



**DISCOVER  
OPO!**

**OVER THE WEEKEND**



**DISCOVER  
OPOLE***An introductory  
word***OPOLE IS...**

**T**he capital of Polish song – the oldest and most well known Polish festival takes place here. Poland's most famous artists took their first steps and began their big careers on the Opole Amphitheatre wooden parquet.

... a city built in a place where a primeval settlement stood one thousand years ago; a town, which played witness to the sermons of St. Adalbert.

... an architectural pearl of southern Poland, in which one can find a city hall building modeled after the Florentine Vecchio Palace, and the Opole Venice – beautiful alleys arranged between charming canals and the Oder River. A city where century-old buildings renovated with the utmost regard coexist with new, architecturally well-received modern buildings.

... a city of human friendship, open society and well acquainted with broadly defined multiculturalism.

... a city of many educational institutions and thousands of students, which liven up and warm up the city's image.

... a wonderful place to live, especially for families – which is indicated, among others, through recently completed nationwide social analyses. This comes as no surprise, since every part of Opole is easily accessible, the city has many facilities dedicated to entertainment and leisure activity, as well as events, which are worth visiting, and greenery that other great European and Polish cities can envy.

**We invite you to explore! And to return to Opole!**







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## market square

**T**he Opole market square has retained its shape from the Middle Ages. At its heart stands a proud city hall, modeled on the Florentine Vecchio Palace. It is surrounded by enchanting, pastel-colored tenements rebuilt after their destruction during the Second World War. Centuries ago, the square was where market stalls and booths served as a place for local trade. In the 14<sup>th</sup> century, wooden structures, which carried with them a fire hazard, started being replaced with brick buildings. After the destruction of the Second World War, the ruined square was restored in the 1950s to a 18<sup>th</sup> century, Baroque style. As many as twelve tenements located in the market square are on the list of architectural monuments. In the 18<sup>th</sup> century, a pillory was located in Opole's market square. It was at this pillory that a peasant rebel, Marek from Jemielnica, received a penalty of multiple lashes in 1794.

## CITY HALL

**O**pole City Hall – the seat of the city authorities – is a younger and a bit smaller twin brother of the beautiful city hall in Florence, Italy. The Neo-renaissance building is located in the heart of the city and market square. The current structure was raised in 1864, and partially in 1936. Earlier, this location was home to a wooden merchant's house, replaced in the 14<sup>th</sup> century with a solid brick construction. The most characteristic element of the city hall is a 65-meter tower, from which the cities hymn is played each day. The first such tower was built in the 16<sup>th</sup> century. Later, in 1740, a Baroque, "onion" dome was built in its place. This construction was engulfed by a fire in 1818 and a general reconstruc-

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tion of the city hall ensued. The new tower dome was gilded for a cost of 150 thalers. In the second half of the 19<sup>th</sup> century, it turned out that the tower is heavily strained, and in 1864, yet another tower was built based on the Vecchio's tower in Florence. The architect in charge was Albrecht. The new tower reached a height of 60 meters. The most dramatic moment in the history of the construction was July 15, 1934. After a few months of demolition of adjacent penthouses, the tower fell to the ground. Surprisingly, nobody was injured and the neighboring tenements remained unharmed. An almost identical tower was reconstructed in 1936.

## avenue of POLISH MUSIC STARS

The capital of Polish song could not do without it. Even though the legendary festival of Polish song has taken place since 1963 and the avenue was opened only in 2004, it is already home to a few dozen bronze plates with the names and autographs of performers, composers and songwriters. The tract, which welcomes a few new names every year, is located in the heart of the city, next to the city hall in the market square. Among others, Irena Santor, Czesław Niemen, Maryla Rodowicz, Edyta Górniak, Edyta Geppert, Ewa Demarczyk, Kora, Marek Grechuta, Wojciech Młynarski, Lady Pank, TSA, Dżem, Zakopower, Czerwone Gitary and Trubadurzy have their stars here.



**T**he oldest tenement, hailing from the Middle Ages, is house no. 1, named the "House Under the Lion" – with a characteristic, cylindrical donjon and a lying lion sculpture. According to tradition, the house was owned by Jan II the Good until 1532, the time of death of the last Piast. Supposedly, in 1655, Count von Oppersdorff hosted Jan Kazimierz, the King of Poland, in the house, when the latter called for a convocation of the states in Opole. It is here that the famous proclamation was to have been formed, a document calling for all Poles to rise against the Swedes, who had

invaded Poland. One could devote hours to the history of the tenements. Throughout the centuries they were home to pharmacies, hotels – including the legendary Hotel under the Black Eagle, ice cream parlors, all kinds of shops, shoemakers, Opole's first post station, which was a departure point for long-distance stagecoaches, publishing houses, restaurants, cafes, beer warehouses, a National Government or a nursing institute. In one of the buildings – number four on the northern frontage – the famous Jerzy Grotowski theater, 13 Rows, operated in the 1960s.





**CASTLE POND**

Opole natives usually call it Barlicki Pond. It is situated between the market square and the Opole Amphitheatre. It is a remnant of the moat that used to surround the old ducal castle, which was taken apart in the 1930s. Some time ago, the pond was full of boats on summer days, while serving as an ice skating rink in the winter – with artificial lighting, a changing room and irrigation equipment. The ice rink was so professional that it held various sporting events. In 1934, during the German National Figure Skating Championships, Maxi Herber earned a trophy here, just two years before becoming olympic champion. In 1909, a wooden Ice House was built above the pond. After WWII, the Ice House served as a PTTK tourism office and a youth hostel. Later, it housed a cafe and currently, a restaurant. The charming house was virtually untouched during WWII. But it was damaged severely during the thousand year flood in 1997. On a warm mid-spring evening, there is no place in Opole that's more beautiful, mainly due to the musical fountain, which was created by installing special jets inside the pond. From the beginning of May until the end of October, at 12:00, 18:30 and 21:30, there are light and sound shows that draw considerable crowds. The speakers play the greatest hits of Polish music, while the fountain jets shoot water flumes in tune with the music. Lighting is used to highlight the water flumes.



## MILLENNIAL AMPHITHEATRE

Whoever enjoys the least bit of Polish music, has seen the Opole Festival at least once. It takes place at this amphitheatre. Whoever sings – dreams of the day they may stand on this parquet floor! Thanks to the Festival of Polish Song, this amphitheatre and the Piast Tower peeking in the background have become Opole's most recognized picture postcard. The site almost became an archeology museum before it became an amphitheatre. In the 1950s, archeological digs were undertaken here around a Slavic settlement from the times of Mieszko I. Luckily, the local authorities' dream of a museum building was cut short due to insufficient funds. It was then that legendary mayor, Karol Musioł, called Papa by Opole natives, saw a similar amphitheatre in Budapest and decided to build such an avenue in Opole. The construction was designed by Flo-

rian Jesionowski. The amphitheatre, or simply its bank, was slowly built from 1957 on by thousands of citizens volunteering in the name of social service. The work sped up when the idea for organizing a National Festival of Polish Song came up. The first festival took place in 1963. The half-circle roof above the construction did not appear until 1978-1979. Supposedly, it came to being thanks to the female artists performing in Opole, who complained about having to perform under the rain, which often happened to fall during days of the festival, spiting the performers. The festival's second edition stands among the most memorable historically. It was then that rainwater spurted from beneath the pianists' wet keys. The amphitheatre was modernized in 2010-2011 with the help of EU funds. The bleachers, the stage and the roof were all rebuilt. A large viewing platform



was created at the pinnacle of the construction. From it, one can see the Oder river and western Opole, as well as the amphitheatre's enlarged stage area.

