



SZCZECIN

MINI-GUIDE



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Szczecin on the Map

Szczecin – the capital of the Zachodniopomorskie Voivodeship – is located in north-western Poland near the mouth of the River Oder [Odra] and Szczecin Lagoon [Zalew Szczeciński], 65 km from the coast of the Baltic Sea, around 130 km from Berlin, 274 km from Copenhagen, 454 km from Stockholm, 507 km from Prague and 516 km from Warsaw. Szczecin is situated in the very centre of the historic cross-border region of Pomerania.

The city spans across 300.8 km², of which 41.8% are green areas and 23.8% is water. The largest reservoir is Lake Dąbie - the only one in Poland accessible to sea-going boats - covering an area of 65 km². The average elevation of Szczecin is 25 m above the sea level and the highest hills in the city are Beech Hill [Bukowiec] and Veleti Mount [Wielecka Góra] (147 and 131 m).

A large part of the city is a protected area, including parks, wildlife reserves, natural and scenic areas, ecological grounds, natural monuments and 230 archaeological sites.

Szczecin is divided into four major districts: North [Północ], West [Zachód], Centre [Śródmieście] and Right Bank [Prawobrzeże]. The districts consist of smaller separate settlements, many of which – such as Dąbie – were independent towns in the past. Most tourist attractions in the city are located in its Centre.



History of Szczecin

The oldest traces of human presence within the area of today's Szczecin date back to the Palaeolithic period, around 10,000 years BC, and the traces of permanent settlement - to the Neolithic period, around 4,200 years BC.



G. Braun, F. Hogenberg, *Bird's eye view of Szczecin from the west (Alten Stettin)*, circa 1590, copperplate, colour

During the dominance of the Lusitanian culture, until approx. 400 BC, the population was growing significantly.

In Ptolemy's „Geography” dating back to 162, the nation of Sidini inhabiting the land around the mouth of the River Oder was mentioned.

In the 9th century, a fortified settlement, which turned into a Slavonic town in the 10th century, was built on the Castle Hill; until the 11th century it was a merchants' republic.

In a document called „Dagome iudex” issued in 992, the „river-side state of Schinesghe” described as a feud belonging to the Polish duke Mieszko I was mentioned.

When Szczecin separated from Poland and regained independence in 1005, its citizens returned to the old pagan religion - the main cult centre of god Triglav was located on Castle Hill.

In 1121, Polish duke Bolesław Wrymouth [*Bolesław Krzywousty*] conquered Szczecin and annexed it to Poland, which was confirmed with a papal edict issued in 1140, describing the borders of the duchy of Pomerania.

In 1124, Otto, the bishop of Bamberg, carried out a Christian mission across Pomerania. The temple of Triglav was destroyed and replaced by a church, the first in Szczecin and a mansion of duke Warcisław I. This event is often considered to be the beginning of the duchy under the rule of the House of Griffith.

In 1185, duke Bogusław I paid homage to the German emperor, Frederick Barbarossa, and subsequently - as a result of the Danish invasion - recognized the suzerainty of King Canute I. The Duchy of Pomerania remained under Danish influence until 1227.

In 1243, duke Barnim I granted town privileges based on the Magdeburg law to Szczecin.

In the 13th and 14th century

Szczecin developed very quickly: after entering the Hanseatic League it became an important centre for grain and herring trade. Under the reign of duke Bogusław X, which began in 1474, the unification of the divided Duchy of Pomerania and - thanks to the duke's marriage to Princess Anna Jagellon [*Anna Jagiellonka*] - rapprochement to Poland took place. In 1637, Bogusław XIV, the last duke of the Griffith dynasty, died childless. The Thirty Years' War (1618-1648) weakened Szczecin greatly; in 1630, the town was taken over by the army of king Gustavus Adolphus of Sweden.



Under the Swedish occupation Szczecin was turned into a huge fortified military base.

Further wars between Sweden and Brandenburg devastated the city. In 1720, as result of Sweden losing the Great Northern War, Szczecin was acquired by Prussia. In 1724, extensive construction works of new fortifications around the city commenced.

In 1729, princess Sophia Anhalt zu Zerbst, a future Empress of Russia, Catherine II, was born in Szczecin.

Between 1806-1813 Szczecin was under Napoleon's occupation.

In the 19th century, Szczecin experienced a very rapid economic and spatial development, in particular of its harbour and shipyard industry. In 1826, steam navigation of the River Oder was initiated. In 1843, a rail link to Berlin was opened. In 1873, it was decided that the fortress status of Szczecin would be abolished and city walls would be demolished. In 1894, construction works of a new duty free harbour complex commenced. At the turn of the 19th and 20th centuries, a new urban layout of the city was designed. Between 1902-1921, monumental Haken's Terraces, today's Chrobry Embankment [*Wąw Chrobrego*], were built.

The period following World War I was tough on Szczecin's harbour and industry. The crisis was overcome after 1933, when the Nazi Party came to power. In 1940, „Great Szczecin” was formed by the annexation of the neighbouring villages and towns (Dąbie, Police) to the city. During World War II, the economy of Szczecin was ancillary to the military needs of the Third Reich.

Between 1943-1945, part of the city, including the harbour and shipyards, was destroyed during carpet bombings carried out by the Allies.

In 1945, Szczecin was seized by the Red Army. The city was handed over to Poland under the terms agreed during the Potsdam Conference. Although Polish administration was established, a number of enclaves within the city borders remained under the sole control of the Soviets. These existed until 1955, when the entire harbour area finally was handed over to the Polish authorities. The reconstruction of the city was hindered by war destruction, unclear political situation and the dismantling of industrial infrastructure.

In December 1970, the workers' protests against the communist authorities broke out; they were violently suppressed.

In August 1980, after numerous strikes in Szczecin Shipyard, the „August Agreement” between the Inter-Enterprise Strike Committee and communist authorities of Poland was signed. In December 1981, martial law was proclaimed.

In 1988, a strike broke out, leading to the Polish Round Table Agreement. In 1990, the first democratic election to the City Council was carried out.



Ruins of the Old Town



Ludwig Eduard Lütke, *Panorama of Szczecin, overlooking the castle*, 1836, oil/canvas



View of Szczecin, the interwar period



Nightlife in communist Poland - Szczecin as a Polish window to the world. Catering and Entertainment Complex „Kaskada”, 1960s



