

Sightseeing in Plock



The hub of life in the city for centuries, the **Old Market Square** is still a hive of activity today. There used to be inns, taverns and exclusive shops here. Also, a Gothic city hall with a tower used to be situated in the middle of the square. In front of the city hall, stood a scaffold which was used when executing criminals. The tenement houses which surround the square date back to the turn of the 18th and 19th centuries. However, the oldest of them, situated at 17 Stary Rynek Street, was built at the end of the 17th century. Formerly the Berlin Hotel, **'Darmstadt House'** is a tenement house at 8 Stary Rynek Street. It was in this tenement that E.T.A. Hoffmann, a German writer, composer and precursor of romanticism, lived from 1802 until 1804. Built in the 1820s, the **City Hall** was where the last session of the Sejm of Congress Poland took place in 1831. In 1998, the building was renovated and a modern, backlit fountain was built in front of it. The hejnał (a type of bugle call) sounded at noon by a trumpeter from the clock tower of the City Hall and the life-size mechanical figures of Ladislaus Herman and Boleslaus the Wry-Mouthed, which enact the knighting of the latter, are Plock's tourist attractions, too.

A number of cultural events take place in the square in spring, summer and autumn. In winter, both children and their parents are attracted by an artificial skating rink which is set up in the middle of the square.

Originally dating from 1356, **Parish Church of St Bartholomew** stands next to the City Hall. In the 18th century, the escarpment subsided and the front part of the church tumbled down into the River Vistula. Consequently, the church had to be shortened and the baroque entrance porch was built at the back of the church. Dating from 1640 and early baroque in style, the high altar is the pride of the church. Two burial vaults, which probably date back to the 14th century, were discovered under the chancel floor of the church in 2006. The original entrance porch and Gothic and Renaissance windows were discovered in the chancel soon afterwards. The bell tower, which has been standing next to the church since the beginning of the 17th century, is also quite interesting.

Situated at 27 Kazimierza Wielkiego Street, the **Cathedral and Monastery of the Mariavite Old Catholic Church** were built in the neo-Gothic style at the beginning of the 20th century. St Maria Franciszka Kozłowska was the founder of this Church. The cell in which she lived has been converted into an exhibition room. One can also visit the cathedral vaults where St Maria Kozłowska and three Mariavite bishops are buried. Every year on 15 August, members of the Mariavite Old Catholic Church come to Plock from all over the world to hold celebrations in honour of the Virgin Mary.

Two nineteenth-century **granaries** are also situated in Kazimierza Wielkiego Street. The restored buildings house the Plock branch of the State Archival Agency and the Ethnographic Department of the Mazovian Museum. The yard next to the granaries is where the 'Piknik Archeologiczno-Etnograficzny' takes place every August; this is a gathering attended by archaeology and ethnography enthusiasts where they can see Medieval craft exhibitions and mock combat displays.

A weekend-break in Plock



The tenement at 24 Kościuski Street is **Władysław Broniewski's family house**. One of the most prominent Polish poets of the 20th century, Broniewski spent the early years of his youth in this house, which now is the so-called 'Dom Nauczyciela' where teachers can attend various social events. A few hundred-year-old massive oak, which is mentioned in Broniewski's poems a number of times, dominates the yard behind the house. One of the rooms of the building has been converted into an exhibition room dedicated to the poet's life and work. The bronze monument to Broniewski, which was designed by Gustaw Zemla, has been standing in the nearby square (Plac Obrońców Warszawy) since 1972. The collection of the Zieliński Library includes several copies of the underground *Młodzi idą* (*The Young Are Coming*) literary magazine; a group of students of Gimnazjum Polskie (Polish Middle School) in Plock, which is now Władysław Jagiełło Grammar School, wrote for the magazine and Broniewski, who was one of them, edited it.

Dating from 1802, the classical building situated at 15 Kolegialna Street (the so-called **'Kamera pruska'**) was built by the Prussians to house the seat of the Plock branch of 'Kriegs-und Domänen Kammer', i.e. the Prussian civil service. Kolegialna Street was named after the historical title of the building - Collegien Haus. In front of it, stands the monument to Marshal Józef Piłsudski, who honoured the city of Plock with the Cross of Valour for the bravery which its residents demonstrated in the war against Bolshevik Russia in 1920. There are only two cities which were honoured in this way, namely, Plock and Lvov.

