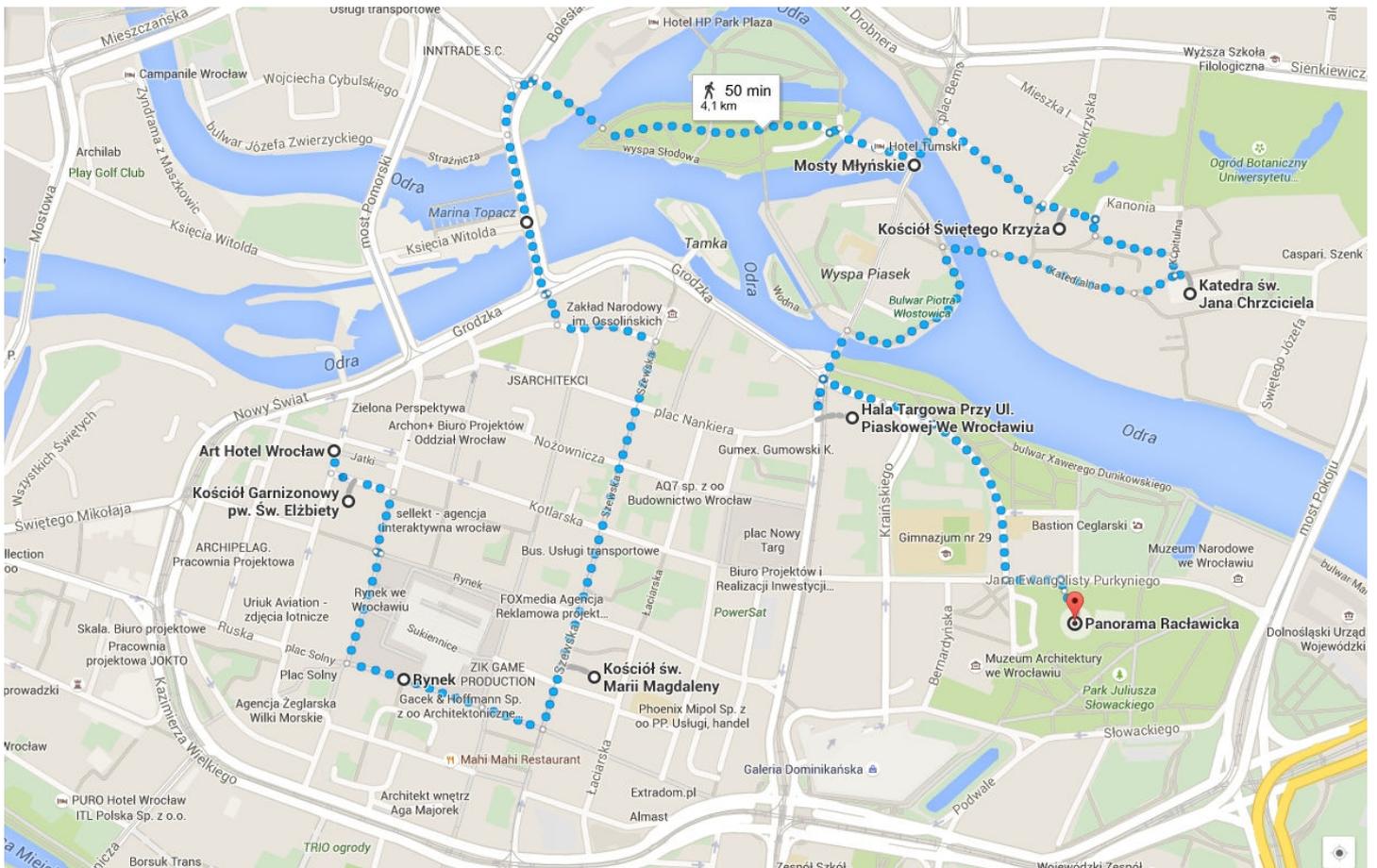


# The proposal sightseeing tour of Wrocław.



We start our tour around the Wrocław City in the stylish Art Hotel, situated in the 14th century townhouse. At a distance of 50 metres from the start of the tour, we find the first attraction: Basilica Minor, called The Garrison Church. (2 min.)

1. **Kościół Garnizonowy (The Garrison Church)** is situated on the square between the streets: Kielbaśnicza, Odrzańska, Św. Mikołaja and Św. Elżbiety. The gothic walls are embellished with a truly individual style of church architecture. The walls hide a rich collection of exceptional works of art: numerous stone epitaphs, sculptures from various periods, an early Baroque altar, a proud church tabernacle, gothic choir stalls, and the royal gallery, designed in the eighteenth century for the ruler of Silesia. The biggest attraction includes a great observation tower of 91,46m! Admission between the spring - summer season (May - September). Opening hours: Monday to Saturday from 10.00 am to 7:00 pm, Sunday from 12.00 pm until 7:00 pm. Tickets costs 5 PLN.

From the Garrison Cathedral Church we proceed straight to the Wrocław market (1 min.)