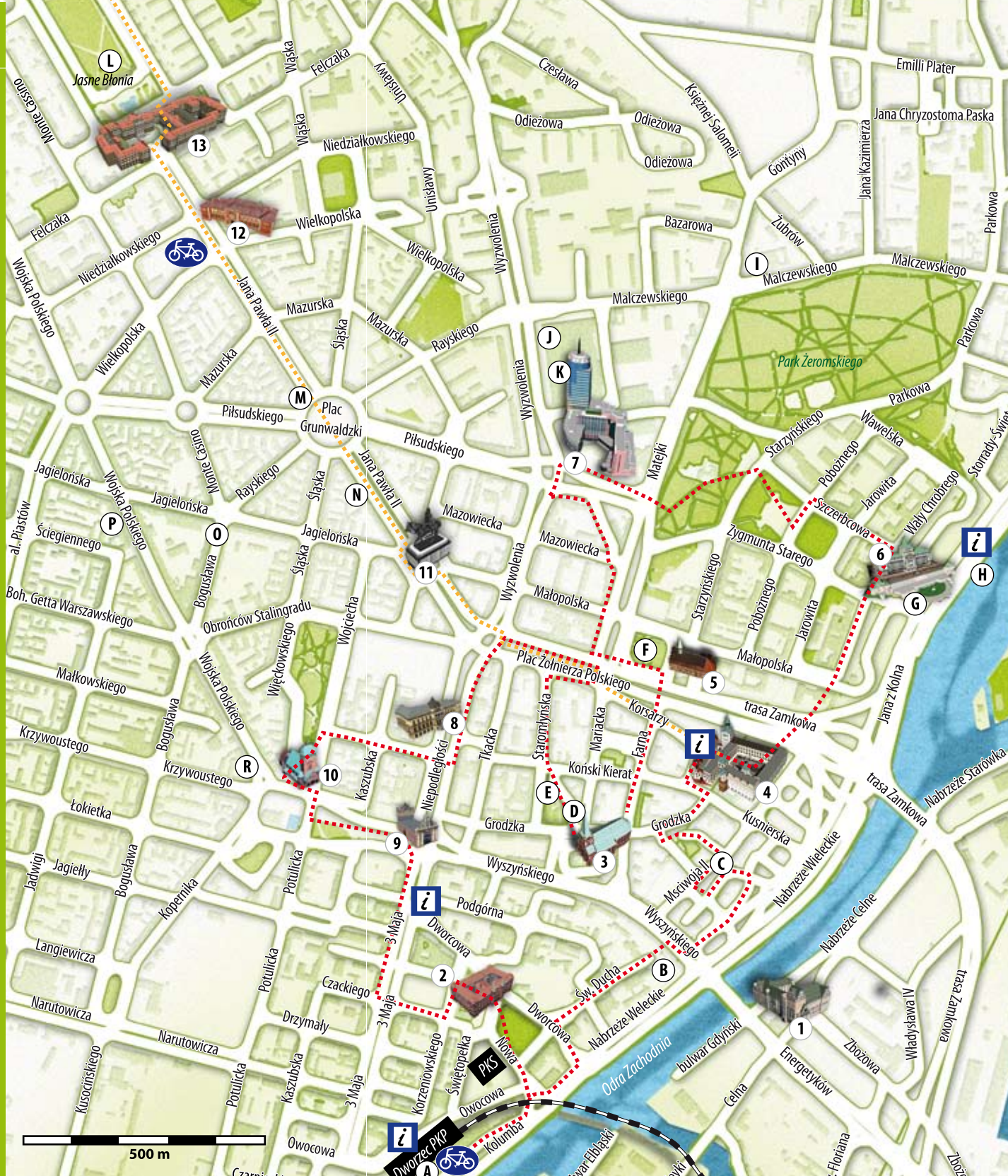
Contemporary flag of Szczecin



Official promotional logo of Szczecin

Popular places

- 1** Urząd Celny (Duty office)
- 2** The Red Town Hall
- 3** St. Jacob's Cathedral
- 4** Pomeranian Dukes' Castle
- 5** Basilica of Sts. Peter and Paul
- 6** Maritime Museum
- 7** PAZIM
- 8** Bank PKO
- 9** Harbour Gate
- 10** Most Holy Heart of Lord Jesus Sanctuary
- 11** Plac Lotników
- 12** Chancellor's Office of Szczecin University
- 13** CityHall
- A** Szczecin Underground/ Main Railway Station
- B** St. John the Evangelist Church
- C** Old City Town Hall / City Museum
- D** St. Jacob's Cathedral Tower – view point
- E** Plac Orła Białego
- F** December Victims Monument
- G** Wały Chrobrego
- H** Water trips and the hydrofil running to the seaside
- I** Eureka experiment centre
- J** Galaxy shopping centre
- K** Café 22 – cafeteria located on the 22 floor of the tallest building in Szczecin
- L** Kasprów Park / viewing area / Amphitheatre
- M** Orion Squares – the star-shaped squares of Szczecin
- N** Fountain Avenue
- O** Deptak Bogusława (Bogusław Promenade)
- P** The oldest pasty restaurant
- R** PIONIER – The oldest cinema in the world
- i** Information Tourist Point
- bicycle icon** Bike rentals
- red dotted line** City Tourist Route ("Red Route")
- orange dotted line** Golden Route



500 m

Sightseeing Around Szczecin

It would be best to start your sightseeing around Szczecin with a visit to one of the tourist information centres, where you will learn about current cultural events, buy tickets to museums, concerts and theatres, as well as obtain a city map, leaflets and brochures which would be helpful to you during your stay.

There are three tourist information centres operating in Szczecin: in Pomeranian Dukes' Castle [Zamek Książąt Pomorskich], near Harbour Gate [Brama Portowa] – opposite the Ibis and Accor hotels and on the wharf below Chrobry Embankment [Waly Chrobrego]. In the high season, an additional tourist information point is open at Szczecin Central Railway Station.

The most convenient way to explore Szczecin is on foot. Most historic buildings and other places of interest are located in the city centre, on the left bank of River Oder. Attractions situated outside the centre are easily accessible by bike, public transport or car.

There are two routes facilitating sightseeing around the city: the City Tourist Route and the Golden Route. The first one is a walking route, the other one is intended for walkers and cyclists.

Moving around Szczecin by bike is becoming easier and easier due to the ongoing expansion of bicycle paths and parking spaces for two-wheelers.

A map of six bicycle routes around Szczecin and recreational areas on the outskirts of the city is available at the tourist information centres.

More information: "Rowerowy Szczecin" Association, www.roverowy.szczecin.pl

A network of tram and bus lines covers the whole of Szczecin, as well as the nearby town of Police. Tram lines and regular bus lines are marked with numbers, and express bus lines are marked with letters (the express bus tickets are more expensive, plus express buses do not stop at every bus stop). Night bus lines are marked with black signs.

While using public transport, remember that in Szczecin time tickets are in use – they are valid regardless of the number of transfers to other means of transport. The travel time is counted from the moment the ticket is punched. The cost of 20-minute ticket is 2.20 PLN (concession ticket fare: 1.10 PLN).

Public transport tickets can be purchased at press-stands (not all!), Municipal Road and Transport Company [Zarząd Dróg i Transportu Miejskiego] ticket offices (terminal and junction stops) and from vending machines. It is also possible to buy a ticket with the use of mobile phone (see www.zditm.szczecin.pl/mobilet.php).

Moving around Szczecin by car should not cause much difficulty. Rush hour in Szczecin is not as onerous as in other Polish cities.

If entering the city centre by car, remember about the Payable Parking Zone. It consists of three sub-zones (A – red, B – yellow, C – green). The parking fee depends on the parking time and is the highest in the red zone. The fees are paid at parking meters. The minimum charge to be paid for parking in the Zone area is 0.30 PLN.



If time is an issue, using a taxi may be a convenient way to move around Szczecin. You can control and reduce your travel expenses as long as you remember that: 1) the area of Szczecin is huge, so checking – in advance – on the city map the distance you want to cover would be a good idea, 2) ordering a taxi by phone is much more cost-effective than boarding one at a taxi stop. In most cases you will only have to pay for the ride (ordering a taxi by phone would be free of charge).

Taxis in Szczecin are not uniformly decorated yet, still, there are plans to do so in the near future. Apart from the "TAXI" sign on the roof, cars are usually marked with company colours and a logo.

