Emergency: 112
Police: 997
Ambulance: 999
Fire Department: 998
Municipal Police: 986

Bydgoszcz Information Centre
2 Batorego Street (entrance from 1 Niedźwiedzia Street)
85-104 Bydgoszcz, tel.: +48 52 340 45 50
e-mail: bci@visitbydgoszcz.pl
www.visitbydgoszcz.pl

Opening Hours:
Monday-Friday: 9:00am-6:00pm
Saturday-Sunday: 10:00am-4:00pm

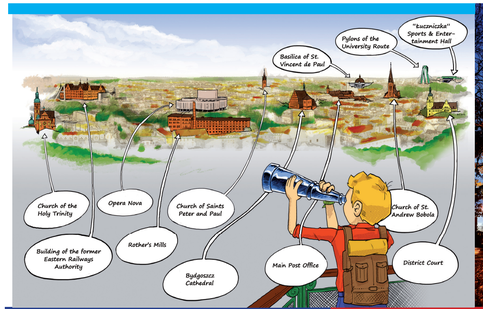
„Bydgoszcz – Official Mobile Guide"

Bydgoszcz seen from the Water Tower

In 1900, on the hill known today as Gen. Henryk Dąbrowski Hill, which is the highest site in relation to the water intake in Las Gdański, the water tower (designed by Franz Marschal) was opened. It played an important role in the modern waterworks system of Bydgoszcz. The architect of this industrial facility (45 metres high) added a public lookout terrace to it, which was a great attraction. It offered a view of the whole city. Unfortunately, the terrace was closed after 1945. It was only reopened in 2012, after completion of renovation and adaptation works related to turning the Water Tower into one of the buildings of the Museum of Waterworks (the second part of the Museum is located in the Historical Pump Room at 242 Gdańska Street). Inside, we find an exhibition recounting the history of the local waterworks and sewers. There is a collection of documents, photographs, old bathroom and toilet accessories, and even pieces of wooden pipes coming from the first local waterworks dating from the 16th century, excavated during archaeological works. After touring the industrial exhibition, we can take a narrow, winding staircase to access the lookout terrace, which offers a breath-taking, panoramic view of Bydgoszcz. There are several telescopes mounted on the railing, offering a more detailed view of the city.
When: Museum of Waterworks is open throughout the year (Monday – Thursday: 11:00 am – 4:00 pm, Saturday – Sunday: 1:00 pm – 5:00 pm, Friday: closed)

Where: Water Tower, 1 Filarecka Street

Price: PLN 5 normal ticket, PLN 2 discount ticket



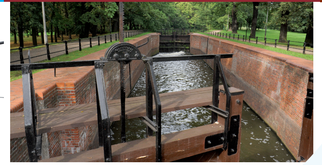
"Man Crossing the River" sculpture

The "Man Crossing the River" sculpture came to Bydgoszcz on May 1, 2004 in order to commemorate Poland's accession to the European Union. This unique statue was made by Jerzy Kędziora. The mystery of the "Man Crossing the River" consists in shifting its centre of gravity below the rope level, maintaining its balance. The rope also features a swallow (which is Schwalbe in German), in order to commemorate Andrzej Szwalbe, the outstanding citizen of Bydgoszcz, founder of the Pomeranian Philharmonic.

Granaries on the Brda River

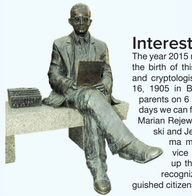
Bydgoszcz granaries on the River Brda are almost like the coat of arms of the city. Only several historical granaries have remained in Bydgoszcz, with only four dating from before the 19th century, standing on the riverside in the city centre. All of them are half-timbered buildings serving today as museums. Three granaries at 9-11 Grodzka Street (the image of which is commemorated on the contemporary logo of Bydgoszcz), were built in 1793–1800 by merchant Samuel Gotlieb Engelmann. Initially, the complex on Grodzka Street consisted of five granaries built as a row of houses, which were used as warehouses. In 1960, two of them were completely burned down. In 1962, the preserved granaries were transformed into exhibition buildings of the Leon Wyczółkowski District Museum of Bydgoszcz.
These days, permanent exhibitions of the Museum include "From the Old Market Square to Wolności Square." "A Walk On the Streets of Interwar Bydgoszcz" and "Bydgoszcz – Pieces of the City" and temporary exhibition.
When: In the summer season (April-September): Tuesday, Wednesday, Friday 10:00 am-6:00 pm, Thursday 10:00 am-7:00 pm Saturday, Sunday 11:00 am-6:00 pm, Monday – closed. In the winter season (October – March): Tuesday, Wednesday, Friday 9:00 am – 4:00 pm, Thursday – 9:00 am – 6:00 pm, Saturday, Sunday 10:00 am – 4:00 pm, Monday – closed
Where: Granaries on the Brda River – Leon Wyczółkowski District Museum, 7-11 Grodzka Street
Admission: normal ticket – PLN 5, discount ticket – PLN 3, family ticket – PLN 12, free admission on Saturday