One of the best zoos in Poland, the **Plock zoo** is located at 2 Norbertańska Street. In summer months, one can go there by 'Ciuchcia Tumska'. Over 3,500 animals, including giraffes, lions, penguins (for which a special pen has been built), tamarins and marmosets (which are the smallest monkeys in the world), live in the zoo. What also attracts visitors are some endangered animal species saved from extinction and numerous varieties of magnolia and rhododendron. Little children love visiting the so-called 'mini-zoo', i.e. one of the sections of the zoo in which they can feed such animals as sheep, goats, ducks and ponies. There is also a herb garden next to the 'mini-zoo'. What is more, it is in Plock zoo that one can see the largest group of reptiles in Poland. One of the reptiles, an 80-year-old alligator took part in the making of Andrzej Kondratiuk's film entitled 'Hydrozagadka'.

Plock's greatest beauty spot, **Tumskie Hill** is an ideal place for vast panoramas of the River Vistula and the thick forest which stretches as far as the eye can see. After dusk, one can also admire the brightly illuminated historic bridge over the River Vistula; the three colours of the illumination - yellow, red and blue - refer to the colours of Plock's flag. The heavy and massive steel structure of the bridge enraptures both residents and tourists with its lightness when it is illuminated at night. This **bridge illumination**, which is 690 metres long, is the longest in Europe. With its illuminated historic buildings, Tumskie Hill by night has been even more enchanting to visitors since 2008 as it was then that the state-of-the-art amphitheatre was built at the bottom of the hill. The **amphitheatre**, whose shape resembles that of a flying saucer, is the venue for a number of interesting cultural events.

Plock - a city full of thrills



Located at the foot of Plock's escarpment, **Lake Sobotka** is the small lake in the old river bed of the Vistula. The lake is believed to have the cleanest bathing beach in the region of Mazovia; all-Poland rowing competitions and beach volleyball tournaments are held here. Since there is a concrete road at the bottom of the escarpment, one can reach the lake by car.

A pleasure boat called **'Rusalka'** and fast-speed motor boats are moored on the **Vistula embankment** at the foot of Tumskie Hill. One cannot miss a ride on one of these boats to see charming panoramas of the hill whilst a ride on the **'Ciuchcia Tumska' vehicle** is bound to be highly entertaining for those who wish to see the Old Town.

Music festivals are organised in Plock - both in the Old Market Square and on the beach - in spring, summer and autumn. Thousands of music lovers arrive in Plock to attend the Auditorium Electronic Music Festival, ReggaeLand Music Festival, Summer Music Festival, Gypsy Music Festival and Plock Cover Festival. The Plock Historic Festival and the 'Piknik Lotniczy' air show are attended by both the old and the young. The 'Festiwal Piękna' beauty contests are organised in the amphitheatre and broadcast by television. There is also the summer 'Rynek Sztuki' festival that attracts fans of street theatre, jazz music and cinema.

Food and restaurants
In the Old Town, there are numerous restaurants which offer a wide variety of delicious dishes. While the 'Sakura' restaurant at 8 Narutowicz Street serves traditional Japanese dishes, the 'Arturo' restaurant, located at 2 Stary Rynek Street, offers Italian cuisine. Situated at 9 Grodzka Street, the 'La Petite' restaurant specialises in pancakes. One can try dumplings and other traditional Polish dishes in the 'Karczma pod Strzechą' inn located at 12 Grodzka Street. The 'ArtDeco' restaurant at 17 Stary Rynek Street also serves Polish cuisine. Visitors who love Jewish cuisine should go to the 'Estera' restaurant, situated next to the 'ArtDeco' restaurant, and beer drinkers should visit the 'Browar Tumski' pub, where beer is brewed in its 350-year-old basement.

