

Art museums & art galleries

The first museum in Poland was opened in the palace of Czartoryski family in Puławy beginning 19th century. The collections of arts of the family was housed in a so called „Gothic house”. At the same time Stanisław Potocki opened in Wilanów palace museum opened for public.

There are actually 690 museums in Poland. They exhibit 13 mln artifacts. They fulfil both sightseeing function and educational one. 18,5 mln people visited museums in 2005. 33% of them were students and school youth.

- The most popular among all museums are 80 museums collecting arts. They are often located in old palaces and castles. More than 4,6 mln visitors visit them a year. It means that they represent almost 40% of tourist movement in terms of museums. The exhibitions located in old interiors impress more than the standard ones. However young visitors prefer modern way of exhibiting with multimedia effects.



- A high frequency of museums is caused by location close to popular tourist paths and trails e.g. Pieskowa Skała castle
- It is sometimes that a building is of great value and therefore tourist visit it. And the museum is just additional attraction. e.g. Kórnik castle



- Museums are the only tourist antropogenic attraction where it is possible to count the number of visitors. Therefore it is possible to measure their value according to the frequency.

The museums with the largest number of visitors are

1. Wawel castle
2. National Museum in Kraków
3. Łańcut castle

There are two cities with big number of museums: **Kraków and Warsaw**. It is because of its history and artistical values

Biographical museums

- People are always interested in life of famous people- scientists, politicians, nation heros, artists, writers etc. They are regarded with great respect. The evidence of it are some 30 museums collecting the works, furniture and documents connected with famous people.
- The tourist attractiveness is usually connected with the fame of the person the museum is dedicated to.
- The most of the museums are located in houses they had lived. The largest number of museums are dedicated to writers. **Henryk Sienkiewicz**- Nobel Prized wirtier and **Stefan Żeromski** have got two museums.

- Museum of Henryk Sienkiewicz in Oblegorek (Świętorzyskie region) is the most popular one.
- Museum of Fryderyk Chopin in Żelazowa Wola - Masovia
- House of Jan Matejko (famous painter) in Kraków
- Mikołaj Kopernik house in Toruń- Kuyiavia Pomerania
- Wadowice- born town of pope John Paul II- Lesser Poland

Specialistic museums and other objects

- The object is rare to exist the higher value it offers, also in terms of attractiveness. Therefore the museums with unique objects face the larger number of visitors. We know it based on the number of tickets sold.
- It is hard to classify those museums. They have unique collections all over Europe and single ones all over country.
- Museums with old artistic artefacts, nature museums or museums of technology.
- However one of the most interesting museums is museum of **old coaches in Łańcut castle**
- **Panorama Racławicka** in Wrocław huge painting illustrating the battle of Racławice
- The **museum of dolls** in Karpacz
- The **basilic in Licheń**- the biggest church in Poland attracts many people, not only pilgrims.
- Museum of computers in Katowice Upper Silesia



10- top museums in Poland

1. Warsaw Uprising Museum (Warszawa). Museum of uprising 1944 regarded as the best in Poland

2. Concentration camp- (Bełżec). Small area (275m x 263m) where between 1942-1943 there was a german camp for Jewish and Gipsys),5 mln people lost their lives there.

3. Airplane Museum (Kraków). Huge collection of airplanes from I and II world wars. Collection belonged to Herman Goering

4. Museum of Origin of Polish State (Gniezno). Museum of Polish history, especially interesting for shool youth



5. **Museum Żywiec Beer** (Żywiec)..

6. **Fire museum** (Bystrzyca Kłodzka). Museum of the tools by which you could burn a fire. Lights, lighters etc.

7. **Museum of axes, pickes** (Orzechówka k/Bodzentyna).

8. **Muzeum of soap and history of dirt** (Bydgoszcz).
Na ekspozycję tę składają się: mydła z różnych zakątków świata i Europy oraz przedmioty, urządzenia służące do mycia i kąpieli (m.in. pierwsza przenośna toaleta czy pierwotny prysznic) oraz dokumenty opowiadające o metodach i rytuałach higienicznych. Co ciekawe eksponatów można dotknąć, powąchać a nawet kupić.



The Best Museums according Frommers website

Museum of the Warsaw Uprising (Warsaw): When you're done walking through the exhibitions and watching the startling documentaries filmed during the fighting in 1944 on display here, you'll understand a lot more about the Poles' resolve to preserve their nation. Just the photos alone of Warsaw's total destruction will leave you in awe that this city still exists at all.

Museum of Zakopane Style (Zakopane): This low-key museum is dedicated to the fine woodworking craft of the early Zakopane architects of the late 19th and early 20th centuries. No stunning, high-tech visuals, just beautifully carved furnishings and a wonderful aesthetic feel. They took the lowly log cabin and made it a palace.

Galicja Jewish Museum (Kraków-Kazimierz): The main exhibition here features contemporary and often beautiful photographs of important Jewish sites throughout southern Poland taken by the late British photographer Chris Schwarz. Schwarz spent 12 years traveling throughout Poland using photography as a way of trying to preserve the country's rapidly disappearing Jewish heritage. The effect here works beautifully.

Museums as architectural masterpieces

- Lately museums not only collect and exhibit interesting artifacts but also are attraction as a building.
- 1. Museum of airplanes in Kraków
- 2. Museum of technology Katowice
- 3. Museum of Arts Łódź