Szczecin Tourist Card

The Szczecin Tourist Card is a discount card and a public transport ticket in one. It is available in two options: 24-hours and 3-days. It can be purchased at the tourist information centres.

More information at www.turystyka.szczecin.pl and www.szczecin.eu



City Tourist Route

The City Tourist Route is a 7-km-long loop which connects 42 sites – the most interesting monuments and places worth seeing. The idea behind the route was to commemorate the 750th anniversary of granting town privileges to Szczecin.

The route is marked by an easily found red dotted line painted on the pavement, and thus the common name of the trail is the "Red Route". Numbers in circles act as supplementary signs corresponding to each site on the route. Near to each number an information board with a detailed description of the object is either suspended on the wall of the building or standing alone. A pocket guidebook published in various languages, including a map of the route, can be purchased at the tourist information centres, the local seat of Polish Tourist and Sightseeing Society and in bookstores.

The route begins and ends in front of the Szczecin Central Railway Station.



Golden Route

The Golden Route leads from the Pomeranian Dukes' Castle through Żółnierzka Polskiego Square, Papieża Jana Pawła II Avenue, Grunwaldzki Circus, Bright Greens [Jasne Błonia] and farther – through Kasprowicz Park [Park Kasprowicza] with Undine Lake [Jeziorko Rusalka] to Arkona Forest [Las Arkoński] and Deep Lake [Jeziorko Głębokie].

On the route you will find convenient bicycle paths and parking spaces for two-wheelers.

The route is marked by signboards with the coat of arms of the city.



The following sites are on the City Tourist Route

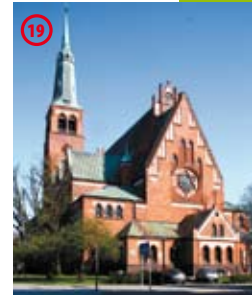
(the numbers correspond to the numbering along the route):

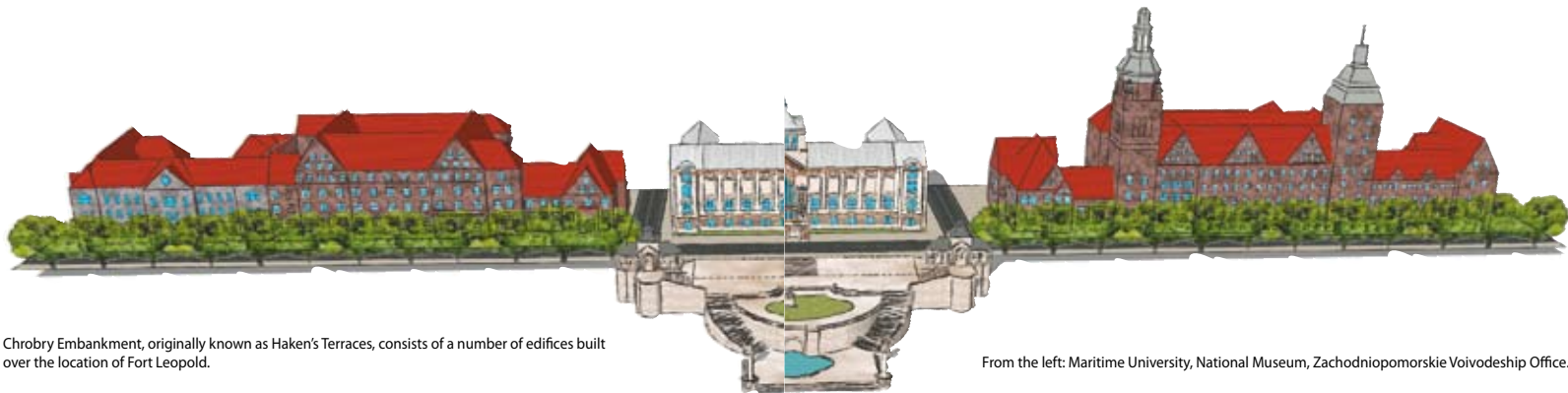
- 1. Central Railway Station** [*Dworzec Główny*], originally Berlin Railway Station; in 1843 the rail link with Berlin initiated the railway story of Pomerania.
- 2. Neo-Renaissance Post Office No. 2**, constructed between 1872-1874; a lobby with a glass ceiling is especially worth seeing.
- 3. Snail Gate Barracks** [*Koszary Bramy Ślimaczej*], currently the seat of an insurance company.
- 4.** The only remnant of medieval **city walls**.
- 5. Gothic Church of St. John the Evangelist** [*Kościół św. Jana Ewangelisty*], built by Grey Friars in the 14th century; interesting 15th century paintings can be seen inside.
- 6.** Once bascule, the **Long Bridge** [*Most Długi*] built in 1959, replaced the Hansa Bridge. On the opposite bank of the river, an edifice of the **Customs Office** [*Urząd Celnny*] can be seen.
- 7. Old Town Hall** [*Ratusz Staromiejski*] rebuilt in Gothic style, houses the Museum of the City of Szczecin
- 8.** Late-Gothic **Loitz House** [*Kamienica Loitzów*], originally belonging to an influential family of merchants and bankers, currently houses the High School of Fine Arts.
- 9. Pomeranian Dukes' Castle** [*Zamek Książąt Pomorskich*] – once a seat of the House of Griffith, a Pomeranian ducal dynasty. The first mansion on Castle Hill was built by duke Barnim III (the so-called "Stone House"). In the 16th century, the castle gained a Renaissance shape. During World War II it was significantly damaged. The current form of the Castle is a result of a post-war reconstruction. Presently, the Castle houses the Zachodniopomorskie Voivodeship Marshall's Office as well as cultural institutions: an opera, a museum and art galleries.
- 10. Ducal Stable and Manege** [*Stajnia i ujeżdżalnia książęca*] – a timber-framed building dating back to the 17th century with a decorative portal, currently the seat of the Institute of German Studies of the University of Szczecin.
- 11. Maiden Tower or Seven Coats Tower** [*Baszta Panieńska, Baszta Siedmiu Płaszczy*] – a relic of medieval city walls, previously also used as a prison.
- 12. Castle Route Bridge** [*Trasa Zamkowa*] came into use in 1996 and is a convenient observation point for the Castle Boroughs, Chrobry Embankment and the harbour.
- 13. Maritime University** [*Akademia Morska*] occupies two buildings situated on the Chrobry Embankment [*Waly Chrobrego*; prior to World War II: *Hakenterrasse* – Haken's Terraces] built over the location of Fort Leopold. The southern building erected between 1902-1905 housed an insurance company, the northern one built between 1918-1921 was the seat of the Customs Directorate.
- 14. National Museum** [*Muzeum Narodowe*] is located in the central part of Chrobry Embankment. The building, designed by Wilhelm Meyer-Schwartau and erected between 1907-1913 housed the City Museum (from 1913). Currently it is the seat of the Maritime Museum and Współczesny Theatre.
- 15. Zachodniopomorskie Voivodeship Office** [*Zachodniopomorski Urząd Wojewódzki*], situated in the northern part of Chrobry Embankment, was built between 1906-1911 as the seat of the authorities of Szczecin Governorate. It is a five-wing edifice with two courtyards, pillared portico and a magnificent main staircase.