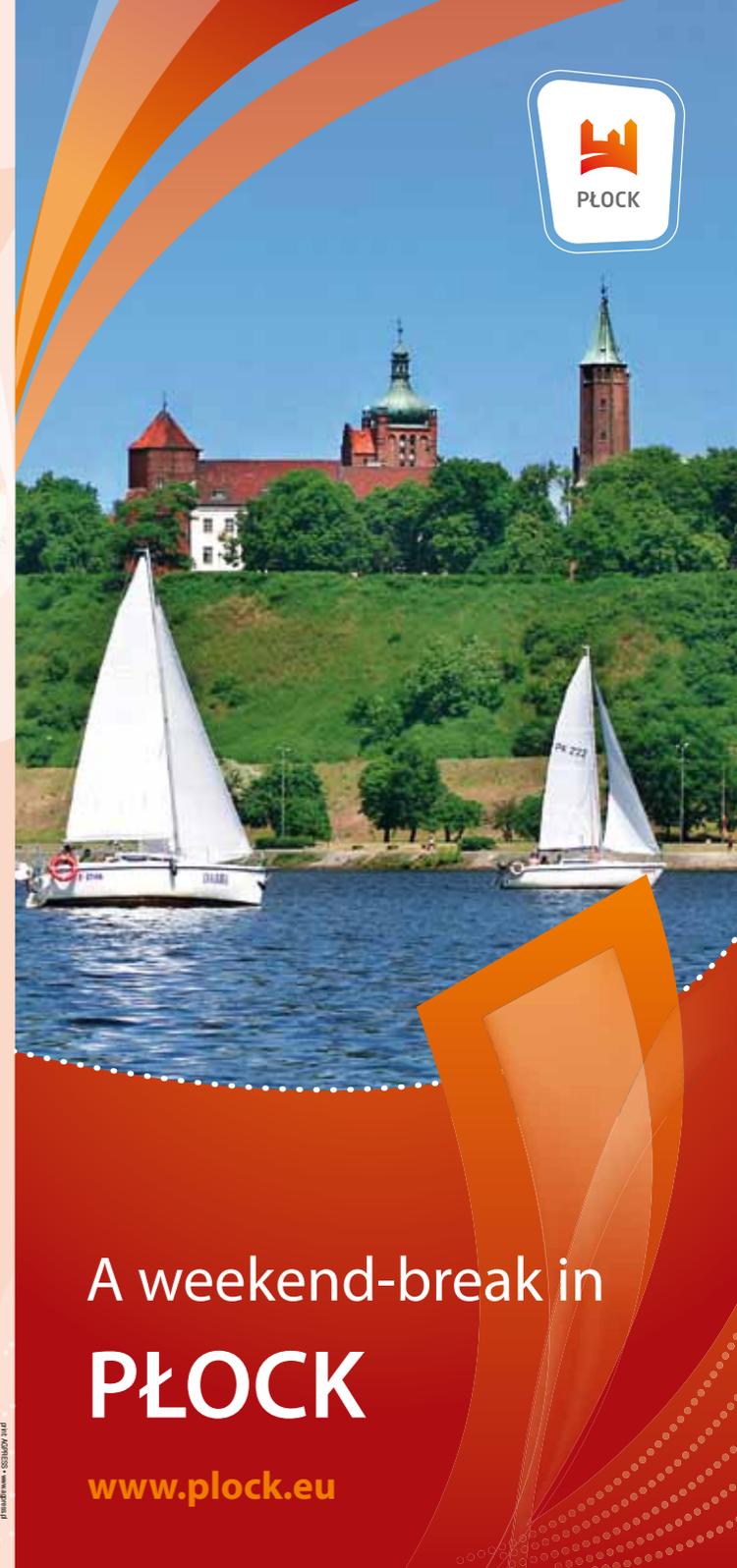
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A weekend-break in
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PŁOCK

