

TARNÓW AND REGION





Tarnów and region



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Tarnów District Museum

Rvnek 3, 33-100 Tarnów, Poland tel. +48 14 621 21 49 rynek@muzeum.tarnow.pl www.muzeum.tarnow.pl

Ethnographic Museum

ul. Krakowska 10, 33-100 Tarnów, Poland tel. +48 14 622 06 25 etnoarafia@muzeum.tarnow.pl www.muzeum.tarnow.pl

Town Hall Museum

Rynek 1, 33-100 Tarnów, Poland tel. +48 14 692 90 00 ratusz@muzeum.tarnow.pl www.muzeum.tarnow.pl

Distances to international airports:

👭 Krakow – Balice – 90 km (56 miles) 👭 Rzeszow – Jasionka – 90 km (56 miles)

Distances to major cities:

Trakow – 80 km (50 miles) Warsaw - 298 km (180 miles) 👬 Rzeszów - 80 km (50 miles) Sandomierz - 100 km (62 miles) Zakopane – 160 km (100 miles)



Did you know that ...

Tarnów is known as the "Polish hot spot"?
Literally. The long-term mean annual temperature equals 8.8°C and is the highest in Poland.
Growing season lasts for 210 up to 230 days.

■ What Tarnów gave to the World?

Bulletproof vest, color photography, TV broadcasting – just to mention few inventions of Jan Szczepanik aka the "Polish Edison". Hope and faith to the Poles, Hungarians and Turks fighting for freedom and independence of their nations against the Austrian and Russian invaders, led by General Bem. Or great artists such as Wilhelm Sasnal, regarded one of the most important young contemporary artists in the world.

Carpathian Mountains begin in Tarnów?

The northernmost hill of the Carpathians is St Martin Hill, located within the city's borders.

Tarnów – the city since 1330

Monumental tombs inside the Cathedral are among tallest in Europe?

Over a dozen meters high Gothic-Renaissance tomb of the last members of the Tarnowski family together with the Baroque one of Zuzanna and Janusz Ostrogski are the masterpieces of sepulchral sculpture. Zofia Tarnowska's effigy is regarded the most beautiful Renaissance sculpture of a woman in Poland.

■ Tarnów is second largest complex of historic and historical sites in Malopolska?

They are scattered all around the city and range from the Gothic to modernistic. The Old Town has preserved the urban layout it was founded on in 1330 thus the most ancient monuments are located there. The most modern can be found in Mościce, industrial district of Tarnów that was planned in accordance with the principles of the garden city concept.

■ Tarnów was twice the capital city of the neighboring countries?

First in 1528, when John Zápolya, king of Hungary, found a refuge in the Tarnowski castle after he was forced to flee his homeland. Then in 1920, after the Red Army defeated Ukrainians and their government evacuated to Poland. The Bristol and the Soldinger's hotels needed to be adapted for the offices of Ukrainian Government in exile.





Renaissance Trail

Tarnów enjoyed its greatest time of prosperity in the 16th c. under hetman Jan Tarnowski who transformed the town into "Renaissance pearl" of Poland. Tarnowski has modernized Tarnów introducing numerous innovations to the infrastructure, legal and social aspects of the functioning of his town. He ordered to replace all the wooden building in the center with concrete ones and surrounded Tarnów with modern walls. With King's approval, Tarnowski hired royal sculptor and architect, Jan Maria Padovano (Gianmaria Mosca). Padovano

supervised reconstruction of the Town Hall and created several sepulchral monuments inside the Cathedral. His works are recognized as the masterpieces of Polish Renaissance art. Tarnowski, outstanding military commander and politician was also a great humanist. His castle was famous for its priceless library. Although the castle did not survived, visit to the ruins allows scenic overview of the city. So, allow yourself some time to stroll around the old town and visit places and artifacts of unparalleled quality and value.