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- 16. Monument of Adam Mickiewicz**, unveiled in 1960. Before World War II the location was occupied by a monument of the German Emperor Frederick III.
- 17. PAZIM Complex**, used since 1992, houses offices (including shipping companies), banks, service shops, "Radisson" Hotel and – on the 22nd floor – a café and an observation deck.
- 18.** Baroque **Royal Gate** [*Brama Królewska*] was built between 1725-1727 as part of Szczecin's fortifications.
- 19. Church of St. Peter and St. Paul** [*Kościół św. Piotra i Pawła*] was built in the mid 15th century, replacing an earlier wooden construction; its walls are decorated with terracotta sculptures of Szczecin townspeople, in the interior there is a wooden ceiling dating back to the early 18th century covered with paintings depicting Biblical scenes.
- 20. Mast of S/S "Kapitan Maciejewicz"** is situated over the location of the City Theatre, demolished after World War II.
- 21. Professors' Houses** [*Domki profesorskie*] were inhabited by lecturers of St. Mary's College.
- 22. St. Mary's School** erected between 1830-1832, currently houses a high school.
- 23. Birthplace of Empress Catherine II of Russia** – in 1729, Sophie Friederike Auguste zu Anhalt-Zerbst, later the wife to Russian Emperor Peter III, known as Catherine the Great, was born here. Currently the building belongs to an insurance company.
- 24. Archcathedral Basilica of St. James** [*Bazylika Archikatedralna św. Jakuba*] – repeatedly remodelled sanctuary founded in 1187. Seriously damaged in 1944, rebuilt in a Gothic form in the 1970s, houses a diocesan museum. A bell cast in 1682, parochial buildings together with a Gothic vicar house dating back to the 15th century can be found in front of the church. In 2008, a new spire was built; inside the tower is an observation desk available for visitors.
- 25.** Baroque **Flora Statue** sculpted in the 18th century depicts a Roman goddess of Spring and yield; originally, it adorned a garden of one of the nearby palaces.
- 26.** Baroque **Fountain with an Eagle** made in 1732.
- 27. Palace under the Globe** [*Pałac Pod Globusem*] was built in the late 19th century, replacing the Grumbkow's Palace dating back to the first half of the 18th century. In 1759, Sophie Dorothea of Württemberg, later wife to the Russian Emperor Paul I, known as Maria Feodorovna, was born here.
- 28. Velthusen's Palace**, also known as **Classicistic Palace** [*Pałac Velthusena, Pałac Klasycystyczny*] built between 1778-1779, currently houses a music school.
- 29. Diets' Palace** [*Pałac Sejmu Stanów Pomorskich*] was erected between 1726-1728. Currently it belongs to the **National Museum**.
- 30. Contemporary Art Gallery and 13 Muses' Club** [*Galeria Sztuki Współczesnej, Klub XIII Muz.*].
- 31.** Plaque commemorating the foundation of Polish scouting in Szczecin.
- 32.** Neo-Baroque **former seat of the Pomeranian Landowners' Bank** (currently: the seat of PKO BP Bank) built between 1893-1895.
- 33. Former seat of the Prussian Royal Post** (currently: Polish Post) was erected between 1901-1905.
- 34.** Neo-Gothic **Church of St. John the Baptist** [*Kościół św. Jana Chrzciciela*], built in 1890 for the Catholic community. Inside the church a plaque commemorating the German Catholic priests murdered by the Nazis can be found.





Chrobry Embankment, originally known as Haken's Terraces, consists of a number of edifices built over the location of Fort Leopold.

From the left: Maritime University, National Museum, Zachodniopomorskie Voivodeship Office.

35. **Children's Hospital** – a complex of buildings erected for the Maternity Institute between 1893-1894, extended in the early 20th century.
36. **Gen. Władysława Andersa Square** – a park situated in an area formerly occupied by a garrison cemetery, a glacial erratic rock with a plaque commemorating French prisoners of Franco-Prussian War (1870-1871).
37. **Church of the Holliest Heart of Jesus Christ** [*Kościół Najświętszego Serca Pana Jezusa*] was built between 1913-1919 as the first edifice in Prussia made entirely of ferro-concrete.
38. **St. Adalbert's Garrison Church** [*Kościół Garnizonowy św. Wojciecha*] – built between 1906-1909, a Neo-Gothic sanctuary with Neo-Romanesque elements, having a 65.5-metre-tall tower.
39. **Monument of Kornel Ujejski** – created in 1901, before World War II it stood in Lvov, was brought to Szczecin and unveiled again in 1957.
40. Baroque **Harbour Gate** [*Brama Portowa*] formerly called the Berlin Gate, erected between 1724-1740, is a relic of fortifications.
41. **New Town Hall or Red Town Hall** [*Nowy Ratusz, Czerwony Ratusz*] – a Neo-Gothic edifice built between 1875-1879 for the municipal authorities; the most famous Mayors of Szczecin: H.Haken and

F.Ackermann used to work here.

42. **Fountain with an Anchor** – its pedestal and basin are the remnants of a fountain designed by L.Manzel, decorated with a group

of sculptures which symbolized Szczecin, the city of sailors and merchants. The main statue was a woman called Sedina, holding a sail and an anchor, standing in a boat with Mercury sitting on its bow. The sculpture was dismantled and disappeared around 1942. Currently, efforts are being made to restore the Sedina fountain.



The following sites are on the Golden Route (the numbers correspond to the numbering along the route):

1. **Monument of Gratitude** [*Pomnik Wdzięczności*] devoted to Soviet soldiers who died in battles throughout Pomerania was unveiled in 1950. Originally it was crowned with a red star, dismantled in the early 1990s.
2. **Lotników Square** and a monument of condottiere Colleoni – a copy of a sculpture standing at one of the squares in Venice, founded in 1913 by one of the manufacturers from Szczecin for the City Museum. In 1948, the statue was carried away to Warsaw; it was returned to Szczecin in 2002.
3. **Avenue of Fountains** [*Aleja Fontann*] – a common name of part of Papieża Jana Pawła II Avenue between Lotników Square and Grunwaldzki Circus.
4. **Monument of a Steersman** [*Pomnik Marynarza-Sternika*]
5. **University of Szczecin President's Office** [*rektorat Uniwersytetu Szczecińskiego*] – erected between 1885-1888 as the seat of a municipal high school.
6. **City Hall** [*Urząd Miejski*] – erected between 1924-1927 as the seat of authorities of the Pomerania Province.
7. **Monument of Pope John Paul II** unveiled in 1995 to commemorate the Holy Father's visit to Szczecin which took place in 1987 and the Holy Mass which he delivered at the Bright Greens [*Jasne Błonia*].
8. **Plane Tree Alleys** running along the Bright Greens.
9. **Monument of the Deed of Poles** [*Pomnik Czynu Polaków*] created in 1979 – three eagles flying up from their nest symbolise three generations of Szczecinians.
10. **Amphitheatre** built between 1974-1976, designed to accommodate up to 4,700 spectators; in the area surrounding the amphitheatre, a few contemporary sculptures can be found.
11. Modernistic **Rose Garden** [*Różanka*], arranged in 1928, restored in 2007, is a place where over a hundred varieties of roses and a fountain with a sculpture of flying geese are to be found.
12. **Seven Mills Valley** [*Dolina Siedmiu Młynów*] – a picturesque spot within Arkona Forest [*Las Arkoński*] located north of Kasprowicz Park [*Park Kasprowicza*].