Since 1963, more than 50 festivals have taken place in the Millennial Amphitheatre. The event was cancelled just once, in 1982, when martial law was announced in Poland. Once, in 2010, during the amphitheatre's rebuilding, the festival took place at an alternate location. All of Poland's music stars have performed on its stage. And many of them earned their popularity precisely here.



**BOLKO ISLAND**

**R**ich in greenery, Opole's Bolko Island makes up the green lungs of the city. Ideal for walks, biking trips, inline skating craziness, running and all kinds of fresh air activity. It is an enclave of peace and beautiful nature. For centuries, it was simply called the "grove," later – in honor of the Piast duke – the Bolko Grove, and during the time Opole belonged to Germany – Bolko-Insel. The Bolko Island name was officially given in 2004. It has been a city park since 1910. It sports a thick array of trees and shrubs – made up of natural groves and specimens planted during the creation of the park. The landscape includes rolling meadows, alleys, picturesque ponds, viewing platforms and benches. There's a pub and a zoo on the island as well. From the north and the south, the island is bordered by the Oder River. Meanwhile, from the west it borders on the flood channel, and on the north-

west side, the remains of the Wiński Channel. From the city centre, which is nearby, Bolko is reached by using the pedestrian and cycling bridge over the Oder – coming from Pasięka Island. Bolko can also be reached by a bridge over the flood channel and ul. Parkowa, which runs next to the channel.

**ODER PARK**



**T**he scenic alleys built alongside the Oder, benches, fields, greenery, a fitness park – all of this can be found in the park along the Oder, also known as the Oder Promenade. Also present are a playground and street furniture elements, such as a small outdoor stage and a climbing wall. The park was thoroughly revitalized through an EU project called "Odra uRzeka" (the Oder fascinates) and is one of the favorite place for Opole natives to visit on afternoons and relaxing weekends. In the summer season, an excursion boat docks next to the promenade. It is worthwhile to see Opole from the perspective of the Oder River by taking a small boat trip.



ZOO

**T**he city's first zoological garden, in essence a private animal preserve at the time, was set up in the 1930s in the park on Bolko Island. It was so popular that the city authorities made the zoo available to the public in 1936. During WWII, the animals were shipped to Germany and the garden was closed. It was reopened in 1953. The Opole Zoo had barely 2.4 ha of ground back then. It was considerably enlarged in 1980 and in 1996 it was reorganized so that animals originating from specific continents would be together. The cataclysm that was the 1997 flood totally destroyed the Opole Zoological Garden. Many of its animals died in the flood. Despite this, the zoo was revived and today it is home to about 1,500 animals and 290 species. It includes giraffes, red pandas, pumas, zebras, anteaters and various species of monkeys and prosimians, e.g. lemurs or gorillas. The only California Sea Lion in Poland can be found in an aquarium here.

## OPOLE Venice



**T**his name is not an exaggeration at all! The Opole Venice, built on the foundations of the former defensive walls of the city, it is yet another picturesque area along the Młynówka channel. The promenade runs between the Cathedral Bridge and the Castle Bridge, also known as the Yellow Bridge by the locals. Ambient lighting, historic houses anchored alongside the old Oder riverbed are best viewed from ul. Piastowska – especially on warm, summer and springtime afternoons or evenings. Long ago this area served as a port for transshipment areas and warehouses for products shipped down the Oder. The name of the channel comes from two "młyny" (mills) once present here – the municipi-





pal and the ducal mill. Today, there is a National Archive building located here, formerly the shoe sole leather factory of Marcus Pinkus and a neoclassical synagogue, which survived the Holocaust. Currently, the synagogue is home to the Opole TVP television station. A granary was once located in the house with the balcony at ul. Szpitalna 9. While, the most enticing to the eye is probably the stylish western side of the former St. Alexius Hospital, which today hosts a Caritas charity rest home.

## OPOLE Cathedral

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The proud red brick Holy Cross Cathedral is one of Opole's most characteristic monuments. It overlooks the city with two bell towers measuring 76 meters, thanks to which the parish church is the tallest building in Opole. It is hard to imagine Opole's cathedral without the spires. Or is it? The towers, which give the church its lofty quality, weren't built until the 19<sup>th</sup> century. Construction work on them was completed in 1899. But it wasn't the only reconstruction of the church, which was originally raised in the 15<sup>th</sup> century, at the seat of earlier churches from the 11<sup>th</sup> and 13<sup>th</sup> centuries. The first church probably stood here during the reign of Bolesław I Chrobry. It's worth mentioning that the shrine contains the portrait of the Our Lady of Opole patron, brought to the city in 1702 from Piekary Śląskie.

## CHURCH "ON THE HILL"



In other words, the Church of Our Lady of Sorrows and St. Adalbert – the oldest Roman-Catholic temple in Opole. According to legend, it was built at the location of St. Adalbert's sermons in 984-995. His conversion sermons were to have been so intense, that his footprints remain on the rock upon which he stood. Meanwhile, when there was a lack of water for baptisms on the hill where the church stands, the missionary hit the rock with his cane and a mineral spring miraculously opened up. To this day, St. Adalbert's well exists at the University of Opole campus, located behind the Church on the hill. A wooden church is to have been raised here around the turn of the first millennium. A brick church was built by the Dominicans in the 13<sup>th</sup> century. It was later destroyed by fire and further by a Swedish military invasion and secularization of church property in the 19<sup>th</sup> century turned it into a warehouse and part of a hospital. Today, it is one of the most popular houses of worship in Opole. It includes

two 17<sup>th</sup> century paintings, one showing the legendary mission of St. Adalbert in Opole as well as the Immaculate Conception of Holy Mary, which was brought by repatriated Poles from Stanisławów.