Józef Bem Trail

Józef Bem is one of the greatest sons of Tarnów. Born on 14 March, 1794 in a suburban house at Burek square, moved with his parents to Kraków, after Napoleon Bonaparte established the Duchy of Warsaw, in 1807. As a graduate of military school, aged 15, he joined Polish artillery regiment and fought in Napoleon's Russian campaign winning cross of Chevalier (Knight) of the Légion d'honneur. After Napoleon's defeat, Bem became an instructor at military college but soon got involved in conspiracy. Sentenced for detention for his political activity, Bem flees to Galicia. He fights in the November Uprising of 1830 and is forced to go into exile after its suppression. In 1848, during the "Springtime of the Nations", Józef Bem joins the Hungarians in their struggles against the Austrians and soon takes the command of Hungarian uprising. His bravery and ingenious tactic proved in Transylvania wins him dignity of national hero of Hungary. Crushed at the Battle of Segesvár by overwhelming Austrian forces, Bem flees to Ottoman Empire. He converts to Islam, changes his name to Murad Pasha and accepts the post of governor of Aleppo. He





dies of fever on December 10, 1850. His ashes were ceremonially brought back to Poland in 1929, and rested in imposing mausoleum in Strzelecki Park in his hometown Tarnów. The route is very symbolic as it connects Bem's birthplace and burial site, passing places which document his lifetime achievements. Regional Museum in Tarnów collects pieces of Panorama of the Battle of Sibiu (owns 19 of 39 located so far), including the largest one (3,85m x 3,28m), which presents the rear of the Hungarian army under general Bem in the battle of Sibiu. Jan Styka, recognized Polish painter from whom the Hungarians commissioned the painting in 1897, has ultimately cut the canvas (120m x 15m) into small pieces. Large (17m x 12m) mural painted on a wall of a building at Wałowa street, next to the Bem's statue, represents one fragment. Two other sites en route are statue of General Józef Bem located at Wałowa st. and Petofi Square, popular "Hungarian corner" of Tarnów. The square encompasses several "evidence of friendship" between the Polish and Hungarian nations: bust of Sandor Petofi (Hungarian national poet and Bem's adjutant), "Szekely Gate" and kopjafa - curved wooden memorial posts.



Jewish Heritage Trail

Some 25.000 Jews lived in Tarnów in 1939, constituting almost half of the city's population and making it the fourth largest Jewish community in former Galicia (after Lwów, Kraków and Stanisławów). Tarnów region was one of the main centers of Hasidism. The Jews operated their own schools, numerous institutions, printing houses and even published newspapers in Yiddish and Polish. They lived mostly in the eastern part of Tarnów. East-facing Żydowska (Jewish) and Wekslarska (Draft or Note) streets outline the original Jewish quarter of the city. The buildings there are examples of specific construction with narrow fronts and small backyards unique to the quarter.



On 11-19 June 1942, the Old Town witnessed mass slaughter of nearly 3.000 Jews carried out by the Germans at Town Square. Buildings along Goldhammera street once housing important Jewish institutions such as prayer house, credit society, hotel, etc. still impress with their specific style. On one of the buildings fragments of advertising inscriptions in Polish and Yiddish have been preserved. The most important Jewish heritage site is the 16th century cemetery – one of the oldest, biggest and best preserved in southern Poland. It covers an area of 3.20 hectares with about 6.000 graves. Other must-see locations along the trail include: Jewish Baths – the Mikvah with memorial for the first transport of prisoners to KL Auschwitz; Szancer's Mill (the first established in Galicia); the Bimah – remains of the oldest Synagogue in Tarnów, built after 1661, and burnt down by the Germans.



Polish Edison Trail



Jan Szczepanik, the pioneer of color photography, television broadcasting and color films, precursor of modern textile industry and inventor of bulletproof jacket is another famous citizen of Tarnów. Born on 13th June, 1872, near Przemysl, spent most of his adult life in Tarnów. His workshops were located in Berlin and Dresden and his inventions were known worldwide. He

was a friend to Mark Twain who wrote two tales dedicated to Jan Szczepanik. The great inventor died on 8th November, 1926, and was buried in Tarnów.

Wandering along the Polish Edison's Trail one can stop at 11 Szopena street, Szczepanik's family house and at 11 Sowińskiego street where he spent several years of successful work on color photography and diapositives. One example of Szczepanik's inventions is the "Apotheosis" – large tapestry produced with his method, owned by Tarnów District Museum. It was made to celebrate the 50th anniversary of Emperor Franz Josef's reign. Jan Szczepanik was buried in the Dzikowski family vault at the Old Cemetery in Tarnów. The only monument to Jan Szczepanik stands at Szczepanika square next to the school named after the great inventor. The school houses Jan Szczepanik memorial room.