2. **Wrocławski Rynek (Wrocław Market Square)** used to serve in the Middle Ages as a marketplace. Nowadays it's one of the largest old town markets in Europe and simultaneously has the largest town hall in Poland. The surrounding buildings date back to different historical eras, yet in the years 1996-2000 they were all renovated. Currently there are also many restaurants and bars, which are focused on nightlife and cultural events. In the central part of the market there is the old town hall, a new town hall and many other buildings. The Wrocławski Ratusz (Wrocław Town Hall) is a late two-storey Gothic building with a cellar and has a tower and a few outbuildings. The whole building process consisted of several stages. The entire monument has been constructed from bricks, sandstone, and has glazed interiors. In the north-west corner of the Town Hall, there is a tower with

the total height of 66, 0 m that was built. If you visit the tower, you'll have the chance to admire the oldest clock bell in Poland dated back to 1368.

In order to reach the next step of our trip, we have to go through one of the 11 streets connecting the market with the rest of the city, the Wita Stwosza Street, leading to a small square with the **Kościół Św. Marii Magdaleny** (2 min.) (**St. Mary Magdalene Church**).

3. The main attraction of our 12th century gothic church of St. Mary Magdalene consists of 2 towers connected with a characteristic bridge added on in 1459. This place tells you one of the most interesting Wroclaw myths. **The legend has it that the ghosts of some prodigal girls walk along the bridge, doing penance for their reckless life, which they spent on chasing boys, but never getting married. Now, throughout eternity, they have to tidy up the bridge, doomed to do what they wanted to avoid in their life on earth.**

Both the towers, the facade with a distinctive green-and-red roof and interiors of the church are worth your time. From a height of 45 metres we can admire the beautiful view mainly of the eastern and western part of the city. Entry to the bridge costs 4 PLN and is possible between 10:00 am and 6:00 pm on weekdays and from 9:00am to 7:00 pm on weekends.

From the church of St. Mary Magdalene we go through the Szewska Street up to the Plac Uniwersytecki (University Square) where besides the marvellous eighteenth-century university building, we can also admire the fountain called "Szermierz" ("Fencer"). (5 min.).

4. The fountain, crowned with sculpture by Hugo Lederer, called "Szermierz" ("Fencer") is decorated with 4 masks that are actually water fountains. The students of the Wroclaw University believe that these masks represent the faces of their professors and the water flowing from their mouth is to symbolize their torrent during those less interesting lectures. The sculpture is made in bronze and shows a young naked man in the quiet contrapposto position, holding a little glint in his right hand.



The Wrocław University itself is another Baroque city monument. Its facade, beautifully illuminated at night, is turned towards the Odra River and measures 171m. The building and its interior, decorated with paintings and bas-reliefs, are considered to be in one of the most valuable monuments in the whole Europe. The greatest pride is the University Aula Leopoldina. This is a unique secular monument of the late baroque, erected in the years 1728-1732. The entire complex of the university buildings, received its name in the honor of the emperor Leopold I who founded the university in 1702. The aula had been designed by Christophorus Tausch, student of Andrea Pozza, a well-known Italian architect, painter and philosopher. It had been covered with frescoes by Johann Christoph Handke from Olumuniec. The figure sculptures are a piece of art made by Franz Joseph Mangoldt, a known Moravian artist living in Wrocław. The stucco ornaments plasterers and marbling works were made by the Italian master Ignazio Provisore. The mentioned artists perfectly fulfilled the artistic vision of Andrea Pozza who dreamt of a unity of the sculpture, architecture and painting. The interior composition of the hall is divided into three parts by a separated podium, an auditorium and the matroneum gallery with supporting pillars.

Exploring the place is additionally enriched with the opportunity to visit the Wieża Matematyczna (Mathematical Tower), offering a beautiful view of the market. Entrance to the tower is only possible when purchasing the ticket to at least one historic room in the main building at the University Square. The normal ticket for one room and the tower costs 6 PLN, the reduced one 4 PLN, ticket for three of the rooms and the tower: 10 and 6 PLN. Students of the Wrocław University may visit the attraction for free after having shown their student card. The tower can be accessed every day between 10:00 am and 3:30 pm. Cash registers are open until 3:00 pm.

On the same square we can also visit the Kościół Uniwersytecki pod wezwaniem Najświętszego Imienia Jezus (University Church under the invocation of the Sacred Name Jesus). This is one of the most beautiful and best preserved baroque churches in Wrocław. It has been built in the 90s of the mid-seventeenth century by the order of the Jesuits. The church interiors are more than compelling. You will find here a copy of the famous Pietà after Michelangelo, which served as a model during the reconstruction works of the original sculpture in 1972.

From the sculpture of "Szermierz" ("Fencer") we walk along the largest and most important city river - the Oder. Passing through a tunnel under the main university building we're straight at the Most Uniwersytecki (University Bridge) where we can admire the sculpture by Stanislaw Wysocki named "Powodzianka" ("Flood victim"), commemorating the flood of 1997. The University is divided into two parts by the Wrocław Marina. It was built in 2009 and constitutes a haven for many private yachts and water trams. If you feel like having a little voyage, go ahead!