## FRANCISCAN CHURCH

The Gothic Holy Trinity church, known to Opole faithful simply as the Franciscan Church, was built in the 14<sup>th</sup> century. It is one of the most valuable monuments in the city. Mainly due to the remains of the Opole Piast rulers located in its crypts. The tombs contain the bodies of the benefactors of the church and the Franciscan monastery in Opole – Bolesław I, Bolesław II and Bolesław III and the Duchess Anna Oświęcimska. Under the presbytery, are the remains of other Opole dukes, i.e. Władysław II of Opole, the founder of the Jasna Góra Monastery, and Duchess Elżbieta, the granddaughter of King Władysław I the Elbow-high. The oldest Early Gothic fresco in Silesia (1320) can be found here. It represents Jesus Christ's suffering, with his mother Mary and St. John standing beside him. In the Franciscan Church itself, it's worthwhile to see the Our Lady of Częstochowa chapel, the Heart of Jesus, St. Hedwig's chapel and the chapel of St. Anne known as Piastowska. During the Swedish Del-



uge (invasion of Poland), Polish King Jan Kazimierz had his Chancellery at the Opole Monastery. It was here that in 1655, in the Monastery's refectory, the Royal Proclamation was announced, calling on the Polish nation to take up arms against the Swedes.



University Hill is Opole's highest point (165 meters above sea level) and surely is one of the most beautiful parts of the Polish capital of song. Two restored university buildings are located here: the administrative Collegium Minus red brick building and the Collegium Maius, which houses the rector's office. From the 1200s, a Dominican monastery was located here, and be-

tween the mid-19<sup>th</sup> century and 1990, St. Adalbert's hospital. At the end of the 1990s, the hospital building was completely modernized and rearranged in order to serve the needs of the academic institution. Attached to the Collegium Maius is St. Adalbert's chapel, which used to be a part of defensive tower within the city walls. At the rear of the building is a courtyard and in it a collection of figures and monuments, i.e. "The Four Seasons" by H. Hartmann (17<sup>th</sup> century) and the statue of St. Christopher by C. Kern (1867). Situated a bit lower, the Collegium Minus courtyard sports elegant Neo-Gothic arcades. All things considered, an Artists' Square and its statues are probably the most popular with the tourists. These are located between the two buildings. Among them are bronze statues of Agnieszka Osiecka, Marek Grechuta, Czesław Niemen, Janusz Kofta, Jerzy Grotowski or Edmund Osmańczyk. It's simply impossible to leave Opole without having had a picture taken with Grechuta or Osiecka.



## PIAST TOWER



One of the oldest pieces of defensive architecture in Poland and the most well-known Opole monument. It is visible in the background, behind the amphitheatre, during the television broadcast of the National Festival of Polish Song. The tower is situated on the Opole Islet, and hails from the end of the 13<sup>th</sup> century or mid-14<sup>th</sup> century. It is the only remnant of the former Piast Castle, whose construction was started by Duke Kazimierz I of Opole in 1217. A primeval settlement of the Opole tribe, from the times of Mieszko I, was located here. The brick castle was reconstructed many times, especially during the reign of Bolko I from Opole. It was later adapted to serve as the seat of the Opole District government and was taken apart in 1928-1931, leaving only the tower standing. The last years have seen a renovation of the tower. Today it is one of the best tourist attractions in the city. After a few minutes of climbing stairs, a beautiful view of Opole unfurls itself before our eyes. The tower served witness to plenty of historic events and... a certain romantic tragedy. The protagonists were the last of the Opole Piast line: Jan



the Good and the capricious Ofka, who turned down all of her suitors one-by-one, and when it was apparent that she would wed Duke Jan, she flung the wedding ring from the tower. The heartbroken duke requested for Ofka to be thrown into the tower dungeon, while remaining a bachelor for the rest of his life. According to legend, the ghost of Ofka appears at the top of the tower every midsummer's eve.





## Penny Bridge

**A**lso known as the Green Bridge, or the Bridge of Lovers – the latter reminding us of charming bridges in sunny Italy, with hundreds of metal locks engraved with the names or initials of pairs of lovers. Does it ensure everlasting love? That remains a secret the lovers will keep to themselves. Without a doubt, it is one of the most intriguing places in the Polish song capital. A two-span, metal, Art Nouveau bridge for pedestrians, it is surrounded by greenery and spans across the Młynówka channel. Ideal for romantic walks, it con-

nects the residential Pasiéka Island with the city centre. Although its construction has been dated around 1903, recent findings point to the bridge having been operational before Christmas Eve in 1902. The name Penny Bridge comes from the once popular custom of charging pedestrians one German Pfennig to cross the bridge. In the municipal documents from the beginning of the 20<sup>th</sup> century, there's mention of an "Elephant Bridge" existing nearby. This was most likely a wooden construction.



## PROMENADES ON THE MŁYNÓWKA

**M**ost accept the fact that the river which divides the right bank of Opole from the charming, residential Pasięka Island is the Młynówka channel. But historians with knowledge of Opole's past will stress that this is actually the old riverbed of the Oder. It was the main river stream until the great flood of 1600. Keeping with the official name, the Młynówka channel and adjacent promenades, which were built thanks to the "Odra uRzeka" (the Oder fascinates) EU project, are one of the city's favorite strolling areas. They span a distance of 1.3 km, starting near the Voivodeship Office by the Castle Bridge and ending at ul. Korfantego. The promenade includes cobblestone trails, decorative walls, rock gardens and comfortable stairs leading down to the river. In the evening hours, ambient lighting, benches and a wooden pier make the area all the more appealing.

**T**he history of the Opole countryside "captured in wood" – this phrase fits ideally to the Museum of Opole's Countryside in Opole-Bierkowice. Besides a few complete reconstructions of homesteads, the heritage park in Bierkowice contains an old church, a country school, a pub and a forge, charming chapels and two beautiful wind-mills. All of these buildings – almost 50 in total – are made of wood and are professionally preserved. The area is based in an environment that is lush green from the spring to the autumn. The houses are connected with a network of roads and trails, which can serve for hours of hiking fun, taking in the old-fashioned heritage of a serene and peaceful vil-

lage. It is the only open-air museum in the Opole region and one of four such museums within historic Silesia. It is a venue used for meetings, exhibitions and events, including the most famous of them all – the Easter Market.



## MUSEUM OF OPOLE'S COUNTRYSIDE



## MUSEUM OF OPOLE SILESIA



**A**n institution with 100 years of tradition, it opened in 1900 as the Municipal Museum in Opole – (then known as Städtisches Museum Oppeln). In 1950, the museum received its current name. Today, the Opole Museum has many worthwhile temporary exhibitions and permanent sections that show Opole and the Opole region in a nutshell. Among them, the “Ethnography of the Opole Region,” an exhibition entitled “Art of the Opole Environs after 1945” or one named “In Pharmacy Circles.” There is also a small scale city model of 18<sup>th</sup> century Opole, a collection of beautiful Tutowice porcelain, a gallery of Polish 19<sup>th</sup> and 20<sup>th</sup> century painters, and the largest collection of the Opole-region born painter and sketcher, Jan Cybis, a representative of colorism. Whoever wants to get to know the fate of the city and its region, should carefully examine the exhibit about the prehistory and Early Middle Ages of the Opole region as well as the “Opole. Settlement – City – Regional Capital” exhibit. Visitors who dream of traveling back in time,

should visit the tenement house at ul. św. Wojciecha 9, where a reconstruction of the life of a regular Opole citizen was made with great care.