Bydgoszcz Canal



The Bydgoszcz Canal, built in 1773–1774, is part of the international waterway E70. It connects the Vistula with the Odra River through its tributaries, the Noteć and Warta Rivers. The Building of the Canal contributed to the fast growth of the city, which thanks to its modern hydrotechnical facilities, distinct riverside industrial, residential and recreational buildings, gained its elegance, riverbank identity and the status of one of the main inland transport centres. In 1908–1915, the New Canal was built with such unique locks as Czyżkówko and Okole, provided with compensation reservoir, allowing to save most of the water. The turn of the 21st century was very generous for the canal. Residents and administrators of the city turn toward water, which can be confirmed by repair works on the canal in the 1990s, listing the Bydgoszcz Canal in the Register of Historic Sites of Kujawsko-Pomorskie Voivodeship in 2005, and projects implemented recently within the REURIS program.

Museum of the Bydgoszcz Canal
Where: 3 Nowogrodzka Street, tel. +48 693 765 075, www.muzeumkanalu.pl
When: The Museum is open from Tuesday to Friday, between 8:30 am and 3:30 pm
Price: free admission, touring is possible after previous arrangements by phone



Interesting titbit

The year 2015 marks the 110th anniversary of the birth of this outstanding mathematician and cryptologist, who was born on August 16, 1905 in Bydgoszcz; he lived with his parents on 6 Wileńska Street, where these days we can find a commemorative plaque. Marian Rejewski, along with Henryk Zygalski and Jerzy Różycki, solved the Enigma machine, the main cipher device used by Germany, speeding up the end of World War II. He is recognized as one of the most distinguished citizens of our city.

"Deluge" Fountain

One of the must-have photographs of one's stay in Bydgoszcz is a photo at the "Deluge" Fountain, which stands in Kazimierz Wielki Park, in the proximity of Wolności Square. This impressive fountain, made by Ferdinand Lepcke, was erected on this site in 1904, in the then garden of the Bydgoszcz District Government. The artist placed a composition referring to the Biblical Deluge in a huge pool made from red sandstone. In the middle is a group of people rising to a height of 6 metres, featuring a muscular man holding a languid woman, and a second woman lying dead at his feet with a child clinging to her. There are additional statues on the sides; one of them depicts a man fighting for his life with a snake wrapped around him, while another features a mother bear with a dead cub. The unique effect of the monument is created by the surface surrounding the fountain, made as a multicolour, ornamental mosaic with a motif of waves.
This greatest work made by the artist had impressed spectators until 1943 as one of the biggest attractions of Bydgoszcz, and a popular site for taking photographs. Unfortunately, valuable sculptures were confiscated for war purposes. These days, thanks to the Social Committee for Rebuilding the Fountain established in 2004, the bronze, multi-figural statue has been faithfully restored. The rebuilt scene of the Biblical Deluge, placed in a renovated basin and surrounded by the restored mosaic, has once again become one of the most impressive and beautiful fountains in Poland.
Where: Kazimierz Wielki Park

Interesting titbit: The restored fountain looks most beautiful after dusk, when colourful illumination highlights the sculpted composition.

The "Archer Lady" statue

It was once standing on Teatralny Square, in the vicinity of the now non-existent Municipal Theatre, angering some prudish residents of Bydgoszcz. These days, the "Archer Lady" statue, known as one of the symbols of Bydgoszcz, stands across from the Polish Theatre in Jan Kochanowski Park.

Mill Island

Mill Island is the green heart of Bydgoszcz, an enclave in the city centre. People coming here can relax in the park, among alleys lined with old trees, vast lawns, and alleys with benches, listening to the rapidly falling water at the weir and culvert. Water surrounds everything. From the direction of the Old Town, we can find the Brda Młynówka river, running fast and nervously, along with the wall of Bydgoszcz Venice. Across from it is the vast main riverbed of the Upper Brda, featuring such landmarks as the stately Cathedral and Opera Nova. Thanks to revitalization, this place has become the favourite hangout of the local residents. Here, we can also find the historical buildings of the Museum with modern upgrades, water tram stop, yacht marina, playground, amphitheatre, numerous hiking and biking paths, and even a beach next to the spacious lawn on which Bydgoszcz residents enjoy lounging on their blankets.
Old granaries and mills house exhibitions of the Leon Wyczółkowski District Museum. The old granary at 1 Mennica Street, dating from the mid-19th century, once used for storing bagged grains, has been turned into a stylish restaurant.

