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Rother's Mills

The history of Rother's Mills dates back to the first half of the 19th century. The building complex located in the heart of the city, on the Mill Island, was once an industrial facility. Today, the revitalized spaces house a cultural institution. The mills offer a rich program of cultural events, and from the roof of the building, where there is an observation deck, you can admire the panorama of the city.

19

Venice of Bydgoszcz

Tenement houses on the swift current of the Młynówka River. These buildings, once showing up almost straight from the water, are called the Venice of Bydgoszcz. In the past, rich burghers built here their workshops and plants, among others dye houses, distilleries, sawmills, and a bathhouse operated here as well.

20

Tower no. 5

This is the only fragment of the flanking tower preserved in Bydgoszcz. It was constructed of Gothic bricks, laid in regular Flemish bond. Repaired many times, it gained its final form in the years 1948-1949. At that time, a gateway was made from the moat side, and stairs leading from the fortified wall guards porch were reconstructed.

21

Długa Street

Walking amidst stylish tenement houses, mainly from the late 18th and the early 19th centuries, one can feel the atmosphere of old Bydgoszcz, though the merchants' major road had lost its position as the city's trade centre. It is worthwhile visiting the exceptional Museum of Soap and History of Dirt at number 13-17, and stopping by the 17th-century tenement house at number 22, the birthplace of painter Maksymilian Piotrowski (1813-1875), professor of the Academy of Fine Arts in Królewiec (Konigsberg). In the same building, as the legend has it, King Jan III Sobieski stayed in 1676 during his journey by the Vistula River to Gdańsk. Under our feet, along the street, we can see the Bydgoszcz Autographs, i.e. signatures of people, who have made a special contribution to the city.



22

Casimir the Great monument

One of the most eminent monarchs in the history of Poland looks at us with authority, holding in his left hand a scroll – the foundation charter of Bydgoszcz. The monument was placed here in 2006. (designed by Mariusz Białecki).



23

Witold Belza Voivodeship and Municipal Public Library

The building was erected in the 18th century for the Prussian administration. Collections of the library that used to belong to the Bydgoszcz Bernardine monastery are kept in the building. This is the city's oldest preserved book collection, which origins date back to the late 15th century. In front of the main entrance of the library, there is the bewitching sculpture-fountain "Children playing with a goose" – a work of Karl P. Kowalczewski, which has been adorning the Old Market Square since 1909. Originally, the fountain was located in front of the Pharmacy under the "Golden Eagle", because it was funded by its owners, the Kupffender family, on the centennial anniversary of the operation of their pharmacy.



24

Master Twardowski

Several times a day, the figure of Master Twardowski appears in smoke laughing awfully in the top window of the tenement house in the Old Market Square at number 15.



25

Covered market

Down Magdzińskiego Street we go towards the historical covered market opened in 1906 (to a design by the Berlin company of architects Boswau & Knauer). Above the entrance to the covered market, there is the city's impressive coat of arms, whereas inside the steel structure of the roof is noteworthy.



26

Church of St Andrzej Bobola

The view axis from the Old Market Square via Magdzińskiego Street is closed by the neo-Gothic Church of St Andrzej Bobola with a slender clock tower, dominating over Kościeleckich Square. The church, designed by Berlin architect Heinrich Seeling, was erected in 1903 for the Bydgoszcz Protestants. Quite surprising is the fact that now the Jesuit church still remains the highest building (76,9 m) in Bydgoszcz.

Bydgoszcz official city guide app including:

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- Sightseeing routes
- Events calendar
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- Travel information



The city of Bydgoszcz

2021

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Explore the Old Town



1 The Old Town

We start sightseeing of the Old Town in the Old Market Square. It was marked out in 1346 when the city was (founded) chartered by King Casimir the Great, and its current buildings come mainly from the 19th century. Within its revitalization in 2019 the course of the 18th meridian, outline of the former town hall and the clock indicating local time were placed on the market square.



2

City Hall

Magnificent edifice of the old Jesuit College from the 17th century.



3

Fara Church – Cathedral

The Bydgoszcz Fara Church was wooden originally. After a fire, construction of a grand brick Gothic church was decided. The church was constructed in the years 1466-1502. The high altar painting is the thing that rivets the most attention of the faithful and tourists. This is a late-Gothic painting of Our Lady with the Child Jesus, holding a rose in the other hand.