## MUNICIPAL PUBLIC LIBRARY



**P**robably the most beautiful municipal public library in Poland! The recently opened (2011) building received several accolades in Polish architectural contests – modern, highly glazed with glass, ideally composed with the surrounding greenery and historical city centre. It draws everyone’s attention – especially the poetry written on its graphite elevation. It’s one of those facilities that is always full of life. Here, one can experience meetings with people of culture and literature, evenings, conversations, exhibitions, contests and nationwide initiatives. Besides the classic book circulation and reading room, there’s a modern media department, where one can check out films. The MPL building is within the area of the old town – at its southwestern corner, with the medieval defensive wall, is in close proximity to the pleasant Młynówka channel.

## IN OPOLE EVERYTHING PLAYS MUSIC!

**O**pole became the capital of Polish song half a century ago. There is no musician in Poland who wouldn't know the Opole Festival. It's no surprise that the city is full of musical accents here and there. New points of interest are added each year. Where to find them?

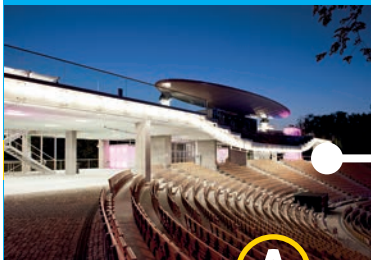
**A** A musical trip around Opole should begin at the legendary amphitheatre (see "*Opole Attractions*" on page 8). It was founded on the site of a Slavic settlement dating back to the reign of Mieszko I.

**B** Opole could not be the capital of Polish music without the Museum of Polish Song. This attraction was set up in the bank of the amphitheatre. It is a two-level facility and was planned as a modern unit with multimedia installations. It will include musical walls with touch screens, thanks to which visitors will learn about the history of Polish song, as well as pictures, artists' biographies or albums. The entresol of

the museum is to host eight spherical cabins where visitors can see the multimedia presentation of the "Polish entertainment music lexicon," in the cinema-music hall – recordings from the *Piwnica pod Baranami* venue in Cracow or the *Metro* musical will be exhibited, and a special cabin available with base music will allow visitors to record their own songs. The museum has many souvenirs from different festival editions.

**C** It all began with them – musical journalists Jerzy Grygolunas and Mateusz Świąćicki were the originators of the idea and the initiators of the Opole Festival. After many years, they've been honored in Opole. The inner road leading from ul. Barlickiego to the square in front of the National Polish Song Centre, the seat of the amphitheatre, has been named the Grygolunas and Świąćicki Passage, and in the vicinity, near the Toropol ice arena, a commemorative stone with their names has been laid down.

**D** Next to the amphitheatre and the commemorative Grygolunas and Świąćicki stone is the Barlicki Pond with its musical fountain.



**A**



**B**



**C**



**D**



From the beginning of May until the end of October, light and sound shows are held at 12:00, 18:30 and 21:30. [More on page 7.](#)

**E** No more than a five-minute walk away from the Barlicki Pond, is the Józef Elsner Opole Philharmonic, which has been expanded recently. The grand building, with its airy glass facade, is located in the very core of the city. Formally, the institution was established in 1972. Earlier, in 1947, the first professional orchestra was founded in Opole. In 1952, it was transformed into the Voivodeship Symphonic Orchestra, and five years later into a National Orchestra. In 1969, it was given the name of Józef Elsner – a Polish composer of German descent, Frederic Chopin's teacher.

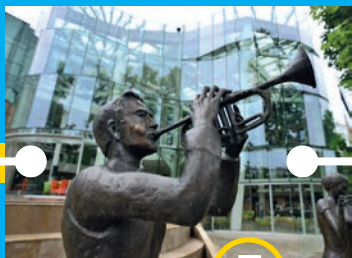
**F** Walking from the Philharmonic in the direction of the Market Square, one can reach one of the most splendid statues in Opole – it is that of Karol Musioł, known to the locals simply as Papa Musioł. In 1952-1965, he was the leader of the National City

Council in Opole and the city's mayor. He was also the initiator of the Opole Festival. The monument was designed by Wit Pichurski and it shows Papa with a briefcase and a necktie that's waving in the wind. He's on his way from the Voivodeship office to City Hall. The statue was dedicated in 2008. It is next to the Yellow Bridge on the Młynówka.

**G** The Opole Market Square is just a few steps from the statue of Papa Musioł. There, on the doorstep of City Hall is the Avenue of Polish Music Stars [\(see page 5\).](#)

**H** Coming from the Market Square towards the so-called small market square and further – past the Museum of Opole Silesia [\(see pages 17\)](#) and the "church on the hill" [\(see page 12\)](#) – in the direction of the University hill – it is impossible to miss the Artists' Square [\(see page 13\).](#)

[Route map on page 27](#)



**E**



**F**



**G**



**H**

## THE CAPITAL OF POLISH SONG – a FAMILY-FRIENDLY CITY

**O**pole is a large city that's full of attractions, where kids and families alike can find many ways for spending time together. On the other hand, it is a friendly and compact place, where everything is nearby and no time needs to be wasted commuting about.

**A** During a trip around Opole with children, one should not miss the zoo! Especially because it is one of the nicest zoological gardens in Poland. [More on page 10.](#)

**B** The open-air museum of Opole's Countryside in Opole-Bierkowice is a fantastic opportunity for a fresh-air history lesson for the old and the young – [more on page 16.](#)

**C** Surely, the Castle Pond, or Barlicki Pond, and it's musical fountain is bound to be a big attraction for the youngest – [more on page 7.](#)

**D** The Museum of Polish Song in Opole is not only a collection of souvenirs from festivals of the past, but also an institution that cares about the musical education of the young. Cyclical events are organized here, e.g. meetings with artists, during the so-called Small Academy of Song. Every month, a different star leads them. Singing and music lessons have been given by, among others, Dorota Miśkiewicz, Katarzyna Groniec, Krzysztof Antkowiak or Krzysztof "Kasa" Kasowski.

**E** The "Wodna Nuta" swimming hall is bound to thrill the kids. Although, the main attraction is a 10-lane, 50 meter pool with a depth of two meters and a movable pier, there is also a warm up and recreational area with massage jets, river rapids and a salt pool. There is also a sauna, two steam baths and a bar. Both, the young and old, will find something to their liking.





**F** The “Błękitna Fala” complex is an open-air area with three outdoor pools, of which one is a 50-meter long venue and can host sporting events. Besides this, there are three water slides – including one that is 50 meters long; an artificial river, a volleyball court, a wading pool, a swimming pool for the youngest swimmers and a restaurant. In addition, the complex is in the centre of the city.

**G** The Toropol artificial ice rink is the home to adult ice hockey and short-track competitions, as well as small fans of figure skating. Open skating is regularly available, as are skate rentals.