Museum buildings on the Mill Island:
Archaeology Department – 2 Mennica Street
European Money Centre – 4 Mennica Street
Modern Art Gallery – 8a Mennica Street
Leon Wyczółkowski's House – 7 Mennica Street

When: In the summer season (April-September): Tuesday, Wednesday, Friday 10:00 am – 6:00 pm, Thursday 10:00 am – 7:00 pm Saturday, Sunday 11:00 am – 6:00 pm, Monday – closed. In the winter season (October - March): Tuesday, Wednesday, Friday 9:00 am – 4:00 pm, Thursday – 9:00 am– 6:00 pm, Saturday, Sunday 10:00 am – 4:00 pm, Monday – closed

Admission: normal ticket – PLN 5, discount ticket – PLN 3, family ticket – PLN 12, collective ticket to all buildings – 12/8 PLN
The Marina on the Mill Island was completed in 2012. The building was designed by the Rokiccy Architectural Office, winning recognition among architectural experts.

Attractions for children

Mock-up of the Bydgoszcz Castle
The mock-up is built from mini bricks. The site along with description can be seen on 19-21 Grodzka Street in the proximity of the mBank (formerly BRE Bank) office building. The Bydgoszcz Castle was built during the reign of King Casimir the Great and had stood here until the 17th century, when it was blown up by the Swedes.

Mock-up of old Bydgoszcz
The miniature model of Bydgoszcz shows how the city looked in the 17th century. The model is located at the amphitheatre on Mostowa Street, in front of the granaries.

Master Twardowski
Every day, at 1:13 pm and 9:13 pm, a window opens in the tenement house in the Old Market Square no. 15, where Master Twardowski appears in a smoke haze. The building next door (no. 19) housed the "Zgorzelec Inn," in which according to legend lived the famous sorcerer during his visit to Bydgoszcz in 1560.

Magic chair
Magic chair-exhibit from a popular film for children (Magic Chair), in which Bydgoszcz played a seaside town. The chair, according to the plot, was made from magical wood and makes your dreams come true. The exhibit was mounted on the playground on the Mill Island, which was also used as a location for the film.

Museum of Soap and History of Dirt
The world's only Museum of Soap and History of Dirt operates in Bydgoszcz. It offers interactive time travel through the history of cleanliness, dirt and soap making, which has deep-rooted ties with Bydgoszcz. www.muzeummydla.pl

BYDGOSZCZ

BYDGOSZCZ FOR THE WEEKEND

Basic information about the city

Bydgoszcz is the capital of the Kujawsko-Pomorskie Voivodeship (Kuyavian-Pomeranian Province) and the eighth biggest city in Poland. Historically, it occupies part of Kuyavia and is picturesquely located on the Brda and Vistula Rivers and the Bydgoszcz Canal. There are crossings of major motor roads, railroads, and waterways (international waterway E70). Ignacy Jan Paderewski Airport is located in the city (travel from the city centre takes about 15 minutes by a city bus). The city with several centuries of heritage charms tourists with its location on the river and canals intersecting its downtown. Bydgoszcz has been increasingly turning to the water. The daily life of the city, its cultural, sporting and business events take place in the immediate proximity of the Brda River.

In brief:

First traces of settlement:	**8,000 B.C.**
First mention:	**1238**
Chartered as a town:	**April 19, 1346**
Area:	**175.98 square kilometres**
Average elevation:	**60 meters above sea level**
Population:	**357 652 (2014)**
Population density:	**2032 people/square kilometre**
Geographical coordinates:	**latitude 53° N**
	longitude 18° E

Twin cities:

Cherkasy and Kremenchuk (Ukraine), Hartford (USA), Kragujevac (Serbia), Mannheim and Wilhelmshaven (Germany), Ningbo (China), Patras (Greece), Pavlodar (Kazakhstan), Perth (Scotland), Pitesti (Romania), Reggio Emilia (Italy)

Did you know that...
Bydgoszcz is cut by 18th meridian east. The meridian runs practically though the Old Market Square, connecting Bydgoszcz with such cities as Stockholm and Cape Town.