4

„Farny” Weir

Going around the cathedral, it is worthwhile paying attention to the Farny Weir, i.e. the place, where the Młynówka River, flowing around Młyńska (Mill) Island, falls into the Brda River. The present-day building of the Small Hydroelectric Power Plant, standing by the weir, is an old grout mill.



5

St John Nepomucene

On the northern side of the cathedral one can see the oldest monument in Bydgoszcz (first half of the 18th c.) – Saint John Nepomucene was to protect the residents against flood.



6

Granaries on the Brda River

Three half-timbered granaries from the turn of the 19th century, scenically located on the Brda River. In the past, these were among many grain storehouses in the city, and nowadays they belong to the Leon Wyczółkowski District Museum.



7

“Man crossing the River”

The sculpture floating above the Brda River is the man “Crossing the River”, a tightrope walker smoothly balancing on the rope, which commemorates the day Poland joined the European Union in 2004 (designed by Jerzy Kędziora).



8

Lemara barge

It was a Gross Finow-Masskahn-type steel cargo barge without a motor, constructed in 1937 in Bydgoszcz Lloyd Shipyard and Machine Works. The cargo holds and the open section of the barge are now used for concerts, lectures and skipper family meetings.



9

Lloyd Palace

The little “Palace” in the Netherlandic mannerism style on the right bank of the Brda River, constructed in the years 1885-1886 (designed by Waldemar Jenisch), is the old head office of, among others, Lloyd of Bydgoszcz, one of the biggest shipping companies in the Second Republic of Poland.



10

Opera Nova

The building was designed in 1961 (by Józef Chmiel and Andrzej Prusiewicz), and it took over 30 years to construct it (1973-2006). It is both a music stage and an important conference centre. In Bydgoszcz every year the Bydgoszcz Opera Festival takes place, where you can admire plenty of music theaters from Poland and abroad.



11

Main Post Office

Main Post Office is one of the most spectacular buildings located on the Brda river bank. It was built at the end of the 19th century in the so-called Prussian national style. Until today the building is occupied by the post office, open 24-hours. The history of the crown post offices in Bydgoszcz goes back to the first half of the 18th century.



12

Rafter sculpture

On the boulevard on the Brda River, we can admire the Rafter sculpture (designed by Michał Kubiak), which refers to the city’s water traditions. Rafterers used to float timber down the Brda River. In the past, such a view was everydayness to the residents. Presently, we can think about these beautiful traditions while walking along the riverfront. Sponsored by the Embassy of Hungary, the statue is also to remind us the cartographer and engineer Ferenc Flórián Csáky.



13

Bydgoszcz Marina

On the other side of the river, in the western part of Młyńska Island, once we can see well the modern and excellently blending with its surroundings building of Bydgoszcz Marina, designed by the office APA Rokiccy. The marina, completed in 2012, has won not only the hearts of Bydgoszcz residents but also many prestigious awards owing to its unique architecture.



14

Mill Island

Młyńska Island (Mill Island) is the green heart of Bydgoszcz, an enclave in the very city centre. The park, lanes of old trees, big lawns, lanes with benches, and the hum of the water falling down on the weir and culvert create a relaxing atmosphere here. Here we will find historical buildings of the museum with modern equipment, a water tram stop, a marina, a playground, an amphitheatre, many bicycle and walking paths, and even a beach, right next to a vast lawn, on where Bydgoszcz residents eagerly lounge on blankets.



15

White Granary

We go past the oldest facility on the island, the so-called White Granary from the late 18th century, which is now occupied by archaeological collections of the District Museum.



16

European Money Centre

Walking along the so-called Międzywodzie, an artificial canal crossing the island, on the left-hand side we go past the building of the European Money Centre, erected on the site of the buildings of the Bydgoszcz Mint (operating in the years 1594-1688), and the old steam mill from 1861, the so-called Red Granary, now the Modern Art Gallery. Here one can see the so-called “Treasure of Bydgoszcz”, i.e. the unique collection of gold coins and artefacts from the 16th and 17th centuries found in the Bydgoszcz cathedral in 2018.



17

House of Leon Wyczółkowski

The central part of the Bydgoszcz island is occupied by a complex of mills from the years 1848- 1849, i.e. the huge Rother’s Mills. The scenically yellow building, located opposite them, is nowadays the so-called House of Leon Wyczółkowski, where one can admire paintings, graphics, and the workshop of the patron of the Bydgoszcz museum.



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