**H** The Opole Puppet and Actor’s Theatre is one of the oldest Polish puppet theatres. It was set up in 1937 by Alojzy Smolka, whom it’s named after. It is considered to be one of the best puppet theatres in Poland. The theatre offers shows not only for

children but also for adults. Its worthwhile to check the repertoire during a visit in Opole! Since 1962, the Opole “puppets” have organized the Nationwide Puppet Theatre Festival – a review of the most interesting shows. The theatre building is a masterwork of contemporary architecture. The glass-encased building came to life in 2014 after a refurbishing.

**I** The “Kanyon” ropes course can be found in the centre of Opole, at ul. Korfantego. It is arranged in a grove of trees and it allows kids to try their strength in various challenging situations – ropes, agility, athleticism, logic and strategy. The park is open daily from May till August. It is closed from November till February, while in the early spring and late fall its open only via telephone appointment.

Route map on page 27



## a CITY OF MANY REFERENCES

**T**he Opole City Hall is the somewhat smaller twin brother of the Florentine Vecchio Palace. The landscape around the Młynówka channel, where charming row houses stand, is called the Opole Venice. The amount of academic institutions and students in Opole often draws comparisons to the German city of Heidelberg. The Polish capital of song is a city of a thousand references!

**A** For history and architecture lovers, we recommend to begin the visit in Opole at the Market Square – cozy, neatly manicured and filled with pubs and cafes. [Read more on page 4.](#)

**B** During a stay in Opole, it's impossible not to visit the Gothic Holy Trinity church, referred to as the Franciscan Church by the locals. This is one of the city's most valuable monuments – [read more on page 12.](#) The church is located next to the Market Square.

**C** Also worthwhile is the Holy Cross Cathedral – the tallest structure in Opole ([more on page 11](#)). It is within reach from the Market Square in 2-3 minutes via ul. Koraszewskiego or ul. Książąt Opolskich.

**D** Next to the cathedral one can find well preserved fragments of defensive walls from the 13<sup>th</sup> century, as well as towers and gate towers which used to be part of a system that surrounded the settlement centuries ago. The city walls were about a meter thick and 6 to 10 meters high. Abutments and 16 towers strengthened the city's defensive cordon, while the gates were secured with gate towers that stood at each of the main tract entryways. These included the Cracow Gate, also known as the Bytom Gate, the Wrocław Gate, also known as the Nysa or the Oder Gate and three others: the Gostawice Gate, the Mikołaj Gate and the Castle Gate, which led to the Castle on Pasięka Island. Among the towers, were e.g. the Wolf Tower or the Artillery Tower, which stands to this day. The Opole District authorities decided to remove the city walls in 1891. The removal lasted until about half of the 19<sup>th</sup> century, while the bricks from the walls were used to build the Opole City Hall.



**A**



**B**



**C**



**D**



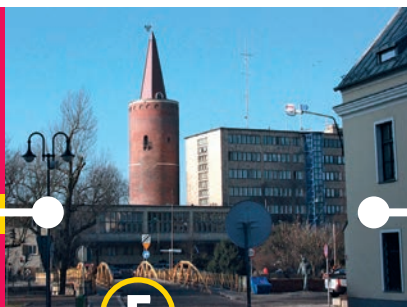
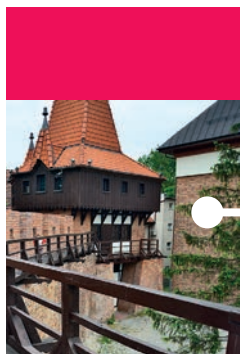
**E** One of the oldest artifacts of fortifications in Opole and Poland is the Piast Tower – [read page 14](#). From the cathedral and defensive city walls, the easiest path to reach the Piast Tower is using ul. Katedralna, the bridge and then by taking a left turn on ul. Piastowska.

**F** Along the afore-mentioned ul. Piastowska – on the other side of the Młynówka channel, all the way until the Penny Bridge, also known as the Green Bridge – spans the Opole Venice. After seeing it once, none will doubt that the name of this place is befitting due to the wonderful view. [More on page 10-11](#).

**G** Whoever wants to get to know the history of Opole and the Opole Region; to see how its inhabitants once lived, should visit the Museum of Opole Silesia located near the Market Square (from the Market Square take ul. św. Wojcie-

cha in the direction of the main hall of Opole University). Among others, the museum holds a very interesting exhibit showing a tenement house arranged in the style of the 19<sup>th</sup> century. There is also an exhibit entitled “Ethnography of the Opole Region – tradition and change” which aims to present the culture and folklore of the region. It also tells the story of the numerous Eastern Poles who were resettled in the region after 1945. This includes – as the museum claims on its website – the meeting of the “old” and the “new” populations of the region. Besides all this, the Museum of Opole Silesia contains exhibitions entitled “Art of the Opole Environs after 1945,” “In Pharmacy Circles.” There is also a small scale city model of 18<sup>th</sup> century Opole, a collection of beautiful Tułowiec porcelain, a collection of famous painter Jan Cybis, as well as the “Opole. Settlement – City – Regional Capital” exhibit. [More on pages 17](#).

Route map on page 27





## City guide

### HOTELS

★★★★

#### Piano – Restaurant & Pub

ul. Barlickiego 21  
tel. (+48) 77 550 33 01  
[pianohotel.com.pl](http://pianohotel.com.pl)

#### DeSilva Premium Opole

ul. Powolnego 10  
tel. (+48) 77 54 07 000  
[desilva.pl](http://desilva.pl)

#### Villa Park

ul. Czogały 1  
tel. (+48) 77 45 63 508  
[villapark.opole.pl](http://villapark.opole.pl)

★★★

#### Festival

ul. Oleska 86  
tel. (+48) 77 42 75 555  
[festival.com.pl](http://festival.com.pl)

#### Mercure

ul. Krakowska 57/59  
tel. (+48) 77 45 18 100  
[accorhotels.com/pl](http://accorhotels.com/pl)

#### Piast

ul. Piastowska 1  
tel. (+48) 77 45 49 710  
[hotel-piast.com](http://hotel-piast.com)

#### Starka

ul. Ostrówek 19  
tel. (+48) 77 41 13 501  
[hotel-starka.pl](http://hotel-starka.pl)

#### Szara Willa

ul. Oleska 11  
tel. (+48) 77 44 14 570  
[szarawilla.pl/pokoje](http://szarawilla.pl/pokoje)

#### Weneda

ul. 1 Maja 77  
tel. (+48) 77 44 21 000  
[hotelweneda.opole.pl](http://hotelweneda.opole.pl)

#### Zaodrze

ul. Spychalskiego 25  
tel. (+48) 77 45 15 218  
[hotel-zaodrze.pl](http://hotel-zaodrze.pl)

#### Pod Złotą Koroną

ul. Oświęcimska 136  
tel. (+48) 77 456 20 52  
[zlota-korona.com.pl](http://zlota-korona.com.pl)