Descending from the bridge just behind an old brick military arrest building, we turn to the right and passing through a modern footbridge, we enter the park on the Wyspa Słodowa (Malt Island). Walking through the park, we come to another island called the Wyspa Młyńska (Mill Island) and then we go to the next point of our tour, the **Mosty Młyńskie (Mill Bridges)** (20 min.)

5. Another highly interesting myth is connected with the bridges. Well, in April 1503, on request of the Holy Inquisition one held here the so-called "water test", surviving which was to prove the innocence of a person accused of the witchcraft. One of these women, in accordance with the common practice, was tied up, bound and wrapped in a red coat, and then thrown into the river. However, the woman's body raised by currents settled on a shoal and to the surprise of all she survived. This event has contributed to the decline of the Wrocław Inquisition.



From the Mosty Młyńskie (Mill Bridges) we go a little further through the Most Tumski (Tumski Bridge). It is really worth spending a few moments here because on this bridge a brand new tradition was born. The Tumski Bridge has become a favorite place for lovers. Young people come here to ensure their lifelong love. How do they do it? They hang on the steel guardrails of the bridge padlocks with their names, dates and short messages. Next, they throw the key into the Oder River. As a result, their feeling shall last forever. Every day new padlocks appear on the bridge. If you are planning the expedition with your second half, it might be worthwhile to think about sealing your love in this way, huh? :)

From the Most Tumski (Tumski Bridge) we reach the collegiate church under the invocation of the Holy Cross and St. Bartholomew. (5 min.)

**6. Kolegiata św. Krzyża i św. Bartłomieja (Collegiate Church under the invocation of the Holy Cross and St. Bartholomew)** is one of the most historical buildings in Wrocław. This extremely high, brick hall church was completed in 1295, and it is characterized by a very rare two-storey interior layout, not so popular in Wrocław. At the side entrance of the church we can admire the monument by Jan Jerzy Urbański “Święty Jan Niepomucen” (“St. John of Nepomuk”). The sculpture of 1732 depicts the scene of the martyr's death in the river Vltava. Pay particular attention to the details, such as for example 2 unusual, because bold, angels, which were supposed to show the sculptor's sons.

After the monument of St. John we go to the Wrocław Cathedral Island called Ostrów Tumski where our next stop will be.

**7. Katedra Św. Jana Chrzciciela (Cathedral of St. John the Baptist)** is the highest building in Wrocław, measuring as many as 91m. This gothic cathedral of St. John the Baptist was built in Wrocław already in 1000, however, the present temple is the fourth one standing in this place. In 1945 it was almost completely destroyed. This characteristic gothic basilica is surrounded by a crown of chapels from the same period, additionally enriched with 4 baroque chapels. The north tower has been adapted for sightseeing, it is barred and secure. You can reach the top of the tower via an elevator. It is open from Monday to Friday from 10:00 am until 5:00 pm and on Saturdays and Sundays from 2:00 pm until 4:00 pm. The normal ticket costs 5 PLN and the reduced ticket 4 PLN.



The Ostrów Tumski leads us to the Św. Katarzyny Street, and then up to the Plac Dominikański (Dominikański Square). We go by the old market, which is until this very day used in accordance with its intended purpose, constituting a great tourist attraction for the shoppers of foodstuffs, and in particular those being fond of the regional products. Here you will find the best vegetables and fruit from the areas of Lower Silesia.

You can choose one of 2 options to complete our trip:

- Sightseeing of the impressive relic - Panorama of the Battle of Raclawice
- Shopping rush in the Galeria Dominikańska (Dominikańska Shopping Centre).

**8. The Panorama Raclawicka (Panorama of the Battle of Raclawice)** is definitely more than worth your time. This wide and powerful (15x114m) oil painting by Jan Styka and Wojciech Kossak presents the battle of Raclawice under the command of Tadeusz Kosciuszko. Due to various painting tricks and additions such as the site plan, winding approach or the light illuminations, this wonderful piece of art takes you into a romantic journey into another era. In addition, some objects placed intentionally in front of the image make it difficult for the viewer to recognize where the painting actually begins. To reach the Raclawice Panorama, we need to turn to the left of the Świętej Katarzyny Street into the Purkiniego Street. Approximately 400m further, we see a round building. (5 min.). The opening hours of the Raclawice Panorama: from Tuesday to Sunday - 09:00 am - 4:00 am. Ticket – 25 PLN; reduced ticket – 18 PLN; family ticket - 18PLN per person.

**Galeria Dominikańska (Dominikańska Shopping Centre)** is a sheer paradise for all the worshippers of the “shopping rush”. More than 100 shops of international brands, the fountain and another viewpoint on the patio roof of the building will be a great crowning of the tour. The shopping centre is located at the end of the Świętej Katarzyny Street on the Plac Dominikański (Dominikański Square), and its opening hours are: Mon. - Sat. 9:30 am – 9:00 pm and on Sundays 10:00 am – 8:00 pm.