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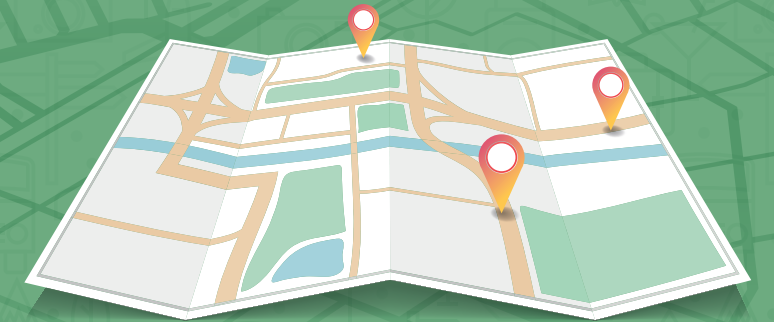


OPOLE **ATTRACTIONS**



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Attractions



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The Town Hall

The Opole Town Hall - the seat of the city authorities - is modelled on the Florentine Vecchio Palace. The current, Neo-Renaissance building was erected in 1864 and partially in 1936. Its most distinct feature is the 65-metre tower, from which the city anthem can be heard every day.

The Town Square

The dignified Opole Town Hall is surrounded by charming, pastel-coloured houses rebuilt after the war damage. Centuries ago, the Town Square used to be the place of all types of trade conducted from stall and booths. There was a pillory in the Opole Town Square in the 18th century, at which a peasant rebel, Marek of Jemielnica, was flogged and then banished from the city.



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Zoological Garden

The Zoological Garden is the most important attraction of the Bolko Island. This place is a green land of serenity, inhabited by over 3800 animals from all parts of the world. They include giraffes, red pandas, cougars, zebras, ant-eaters and numerous species of monkeys and prosimians, e.g. lemurs and gorillas. You will also find here a pool with the California sea lions. At certain times, you can also watch feeding shows for some animals.

Polish Song Museum

The legendary Millennium Amphitheatre in Opole houses a museum with state-of-the-art equipment and multimedia. Its exhibits paint a picture of Polish music from the 1920s onward. Fans of the famous Opole festivals can find information there on every edition of the event, as well as many original props and costumes used by performers, with an option to try them on in the virtual dressing room as well.



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Millennium Amphitheatre – The National Centre of Polish Song

The legendary Millennium Amphitheatre has hosted the Polish Song Festival - one of the oldest European festivals and the largest popular music event in Poland - since 1963. The festival is why Opole is known as the Capital of Polish Song. The musical hallmark of Opole is managed by the National Centre of Polish Song, which hosts concerts all year round.

Polish Song Walk of Fame

Located in front of the City Hall entrance, the Polish Song Walk of Fame has been growing in length since 2004. The Walk is expanded to include new bronze plaques and autographs of performers, composers and songwriters every year. Today, it has over fifty of them. Artists such as Czesław Niemen, Maryla Rodowicz, Edyta Górniak, Edyta Geppert, Ewa Demarczyk, Kora, Kayah, Marek Grechuta, Wojciech Młynarski, and Irena Santor have their stars here.



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Alojzy Smolka Opole Doll and Actor Theatre

It is one of the oldest Polish doll theatres. It was established in 1937 by Alojzy Smolka, whose name it now bears. It is classified among the best doll stages in Poland. The facility does not only stage plays for children and youth, but also for adult viewers. The building of the Opole Theatre is a masterpiece of modern architecture.

Jan Kochanowski Theatre

The Jan Kochanowski Theatre has operated in its current form and location since 1975. Its predecessor as a professional Polish theatre in Opole was founded in 1945, however, known then as the Juliusz Słowacki Municipal Theatre. The Opole theatre building houses four scenes. This place is famous for organizing one of the largest theatre festivals in Poland - the Opole Theatre Confrontations 'Polish Classics', held annually since the Theatre's foundation (with a single break in 1922).



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The Opole Philharmonic

The facility was formally founded in 1972. Earlier on, in 1947, the first professional orchestra was established in Opole. It was transformed into the Regional Symphonic Orchestra in 1952, and into the Polish Symphonic Orchestra five years later. In 1969, the orchestra was named after Józef Elsner - Polish composer of German descent and mentor to Frederic Chopin. The building is witness to world-class performances by conductors, composers and soloists from around the globe, and the Opole Philharmonic Symphonic Orchestra takes part in prestigious cultural events in Poland and abroad.

Modern Art Gallery

For years, the facility has presented modern pieces and interesting artistic phenomena for years now, both when it comes to Polish and international works. The Gallery promotes works by young artists and modern classics alike. Artists such as Władysław Hasior, Edward Dwurnik, Jerzy Duda-Grac, Zdzisław Beksiński, Józef Szajna and Jerzy Grotowski have displayed their works at the gallery over its decades of existence. Regular events hosted by the Gallery include the Ars Polonia biennial event and the World Press Photo exhibition, which draws thousands of visitors every year.



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University Hill

This lovely spot houses modern sculptures of people whose art or lives had an impact on the city. Along with Osiecka, Niemen and Grechuta - the greatest stars of Opole festivals - there is also a monument devoted to songwriter Jonasz Kofta, the great theatre reformer Jerzy Grotowski, who worked in Opole for several years, as well as publicist, political scientist, MP and Senator, Edmund Osmańczyk.

Hilltop Castle

The Hilltop Castle used to stand inside the mediaeval city walls, situated near the Gosławice Gate. Its name comes from the name of the hill it is located on, which was the highest point in the city. Erected between 1382 and 1387 by the order of Prince Vladislaus II of Opole, the castle is one of the most mysterious buildings in the city. The only part that survived to this day is the Gothic castle tower. To access it, one had to cross a bridge hanging above a moat.