#### Best Western

ul. Waryńskiego 17  
tel. (+48) 77 551 61 50  
[bwopole.pl](http://bwopole.pl)

#### Kamienica

pl. Kopernika 14  
tel. (+48) 77 54 66 196  
[hotelkamienica.com.pl](http://hotelkamienica.com.pl)

★★

#### Europa

ul. Dworska 2  
tel. (+48) 77 47 40 048  
[restauracja-europa.opole.pl](http://restauracja-europa.opole.pl)

★

#### Zacisze

ul. Grunwaldzka 28  
tel. (+48) 77 45 39 553  
[hotel-zacisze.opole.pl](http://hotel-zacisze.opole.pl)

### HOSTELS, YOUTH HOSTELS

#### Hotelik Błękitna Róża

pl. Róż 4  
tel. (+48) 500 204017  
[blekitnaroza.pl](http://blekitnaroza.pl)

#### Oaza Noclegi

ul. Oleska 117  
tel. (+48) 602 712 045  
[oaza.opole.pl](http://oaza.opole.pl)

#### Hostel Bartek

ul. Wielkopolska 12A  
tel. (+48) 500 217 399  
[hostelbartek.pl](http://hostelbartek.pl)

#### Szkolne Schronisko Młodzieżowe

„Niezapominajka”  
ul. Torowa 7  
tel. (+48) 454 28 55  
[zpo.opole.pl](http://zpo.opole.pl)

### CINEMAS

#### Helios Opole

pl. Kopernika 17  
tel. (+48) 77 402 50 30  
[helios.pl/17,Opole/StronaGlowna/](http://helios.pl/17,Opole/StronaGlowna/)

#### Kino Meduza

ul. Wojska Polskiego 2-4/82  
[opolskielamy.pl/struktura/sekcja/174/](http://opolskielamy.pl/struktura/sekcja/174/)

#### Młodzieżowy Dom Kultury /Kino Studio

ul. Strzelców Bytomskich 1  
tel. (+48) 77 454 27 14  
[mdk.opole.pl](http://mdk.opole.pl)

### THEATRES

#### Opolski Teatr Lalki i Aktora

im. Alojzego Smolki  
ul. Kośnego 2a  
tel. (+48) 77/ 454 23 36  
[teatrlalki.opole.pl](http://teatrlalki.opole.pl)

#### Teatr im. Jana Kochanowskiego

pl. Teatralny 12  
tel. (+48) 77 453 90 82  
[teatropole.pl](http://teatropole.pl)

#### Teatr Eko Studio

ul. Armii Krajowej 4  
tel. (+48) 0 694 956 06  
[teatrekostudio.art.pl](http://teatrekostudio.art.pl)

#### Teatr Jednego Wiersza

ul. Targowa 12  
tel. (+48) 77 454 27 14  
[tjw.art.pl](http://tjw.art.pl)

#### Filharmonia Opolska

im. Józefa Elsnera  
ul. Krakowska 24  
tel. (+48) 77 442 32 70  
[filharmonia.opole.pl](http://filharmonia.opole.pl)

### Muzeums

#### Muzeum Śląska Opolskiego

ul. św. Wojciecha 13  
tel. (+48) (77) 453 66 77  
[muzeum.opole.pl](http://muzeum.opole.pl)

#### Muzeum Wsi Opolskiej w Opolu

ul. Wrocławska 174  
tel. (+48) 77 457 23 49  
[muzeumwsiopolskiej.pl](http://muzeumwsiopolskiej.pl)

#### Muzeum Diecezjalne w Opolu

ul. Kardynała Kominka 1a  
tel. (+48) 77 456 60 15  
[muzeum.diecezja.opole.pl](http://muzeum.diecezja.opole.pl)

#### Centralne Muzeum Jeńców Wojennych

ul. Minorytów 3  
tel. (+48) 77 453 78 72

#### Muzeum Politechniki Opolskiej i lamp rentgenowskich

ul. Prószkowska 76  
tel. (+48) 514 638 097  
[muzeum.po.opole.pl](http://muzeum.po.opole.pl)



### Muzeum Uniwersytetu Opolskiego

pl. Kopernika 11  
tel. (+48) 77 541 5950,  
wew. 5150  
[muzeum.uni.opole.pl](http://muzeum.uni.opole.pl)

## ART GALLERIES

**Galeria Sztuki Współczesnej**  
pl. Teatralny 12  
tel. (+48) 77 402 51 34  
[galeriaopole.pl](http://galeriaopole.pl)

**Galeria Sztuki Autor**  
Rynek 10  
tel. (+48) 77 454 33 53

**Galeria Studzienna**  
ul. Studzienna 3  
tel. (+48) 77 423 19 70  
[brzozowski.pl](http://brzozowski.pl)

**Piwnica Artystyczna  
Miejski Ośrodek Kultury**  
ul. Piastowska 14a  
tel. (+48) 77 451 35 75

**Galeria im. J. Cybisa**  
ul. Ozimska 10  
tel. (+48) 77 454 26 22

**Galeria ZPAP**  
ul. Krakowska 1  
tel. (+48) 77 454 91 56

## DISCOS CLUBS, PUBS

[zpap.opole.pl](http://zpap.opole.pl)  
**Piwiarnia Warka**  
ul. Książąt Opolskich 2-6  
tel. (+48) 77 441 08 40  
[piwiarniawarka.opole.pl](http://piwiarniawarka.opole.pl)

**Pub Szara Willa**  
ul. Oleska 11  
tel. (+48) 77 441 45 73  
[szarawilla.pl/pub](http://szarawilla.pl/pub)

**Melon Pub**  
Mały Rynek 17  
tel. (+48) 503 068 085  
[melon-pub.pl](http://melon-pub.pl)

**Pub Laboratorium**  
Rynek 4-6  
tel. (+48) 77 453 92 67

**Aqarium music Club**  
ul. Franciszkańska 1  
tel. (+48) 77 4410872  
[aqarium.opole.pl](http://aqarium.opole.pl)

**Pub Studio 13**  
ul. Szpitalna 13  
tel. (+48) 77 4472300  
[szpitalna13.pl](http://szpitalna13.pl)

**Highlander Pub**  
ul. Szpitalna 3  
tel. (+48) 77 456 55 28  
[pl-pl.facebook.com/highlander.klub](http://pl-pl.facebook.com/highlander.klub)

**Klub u Papy Musiola**  
ul. Zamkowa 4  
tel. (+48) 512 245 071  
[pl-pl.facebook.com/klubupapymusiola](http://pl-pl.facebook.com/klubupapymusiola)

**Press Cafe Radiowa**  
ul. Strzelców Bytomskich 8  
tel. (+48) 77 401 31 50  
[radiowa.opole.pl](http://radiowa.opole.pl)