a city full of thrills and positive energy

Płock's picturesque escarpment is a wonderful place for magnificent vistas of the broad River Vistula, which stretches away to the distant horizon. A significant part of Płock's cultural richness, the escarpment witnessed the historical development of the city; it was on Tumskie Hill that both the cathedral and the castle were built. Ladislaus Herman and Boleslaus the Wry-Mouthed, who ruled Poland from 1079 until 1102 and from 1102 until 1138 respectively, had their seats there and Płock was the capital city at that time. The view of the sparkling river that flows through the vast Mazovian flatlands inspired the builders to build this beautiful and majestic city with its wide streets and elegant tenements. Nowadays, many people admire the superb panorama of Płock and the glorious sunsets over the River Vistula, which are considered ideal for couples in love. An electronic music festival and a reggae festival are among a number of musical events which visitors can attend in Płock every year. They can also go to air shows, enjoy pleasure boat rides and motor boat rides down the Vistula, visit the zoo and go on some sightseeing tours of the Old Town by a train-like vehicle with two small passenger cars called 'Ciuchcia Tumskia'. Furthermore, visitors to Płock may seek inner calm in the city's numerous churches and the Divine Mercy Shrine. In Plock, everyone is bound to experience a lot of attractions and find their place of reflection, too.

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PŁOCK OLD TOWN



THE LEGEND:

- 1 CATHEDRAL BASILICA OF THE ASSUMPTION OF THE BLESSED VIRGIN MARY
- 2A DIOCESAN MUSEUM – FORMER BENEDICTINE ABBEY AND THE REMAINS OF THE MAZOVIAN PRINCES' CASTLE WITH TWO TOWERS
- 2B DIOCESAN MUSEUM – THE BUILDING FROM THE BEGINNING OF THE 20TH CENTURY
- 3 PŁOCK SCIENTIFIC SOCIETY
- 4 NARUTOWICZ SQUARE
- 5 'DOM POD TRĄBAMI'
- 6 GUARDHOUSE
- 7 DISTRICT COURT
- 8 ZIELIŃSKI LIBRARY
- 9A MAZOVIAN MUSEUM
- 9B MAZOVIAN MUSEUM – GRANARY
- 10 TUMSKA STREET
- 11 GRODZKA STREET
- 12 STANISŁAW MAŁACHOWSKI GRAMMAR SCHOOL
- 13 DIVINE MERCY SHRINE
- 14 OLD MARKET SQUARE
- 15 CITY HALL
- 16 'DARMSTADT HOUSE'
- 17 PARISH CHURCH OF ST BARTHOLOMEW
- 18 CATHEDRAL AND MONASTERY OF THE MARIAVE OLD CATHOLIC CHURCH
- 19 CHURCH OF ST DOMINIC
- 20 WŁADYSŁAW BRONIEWSKI'S FAMILY HOUSE
- 21 REMAINS OF THE 14TH-CENTURY DEFENSIVE WALLS
- 22 'KAMERA PRUSKA'
- 23 REGISTRY OFFICE
- 24 THE ZOO
- 25 AMPHITHEATRE
- 26 LAKE SOBÓTKA
- 27 PLEASURE BOAT HARBOUR
- 28 MOTOR BOAT HARBOUR
- 29 'CIUCHCIA TUMSKA'

Sightseeing in Plock

A weekend-break in Plock



Consecrated in 1144, the **Cathedral Basilica of the Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary** underwent a number of architectural changes in the past. Yet, one can still admire the elements of its original Romanesque structure. The Royal Chapel houses the sarcophagus of two Polish rulers – Ladislaus Herman and Boleslaus the Wry-Mouthed. In the porch, there are replicas of the famous Romanesque bronze doors (the so-called 'Drzwi Plockie') which were made for the cathedral in Magdeburg in c. 1154. What is also worthy of visitors' attention are the elaborate polychrome decorations created by Władysław Drapiewski.



Located in front of the cathedral, the **former Benedictine abbey and the remains of the Mazovian Princes' Castle with the two towers called 'Clock' and 'Noble'** is the seat of the Diocesan Museum, which contains the unique fourteenth-century herm of St Sigismund, Konrad Mazowiecki's thirteenth-century chalice and Gothic monstrances. In another building situated next to the cathedral, the museum houses its archaeological collections and a collection of c. 100 robe sashes, i.e. long pieces of cloth worn by Polish nobles around their waist.