Szczecin for the active

Szczecin offers excellent conditions to practice various forms of active leisure. Parks and forests situated both in the centre of the city and on its outskirts are perfect for walking, jogging, Nordic walking and cycling. In Beech Woods [*Puszcza Bukowa*] with a picturesque Emerald Lake [*Jeziro Szmaragdowe*] and Wkra Woods [*Puszcza Wkrzańska*] stretching north of Deep Lake [*Jeziro Głębokie*] there are many paths and tracks running through varied terrain and diverse landscapes.

There are four watering places in Szczecin.

Near the watering place on the shore of Deep Lake there is a rope park consisting of three trails of different difficulty, hanging bridges, catwalks, swinging logs, ropes and other obstacles and attractions. www.tarzania.pl

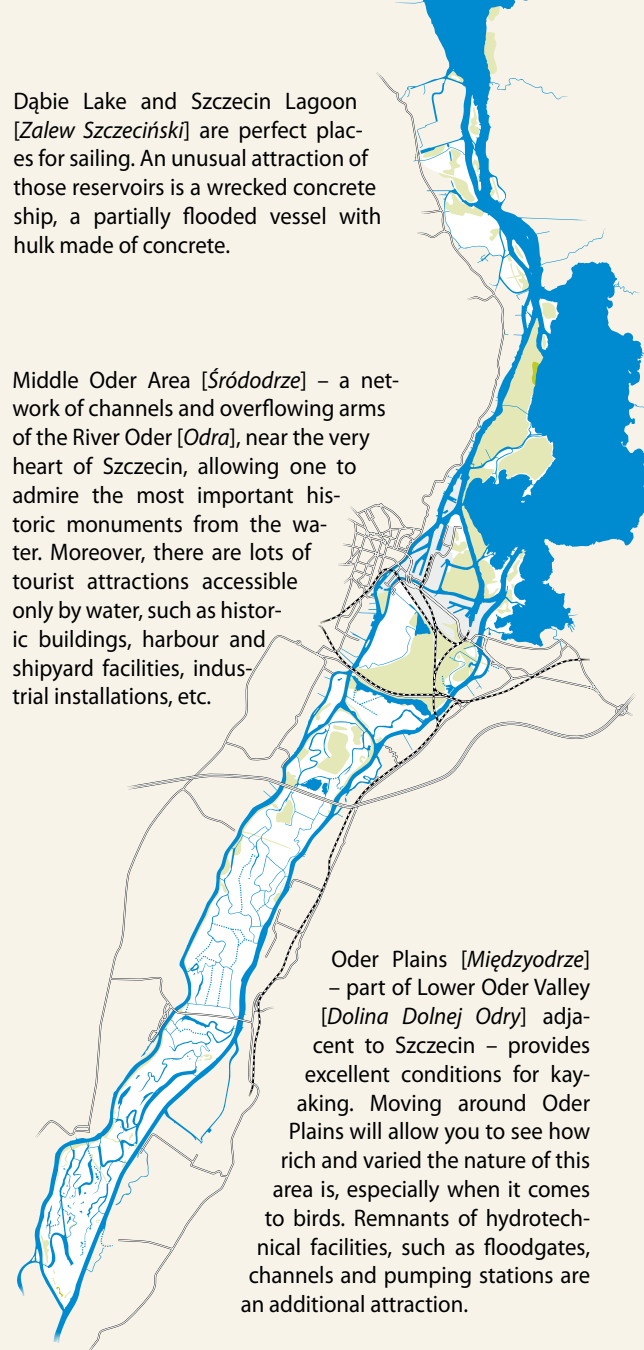
On the city border, at Hakena Roundabout, a modern 527-metre-long karting track was built. There, you may race in one of 20 karts for adults or 10 karts for children. www.silverhotel.pl

In the village of Binowo located in the centre of Beech Woods, only a few kilometres from the city border, a golf club is located with nine- and eighteen-hole park-like course created with the use of the naturally undulating terrain and existing water basins. www.binowopark.pl



Dąbie Lake and Szczecin Lagoon [*Zalew Szczeciński*] are perfect places for sailing. An unusual attraction of those reservoirs is a wrecked concrete ship, a partially flooded vessel with hulk made of concrete.

Middle Oder Area [*Śródotrze*] – a network of channels and overflowing arms of the River Oder [*Odra*], near the very heart of Szczecin, allowing one to admire the most important historic monuments from the water. Moreover, there are lots of tourist attractions accessible only by water, such as historic buildings, harbour and shipyard facilities, industrial installations, etc.



Oder Plains [*Międyzodrze*] – part of Lower Oder Valley [*Dolina Dolnej Odry*] adjacent to Szczecin – provides excellent conditions for kayaking. Moving around Oder Plains will allow you to see how rich and varied the nature of this area is, especially when it comes to birds. Remnants of hydrotechnical facilities, such as floodgates, channels and pumping stations are an additional attraction.



Kayaking Around Szczecin

Would you like to see how amazing Szczecin looks from the water? Just follow the 13-km-long route below!

The starting point is located on Dziewoklicz (a campsite belonging to Polish Tourist and Sightseeing Society or a launch site No. 17). You need to head north, near the left bank. The mainstream of the Oder River is split by Krainka, an island full of greenery. You can easily land on its south end. On the island, there are ruins of a rowing centre. Before World War II, it was a training ground for sappers. After passing a jetty located on the left bank you will see a sewage treatment plant behind an area overgrown with reed. In front of you is Green Island [Wyspa Zielona]. Here you will see the first of many marvellous views of the city, three towers emerging from behind the treetops. PAZIM, Pomeranian Medical University, the Cathedral – there is no doubt we have entered Szczecin. Rowing along the left bank, after passing another meander, you will see another beautiful scene: a tall tower of an old gasworks resembles a lighthouse welcoming visitors to the city. The whole of Szczecin with its most characteristic buildings can be clearly seen on the horizon. When you approach the right bank, you can watch long, wide rails leading straight to the river, located in the area of an old river shipyard. These are a slipway for overhauled barges, a historic construction intended for preservation despite plans for the development of the island.

It is time to cross the river again. Rowing along the left bank, it is worth noticing a tenement house at Kolumba Street – its riverside wall emerges directly from the water, just as in Venice! Szczecin's Venice is a common name for part of an embankment situated a few hundred metres farther. Industrial red brick buildings dating back to the early 20th century stand "in water" as well. It is one of the most picturesque places in riverside Szczecin. You will now pass by old factories and kayak along Swallow Island [Wyspa Jaskółcza], under an old riveted bridge. On the left is the Central Railway Station, and on the right, between a steel bridge leading to another island, you will notice pinnacles of an abutment of a destroyed pre-war bridge, *Bahnhofsbrücke*. In front is a railway bridge and, behind it, Long Bridge [Most Długi]. Its middle span was originally movable. The bascule mechanism is clearly visible while kayaking beneath.

Moving under the Castle Route Bridge [Trasa Zamkowa], you will see the Chrobry Embankment [Waly Chrobrego]. From there, you can moor at a wooden pier on Borough Island [Wyspa Grodzka]. If leaving the kayak is too difficult, you may land on the easier-accessible right side of the island. From the island, Chrobry Embankment looks even more magnificent.