**Drake Club**  
ul. Grunwaldzka 42  
tel. (+48) 77 454 92 44  
[drakeclub.pl](http://drakeclub.pl)

**Football Pub**  
ul. Grota Roweckiego 2a-2b  
tel. (+48) 77 44 212 79  
[footballpub.opole.pl](http://footballpub.opole.pl)

**Ludova Bar**  
Mały Rynek 18  
tel. (+48) 77 442 70 76  
[pl-pl.facebook.com/ludovabar](http://pl-pl.facebook.com/ludovabar)

**BIG BEN**  
ul. Luboszycka 11  
tel. (+48) 880 555 050  
[pl-pl.facebook.com/BIG.BEN.Opole](http://pl-pl.facebook.com/BIG.BEN.Opole)

**Senso Dance Club**  
ul. Armii Krajowej 9  
tel. (+48) 600 722 535  
[sensoclub.pl](http://sensoclub.pl)

**K60 Party Club**  
ul. Armii Krajowej 42  
tel. (+48) 605 438 743  
[facebook.com/pages/K60-Party-Club/1449103708686874](http://facebook.com/pages/K60-Party-Club/1449103708686874)

**Cina Club**  
ul. Katowicka 55  
tel. (+48) 694 705 070  
[facebook.com/CinaClub](http://facebook.com/CinaClub)

**Zebra Club**  
ul. Chabrow 31  
tel. (+48) 77 458 12 34  
[zebra.opole.pl](http://zebra.opole.pl)

**Metro Club**  
ul. Niemodlińska 37  
tel. (+48) 77 411 80 00  
[pl-pl.facebook.com/METRO.CLUB.OPOLE](http://pl-pl.facebook.com/METRO.CLUB.OPOLE)

**Centrum Rozrywki Kubatura**  
ul. Oleska 102  
tel. (+48) 603 224 000  
[centrumkubatura.pl](http://centrumkubatura.pl)

**Młodzieżowy Dom Kultury**  
ul. Strzelców Bytomskich 1  
tel. (+48) 77 454 27 14  
[mdk.opole.pl](http://mdk.opole.pl)

**Studenckie Centrum Kultury**  
ul. Katowicka 95  
[sck.uni.opole.pl](http://sck.uni.opole.pl)

## OTHER

**Park Linowy KanYon**  
ul. Korfantego  
tel. (+48) 799 189 189  
[kanyon.pl](http://kanyon.pl)

**Kryta Pływalnia  
Wodna Nuta**  
ul. Prószkowska 96  
tel. (+48) 77 543 36 50  
[mosir.opole.pl/obiekt/kryta-plywalnia-wodna-nuta/](http://mosir.opole.pl/obiekt/kryta-plywalnia-wodna-nuta/)

**Lodowisko Toropol**  
ul. Barlickiego 13  
tel. (+48) 77 454 48 00  
[pl-pl.facebook.com/pages/TOROPOL/278452982167621](http://pl-pl.facebook.com/pages/TOROPOL/278452982167621)

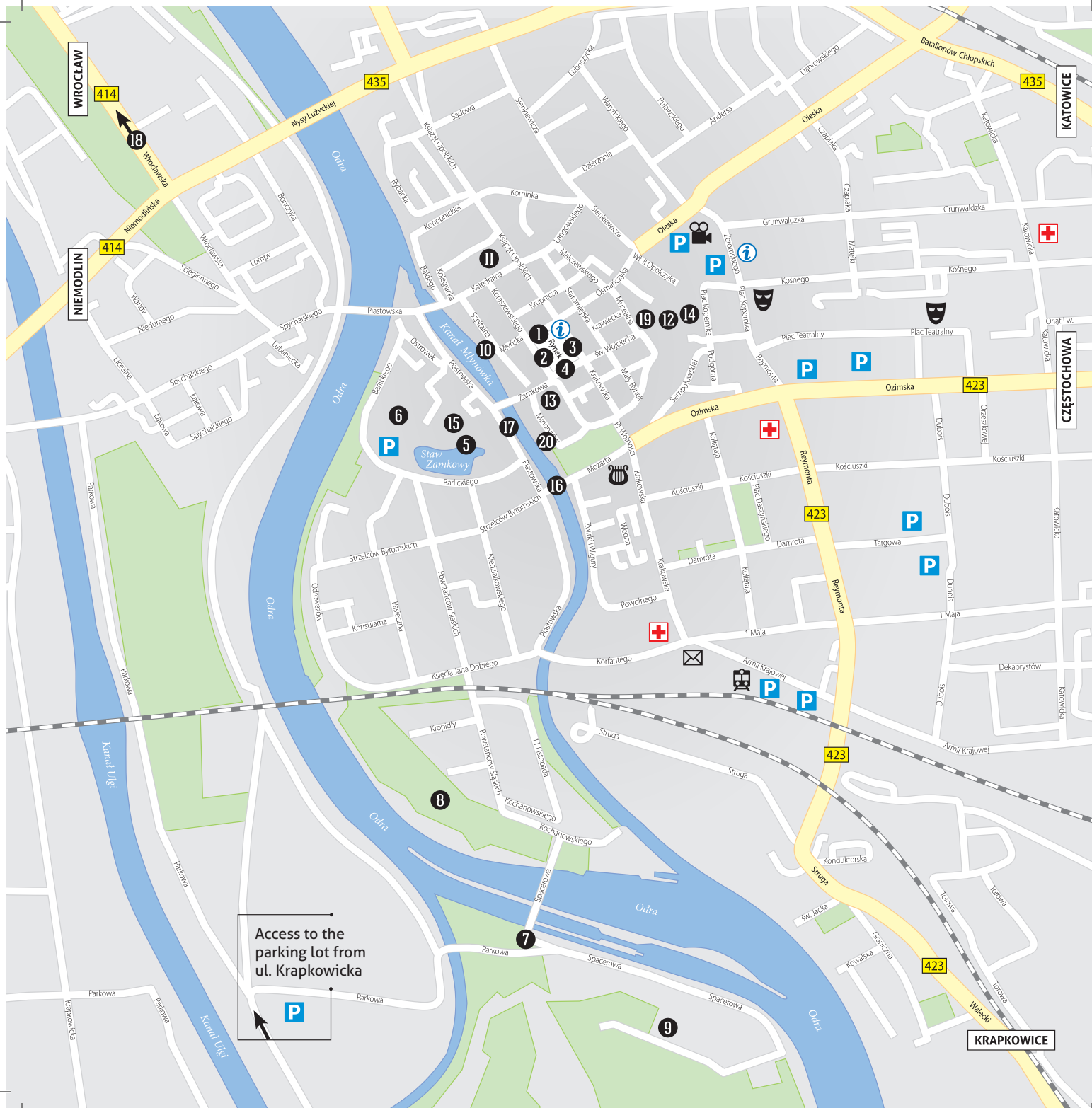
**Centrum Sportu**  
ul. Wandy Rutkiewicz 10  
tel. (+48) 77 543 01 35  
[mosir.opole.pl/obiekt/kompleks-boisk-centrum-sportu/](http://mosir.opole.pl/obiekt/kompleks-boisk-centrum-sportu/)

