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Tarnów, the Renaissance Renaissance Houses.



Tarnów region is filled with special places, that create an exceptional climate of this part of the Poland. These places, that stay engraved in one's memory, make people come back over and over again.

Specific climate of the Tarnów region was shaped throughout the ages, in a melting pot of pervading cultures of its citizens. Many liberties economical as well as religious granted by the owners of this city, brought many newcomers from the farthest parts of Europe. Germans and Jews were traders and the wealthiest Scottish families built foundations of capital markets by starting first banks and corporations.

Tarnów was also home to people who believed in religions other than Christian. At the end of the XVI century a synagogue and a protestant church functioned in the city.

Twice, in its history, Tarnów granted refuge to governments of neighboring countries. In XVI century, the Hungarian king Jan Zapolya stayed in Tarnów castle. During his stay he planned his return to the throne of his kingdom. In the 1920's of the last century, the city became home to the government of the Ukrainian People's Republic.

In the modern days, Gypsies made Tarnów their home. Their fascinating culture and history can be viewed in an exhibition in the local ethnographic museum.

Traditions and customs are continually cultivated in the Tarnów region. Folklore is more frequently regarded as one of the most important elements of society identity, creating their uniqueness.

Powisłe or the northern part of the region is famous for tradition of painting houses in floral patterns. South, on the other hand, is identified with a tradition of building Easter palms, creators of which compete with each other in annual contests in Lipnica Murowana.

Two castles located near Tarnów, in Nowy Wiśnicz and Dębno, also present a unique value. Erected in two different time periods and presenting totally different architectural styles, are perfect examples of defensive residences of their times. As unique as the castles are expositions of the Tarnów Regional Museum.

The collections of Tarnów region museums- from road machines to dolls are so unique, that they do not have equivalent in the whole of Poland.

We invite you to visit places that are unforgettable.

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

Our commercial offer includes:

- tourist maps and guides
- budget accommodation in 1,2 or 3-bed rooms
- bike rental
- conference facilities and equipment rental



## UNFORGETTABLE PLACES



TARNÓW REGION TOURIST GUIDE



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Nowy Wiśnicz, the Castle



Tarnow, the Ostrogkich Family Tombstone



Szczucin, the Museum of Road Building

**Bochnia Salt Mine** opened in 1248, is the oldest salt mine in Poland. After output was stopped, it was converted into a museum and a spa. Accessible for viewing are carved in the salt rock: Wyżyna Chamber, saint Kinga's Chapel, Kierat Chamber, Mysiur Stable, Rabsztyn Chamber and the oldest mining pits. Museum exhibitions represent history of salt mining, old methods of extraction, machines and mining tools as well as sculptures carved in „white gold”. Recently a new underground train was opened and visitors can also use a 140 m slide.

**XIV century castle in Nowy Wiśnicz** is the biggest surviving baroque defensive structure in Poland. It is composed of 4 two storey wings, grouped around internal courtyard, with 4 characteristic towers. Castle has a rich architectural and painting décor (marble and stone arches, fireplace settings, wall polychrome and stucco decorations).

**Dębno castle** from the XV century is the best kept knight's residence from the late gothic period in Poland. The castle is composed of four buildings, which surround a cobble stone courtyard with a well. Exhibition inside the castle allow us to see how did the knight's room, castle chapel, treasury and an old kitchen look in the past. Every year in September a knightly tournament „For a golden braid of Tarłówna” draws in scores of participants and thousands of spectators.

**Manor house and park complex in Kaźna Dolna** is the only preserved residence, of great composer and politician Ignacy Jan Paderewski, in the world. Manor house was built at the beginning of the XIX century. It was rebuilt and modernized in 1897 at the orders of Ignacy Jan Paderewski. Inside we find a museum dedicated to the composer. Paderewski Center, which manages the complex, organizes concerts and music festivals, including such famous ones as Bravo Maestro or the Talents Week.

## Tarnów



**Tarnów's greatest prosperity** falls on the time when Great Crown Hetman Jan Amor Tarnowski ruled the city. It was he who expanded embankments around the city and reinforced its defensive capabilities. He issued instructions pertaining to the rule of law in the city, behavior during fire emergencies and formation of craft guilds. It was during that time that civil engineering projects developed and made Tarnów **one of the centers of renaissance architecture**.

Jan Maria Padovano, one of the greatest architects of the Renaissance worked for Hetman Jan Tarnowski. He created **one of the greatest funerary monuments in Europe**. This work of art can be found in Tarnów's cathedral. It contains real life sculptures of Jan Amor Tarnowski and his son Krzysztof. This same artist designed and managed construction of the **Tarnów's city hall**. Another funerary monument that can be found in the Tarnów basilica is dedicated to Hetman's first wife Barbara. It represents a figure of a lying woman.

Most valuable historical monuments in Tarnów come from that time period. Thanks to them Tarnów has a **glorious name of the „Pearl of Polish Renaissance”**.

Some of the most important historical monuments of the city are also tied to the **history of Tarnów's Jews**. Oldest quarter of the city occupied by them, marked by Żydowska and Wekslarska streets, **with a surviving XVII and XVIII century tenement houses**, with characteristic narrow fronts and tiny courtyards, expresses the climate of the old Jewish quarter.

Between buildings on Żydowska Street, on the square, left after the Old Synagogue, stands Bima, the only surviving part of the synagogue. While walking in the steps of Tarnów's Jews one cannot miss **one of the oldest Jewish Cemeteries** in Poland located on Szpitalna Street. This cemetery houses several thousands of graves, of which the oldest comes from the XVII century.

## Museums' Exhibitions

**Diocese museum in Tarnów** is the oldest museum of this type in Poland. Most important exhibits are gothic sculpting and painting from Małopolska. Second part of the exhibit is composed of religious cloths from the middle ages till the XIX century. Third part of the exhibit is the collection of paintings on glass. The most interesting exhibition is the original altar from a UNESCO listed saint Leonard's church in Lipnica Murowana

**Ethnographic museum in Tarnów** possesses a permanent exhibition representing history and culture of the Gypsy culture, documents and every day items tied to life and travels of the Gypsy people. In the courtyard we can see an exhibition of original Gypsy carts.

**Museum in Zalipie** is located in buildings of Felicja Curyłowa farm. External walls as well as the inside ones are decorated in original flower ornaments. The living quarters are equipped in original furniture, farming tools, equipment, dishes, elements of folk outfits, chromolithographies and diaries of the dead artist, Felicja Curyłowa.

**Road museum** is the greatest tourist attraction of Szczucin. It is one of the most interesting museums of technology in Poland. On the area of 2 ha, tens of old machines and road devices: rollers, tractors, as well as a large collection of road signs, road posts and measuring devices are collected.

In Pilzno, a town near Tarnów we can find a **Doll Museum**, created next to a workshop that specializes in doll production. Museum contains a large collection of dolls from the whole world including a large collection of Japanese dolls. In the branch of the museum located in Lipiny we find a heritage park with miniature characters and buildings from different fairy tales.