

LUBLIN?  
12 x YES!



lublin

CITY OF INSPIRATION



With a population of 350 thousand inhabitants, **LUBLIN** is the seat of the voivodship authorities and the most important university town in Eastern Poland.

Established almost 700 years ago, the town boasts its history and monuments of architecture that are unique on a national and European scale. Located on the border of the European Union and Eastern Europe, Lublin maintains strong cooperation links with Ukraine and Belarus as well as with the West European countries. Organiser of many film, theatre, and music festivals of international renown, Lublin is a candidate for the prestigious title of the European Capital of Culture in 2016.



Lake Zemborzyci



## PICTURESQUE TOPOGRAPHICAL LOCATION

Lublin Cathedral

Set in the Lublin Upland, Lublin and its environs are ideal for trekking expeditions and country lovers.

The western part of the town lies on the left bank of the river Bystrzyca on the Nałęczów Plateau known for its fine

valleys, gorges, and fairly high hills including those on which the Old Town, the Castle, and Czwartek district are located.

The eastern part of the town sprawls across the Świdnik Plateau.

There are many places in Lublin offering fine panoramic views of the harmony between the town's architecture and the landscape. Seen from a distance, the Old Town affords a view of unmatched beauty attracting filmmakers and artists alike. ■



## AMIDST THE GREENERY OF GRASS AND TREES

*Museum of the Lublin Village*

For those who get tired of the hustle and bustle of the city centre, the countryside is never far away. Maria Curie Skłodowska University's Botanical Garden, situated in the valley of the river Czechówka and extending over the adjacent rolling hills covers an area of 25 hectares and features some 6.5 thousand plant species from the whole world. Besides superb floral compositions, there are a lot of romantic paths



*Botanical Garden*

that disappear in the dense thicket of bushes and trees, deep ravines with a humming creek and singing birds, and a Manor House of the Kościuszko Family, a perfect venue for open-air events.

On the outskirts of the town lies the Ciemięga Valley Landscape Protection Area with its deep ravines, steep river banks, peat bogs, meadows, and forested land. Other municipal green areas include Lake Zemborzycki, Dąbrowa forest, Museum of the Lublin Village, Saski Park, Ludowy Park, commons along the Bystrzyca, and allotment areas. ■



*Burgher house  
of the Chociszewski Family*



### **AUTHENTIC OLD TOWN EXPERIENCE**

*Złota Street / Dominican Church*

The location of the Old Town in Lublin is second to none. So is the mediaeval urban design and the authentic ornamentation of centuries' old burgher houses, showpieces for every tourist. Surrounded by a fortified wall, the Old Town abounds in monuments of architecture from various epochs. Genuine treasures include the Market Place (Rynek) lined with fine burgher houses, 14th c. Krakowska and Grodzka Gates, Church and Monastery of the Dominican Order, and the formidable edifice of the Crown Tribunal whose cellars mark the beginning of the Tourist Underground Route.

Among the most beautiful 16th c. Renaissance houses are the House of the Konopnica Family at Rynek 12, Klonowic's House No.2 or the House of the Lubomelski Family at Rynek 8.

The Old Town is a popular place for tourists and local inhabitants, and with a bit of imagination, one can hear hubbub of mediaeval merchants and artists. During the Jagiellonian Fair held every August, the Old Town is a particularly busy place with many cultural events and dozens of market stalls. ■



## HOLY TRINITY CHAPEL AND LUBLIN CASTLE

*Holy Trinity Chapel*

The 14th c. Roman Catholic Holy Trinity Chapel in the castle is by far a gem of international repute, which now bears the European Heritage sign. Built by King Casimir the Great, the chapel is decorated with amazing Russo-Byzantine frescoes commissioned by King Ladislas Jagiełło. The chapel is considered one of the most fascinating places in Europe, a living proof of the coexistence of Eastern and Western cultures here in Lublin: the Roman Catholic temple decorated



*Lublin Castle*

with images of the founding fathers of the Orthodox Church. Next to the chapel stands a 13th c. defence tower, the oldest monument of Lublin architecture. The original castle was totally destroyed and the present building was originally built by the Russian authorities in the first half of the 19th c. as a prison. Today, the castle houses the Lublin Museum, which contains several sections including archaeology, coins, arms, ethnography, decorative art, and painting. The rich collection of paintings includes the famous Lublin Union by Jan Matejko and many others works of art by distinguished Polish and foreign artists. ■



*Krakowska Gate*

**KRAKOWSKA GATE** – built of stone and brick in the 14th c., is the entrance to the Old Town. Part of the old fortification wall, the gate is a symbol of historic Lublin. It was built after a raid of Tartars in 1341, and its name derives from the mediaeval route which led to Kraków.

**BASILICA OF THE DOMINICAN ORDER** is one of the most precious monuments of sacral architecture in Poland. The building of church and the monastery was financed by King Casimir the Great in 1342. Following the signing of the Lublin Union between Poland and Lithuania, a special mass of thanks was held here attended by King Sigismund Augustus. The international fame which the church enjoyed was owed to the relics of the Holy Cross. The Dominican church and monastery complex has been granted the European Heritage Sign.