## LIBRARY

**Miejska Biblioteka Publiczna**  
ul. Minorytów 4  
tel. (+48) 774548030  
[mbp.opole.pl](http://mbp.opole.pl)

## ZOO

**Ogród Zoologiczny Opole**  
Wyspa Bolko  
ul. Spacerowa 10  
tel. (+48) 77 456 42 67  
[zoo.opole.pl](http://zoo.opole.pl)



Access to the  
parking lot from  
ul. Krapkowicka



## Legend

- |                                |                                   |
|--------------------------------|-----------------------------------|
| 1 Market square                | 11 Cathedral                      |
| 2 City Hall                    | 12 Church "on the hill"           |
| 3 Avenue of Polish Music Stars | 13 Franciscan Church              |
| 4 The tenements                | 14 University and University hill |
| 5 Castle pond                  | 15 Piast Tower                    |
| 6 Millennium Amphitheatre      | 16 Penny Bridge                   |
| 7 Bolko Island                 | 17 Promenades on the Młynówka     |
| 8 Oder Park                    | 18 Museum of Opole's Countryside  |
| 9 Zoo                          | 19 Museum of Opole Silesia        |
| 10 Opolse Venice               | 20 Municipal Public Library       |

 Tourist Information Centre

 Hospitals

 Railway Station

 Post Office

 Philharmonic

 Cinema

 Theatres

 Parking

### In Opole everything plays music!

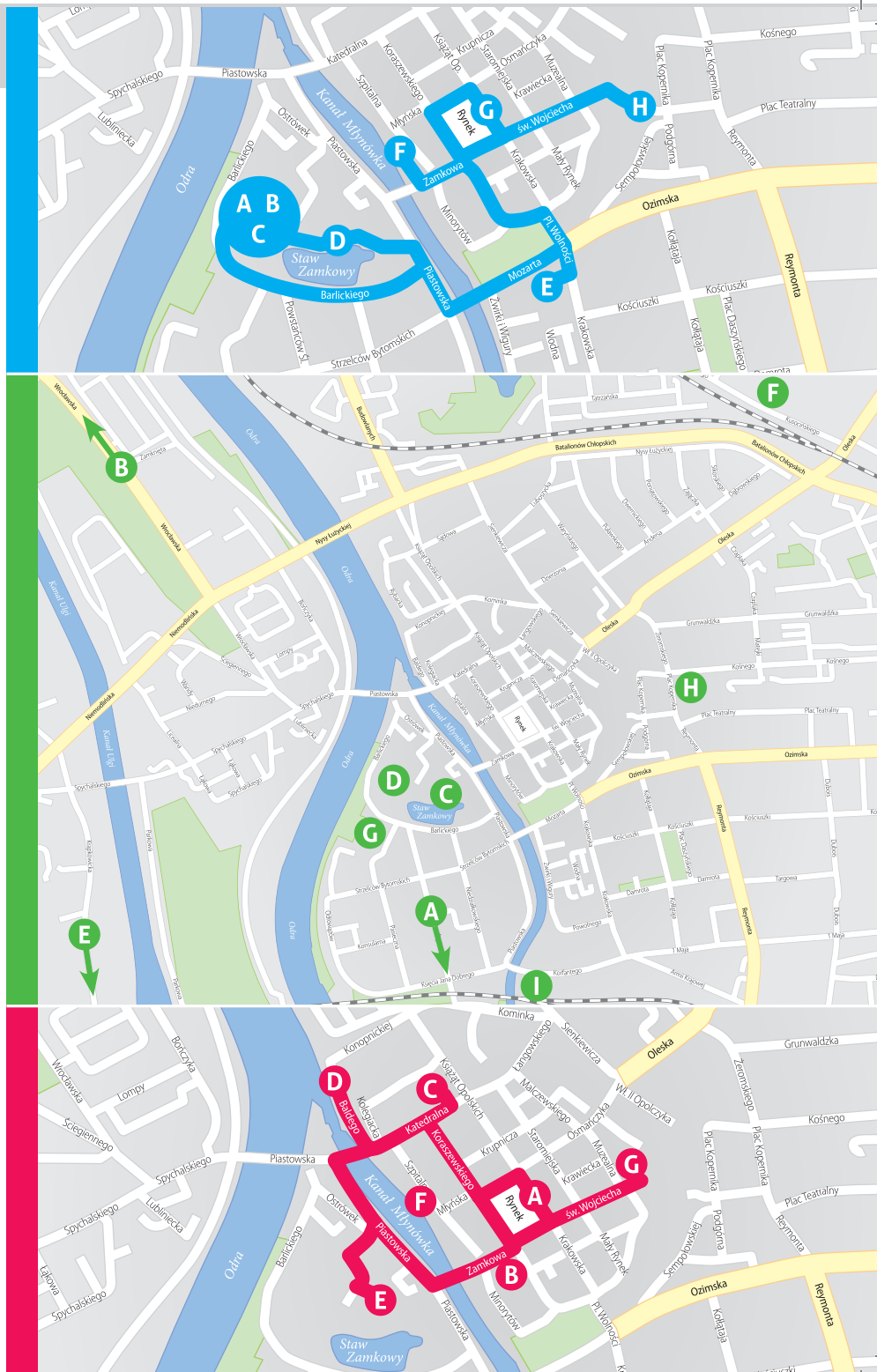
**A.** Amphitheatre **B.** Museum of Polish Song **C.** Grygolonas and Święcicki Passage **D.** Castle pond **E.** Philharmonic **F.** Statue of Karol Musiot **G.** Avenue of Polish Music Stars **H.** Artists' Square

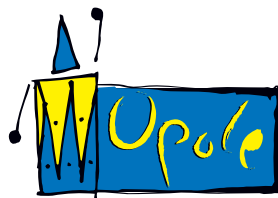
### The Capital of Polish Song – a family-friendly city

**A.** Zoo **B.** Museum of Opole's Countryside **C.** Castle pond **D.** Museum of Polish Song **E.** "Wodna Nuta" indoor swimming pool **F.** "Błękitna Fala" swimming pool complex **G.** "Toropol" artificial ice rink **H.** Puppet and Actor's Theatre **I.** "Kanyon" ropes park

### A city of many references

**A.** Market **B.** Franciscan Church **C.** Cathedral **D.** Defensive walls **E.** Piast Tower **F.** Opole Venice **G.** Museum of Opole Silesia





### Opole Town Hall

Rynek-Ratusz, 45-015 Opole

tel. (+48) 77 45 11 800

[www.opole.pl](http://www.opole.pl) [Facebook/MiastoOpole](https://www.facebook.com/MiastoOpole)

### City Tourist Information Office

Rynek 23, 45-015 Opole

tel. (+48) 77 451 19 87

*Cover photo*

*Sławomir Mielnik / flying images*