Must-attend events

Bydgoszcz Opera Festival: International cultural event – presentation of the most interesting opera and ballet productions, an event with a recognized artistic brand and tradition. www.opera.bydgoszcz.pl **When:** April

Heading on Bydgoszcz: The Bydgoszcz Water Festival "HEADING ON BYDGOSZCZ 53°N, 18°E" is held in Bydgoszcz every year and is the biggest holiday of water sports enthusiasts in the region. It is a unique project, combining the communities of sailors, artists and travellers. www.sternabydgoszcz.pl **When:** June

Busker Fest: An international meeting of the community of travelling artists called "buskers". The festival features concerts, shows, performances and events presented in the streets of Bydgoszcz. www.buskerfest.pl **When:** June

World Championships in Crossing the River: A very impressive international meeting of professionals and amateurs crossing the river on the rope suspended over the river. **When:** May

"River of Music": The concerts, organized by the City of Bydgoszcz, are held every Sunday in July and August in the scenery of the amphitheater on the Brda. **When:** July – August www.rzekamuzyki.bydgoszcz.pl

Bydgoszcz Jazz Festival: During eleven editions of the festival, syncopated music lovers have had an opportunity to listen to internationally renowned jazz stars as well as Polish and regional artists. www.bydgoszczjazzfestival.com.pl **When:** October – November

The Premiere Festival: The Premiere Festival is a national theatre festival organized since 2002 by the Polish Theatre in Bydgoszcz. Its repertoire features world premieres of theatre plays. www.teatrpolski.pl **When:** October

Camerimage: CAMERIMAGE International Film Festival of the Art of Cinematography is the biggest and best known festival dedicated to the art of cinematographers. www.camerimage.pl **When:** November

Mózg Festival: The interests of the Mózg Festival include all types of contemporary music, visual arts and performance. www.festiwal.mozg.pl **When:** November

Independence Day Celebrations: An event building the historical identity of Bydgoszcz, through the participation of residents of the city and region in historical re-enactments, exhibitions, concerts and accompanying activities, including sporting events. **When:** November

Take a cruise by Water Tram

Bydgoszcz looks the most beautiful from the river. The revitalized Mill Island, renovation of the boulevards on the Brda that is underway and historical hydrotechnical facilities on the Bydgoszcz Canal, can be best seen while taking a cruise by Water Tram. These water trams, called Słonecznik I and II, are modern and environmentally friendly vessels, powered by solar energy, which can carry 28 people on board. On weekends, the historical M/S Bydgoszcz towboat is also in operation, experiencing its "second youth".

When: Water trams operate daily in the summer season (between May and September), several times a day (details: www.visitbydgoszcz.pl in the bookmark Bydgoszcz Water Tram). Before the planned trip, we recommend checking availability on the selected date, since group reservations happen from time to time: tel. +48 52 582 27 64

Where: The main stop of the water tram is located at Rybi Market. There you will find current timetable and information on routes, which changes occasionally depending on the situation on the waterway.

Price:
Słonecznik: PLN 5 PLN 2.50
MS Bydgoszcz: PLN 8 PLN 4

Go on a trip on a historical tram or bus

For those who feel better on land than on water, Bydgoszcz offers trips by a historical, hundred year old bus, Herbrand or Red eNka made in the 1960s. Those who like the atmosphere of Communist Poland will enjoy a ride by "Ogórek" (cucumber), which is our immortal bus Jelcz 043. Jelcz buses, called colloquially "Ogórki", travel on two routes. No. 100 goes to Myślęcinek, which is the biggest municipal park in Poland. Route 102 runs from the Old Town to Exploseum. The main stop of "Ogórek" is on Old Market Square and is marked with a retro information post.
Historical trams start their run in Babia Wieś and Myślęcinek. The old bimbas (trams) "Herbrand" and Red eNka travel on a special tourist line No. 10 from Babia Wieś to Las Gdański (Myślęcinek). Great fun for children is a trip by Herbrand, made in Cologne in 1898, with open balconies and the driver dressed in a stylish uniform.

When: during the vacation season (July-August), from the morning to the evening. The current timetable and route map are available at www.visitbydgoszcz.pl in the bookmark Explore/What to do (timetable for special lines is available only during the season).

Price: PLN 3 PLN 1.50

Did you know that...
Jelcz buses, which offer special rides, come from the Transportation Museum in Paterek. They were used on the sets of many Polish movies, including "Różyczka" and "Little Moscow."