Ethnography and folk

Tarnów region surprises with unique and charming places that compose specific atmosphere of the eastern part of Malopolska. Their qualities make people come back over and over again. Fascinating world of local traditions and reviving folk art is becoming more and more attractive to young people who search for their identity and roots. Unification of culture as a result of globalization changed the young generation's perception of folklore. Wearing ethnic outfit is no longer passé. Joined in a celebration of local traditions young people redefine their identity acknowledging the wisdom of their ancestors.



Tarnów Ethnographic Museum, located in former suburban inn, is known for its unique Gypsy collections that have composed the first permanent exhibition dedicated to the Romany culture in Europe. Collection of five original horse-drawn wagons, parked in the backyard, is the necessary complement to the exhibited history.



Lipnica Murowana, small medieval village, is widely recognized in Poland not only as the birthplace of three Christian saints or home of UNECO-listed St. Leonard's wooden church. Each year hundreds of participants compete there in traditional Easter Palm Contest. Winning palms reach up to 38 meters into the sky.



Zalipie is Poland's only "Painted Village". At present, there are over 30 farmsteads where houses and farm buildings are adorned with multicolor floral murals. Each year "Painted Cottage" contest is held there. The jury awards most beautifully painted building. At Felicja Curylowa's Farmstead Museum, branch of Tarnów District Museum, one can see beauteously painted interiors, everyday equipment and utensils.



Agritourism. Whether it is summer or winter break you can enjoy the legendary Polish hospitality. There are nearly 200 farms in Tarnów region which offer accommodation, organic food and recreation activities of unique values. Try mushrooming, fishing or horse rides in the summer; skiing, horse sledge rides in the winter and sightseeing all year round. If interested, you can learn how to bake homemade bread or harvest and process herbs. There is plenty to choose from. Some farmers allow tourists to participate in everyday activities, such as: feeding the animals, weeding or harvesting.





Mościcie is modernistic district of the city built in the neighborhood of Zakłady Azotowe (Nitrogen Works). The designers aspired to create self-sufficient residential area that would provide optimal living conditions for the residents. The architects have incorporated the ideals of "garden city" concept of urban planning, creating green and spacious neighborhood. One and



Mościce - the garden district



two-story houses, park, cultural and recreational infrastructure of Mościce was built symmetrically to the regular street network. The streets were actually the alleys, named after species of the trees they were planted with. The whole historic residential area of Mościce was added to the registry of monuments in 1979.

Castles and fortifications

The earliest Polish castles were built to protect borders of newly established Kingdom of Poland as well as vital trade routes. With emergence of the Polish nobility number of strongholds has increased significantly. They provided both protection and execution of royal and local laws and regulations.



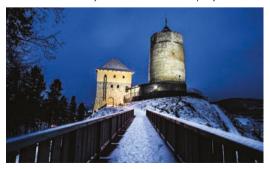
Stone and brick castles and fortifications mushroomed in the area in the 13th and 14th c. but only a few survived, becoming significant tourist attractions. The Debno Castle, built between 1470 and 1480, is the best preserved late-Gothic knight's residence in Poland. The castle is composed of four two-story buildings that enclose a cobblestone quadrangle with a well. The brick and stone structure is enhanced with turrets and oriels. Door and window portals are embellished with floral, geometrical and heraldic motifs. Indoor exhibitions include the Throne Room, the chapel, the treasury and a fully equipped kitchen. In September, the castle hosts annual Medieval Tournament "O Złoty Warkocz Tarłówny" ("For the Gold Braid of Lady Tarło").

The 14th c. castle in Nowy Wiśnicz is the biggest preserved Baroque defensive residence in Poland. It is composed of four two-stories high buildings. The castle's interiors have rich architectural and painting decorations including marble and stone arches, fire-place settings, wall polychromies and stucco decorations. The fea-



tures that allow the castle its unparalleled allure are the four towers - each of a different shape. Present form of the castle is the result of the 1615-1621 reconstruction by Stanislaw Lubomirski. He surrounded the castle with bastions transforming it into the "palazzo in fortezza" (fortified palace).