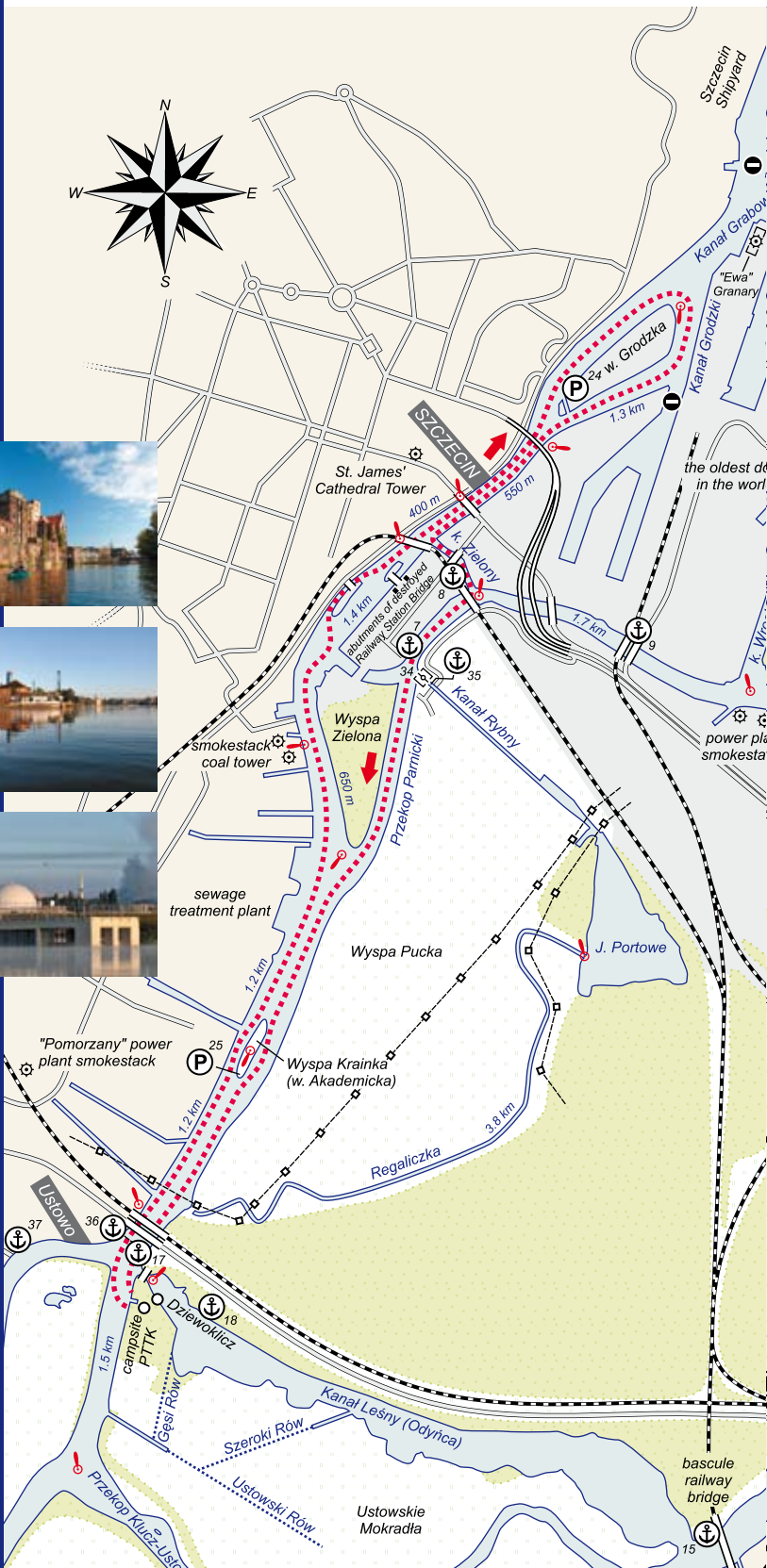
You can now kayak round the island, looking at the shipyard, harbour wharves and Starówka embankment with old cranes. It is time to go back south. Before reaching the railway bridge you should turn left into the Green Channel [Kanał Zielony], leaving the Water Rescue Service haven on the right. Behind a low bridge, the channel really turns green. From among the trees and bushes you can observe a lone tenement house. When you reach River Parnica, turn around and admire the landscape: water, greenery, the tower of Pomeranian Medical University and the Cathedral. This is how waterside Szczecin looks like!

Rowing along Parnica, you will kayak under a railway bridge; then you should turn south and go along Puck Island [Wyspa Pucka] and Green Island. Again, you will be surrounded by greenery, watching startled herons flying away.

When you approach the River Oder, look behind you. The Castle and Chrobry Embankment as seen from this place are engrossed in green.

You will go back to Dziewoklicz rowing along the Oder River.

More information about kayaking around Szczecin can be found at www.kajakowy.szczecin.pl



Local Cuisine and Specialties

Contemporary local cuisine of Szczecin is a compound of diverse culinary traditions brought to the city by the settlers coming from various regions of Poland after World War II. It has little in common with the pre-war local cuisine of Szczecin and Pomerania. Although attempts are made to recreate old recipes and ways of cooking, it must be remembered that contemporary local cuisine of Szczecin has been developing for no more than fifty years. Nonetheless, in the post-war Szczecin a few local dishes and drinks specific to the city appeared and were popularised.

Pastries

Pastry is a dish typical to Szczecin and a favourite snack of many Szczecinians and tourists. Pastries are made of deep-fried rolled yeast cake, stuffed with meat or vegetable filling. The most popular stuffings are: meat, cabbage with mushrooms and cheese with mushrooms. On the outside, the cake is crispy and slightly crunchy; inside it is tender and delicate. Pastries are usually served with spicy beetroot soup.

The origins of Szczecin pastries date back to 1969, when the first bar serving meals cooked with the use of a machine bought from the Russian army was opened (such appliances were designed to serve as efficient field kitchens). Actually, Szczecin pastries are slightly modified Russian *pirogi*.

In the 1970s and 1980s, pastries became a local delicacy, and people used to stand in long queues waiting to be served. As a result, more bars were opened to meet the demand. The oldest still existing ones are located on Wyszynskiego Street and Wojska Polskiego Avenue.

In 2008, efforts were taken to inscribe Szczecin pastries on the list of traditional specialties protected by European law.



Starka

Starka is a traditional cereal dry vodka, long maturing in oak barrels. It is the most noble and mysterious Polish vodka. Its history dates back almost 500 years, as it was known in Poland and Lithuania as early as in the XV century.

Starka is made of non-rectified spirit created during rye fermentation, maturing in aged oak barrels with an addition of linden or apple tree leaves. The exact recipe is, however, kept strictly secret.

The phenomenon of Starka is a result of its unique aroma and taste, rich bouquet and marvellous golden colour, received thanks to long-term seasoning (between 10 and 50 years) in oak barrels. The beautiful brownish golden colour of Starka is an effect of reactions between the alcohol and the barrel where it is stored.

Starka is sold in many varieties, depending on the maturing period.

The only Polish producer of Starka is Szczecin's "Polmos". The kinds of Starka it offers are between 10 and 50 years old. Deep cellars, over a hundred-year-old, are valuable assets to the distillery due to the perfect temperature and moisture conditions.

"Bosman" Beer

"Bosman" is a local brand of beer produced by Szczecin "Bosman" Brewery in two varieties: Full (red-labelled) and Special (green-labelled). Limited editions are manufactured seasonally.