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City Public Library

It is not only a space to borrow a book - this is where meetings, literary, art and education discussions take place. The building put to use in 2011 was awarded on multiple occasions during national architectural competitions. It attracts everyone's attention - particularly with the fragments of Edward Stachura's favourite poems written on the graphite façade.

Opole Silesia Museum

This institution was founded in 1900 as the Municipal Museum in Opole. Today, the Opole museum means interesting temporary exhibitions and interesting permanent exhibitions presenting Opole and Opole Silesia in a nutshell. It houses a diorama of 18th-century Opole, a collection of unique archaeological findings from an ancient settlement in Ostrówek, lovely Tułowice ceramics and a collection of works by Jan Cybis. The Museum of Opole Silesia is a facility with rich collections in the fields of: archaeology, ethnography, history, art history and natural sciences.



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Opole Rural Museum

The Bierkowice open-air museum tells a story of an 18th-20th century rural Opole Voivodeship. Apart from completely reconstructed farmsteads, you will also find here a church, a village school, a tavern and a smithy, charming chapels and two beautiful windmills. All of the constructions are made from wood. This is the only open-air museum in the Opole Silesia, and one of four of this type located within the historical borders of Silesia.

Bolko Island

The oasis of serenity and beautiful nature, 'green lungs' of the city. Perfect for strolls, bicycle rides and all other types of open-air activity. It has been the municipal park since 1910. The ZOO as well as a café are located on the island. It is bordered by the Oder from the north and the east, by the flood control channel from the west, and by what remains of the Wiński Channel from the north-west.



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Opole's Venice on the Młynówka Channel

The Opole's Venice was constructed on the foundations of the former defensive walls, at the picturesque Młynówka Channel. The boulevard runs from the Cathedral Bridge to the Castle Bridge. Młynówka consists of the old Oder River bed, which got its name from the mills built along its course. Thanks to the climatic lighting, the historic tenement houses look at their best in the evening.

Grosz Bridge – "Little Green Bridge"

One of the most beautiful pedestrian bridges in Poland, situated in a charming part of Opole. Its name comes from the toll of PLN 0.01 (1 grosz) collected for passing. The double span Grosz Bridge is characterized by an Art Nouveau form (floral ornaments). For years, hundreds of metal padlocks bearing names and initials of couples have been attached to it, giving it the name of the Lovers' Bridge.



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Oder Park

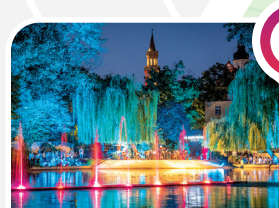
The picturesque alleys built along the Oder River, banks, fields, greenery, open-air gym - all of this awaits to be found in the Oder Park, also known as the Oder boulevard. A playground, open-air stage or climbing wall are also present here. A tourist boat also docks at the Oder boulevard, and visitors can rent kayaks. The sculpture of Juno hidden in the park is a real artistic treat. Its first version was made in 1857 to promote the first Opole cement plant, owned by Friedrich Grundmann, and was a faithful reproduction of the marble sculpture standing in Rome's Villa Ludovisi.

Piast Tower

One of the oldest defensive architecture facilities in Poland, and the city symbol. It is 35 metres tall, about 42 m with the mast. It is located at the so called Opole Ostrówek, and it was most likely built at the end of the 13th or in mid-14th century. It is the sole remainder of the former Piast Castle, taken down in 1928. A view over the whole City of Opole from the tower is worthy of the climb on its stairs.



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Castle Pond

The lovely pond is all that is left from what used to be a moat around the Piast Castle and the adjacent park. Formerly, boats used to float on the pond in summer, whereas in winter it was used as an ice rink. In 1909, the wooden Ice House was made at the pond, where the Polish Tourist and Sightseeing Society (PTTK) and the Sightseeing House had their offices after the Second World War. Currently the greatest summer attraction is the musical fountain. Popular Polish can be heard from the speakers, with the fountain spouting water and lights dancing to their rhythm.

Tenement House

The Tenement House (Museum of Opole Silesia), located at 9 Św. Wojciecha street showcases five flats spanning all furniture styles which were in vogue between 1890 and 1965. In addition to furniture, kitchen equipment and other miscellaneous things present in every household, various types of heating are also presented, including masonry heaters and cast iron heaters. Also presented are hygiene items.



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Opole Cathedral

The Saint Cross Cathedral is one of the most characteristic historic buildings in Opole. It overlooks the city with its two high towers, each 76 m tall. The present-day cathedral was built in the 15th century, on the spot where churches had been constructed in the 11th and 13th century, respectively. The first church was built here probably at the time of Bolesław Chrobry. The Holy Mother of Opole painting is present in the cathedral, brought to the city from Piekary Śląskie in 1702.

Church 'on the Hill'

That is the Lady of Sorrows and St. Adalbert's Church, is the oldest and the most popular Roman Catholic church in Poland. According to a legend, it was built at a place where St. Adalbert gave his sermons sometime between 984 and 995. It includes, among others, a 17th century painting presenting the legendary stay of St. Adalbert in Opole, or Immaculate Conception of the B.V.M. painting from the same century.



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Franciscan Church

The Gothic Church of Holy Trinity was constructed in the 14th century. The fact that it contains the remains of the Piasts of Opole makes it one of the most valuable monuments of the city. What is more, the church contains the oldest Gothic fresco preserved in Silesia, dating from 1320. During the Swedish invasion the King Jan Kazimierz had his office at the Opole monastery. It was here, in the monastery refectory, where the so-called royal universal was announced in 1655, calling on the Polish nation to rise against the Swedes.

