

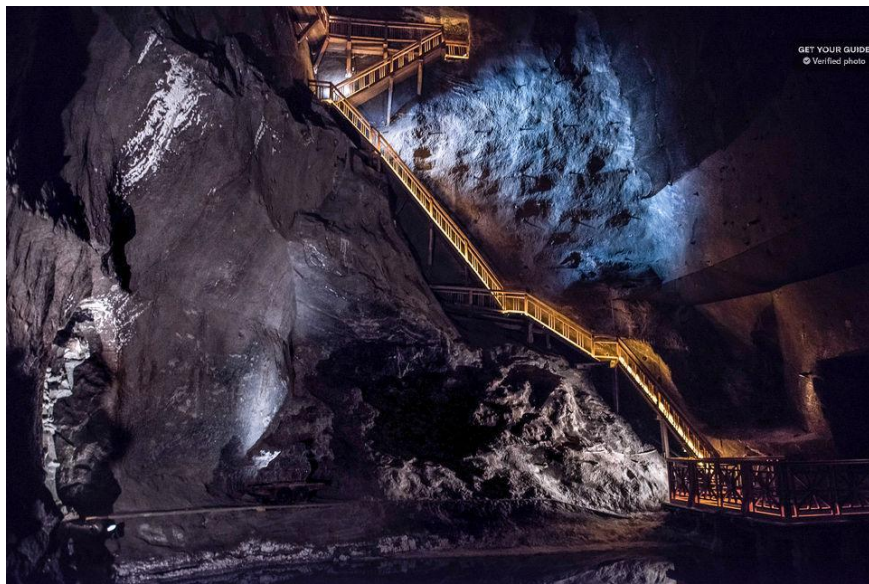


TOP 7 - POLISH MONUMENTS



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"WIELICZKA" SALT MINE



The “Wieliczka” Salt Mine is one of the most valuable monuments of material and spiritual culture in Poland. Each year it is visited by more than one million tourists from all over the world. It is also a world class monument, featuring among twelve objects on the UNESCO’s World Cultural and Natural Heritage List. The “Wieliczka” Salt Mine reaches a depth of 327 meters and extends for over 287 kilometers. The salt mine is like a small city, it features an underground lake, an art gallery, a house of worship, a lot of exhibits... and it’s all carved out of salt. There’s a 3.5-kilometer visitors' route, which is less than 2 percent of the mine passages' total length. There is also a chapel and a reception room that is used for private functions, including weddings or various events.



THE CATHEDRAL BASILICA OF THE HOLY FAMILY



The Cathedral Basilica of the Holy Family (also called Częstochowa Cathedral) is a religious building that is affiliated with the Catholic Church and was built in the neo-Gothic style, it is a three-nave church following the Roman or Latin rite and is located on the street Krakowska in the city of Częstochowa in Poland. It is one of the largest of its kind in Europe, built on an old cemetery in the years 1825-1898. It was built between 1901 and 1927 and designed by Konstanty Wojciechowski. The temple in 1925 became the cathedral of the diocese of Częstochowa. In the Chapel of Our Lady of Czestochowa there is a crypt of the local bishops.



MALBORK CASTLE



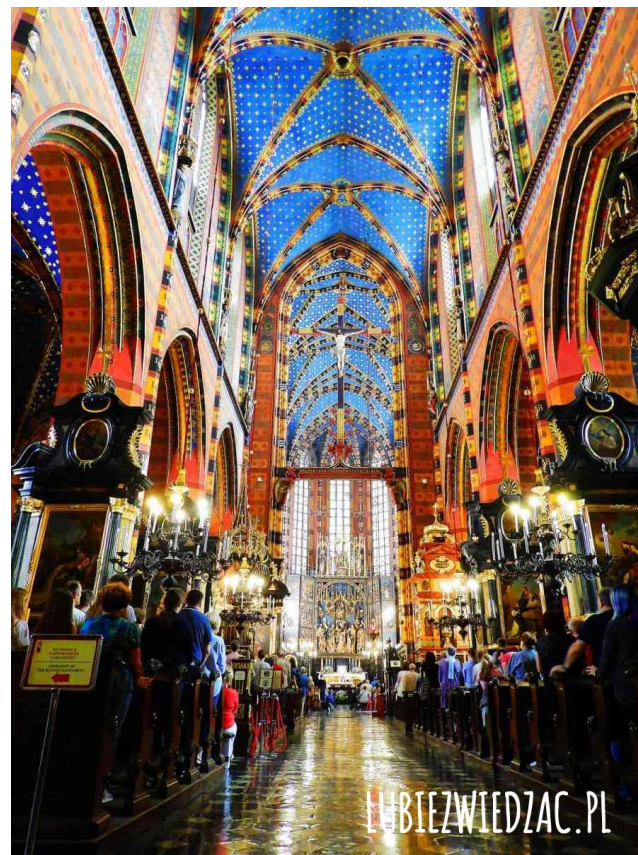
Malbork Castle is a 13th-century Teutonic castle and fortress located near the town of Malbork in northern Poland. It is the largest castle in the world measured by land area and a UNESCO World Heritage Site. It was constructed by the Teutonic Knights in a form of an Ordensburg fortress. The Order named it Marienburg in honour of Mary, mother of Jesus. In 1457 it was sold by the Bohemian mercenaries to King Casimir IV of Poland in lieu of indemnities and it since served as one of the several Polish royal residences and fulfilling this function until the First Partition of Poland in 1772. From then on, the castle was under German rule for over 170 years. Heavily damaged, the castle was renovated in the second half of the 20th century and in 2016. Nowadays, the castle hosts exhibitions and serves as a museum.