Some of the ruins are also worth a visit, especially those of the Tarnowski castle atop St. Martin's Hill. Its construction started in 1329 and the castle's Golden Age was the 16th c. under Hetman Jan Tarnowski. Other interesting sites are the rebuild tower in Czchów and carefully reconstructed 14th c. Tropsztyn castle.





Sacral wooden architecture

Fine wooden architecture is abundant in the Malopolska region. We would like to invite you on a tour of the uniquely beautiful wooden structures within the city of Tarnów and the surrounding towns and villages. Cottages, mansions, and churches were all constructed with wood; the oldest and in largest number come from the 15th century. Dozens of these wooden structures – located between the three rivers framing Tarnów region: Raba, Wisla and Wisloka – have endured most of their elements and still maintain their original structure today. Sacral architecture constitutes the greatest number among all wooden monuments in Tarnów region. Most of them are churches erected in Gothic style as aisleless structures with a triangular enclosed chancel and a tower.

The buildings were often surrounded with arcades used by pilgrims as a shelter.



Lipnica Murowana owns the church of St. Leonard, constructed in the late 15th century. Its interior is decorated with valuable paintings from the 16th and 17th centuries. This church is also one of the most fascinating and best preserved in Poland, designated a World Heritage Site by UNESCO.



St. Mary Sanctuary in Tarnów is a Gothic wooden church that was consecrated in 1440. Above the altar there is a painting of Our Lady of the Scapular that was repainted in approximately 16th century. The church is sanctuary of the Mother of God of the Scapular.



Tarnów - Zawada has the church of St. Martin that was built in the 15th century and then reconstructed a few times during the Late Gothic period, evident in the structure's design. Some of its most precious artifacts are the 16th century crucifix and bas-relief and 17th and 19th c. furnishings.



Skrzyszow - church of St. Stanislaw was erected in 1517 and has earned the title of the biggest wooden church in Malopolska, with two chapels and a tower, surrounded by arcades. Its most prized relics are Late Gothic altar piece and the sculpture of St. Barbara, dated back to 1500.



Rzepiennik Biskupi – church of St. John the Baptist – built presumably in 1494, is one of the smallest yet most precious wooden churches in Małopolska. Its floor plan has remained unchanged since the Middle Ages. Gothic ogee arches survived in door and window portals.



Main Train Station

Monumental building of the main train station in Tarnów built in the years 1906-1910 in the Art Nouveau style (known also as the "Secession style" especially within the Austria-Hungary territory) was thoroughly renovated in 2010. Its interiors resemble the inside of elegant hotels from the turn of the 20th century. The station witnessed some crucial moments in Tarnów history. In 1914, volunteers from Tarnów set out to join Polish Legions which later fought to regain independence for Poland, commanded by Józef Piłsudski - the Father of the Nation. In 1929. train with the remains of Army General Józef Bem arrived and hundreds of citizens of Tarnów together with state officials paid their last respect to this ingenious commander and national hero of Poland and Hungary. On August 28th 1939, a bomb, hid in a left luggage office by a terrorist trained by Germans, exploded killing 20 people and injuring 53 others. Another WWII episode regards the prisoners of KL Auschwitz. First of the transports of prisoners delivered to that death camp was sent from Tarnów on 14th of June 1940.



Religious tourism

Tarnów has been the see of the Diocese for since 1783. The Diocese is famous for being home to the largest number of priest missionaries and to the largest Christian Seminary in Europe. The first Polish Diocesan Museum is also located in Tarnów. One of the most recognizable of the Marian Sanctuaries is Our Lady Sanctuary in Tuchów. It attracts hundreds of thousands of pilgrims each year. Uniqueness of the Diocese was also appreciated by Pope John Paul II.



Cathedral Basilica of the Nativity of the Blessed Virgin Mary serves as the principal Church of the Diocese of Tarnów. It is also the most impressive historic site of Tarnów and a home of priceless works of art. Of note are the two over 13 meter tall monuments to the Tarnowski and Ostrogski families as well as the sculpture depicting Barbara Tarnowska of the Tęczyński – considered the most beautiful Renaissance sculpture of a woman in Poland. The statue of John Paul II outside the Cathedral is one of the first in Poland, unveiled in 1981.