*Krakowska Gate, Trinitarian Tower, and Lublin Cathedral*

## PEARLS OF ARCHITECTURE

**TRINITARIAN TOWER** - built in Neo-Gothic style, is the highest observation point in Lublin affording the finest panoramic view of the town. The tower now houses the Archdiocesan Museum which has a fine collection of paintings, icons, sculptures and bells. The tower functions as the belfry of the Cathedral – St. Mary's bell, the biggest in Lublin, rings only on special occasions.

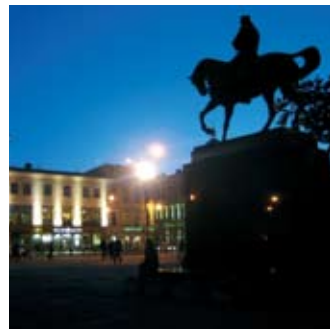
**LUBLIN CATHEDRAL** – one of the first Jesuit churches in Poland, was erected in the years 1586-1625 in Gothic and Baroque styles and acquired a Classicist façade at the beginning of the 19th c. The vaults are covered with three dimensional tromple l'oeil paintings. The painting of Our Lady Weeping is widely venerated following the "Lublin miracle" of 1949. Other places worth a visit include the acoustic chapel, the treasury, and underground burial vaults.



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**LITEWSKI SQUARE - HISTORIC HEART OF THE TOWN**

*Litewski Square*



*Monument to Marshal Józef Piłsudski*

Tradition has it that here stationed the gentry who came to Lublin to attend parliamentary debates which ended with the signing of the Polish-Lithuanian Union. To commemorate this event, a monument was erected with a bas-relief with a symbolic handshake. The monument now bears the European

Heritage Sign. On the other side of the square are the monuments to Marshal Józef Piłsudski, to the Unknown Soldier, and to the Constitution of the Third of May. The square was a silent witness to many historic developments. Here stood St John of God Hospitallers Church. During the Russian partition the square served as drill grounds, and the place of today's fountain was occupied by an Orthodox church which was pulled down in 1925. ■





Jagiellonian Fair



## MUSEUMS, GALLERIES, AND THEATRES

Festival of Magicians

**The Open Air Museum of the Lublin Village** boasts over a hundred of historic structures, mostly wooden, including farm, manor, sacral, and small town buildings. They are placed in various sections of the museum aptly called the Lublin Upland, and the Roztocze, Pobuże, Podlasie, and Powiśle Regions. Here many folklore events and shows for tourists are regularly held.

**The State Museum at Majdanek** covers an area of the Nazi concentration camp, the place of extermination of several thousand people from 26 European countries, mostly Poles, Jews and Russians. Barracks, guard towers, lines of double barbed wire, a mausoleum and a formidable monument all commemorate the martyrdom of the victims of Majdanek.

Lublin boasts a few interesting galleries including the BWA Gallery, Gallery of the Visual Stage of the Catholic University of Lublin, Wirydarz Art Gallery or Biała Art Gallery. Apart from Juliusz Osterwa Repertoire Theatre, one of the most important centres of culture in the Lublin Region, Lublin is the seat of the Musical Theatre, H. Ch. Andersen Puppet Theatre and Henryk Wieniawski Philharmonic Hall.

Lublin is also a breeding ground for many alternative theatres and cabarets which have won national and international acclaim (e.g. The Visual Stage of the Catholic University of Lublin or Scena InVitro Theatre). ■



*University Campus,  
Maria Curie Skłodowska Square*

**W**ith university students accounting for 20% of the local inhabitants, Lublin is a genuine university town, home to Maria Curie Skłodowska University, John Paul II Catholic University of Lublin, Medical University of Lublin, University of Life Sciences, and the Technical University of Lublin. There are also private institutions of higher education in operation here.

Little wonder that Lublin boasts many student clubs, theatres and cabarets, some of which of international renown. During the days of student culture, an event held annually, municipal power is vested in the students of Lublin.

Students are heard and seen wherever you go, in the streets, squares or in the pubs and clubs in the city centre and in the Old Town. A town that inspires, Lublin offers a broad canvas of educational and entertainment opportunities. ■



## TRADITIONAL CUISINE OF THE REGION

Local traditional cuisine is rich in exquisite dishes that were once popular among the aristocracy as well as less elaborate ones based on flour, potatoes and cabbage, which were prepared by impoverished gentry and peasants.

Tasting traditional pierogi filled with buckwheat groats, crispy onion-topped flatbread or the local beer is an absolute must.

The Lublin Region is a land of honey, flour and all kinds of groats. Little wonder that the most popular foods on the list of the Ministry of Agriculture include pierogi, pirogi (a type of pastry with filling prepared in a roasting tin), parowańce (steamed yeast pastry), drop scones and Podlasie District sękacz (Baumkuchen). Apart from gourmet and exotic dishes, many restaurants, bars and pubs offer a wide selection of meats, blood puddings, and sausages smoked with aromatic juniper to enhance their flavour. A delicious meal such as this will not only satisfy your palate but also give you energy to take another walking tour around Lublin. ■



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**SOMETHING BIG IS GOING ON**

*Street Theatre Festival*

This was a slogan of a billboard campaign in Warsaw to announce Lublin as a contestant in the European Centre of Culture 2016 Competition.