SAINT MARY'S BASILICA



Saint Mary's Basilica is a Brick Gothic church adjacent to the Main Market Square in Kraków. Built in the 14th century and serve as one of the best examples of Polish Gothic architecture. Standing 80 m tall, it is particularly famous for its wooden altarpiece carved by Veit Stoss. In 1978 it became a UNESCO World Heritage Site alongside the Historic Centre of Kraków. On every hour, a trumpet signal is played from the top of the taller of Saint Mary's two towers. The plaintive tune breaks off in mid-stream, to commemorate a famous 13th century trumpeter who was shot in the throat while sounding the alarm before a Mongol attack on the city. The noon-time hejnał is heard across Poland and abroad broadcast live by a radio station. The Basilica also served as an architectural model for churches that were built by the Polish people abroad.



WAWEL



Wawel is a fortified architectural complex erected over many centuries atop a limestone outcrop in Kraków. The complex consists of many buildings and fortifications; best known of these are the Royal Castle and the Wawel Cathedral. Some of Wawel's oldest stone buildings, such as the Rotunda of the Virgin Mary can be dated to 970. There are also wooden parts of the complex which date to about the 9th century. The Wawel Royal Castle was a royal residence, which is currently a historic building. Its construction lasted from the 13th to the 17th century. Its surface area is 7040 m² with 71 exhibition halls. Wawel Castle was declared a UNESCO World Heritage Site in 1978. In 1930 the Castle became one of the most important museums in the country. The chambers exhibit the famous Sigismund August tapestries and the magnificent Renaissance Italian paintings. The collection of the Castle is presented on several exhibitions, presenting the appearance of the royal residence in the 16th and 17th centuries.



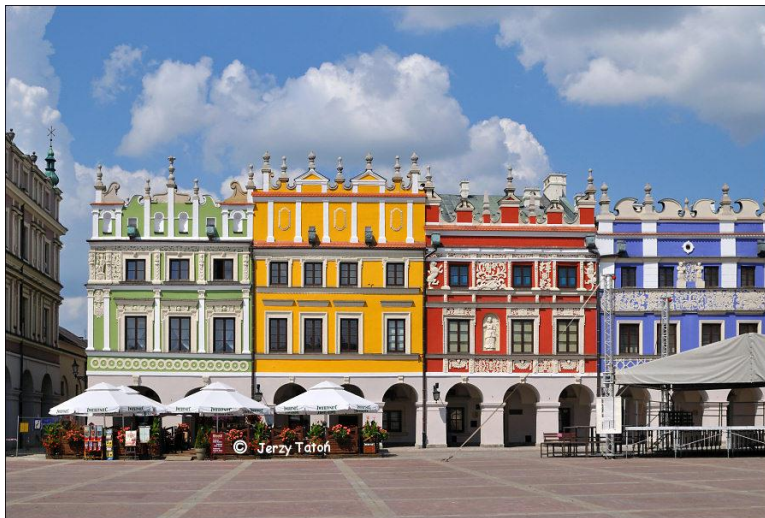
WESTERPLATTE



Westerplatte is a peninsula located in Gdańsk, on the Baltic sea. It is famous for the fact that the first battle of World War II took place there. During the interwar period Westerplatte belonged to the Free City of Danzig, however League of Nations granted Poland the right to install a garnison on the peninsula. On 1st September 1939 at 4:45 the german battleship „Schleswig-Holstein”, which was berthed in the Danzig harbour, started firing at the polish garnison. It was the beginning of World War II in Europe. The battle lasted 7 days. The polish army fought off 13 german assaults. During the battle, 15 polish soldiers were killed and at least 40 were wounded. The german army lost about 300-400 soldiers. The ruins of the defenders' barracks and guardhouses are still there. There is also a cemetery of polish soldiers. In 1966, a Monument of the Coast Defenders by Adam Haupta was unveiled on a 20 meters high mound on the peninsula. There is also an installation with inscription „War: never again”. Westerplatte Museum dedicated to the 1939 battle was created in 2015.



ZAMOŚĆ



Zamosc is a city located in eastern Poland, about 80 km from Lublin. Zamość is called the "Pearl of the Renaissance""Padua of the North"; and "City of Arcades"; because of the architectural arrangement of the old town designed by Bernardo Morando. The town hall ,with a 52 m high tower is located in the centre. Morando designed the Old Town of Zamość according to a plan of Italian cities and ideal cities based on the anthropomorphic concept. The "Head"; was to be the Zamoyski Palace, and the spine was to be Grodzka Street. The arms and hands were seven bastions surrounding the city. There are two markets around the Old Town: the Salt Market Square and the Water Market, which are internal organs. In 1992, the Old Town of Zamość was inscribed on the UNESCO World Heritage List. Next to the Town Hall, the most recognizable monuments of Zamość are colorful tenement houses and a cathedral.





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