Complex of the 16th c. houses located at the back of the church is home to the Diocesan Museum. Its collections of Gothic triptychs, sculptures and paintings are considered the most fundamental primary sources on the Polish medieval art and culture. The exhibition also features a collection of church fabrics and Folk Art Section with noteworthy set of paintings on glass.

Shrine of Blessed Karolina Kózka, beatified by Pope John Paul II on 10 June, 1987 in Tarnów, is located in Zabawa. Sixteen-years-old Karolina was murdered by Russian soldier defending her purity. Once in Zabawa, make sure to visit Karolina's home museum; parish church, where her ashes were emplaced and the murder site.

Our Lady of Infallible Hope Sanctuary in Jamna was established by Fr Jan Gora, Dominican. Next to the church the Dominican Academic Pastoral Centre is located. Jamna Fest is held on 15 August but the celebrations begin already on the 14th with an unusual Cheerful Burial of the Virgin Mary.





WWI Military Cemeteries

Over 200 World War I cemeteries spread around Tarnów and Gorlice districts are the monuments to the soldiers of Russian, German and Austrian-Hungarian armies killed in 1914 and 1915. The area was the frontline of Tarnów-Gorlice Campaign of 1915, regarded the first of the great breakthrough battles of the war and one of the Great War's critical campaigns. The cemeteries were built by dedicated departments of the Ministry of War in Austrian-Hungarian government. Both the design and location of each site needed to meet the requirements of a burial site and artistic memorial.



Charming Towns

Ciężkowice, Czchów, Lipnica Murowana, Nowy Wiśnicz, Tuchów, Wojnicz and Zakliczyn have preserved the 14th c. urban layouts of their centers with small town squares encircled by low arcaded wooden houses. All share that distinctive atmosphere of medieval town with its healthy attitude to a hectic world around. Each town has beautiful old church and small museum presenting its history and heritage. Most of the localities have recently regained their town privileges, which they lost in the 1920s and 1930s.



Treasures of Ciężkowice and its vicinity are: original mansion of I. J. Paderewski, world-renown composer, pianist and Polish Prime Minister as well as one-of-a-kind natural reserve known as the Stone City. Of note is also Natural Science Museum in Ciężkowice. Recent modernization brought the museum to a new level.



Czchów is home of church of the Birth of the Blessed Virgin Mary – one of the oldest stone churches of the region. It shelters octagonal stone baptismal font dated to 1506.



Lipnica Murowana is famous for St. Leonard's wooden church, registered UNESCO World Heritage Site, and annual Easter Palms Contest (the tallest reach up to 38 m). Neighboring town of Nowy Wiśnicz is home of the Lubomirski Castle – the greatest Polish Barogue residence.

Annual Plenary Indulgence and Fest at the Redemptorist Monastery in Tuchów celebrated in July attracts over 100 000 pilgrims each year. Exhibitions of Mission Museum comprising artefacts from Africa, the Americas and Oceania and one of the biggest mechanical Nativity Scenes in Poland can be especially interesting for children.

In Wojnicz, the oldest settlement of the region, fragments of medieval defensive earth banks, called the castellan's banks, survived. Don't miss the 15th c. St. Leonard's wooden church.

Town square in Zakliczyn, second largest in Małopolska, has been hosting weekly Wednesday Fairs since the 16th c. The town is however best known for "Piękny Jaś z Doliny Dunajca" bean cultivated in the area. Unique beauty of Pogórze (Ciężkowickie and Rożnowskie Foothills) can be best admired from the tops of numerous observation towers. The one located in Dąbrówka Szczepanowska is believed to be the most scenic, whereas the one in lwkowa, atop Szpilówka hill, is the tallest (32 m high).





Active tourism



Sports and recreational facilities offer a wide variety of leisure activities for all. There are a few safe indoor playgrounds dedicated to the youngest. If you're 4 and up, try go-carts or quads; fight a paint-ball battle or climb up an indoor climbing wall (one ranks among the highest in Poland). You can master your shooting skills at shooting range, play squash, tennis, billiards or go bowling. In summer, apart from open-air swimming pools and sports fields, you can challenge yourself with a rope course at St. Martin's Hill. Winter offer of Tarnów is enhanced with two ice rinks and several ski-lifts right outside the city.

