




Opole lies in the south of Poland, on the Odra River. It is one of the oldest cities in Poland, and boasts a rich history and a multitude of architectonic heritage sites.

 127 792

 Wrocław –104 km

 **Tourist Information Centre**
ul. Żeromskiego 3, 45-053 Opole, Tel.: +48 77 44 12 521
visitopolskie.pl

MUST-SEE PLACES

The city centre is formed by **Rynek**, a square that has kept its medieval character. The dominant landmark of the square is its **Neo-Renaissance City Hall** built in the 19th century. The building was inspired by the famous Vecchio Palace in Florence. Rynek is surrounded by the most remarkable city **churches**: the Cathedral of the Exaltation of the Holy Cross with the Counts of Piast mausoleum, the Church of Our Lady of Sorrows and St Adalbert, built as far back as the 10th century, and the Franciscan Church of the Holy Trinity. Exhibitions in the local museums are also worth visiting, especially the interactive **Polish Song Museum** and the nearby Opole Village Museum, complete with its extensive outdoor exhibits. The existence of a count's castle is demonstrated by the 35-metre-tall **Piast Tower**, built at the turn of the 14th century. You can go up the tower and explore a small thematic exhibition. Be sure not to miss out on a walk around Młynówka, an old streambed of the Odra River in central Opole, reminiscent of Venice. Visit the local **zoo** as well, situated on Bolko Island, where you can see exotic and endangered animal species.

Opole Village Museum

This open-air museum features close to 50 historic wooden buildings, which show us how people lived in rural settings from the 17th-19th century. Rural cottages, barns, granaries, a church, a blacksmith's shop, a water mill and a windmill are on display here. Everything is furnished with period furniture and equipment.



www.muzeumwsiopolskiej.pl



Polish Song Museum

A multimedia exhibition offers visitors a cross-section through the history of Polish songs from the 1st half of the 20th century to the present day. Here, you can watch around 580 music videos and listen to around 2,000 audio recordings by well-known Polish performers.

TIP! *In a recording booth, you can become a star singer for a moment, try your hand at drumming and change into virtual costumes.*

muzeumpiosenki.pl

Piast Tower

Your tour guide will tell you about the history of the medieval tower and take you through the exhibits. The 42-metre-tall tower ranks among the oldest defence structures in Poland. Its significance is explained in more detail during a multimedia presentation.



www.wiezapiastowska.pl

A BIG TOUR OF THE CZECH-POLISH FRONTIER



ZOO

The zoological garden is situated on Bolko Island at the Odra River. More than 1,000 animals of 130 species live in the area stretching across 20 hectares. This is the only zoo in Poland that keeps lowland gorillas and a California sea lion.

zoo.opole.pl

NEARBY TRIPS

You can head southwest from Opole and go to the town of **Nysa**. Along the way, you'll come across **Niemodlin Chateau** 1, which was built as far back as the 13th century to protect the entire Opole region. You may also visit **the Prisoners of War Museum in Łambinowice**. You can also head to **Paczków**, which is close to Nysa, and visit the breath-taking Automotive Metamuseum.

Prisoners of War Museum, Łambinowice – 40 km from Opole

The museum is situated in a former prisoner-of-war camp, Lamsdorf, also once called Camp I. The exhibition is located in the buildings formerly used by the Wehrmacht as their headquarters and guardhouse. The origins of Lamsdorf extend back to the Franco-Prussian War. The camp was one of the largest camps in the German POW system during the Second World War.



www.cmjw.pl

Nysa – 55 km from Opole

The town, dubbed 'the Silesian Rome', attracts visitors in particular with the remains of its fortifications dating back to the times when Nysa was one of the strongest fortresses in Europe. It is one of the best-preserved fortification systems in Silesia (→ p. 61). Also worth visiting, is the Basilica of St James and St Agnes (→ p. 48), one of the largest sacral buildings in Poland.

www.nysa.eu



Automotive Metamuseum, Paczków – 80 km from Opole

The Metamuseum was established at the impetus of the 'Concept of Notion' Biernacki Family Trust as an educational centre. Its objective is to promote technical culture and useful knowledge in physics and mechanics. Its 1,200 m² area houses eleven interactive workstations called test centres. It includes a collection of a few dozen historic cars and motorbikes. Here, you can admire Ford, Mercedes, Porsche and Ferrari classic cars, and even the legend of the Polish motoring industry – the Sokół 600 motorcycle. The neighbouring building houses the 'Na Hoplach' Modern Art Gallery and the 'Hople Paczków' Winery. The whole compound is an extraordinary attraction in Paczków.

pow.org.pl

A BIG TOUR OF THE CZECH-POLISH FRONTIER



If you head south from Opole, towards the Czech-Polish border, you'll discover a treasure in the form of **Moszna Chateau** (→ p. 40), which is often compared to the famous Disney Castle. There is a truly unique place near the chateau, **the Robot Factory** (→ p. 56), inspired by famous sci-fi films. Before you cross the border and arrive at the Jeseníky Mountains, stop at the small town of **Glucholazy**, where you can go up a salt tower whose microclimate on a clear day is supposed to be worth three days spent at the seaside. To see Opole's natural treasures, you can head southeast from Opole, to **St. Anne's Mountain Protected Landscape Area** 2, where you can also find a pilgrimage and monastery site of the same name, and an amphitheatre built by the Nazis.

To the east of Opole is **Turawa Lake**, a holiday resort popular with water sports and fishing enthusiasts. The lake was created on **the Mała Panew**, a meandering lowland river with mountain stream characteristics, which is ideal for canoeing. Fossils of reptiles dating from 225 million years ago were found just a few kilometres away from the lake, which has given rise to the idea of building a **JuraPark** in Krasiejów.

Turawa Lake – 20 km from Opole

The lake is surrounded by forested areas, which protect the lake's sand beaches from the wind. The area is well-known as an important ornithological spot, as well as great fishing place for catching pike, pike perch, carp, and eels.



If you head north from Opole, stop at **the Stobrawa Protected Landscape Area**, which is a true paradise for both hikers and cyclists.

Stobrawa Protected Landscape Area – 30 km from Opole

The length of the park stretches up to roughly sixty kilometres, and includes a section of the Odra River valley. The major asset of the area is the woods, which make up around 78% of its area. The fact that this park is exceptional is demonstrated by nearly forty protected species of animals and by the same number of very rare plant species. The park is home to 170 species of songbirds and aquatic birds, including some rare species and species in danger of becoming extinct.

REGULAR EVENTS



JUNE

The National Festival of Polish Songs, Opole

JULY

Hot Air Balloon Aeropicnic – Polish Championship, Paczków
Nysa Fortress Days



JuraPark, Krasiejów – 25 km from Opole

The only museum in the world situated above an active paleontological site. At JuraPark, you can enjoy more than 200 life-sized models of dinosaurs, take an expedition through the tunnel of time, visit a prehistoric aquarium, and so much more.

www.juraparkkrasiejow.pl

