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Tarnow, Gen. Józef Bem Mausoleum



We provide thorough and up-to-date information on Tarnów region tourist attractions and facilities.

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On the 7th of March 1330, office of King Władysław Łokietek, issued Spycymir, the Voivode of Kraków, a document, which granted Tarnów city rights. City was located on the hill overlooking the whole area (226 m above the sea level).

Medieval layout of the city was kept till this day. Development of the city was dependent on a trade trail which ran from Germany to Russia and crossed another trail running from Hungary to the Baltic sea. Tarnów was a private city until 1787.

The greatest growth took place in XVI century. At that time Tarnów belonged to Jan Tarnowski, crown's commander in chief, excellent manager and organizer. In 1536, inside city walls there were over 200 houses and about 2000 people lived here.

From 1567 till 1787, over a span of 220 years numerous fires, famines, wars and mostly the greed of city's owners have ruined the wealth of the city.

Tarnów began to develop again at the end of the XVIII century. In 1782 it became the seat of a district and in 1786 it become home for a bishop. It's was also home to a large army garrison. XIX century is a period of great urban development. In 1870 Tarnów's population grew to 21.779 and was a third largest city in this part of the country, after Lwów and Kraków.

When World War I erupts in August of 1914, Tarnów's citizens willingly join the Polish Legions and at the end of October 1918, Tarnów as a first city in Poland regained its independence. During the times of the Second Republic of Poland, between 1918 and 1939 city continues to develop and becomes a major industrial center.

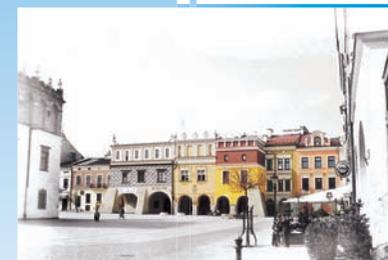
On the 28th of August 1939, a time bomb, left by a German saboteur, explodes in a Tarnów train station and kills 20 people. Therefore we can say that World War II started in Tarnów. On the 14th of June 1940, first transport to Auschwitz Concentration Camp left from under the Jewish baths. Prisoners from Tarnów (728 people) were the first victims of the concentration camp.

After World War II Tarnów was a district town in Kraków Province. In 1975 after the administrative reform Tarnów became the seat of the voivodship. It became a major administrative, cultural and economical region of the country. Population grew to 120 thousand.

On the 1st of January 1999, Tarnów lost its administrative status and at this time is a seat of two districts in Małopolska province.



# TARNÓW



TARNÓW REGION TOURIST GUIDE



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## Renaissance Tarnów

**Tarnów's old town**, called the „Pearl of Polish Renaissance” is one of most beautiful examples of renaissance urban layout of polish cities.

**City square**, designed at the time Tarnów received its city rights in 1330, is surrounded by tenement houses, mostly built between XVI and XVIII centuries. Most valuable are two **renaissance buildings** located in the northern part of the square, marked as numbers 20 and 21. Currently they are home of the Regional Museum.

Centrally located city hall, at first gothic, built again in the middle of the XIV century, was rebuilt on several occasions. In its final form it has a characteristic renaissance style. Body of the building is topped off with a brick attic with 28 blends. Top of the attic is decorated with stone scrolls, pinnacles and 14 mascarons.

**Cathedral**, the most representative historical monument in Tarnów, was built in the XIV century in a gothic style. Today's neo-gothic style is a remnant of a renovation and partial reconstruction in the years 1889-1900. The temple is famous for monumental renaissance tombstones of representatives of the Tarnowskich family and those of the Ostrogskich family. These are some of the best examples of works by such masters as Bartłomiej Berecci, Jan Maria Padovano and Jan Pfister. Sculpture on the tombstone of Barbara Tęczynska from Tarnowskich family is considered to be the most beautiful sculpture depicting a woman, in renaissance art in the whole of Europe. In 2006 the Cathedral became a sanctuary of Blessed Virgin Mary.