One of the most popular leisure activities of the region is horseback riding. Numerous farms and ranches provide lessons and trail riding in summer as well as sleigh rides in winter. Dedicated areas along the rivers and water reservoirs maintain leisure and water sports infrastructure with equipment rentals. Majority of the rivers of Tarnów region have preserved their natural characteristics being the sanctuaries of wildlife. Kayaking is the best way to experience the Dunajec and Biała rivers with their variety of fauna and flora. The routes vary in length and difficulty hence are suitable even for the beginners. The rivers and water reservoirs are also challenging fishing places (license required). Tarnów region has 25 cycle routes that total over 630 km in length. There are 16 mountain trails and 9 lowland trails in the area. Five of each type starts in Tarnów. The city will soon be connected to the EuroVelo network as construction of EuroVelo 4. EuroVelo 11 and VeloDunaiec connectors is underway. Tarnów itself has a network of over 65 km of bikeways which allow easy and safe cycling.

Tarnów is home of the "Jaskółki" Unia Tarnów Speedway team, thrice the Team Champion of Poland, in 2004, 2005 and 2012.

Family tours

The city is becoming increasingly popular among families. Modern establishments add new quality and enrich tourist offer of the extremely valuable historic site that Tarnów remains. Therefore any member of a family – from junior to senior – should find an attraction best meeting his interest. From sightseeing strolls around the Old Town in exploration of the uniqueness and curiosities of historic sites and monuments through breathtaking scenic views of Tarnów from top of the Town Hall's tower and museum exhibition to relaxing walks in parks and fun of the playgrounds. Colorful and mysterious life of the Gypsy wanderers – an exhibition of the Ethnographic Museum will definitely surprise you. Especially when you fit yourself to one of the original Gypsy horse-drawn wagons collected in backyard.

One of a kind panorama of the city and scenic overlook of the Carpathian Foothills reward an effort of climbing up St. Martin's Hill – the northernmost hill of the Carpathian Mountains, where Spycimir, founder of Tarnów, built his castle.

Children shall like colorful sculpture of an elephant that was ornamented by kids; charming square with monument to King





Władysław Łokietek; unique educational water fountain modeled on the Solar System or Strzelecki Park with the biggest of the city's playgrounds and a pond – home of wild ducks and swans – which surrounds General Joseph Bem's Mausoleum. Public playgrounds can be found all around the town. Please, refer to "active tourism" section above and "hot culture" below for more ideas.

Numerous interesting places suited for the families can be found outside Tarnów. Boys wouldn't like to miss the Museum of Road Building in Szczucin, regarded one of the most spectacular museums of technology in Poland. And girls should visit the Dolls Museum with branches in Pilzno and Lipiny. Consider also a trip to the Stone City natural reserve and Painted Village or to one of the castles.

Bochnia, located halfway between Tarnów and Kraków, is famous for the UNESCO-listed salt mine, the oldest European industrial site operating continuously since its establishment. Underground sightseeing tours are enhanced with interactive multimedia exhibitions. The mine also offers overnight stay for speleotherapy.



Hot culture

Tarnów has earned wide recognition as the host of several unique cultural events. Dates of few classical music festivals i.e.: Bravo Maestro, Festiwal Muzyki Odnalezionej (International Festival of Rediscovered and Forgotten Music), Muzyczne Spotkania u Paderewskiego (Musical Meetings at Paderewski's Mansion) or Emanacje Festival are fixed in the calendars of many classical music aficionados from Poland and from abroad.

The most prestigious musical event organized in Tarnów is Grupa Azoty International Jazz Contest held in November. This relatively young festival has already been recognized one of the most important musical events in Poland. Grupa Azoty is also the sponsor of a daylong Grand Festival – concentrated dose of subsequent live concerts played at the Old Town.

Klezmer Music Concerts at the Bimah attract growing number of spectators each year. The event is part of Galicianer Shtetl. Jews



of Galicia Remembrance Days – annual cultural and religious event organized as a tribute to the Jewish residents of Tarnów murdered by the Germans during World War II.