"Bosman" Brewery (until 1945: *Bohrish*) was established in 1848. A number of original buildings and appliances, such as the seat of Board of Directors and Copper tuns, survives until the present.

Stettiner Peperkoken

Before World War II, Szczecin gingerbread, *Stettiner Peperkoken*, was extremely popular not only in Szczecin, but in the whole of northern Germany as well. Currently efforts are being taken to revive the tradition of Szczecin gingerbread. It is baked based on an old recipe and the form of the baking tin must be



Starka Cellars

Barrels with maturing Starka are kept in cellars, built over 140 years ago on Jagiellońska Street. From 1863, they belonged to Herman Koch's brewery. After World War II they became the property of Polish Spirit Monopoly. The production of vodka commenced in March 1946.

The cellars are a few storeys deep and have an area of a few thousand square metres. In old oak barrels (many of them are 50 years old), millions of litres of Starka mature. The biggest barrel has a capacity of 40,000 litres. The deepest cellars are situated 50 metres below the surface. A specific and unchangeable microclimate with high humidity and temperatures up to 12 degrees Celsius provides ideal conditions for Starka's maturing.

Starka cellars are available to visitors in organised groups (10-50 people). The tour programme includes tasting of 10- and 18-year-old Starka.

"Polmos" Szczecin Vodka

Distillery [Szczecińska Wytwórnia

Wódek "Polmos"]

63/64 Jagiellońska Street

tel. +48 91 4844226, www.starka.pl



SWW/Polmos S.A.

maritime-like – the traditional shapes are: a fish (flounder), an anchor, a ship and a seagull. Szczecin gingerbread may be bought at fairs promoting local specialties which take place during the open-air events (such as Picnic on the Oder, Days of the Sea, River Oder Days).

Stettiner Waren

"Szczecin Wares" is a historic brand name of usable ceramics, the export goods of Szczecin region throughout the 18th and 19th century. The distinctive feature of those products was a white or creamy glaze decorated with blue paintings, often bearing inscriptions as well. It was manufactured with the use of clay extracted in Płonia, Glinna and Niebuszewo.

During their hey days, the goods were highly valued and widely exported, in particular to Denmark, Norway and Sweden (this is where their name comes from). The range of products included plates, bowls, beer mugs, jugs, goblets, tiles, candlesticks and three-legged cauldrons, so-called "gar pens"



CATERING

The most famous catering premises of Szczecin during communist times was the Catering and Entertainment Complex "Kaskada". It occupied the building of pre-war restaurant "Haus Ponath", which used to be as famous as "Kaskada" itself.

"Kaskada" was a true "window to the world" and its guests were served delicacies not available anywhere else. The building burnt down in a tragic fire in 1981. Today a huge shopping and entertainment centre is being erected over its former location.

Presently, in the popular view, the most famous restaurant in Szczecin is "Chief", serving exquisite fish and seafood dishes. "Bombay", one of the best Indian restaurants in Poland, is widely recognized. Cheap and tasty meals are served at "Turysta" Cafeteria, visited regularly by many Szczecinians and university students. Delicious own produced ice cream and fancy desserts can be tasted in "Castellari" café (four premises located on the Avenue of Fountains, Bright Greens [*Jasne Blonia*], the ground floor of "Galaxy" Shopping Centre and "Auchan" Shopping Centre). A marvellous view can be seen from "Café 22" (its name reflects the number of the floor in the PAZIM building on which it is located). Both a specific atmosphere and good cuisine can be found in harbour-view restaurants on Chrobry Embankment [*Waly Chrobrego*]: "Christopher Columbus" and "Colorado"

While restaurants, bars, diners and pizzerias are scattered all around the city, the largest number of them can be found in the Castle Boroughs, on Bogusław's Promenade [*Deptak Bogusława*] and the neighbouring: Ślaska Street and Grunwaldzki Circus, on "Avenue of Fountains" – part of Papieża Jana Pawła II Avenue, Lotników Square and on Chrobry Embankment.

Tourist information

- **Centre of Cultural and Tourist Information**, 34 Korsarzy Street (Pomeranian Dukes' Castle), ph. +48 91 4891630, cikit@zamek.szczecin.pl
- **Centre of Tourist Information**, 1a Niepodległości Avenue, ph. +48 91 4340440, cit@mosrir.szczecin.pl

RAIL LINKS

- **Szczecin Central Railway Station**, 9 Hetmana Stefana Czarnieckiego Street / 1 Kolumba Street, ph. +48 91 441 21 60
- **Szczecin Dąbie Railway Station**, 3 Stacyjna Street, ph. +48 91 441 23 19
- **Rail Enquiry Service** – ph. 1 94 36, www.pkp.pl
www.intercity.pl www.pr.pkp.pl

AIR LINKS:

- **LOT Polish Airlines**, 17 Wyzwolenia Avenue, ph. +48 91 4883558
- **“Solidarity” Szczecin Goleniów Airport**, ph. +48 91 481-74-00, +48 91 4182864, www.lot.com www.ryanair.com www.norwegian.no/pl/

MINIBUS LINES TO BERLIN AIRPORTS:

- **Atlas Transfer Berlinia**, 4a Obrońców Stalingradu Street, ph. +48 91 4334444, www.berlinia.eu, www.berlinia.pl
- **Interglobus Tour**, 1 Kolumba Street, ph. +48 91 4850422, +48 608 330 233, www.interglobus.pl
- **SBS EuroTransport**, ph. +48 91 4894810, +48 696 025 253, www.eurosbss.pl
- **Euro Connect**, 3-5 / 108 Kopernika Street, ph. +48 91 4338822, +48 506 333 000, www.ec24.pl

CONSULATES:

- Cyprus – 9 Hołdu Pruskiego Square, ph. +48 91 4330766
- Czech Republic – 43 Małopolska Street, ph. +48 91 4237980
- Denmark – 1 Piłsudskiego Avenue, ph. +48 91 4330930, www.preiss.pl/konsulat.html
- Estonia – 5 Kurza Stopka Street, ph. +48 91 8123827
- Germany – 9 Hołdu Pruskiego Square, ph. +48 91 4850657
- Kazakhstan – 14 Grodzka Street, ph. +48 91 3264011
- Lithuania – 23 Rayskiego Street, ph. +48 91 4646808, www.konsulat-litwa.pl
- Mexico – 3/4 Energetyków Street, ph. +48 91 4624371
- Norway – 17 Niepodległości Avenue, ph. +48 91 8121430
- Slovakia – 3 Batorego Square, ph. +48 91 4890661
- Sweden – 4 Skłodowskiej-Curie Street, ph. +48 91 4862673
- Ukraine – 45 Mickiewicz Street, ph. +48 91 4230665
- United Kingdom – 32 Starego Wiarusa Street, ph. +48 91 4870302

CULTURE AND ENTERTAINMENT

MUSEUMS:

- **National Museum in Szczecin**, 27 Staromłyńska Street, ph. +48 91 4315205, www.muzeum.szczecin.pl
- **Maritime Museum (National Museum Branch)**, 3 Wały Chrobrego Street, ph. +48 91 4315261
- **Museum of the History of Szczecin (National Museum Branch)**, 8 Ks. Mściwoja II Street, ph. +48 91 4315255
- **Museum of Contemporary Art (National Museum Branch)**, 1 Staromłyńska Street, ph. +48 91 4315236
- **Castle Museum**, Pomeranian Dukes' Castle, 34 Korsarzy Street, ph. +48 91 4347391, www.zamek.szczecin.pl