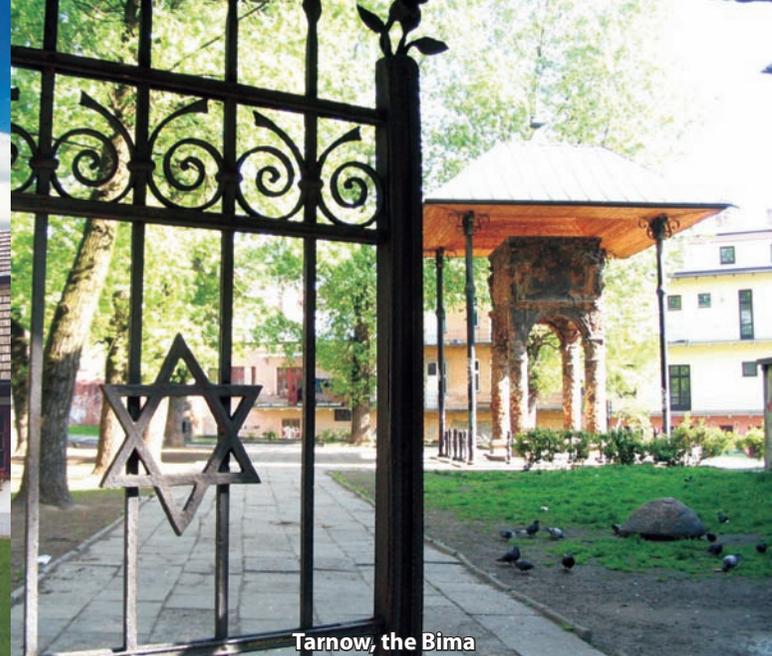
In the backstreets, behind the Cathedral **Mikołajowski House** is located. It is one of the most beautiful and oldest, built in 1524, tenement houses in Tarnów. Diocese Museum, which is located in this house, has a unique exhibit, original alter from a UNESCO listed church in Lipnica Murowana.



Tarnów, Cathedral



Tarnów, Ethnographic Museum



Tarnów, the Bima

## Tarnów's must-sees

Existing for over 200 years, **Old Cemetery in Tarnów**, known as Zablocki, is one of the oldest existing and used cemeteries in Poland. Oldest surviving graves come from the end of the XVII century. Registered as a monument, it is considered to be one of the most beautiful in Poland, not only because of religious monuments, but also because of location, trees and a unique atmosphere.

**Blessed Virgin Mary church**, is located close to the Old Town. It was consecrated in 1440. Inside we can see an alter from the second half of the XVIII century, it has an architectural characteristic. Sculptures of saint John the Baptist and an unknown bishop can be admired there. The alter houses a painting of Blessed Virgin Mary with a Child, from the XVI century. It was painted on a board and later repainted in a baroque manner, most likely in the XVIII century. Painting is partly covered by dresses, crowns and metals from the XVIII and the XIX century. It is also said to be miraculous.

**The Holy Trinity church**, build between 1595 and 1597. The main alter comes from the first half of the XVII century and is early baroque in style, it is richly decorated and with a painting of the Holy Trinity surrounded by angels. The painting is right in the middle of the whole construction. The painting of the Holy Trinity was painted in the style of the „Throne of Grace” and comes from the first half of the XVII century.

**Ethnographic museum**, which houses the only one in Europe, permanent exhibition about the Gypsy culture. On the courtyard of the old inn, we can admire a seasonal exhibition of Gypsy carriages.



## Jewish Tarnów

History of Tarnów is tied to history of the **Jewish people**, who before World War II made up more than half of local population.

One of the most important monuments of Jewish culture is **Bima** (almemor), a podium in the synagogue from which Tora was read. Bima is all that remains of a brick synagogue built in 1661, burned down by Nazis on 9th of November 1939. Today it is used for annual concerts organized during the Days of Remembrance for Galician Jews „Galicjaner Sztetl”.

**Mykwa** or the Jewish baths, built in the years 1900-1904, architecturally ties into Mauritian architecture. On the 14th June of 1940, from the building of Jewish baths 728 prisoners were taken to Auschwitz and were the first victims of the concentration camp.

**Jewish cemetery**, founded in 1581, is one of the oldest and best preserved Jewish cemeteries in Poland. Several thousand graves can be found there, oldest of which come from the end of the XVII century. Tarnów's necropolis is a religious cemetery and frequently visited by tourist from all over the world. The original, iron gate is currently in the Holocaust Memorial Museum in Washington.

**Between Wekslarska and Żydowska streets** the oldest city quarter occupied by Jewish families in as early as the XVI century, survives till this day. It is characterized by tenement houses, with narrow hallways, tiny courtyards and narrow front walls, built between the XVII and the XVIII centuries. Some of the houses kept original metal window shutters in store windows and in some door panes we can still see marks after mezuzahs (small piece of paper containing two parts of torah). On Żydowska Street in 1997, plaque commemorating martyrdom of Tarnów's Jews was installed.