The Old Town attracts visitors with an abundance of various events which cumulate in summer and start with Zde(a)rzenia – festival of interdisciplinary arts organized to celebrate anniversary of town's location. It is followed by Summer Jazz Festival – series of concerts played on Fridays in July and Był Sobie Blues – series of Friday blues concerts held in August.

Tarnowska Nagroda Filmowa (Tarnów Film Award), second oldest festival of Polish cinematography, is the pride of the city. The most spectacular theatrical event is Talia Festival of Comedy. It attracts troupes from all over the Poland who entertain the audience in theater and on the streets.

Cultural institutions

Quality of cultural offer is the outcome of intellectual and organizational potential of its creators. Tarnów, hometown of Wilhelm Sasnal, regarded one of the most important young contemporary artists in the world, is lucky to have the right people employed at the right places. It's the core of success of BWA Municipal Art Gallery who ranks among 20 best galleries in Poland. Its office and exhibition area are located in neo-Gothic palace in Strzelecki Park. BWA also maintains exhibition rooms at the building of main train station in Tarnów. Main focus of the gallery is Polish contemporary art and support for local artists.

Another vibrant institution is Centrum Sztuki Mościce (Mościce Arts Center). Its infrastructure allows organizing the biggest indor events in the area. It's been home to Zespół Pieśni i Tańca "Świerczkowiacy" (Folk Song and Dance Ensemble) for over 50 years.





The Cathedral Parish maintains two world-renown award-winning choirs: the Cathedral Girls' Choir "Puellae Orantes" and the Cathedral Boys' Choir "Pueri Cantores Tarnovienses".

Maestro Krzysztof Penderecki, great Polish composer and conductor, has chosen Lusławice, small village south of Tarnów, the location site of European Centre for Music (bearing his name). The Centre focuses on the performing arts and education. It offers masters courses for the most talented young musicians from all over the world.





Original souvenirs



Jan Długosz, Medieval Polish historian, derives name of the city from tarnina (blackthorn or sloe) shrubs that overgrew St. Martin's Hill. Spycimir, founder of Tarnów, who built his castle on the hill, filled the cellars with blackthorn wines and tinctures. The shrub returns recently as one of the symbols of the city and one of a kind souvenir. Tourists can choose between two versions of blackthorn beverage: soft - herbal tea (infusion) or alcoholic - nalewka (tincture). Bluish-black color of blackthorn fruits has inspired one more souvenir: handmade blackthorn necklace. Unless you find fragile openwork eggshell with the crest of Tarnów more interesting. If so, visit www.tojajo.pl

The warmest Polish city shares its heat in a pillow-shape heater, perfect for active people. It warms up to 50°C and works for 20 minutes.

Tarnów has long history of glass manufacturing. Glassworks from Tarnów were appreciated worldwide. Visit the Glass Gallery for some inspiration. And remember to taste our bread as we have mastered the art of bread baking.

Cafes and restaurants

Numerous cafes, pubs and restaurants scattered around the Old Town offer choice of beverages and cuisines of the world. We recommend the establishments with traditional Polish food. Coffee-break will have its distinctive flavor taken in a café located in replica of a tramcar at pl. Sobieskiego square.

Old Town is the center of social and cultural life which transforms into one spacious restaurant-cafe in the first days of May. The Town Square feeds both body and soul changing its function from a dining area to concert or exhibition site or the opposite. And if you feel like dancing, visit one of the clubs or discos which neighbor the Old Town. They won't close until the last guest leaves so you can dance the night away.





Tarnów tramline

Tarnów was the only provincial town of Galicia with trams in service. The line opened in 1911 was dismantled by the Germans in 1942. Tram carts were modelled on the Lviv ones, including red color of the body. They were commonly called the "ladybirds". The trams operated the line between the Main Train Station and ul. Burtnicza street. Until recently the only reminder of the historic tramline was a symbolic stop at ul. Wałowa. Fortunately, elegant café-replica of the ladybird has been set on pl. Sobieskiego square.

Key to symbols:





GPS







distance to train station









camping site



other accommodations











on-site parking



in-room safe













private bathrooms



freezer





credit and debit cards accepted



pets accepted



Accommodation



7 km

24

Accommodation





Accommodation





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4,5 km

5.5 km

156

0,7 km

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