Learn about the explosive history of the city

The secret of the mysterious ruins lay hidden in the Bydgoszcz Forest for fifty years. Only the older residents, remembering the times of World War II, knew that several kilometres from the operating chemical plant and newly developed industrial park, there is a place known for inhuman forced labour involving over 40,000 workers of the former DAG Fabrik Bromberg. In 2008, the decision was made to transform part of the area into a museum. Out of several hundred buildings that in 1939–1945 were part of a huge concern providing the Third Reich with nitroglycerin, trinitrotoluene and smokeless powder, a dozen or so were separated and connected by tunnels. They are created by two twin lines NGL – Betrieb, i.e. nitroglycerin production. One of them was designated as a museum – Exploseum, while the second one, as a permanent ruin, shows the mark left by time on the buildings and preserves their original look. A visit to the Exploseum provides extensive knowledge on military technology. A tour through its myriad, murky and concrete corridors will certainly be remembered for a long time. www.exploseum.pl

When: Exploseum is open from Tuesday to Sunday, between 8:00 am and 4:00 pm (in winter season) and on Tuesday, Wednesday, Friday, Saturday and Sunday 9:00 am – 5:00 pm, Thursday 9:00 am – 7:00 pm, Monday – closed (in summer season).

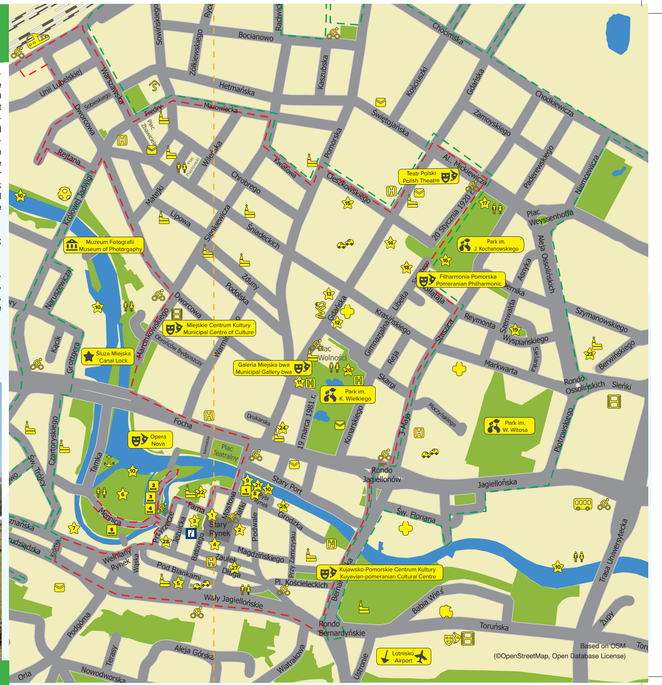
Where: The Museum is situated on the outskirts of the city, in Bydgoszcz Industrial Park. It can be easily accessed by car. Passing through the gate, you will see signs which will guide you to the destination. Tourist can also use public transport. Bus no. 68 runs twice a day to the Exploseum (before guided tours at 9:30 am and 12:30 pm).

Price:
12/10 zł – without a guide
20/15 zł – with a guide.

Relax in Myślęcinek

While in Bydgoszcz, it's worth taking a breath and relaxing, taking advantage of the attractions and space of the Myślęcinek Forest Park of Culture and Recreation. It is the biggest municipal park in Poland, occupying 830 hectares. It is situated only 5 km from the city centre. The park offers a host of attractions for visitors of all ages. During the summer season, we recommend a visit to the funfair, the Lost World (Dinosaur Park) and Macroworld (park with huge insects). Great fun for youngsters is a rope park with a zipline and skatepark. Adults will surely enjoy the beautiful Botanical Garden located in a picturesque valley. Another attraction is a waterfall located in the Alpinarium. The Myślęcinek Zoo and Terrarium are also worth visiting. Water sports enthusiasts can take advantage of a lift in the Wakepark. Myślęcinek is also a perfect place to organize a picnic on the beach on one of the local ponds, which offer barbecue sites. One of the winter attractions is a ski slope with a lift.

When: The Forest Park of Culture and Recreation is open all year round; however, some of its attractions are available depending on the season.

Where: Myślęcinek is located a few kilometres away from the city centre. The park can be accessed by car (parking near the tram terminus or further, the ZOO). Visitors without cars can use public transport, taking bus no. 52P, which runs every hour from the city centre (Jagiellonów Roundabout) to the stop at the ZOO or take tram toward Las Gdański (the last stop of the tram)

Price: the list of current admission fees to the Park attractions is on the website: www.myslecinek.pl