Lublin is a venue for many cultural and sports events as well as numerous national and international conferences. Here is a list of the most popular dozen among Lublin inhabitants and tourists.

**Crossroads of Europe - International Film Festival,**

March, [rozstaje@ack.lublin.pl](mailto:rozstaje@ack.lublin.pl);

**Night of Culture,** June, [www.nockultury.pl](http://www.nockultury.pl);

**Neighbours – East European Theatre Festival,** June,

[sasiedzi@ck.lublin.pl](mailto:sasiedzi@ck.lublin.pl);

**Czuby International Organ Music Festival,** July – November,

[info@par.sw-rodziny.pl](mailto:info@par.sw-rodziny.pl);

**Jagiellonian Fair,** August, [jarmark@ck.lublin.pl](mailto:jarmark@ck.lublin.pl);

**National Town Bugle Festival,** 15 August;

**J. Lipiński and H. Wieniawski International Festival of Violinists,**

held every three years (also in 2009),

[www.wieniawskisociety@wp.pl](mailto:wieniawskisociety@wp.pl);

**S. Serwaczyński Young Violinist Competition,**

held every three years since 1990 (promotor: [wieniawskisociety@wp.pl](mailto:wieniawskisociety@wp.pl));

**Theatre Confrontations International Festival,** October,

[konfrontacje@ck.lublin.pl](mailto:konfrontacje@ck.lublin.pl);

**International Dance Festival,** November,

[www.dancefestival.lublin.pl](http://www.dancefestival.lublin.pl);

**Festiwal „Najstarsze Pieśni Europy”,** November,

[muzykakresow@wp.pl](mailto:muzykakresow@wp.pl)

**International Folk Festival,** December, [www.mikolaje.lublin.pl](http://www.mikolaje.lublin.pl);



*Tourist signposts in front of Lublin Castle*

All tourist routes in Lublin are very well signposted. The Multicultural Trail will take you from the Lublin Union Monument to Czwartek Hill. The Trail of Architectural Monuments starts at Krakowska Gate and leads through the town centre to the Castle. The Jagiellonian Trail of

the Lublin Union from the Castle to Litewski Square. The Heritage Trail of the Lublin Jews goes along the narrow streets of the Old Town and the Podzamcze District. The Trail of Famous Lubliners starts at the Castle and leads across the Old Town, the town centre to the Monument to Maria Curie Skłodowska on the university campus. More details are available from the Lublin Tourist Information Centre at ul. Jezuicka 1/3 ([www.loit.lublin.pl](http://www.loit.lublin.pl)). ■



# 12

## LUBLIN – A GATE TO THE LUBLIN REGION

*Kazimierz Dolny*



*Łeczna-Włodawa Lake District*

The location of the town, communication links, and many places to stay make Lublin a convenient place from which to explore the whole region.

Lublin is the starting point of many trekking and bicycle tourist routes. The showpieces of the region include **Nałęczów** (25 km) – a health resort with a fine palace and park complex and biographical museums of B. Prus and S. Żeromski,

distinguished Polish novelists; **Kazimierz Dolny** (50 km) – a beautiful small town of charm and atmosphere set on the bank of the Vistula, with a mediaeval urban design; Palace in **Kozłówka** (32 km) – the best preserved noble residence in Poland, seat of the Museum of the Zamoyski Family and a collection of socialist realism art; **Łeczna-Włodawa Lake District** (30-80km) – a land of unmatched natural beauty with fine forests and lakes including the Poleski National Park. ■

## 12 KEY DATES FROM THE HISTORY OF LUBLIN

- **6th – 7th c.** – The first settlers moved to Czwartek Hill and in later centuries established settlements on adjacent hills
- **15 August 1317** – Prince Ladislas Łokietek (the Elbow High) granted a privilege with which Lublin received a municipal charter under the law of Magdeburg
- **1342-1370** – King Casimir the Great built a castle and town fortifications
- **1474** - King Casimir Jagiellon established the Lublin Voivodship with Lublin as its administrative centre
- **1506** - A contract was signed with engineer Jan to build waterworks that would supply water from the river Bystrzyca to public wells in the Old Town
- **1569** - The Polish-Lithuanian Union, known as the Lublin Union, was signed
- **1578** - King Stefan Batory established the Crown Tribunal in Lublin, the highest court in Little Poland
- **1918** – A Temporary Government of Poland was established



with Lublin as the country's capital for a few days. The Catholic University of Lublin was founded. Among its famous graduates was Stefan Wyszyński, Primate of Poland, and among its lecturers – Karol Wojtyła, later known as Pope John Paul II

- **1930** - Academy of Sages of Lublin (Yeshivat Hachmei Lublin) was opened
- **1944** - on 24 July the Soviet army and Polish troops liberated Lublin which functioned for 164 days as the capital of Poland
- **1980** - the first strikes organised in Świdnik and in Lublin in July led to the establishment of Solidarity Free Trade Union and eventually to the collapse of communist Poland
- **1987** – Pope John Paul II visited Lublin

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