwarf in the centre of Wrocław” (“Krasnale

w centrum Wrocławia”) map available at the Tourist Information Centre (Rynek 14) and in Krasnal Info (Sukiennice 12). You may also visit Wrocław in September to see the **Wrocław Dwarf Festival** held in the Staromiejski Garden.



Well-Wisher, photo from the WPM UMW collections

7 Cathedral Island

 tumwroc.pl

While visiting Wrocław, you cannot miss to see its cradle – Cathedral Island (Ostrów Tumski). This venue hosts one of the most spectacular complexes of sacral architecture in Europe with its most precious jewel – the **Cathedral of St. John the Baptist**, called the Mother of Silesian Churches. The Archdiocese Museum with thousand of exhibits, in particular a rich collection of Gothic art, is also worth visiting. The inconspicuous Świętego Idziego Church located nearby is the oldest temple in operation to date. It can be reached via the Dumpling Gate (Kluskowa Brama), known for the legend of a gluttonous Conrad and his wife. The major tourist attraction of Cathedral Island is the only Polish lamplighter, who, looking noble and dignified, takes his everyday route wearing a black cape and a cylinder. You may see him lighting 98 historical gas lamps before the dusk and putting them off at dawn.



Cathedral Island, photo from the WPM UMW collections

8 Market Square

The Market Square (Rynek) is the heart of the city, which beats at any time of day or night. It covers nearly 4 ha, which makes it one of the largest market squares in Central Europe. The town hall being a unique example of the gothic and renaissance architecture is located at the very centre of the Market Square. The town hall is the seat of the Museum of Bourgeois Art and its nether regions house the **Świdnicka Cellar** (Piwnica Świdnicka) – the oldest restaurant in Europe. The Market Square is surrounded by 60 picturesque tenement houses with the most famous ones – Under The Seven Electors, Under the Golden Sun, Polish Manor House and (the oldest at the Market Square) medieval tenement houses – **Hansel and Gretel** (Jaś i Matgosia), inhabited by the St. Elisabeth's Church altarists many ages ago.



Market Square, photo from the WPM UMW collections

9 Selected museums

9a Aula Leopoldina

✉ pl. Uniwersytecki 1  muzeum.uni.wroc.pl

This is the most representative part of the main building of the University of Wrocław erected in 1728–1732. The hall, named after Emperor Leopold I – the university's founder – still dazzles with the richness of the original baroque frescos, paintings, moulding ornaments and gills.



Aula Leopoldina, photo from the WPM UMW collections

9b Depot History Centre

✉ ul. Grabiszyńska 184  zajezdnia.org

The Centre (Centrum Historii Zajeżdźnia) is located in the Municipal Transport Company's depot building, the place of establishment of the Wrocław Solidarity in 1980. The “Wrocław 1945–2016” exhibition reminds of the major events from the post-war history of the city: population exchange after the World War II, reconstruction of the city after the war damages, reviving cultural and scientific life of Wrocław as well as the everyday life of its inhabitants.



Depot History Centre, photo from the WPM UM collections

9c Historical Museum

✉ ul. Kazimierza Wielkiego 35

 muzeum.miejskie.wroclaw.pl

The museum's seat is the **Royal Palace** surrounded by the baroque and classicistic garden, the residence of the monarchs of the Prussian House of Hohenzollern in 1750–1918. 21 museum rooms present the multimedia exhibition entitled “1000 years of Wrocław” depicting the city's history from the time of locating the episcopate to date.



Royal Palace, photo from the WPM UMW collections

9d National Museum

☒ pl. Powstańców Warszawy 5 🌐 mnwr.pl

The main collection of the National Museum (Muzeum Narodowe) is exhibited in the neo-renaissance building of the former Silesian Government Region building. It presents a rich collection of the Silesian art, the works of the Polish artists from the 17th to 19th century as well as the **“European Art of the 15–20th century”**. The exhibits include the works of such artists as Pieter Brueghel, Lucas Cranach, Francisco de Zurbarán or Wasilly Kandinsky. One of the most eye-catching exhibitions is **“Miracle-Workers”**, which presents among others the works of art from the Middle and Far East.

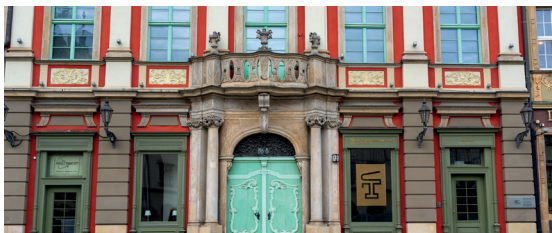


National Museum, photo from the WPM UMW collections

9e Pan Tadeusz Museum

☒ Rynek 6 🌐 muzeumpanatadeusza.ossolineum.pl

The manuscript of “Pan Tadeusz” – one of the iconic historical works of the Polish literature has become a seedbed for establishing the main exhibition. Together with several hundreds of other original manuscripts, old pints, graphics or paintings, they form a priceless collection enriched with multimedia presentations. The collection gives insight into the era of Napoleonic wars, the traditions, customs and culture of the Polish nobility. The museum’s offer includes also two more exhibitions: “Mission: Poland” dedicated to Władysław Bartoszewski and “Pan Tadeusz Różewicz” – a tale about the life of this prominent poet.



Pan Tadeusz Museum, photo from the WPM UMW collections

9f Panorama of the Battle of Ractawice Museum

☒ ul. J.E. Purkyniego 11 🌐 mnwr.pl

Panorama of the Battle of Ractawice (Panorama Ractawicka), the largest painting in Poland (114 x 15 m) is presented in the dedicated rotunda. The work by **Wojciech Kossak** and **Jan Styka** depicts the victorious battle fought in 1794 between the Polish insurrectionists led by Tadeusz Kościuszko and the Russian army. The space between the canvas and the visitor bridge is filled with special staffage giving the viewer the impression of being a part of the painting and watching the fight between the insurrectionists and the enemy’s army directly from the battlefield.



Panorama of the Battle of Ractawice Museum, photo from the WPM UMW collections

10 ZOO and Africarium

☒ ul. Wróblewskiego 1-5 🌐 zoo.wroclaw.pl

The Wrocław zoological garden, the largest in terms of the number of animals and the oldest zoo in the country, has been operating since 1865. It is famous for **Africarium – one of seven zoological miracles of the world**. This is an oceanarium dedicated to the fauna of Africa and divided into seven ecosystems, of which the most impressive one is the Mozambique Channel. While crossing it via a transparent, underwater tunnel, the tourists see the sharks, man-ta rays and majestic turtles swimming by practically at their fingertips. Exploring every nook and cranny of the zoo, assisting at animal feeding and playing with the young things in the animal Nursery – requires an all-day visit to the zoo.



Africarium, photo from the WPM UMW collections