- **Museum of Technology and Communications – Art Depot**, 18A Niemierzyńska Street, ph. +48 91 4240114, +48 91 4240115, www.muzeumtechniki.eu
- **Geological Museum**, Institute of Marine Sciences of University of Szczecin, 22a Papieża Jana Pawła II Avenue, ph. +49 91 4441583
- **Cathedral Museum**, 19 Wyszyńskiego Street, ph. +48 91 4339094

GALLERIES:

- **Brama Jazz Cafe**, 1 Hołdu Pruskiego Square, ph. +48 91 8046295
- **Amfilada Gallery**, 84 Wojska Polskiego Avenue, ph. +48 91 4225261
- **Art 5 Gallery**, 5/1 Koński Kierat Street, ph. +48 91 4336899
- **ArtGalle Gallery**, 7 Bogusława X Street
- **Forma Architects' Gallery**, 50 Żołnierska
- **Kierat 2 Gallery**, 4 Kolumba Street, ph. +48 91 4881711
- **Klatka Contemporary Art Gallery**, 40 Niepodległości Avenue (PKO BP Bank)
- **Książnica Pomorska**, 15/16 Podgórna Street, ph. +48 91 4819295, www.ksiaznica.szczecin.pl
- **Na Mariackiej Gallery**, 26/3 Mariacka Street, ph. +48 91 4480116, www.namariackiej.pl
- **OFFicyna Art Site**, 3-4 Lenartowicza Street, ph. +48 91 4236901, www.officyna.art.pl
- **Open Gallery**, 17/1 Koński Kierat Street, ph. +48 91 4983190
- **Pod Fontanną Gallery**, 27 Bohaterów Warszawy Avenue
- **Pod Sukniami Gallery**, 4 Piastów Avenue, ph. +48 91 4843814, www.podsukniami.art.pl
- **Prezydencka Gallery**, 1 Armii Krajowej Square (City Hall, the 1st floor)
- **Star Gallery**, 16 Koński Kierat Street, ph. +48 606 642 256
- **Trystero Gallery**, 1 św. Wojciecha Street, ph. +48 91 4892401, www.trystero.art.szczecin.pl
- **W&B Gallery**, 3a Tkacka Street, ph. +48 91 4885939
- **Za Szafą Contemporary Art Gallery**, 10 Rodła Square (Radisson SAS Hotel, the ground floor)
- **13 Muses Municipal Art Gallery**, 2 Żołnierza Polskiego Square, ph. + 48 91 4347173, www.klub13muz.pl
- **Pomeranian Dukes' Castle – Southern Gallery**, Northern Gallery, Na Piętrze Gallery, Elisabeth's Hall, 34 Korsarzy Street, ph. +48 91 4347391, www.zamek.szczecin.pl

THEATRES:

- **Współczesny Theatre**, Big Scene and Malarnia Scene, 3 Wały Chrobrego Street, ph. +48 91 4892323, Little Theatre, 6 Bogusława X Street, ph. +48 91 4886555, www.wspolczesny.szczecin.pl
- **Polski Theatre**, 5 Swarozycza Street, ph. +48 91 4330090, www.teatrpolski.szczecin.pl
- **Pleciuga Puppet Theatre**, 1 Teatralny Square, ph. 091 4335804, www.pleciuga.pl
- **Piwnica przy Krypcie**, 34 Korsarzy Street, tel. +48 91 4347835
- **Kana Association**, 4/5 Piotra i Pawła Street, ph. +48 91 4341561, www.kana.art.pl
- **Kameralny Theatre Miniature Scene**, 5 Żołnierza Polskiego Square, ph. +48 604 245 299, www.teatrkameralny.lap.pl
- **Opera at the Castle**, 34 Korsarzy Street, ph. +48 91 4888333, www.opera.szczecin.pl
- **M. Karłowicz's Szczecin Philharmonic**, 1 Armii Krajowej Square, ph. +48 91 4220079, +48 91 422 12 52, www.filharmonia.szczecin.pl

CINEMAS:

- **Pionier**, 2 Wojska Polskiego Avenue, ph. +48 91 4347702, www.kino-pionier.com.pl
- **Helios**, 9 Bolesława Krzywoustego Street ("Kupiec" Store), ph. +48 91 4851236, www.heliosnet.pl
- **Multikino**, 18-20 Wyzwolenia Avenue ("Galaxy" Shopping Mall), ph. +48 91 4855151, www.multikino.pl

SPORTS AND RECREATION

- **TARZANIA Szczecin Rope Park**, Głębokie Watering Place, 1 Zegadłowicza Street, ph. +48 796 07 11 55, www.tarzania.pl
- **Silver Hotel & Gokart Center**, Ustowo 54, ph. +48 91 4412500, www.silverhotel.pl
- **Binowo Park Golf Club**, Binowo 62, ph. +48 91 4041533, www.binowopark.pl

WATERING PLACES:

- **Arkonka**, Arkońska Street, ph. +48 91 4875595
- **Głębokie**, 1 Zegadłowicza Street, ph. +48 91 4526329
- **Dąbie**, 1 Żaglowa Street, ph. +48 91 4600656
- **Dziewoklicz**, Autostrada Poznańska Street

MARINAS:

- **Chrobry Embankment**, 7 Jana z Kolna Street, ph. +48 091 4345561, www.zegluga.szn.pl
- **Marina-Gocław**, 5/6 Lipowa Street, ph. +48 91 4230656, www.marina.szczecin.pl
- **„Zielona-Marina” (SEJK Pogoń)**, 3 Przestrzenna Street, ph. +48 91 4614172, www.marinapogon.pl
- **„Porta Hotele”**, 7-11 Przestrzenna Street, ph. +48 91 4693800, www.porta-hotele.com.pl
- **Youth Palace**, 21 Przestrzenna Street, tel. +48 91 4600319
- **Scout Sea Centre**, 2 Żaglowa Street, ph. +48 91 4600852, www.hom.home.pl
- **Yacht Club AZS**, 9 Przestrzenna Street, ph. +48 91 4612734, www.jkasz.szczecin.pl
- **„Marina” Polish Tourist and Sightseeing Society Camping Site**, 23 Przestrzenna Street, ph. +48 91 4601165, 4601166, www.campingmarina.pl

KAYAK RENTAL:

- **“Międzyodrze” Polish Tourist and Sightseeing Society Campsite**, Autostrada Poznańska Street (Dziewoklicz Watering Place), tel. +48 501 761 410
- **„Wodnik” Kayak Rental**, Siadło Dolne 9, ph. +48 505 726 444, www.kajaki-wodnik.eu
- **Kayak Rental in Żabnica**, ph. 600-441-995, 600-274-995,
- **www.kajaczek.info**
- **www.kajaki-szczecin.pl**, tel. 503-610-510
- **www.kajaki.pl**,
- **Kayak Rental Szczecin**, ph. +48 601 945-219, e-mail: kajaki@kajaki.pl

BICYCLE RENTALS:

- **Center Rent & Tourism**, 1/6 Kolumba Street, ph. +48 91 4340006, +48 91 4340801, www.centrumwynajmu.pl
- **bicyklownia.pl**, 15 Wielkopolska Street, ph. +48 784 152 342, www.bicyklownia.pl