Formerly Rynek Kanoniczny, **Plac Narutowicza (Narutowicz Square)** is the cradle of the city. Among the numerous historic buildings situated in the square, there is the so-called 'Dom pod Trąbami' – bearing a coat of arms charged with trumpets on the gable – which was built as a canon's house at the turn of the 14th and 15th centuries. It was converted into a seminary in the 18th century. Now, this is the seat of Catholic organisations and associations. There is also a restaurant in the basement. Built in 1837, the nearby guardhouse was first used by Russian soldiers; an attempt by Polish troops to capture the guardhouse started the January Uprising in Plock. Today, the building houses the seat of the Polish Tourist Country-Lovers' Association (PTTK). In front of the guardhouse, there is **the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier**.



Established in 1820, the **Plock Scientific Society (TNP)**, which is one of the oldest institutions of this kind in Poland, is located in a Gothic canon's house at 8 Narutowicz Square. The current Bishop of Plock resides in an eighteenth-century canon's house situated next to the seat of the Plock Scientific Society; it was in this house that Pope John Paul II stayed overnight during his pilgrimage to Plock in 1991. The impressive building at 6 Narutowicz Square which houses the seat of the district court used to be the Bishop's Palace. The Zieliński Library is located at 2 Narutowicz Square in the so-called **'Dom pod Opatrznością'**, which was built in 1830. The library holds, amongst other things, some of the earliest examples of writing, including a ninth-century manuscript with the Latin text of the biblical Book of Wisdom. Moreover, it has some famous people's autographs, Adam Mickiewicz's and Tadeusz Kościuszko's being just two of them, and such rare antique books as the original 1543 edition of Nicholas Copernicus's *De revolutionibus orbium coelestium* (*On the Revolutions of the Celestial Bodies*). A cycle of 80 engravings, Francisco Goya's *Los caprichos* can be seen in no other place in Poland but in the Zieliński Library in Plock.



Tumska Street is the city's main shopping street. Elegant and pedestrianised, it is lined on both sides with historic tenement houses, the former English Hotel with its beautiful neo-Gothic gate being one of the finest of them. The Tumski Fair, which is organised as part of Plock Historic Festival, attracts both residents and tourists every June.



Located in the restored Art Nouveau tenement house at 8 Tumska Street, **the Mazovian Museum** has the largest collection of Art Nouveau items in Poland. Visitors to the museum cannot fail to give special attention to the works by Wyspiański, Wyczółkowski, Laszcza, Malczewski and Lalique, among others. The museum's Art Deco collection, which was started only a few years ago, is growing all the time. Its collection of regional culture items is going to be exhibited in the museum's newly built building located just next to the Art Nouveau tenement house. The ethnographic exhibits are displayed in the former granary situated at 11b Kazimierza Wielkiego Street.



Stanisław Małachowski Grammar School is the oldest school in Poland. The thirteenth-century wing of the school and its fifteenth-century Gothic tower with an astronomical observatory have survived. The school's museum holds Romanesque and Gothic monuments and relics. Ignacy Mościcki, the President of interwar Poland, Tadeusz Mazowiecki, elected as the first non-communist Polish Prime Minister in 1989, traveller Tony Halik and Jan Zumbach, the commanding officer of the famous 303 Polish Squadron, are among the distinguished students of the school.



Dating back to the 13th century, **Grodzka Street** is one of the city's oldest streets. The majority of the buildings situated along the street are neo-classical tenement houses built in the 19th century. Stefan Themerson, an avant-garde writer and film-maker, lived in the one at number 5. No other street in Plock has a greater number of eateries, pubs and pizza restaurants than Grodzka Street. It is the Plock's residents' favourite street. Stanisław Staszewski, the well-known 'Kult' band's lead singer's father, lived in the baroque tenement house at 2 Grodzka Street.



The Devine Mercy Shrine, in which the Devine Mercy Image and the relics of St Faustina are shown, is located in the convent of the Congregation of the Nuns of Our Lady of Mercy, just next to Stanisław Małachowski Grammar School. It was in this convent that St Faustina Kowalska had her first private divine revelation. On 25 August 2005, in commemoration of the centenary anniversary of her death, a museum was founded in the former bakery where St Faustina worked from 1930 until 1932. While the original bread oven has survived, the kitchen and St Faustina's cell had to be reconstructed.

