



CZĘSTOCHOWA



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- is a fine city

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Photos: Jacenty Dędek, Tomasz Gębuś, Janusz Stepien,
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On the cover: The Swedish siege of Jasna Góra,
presented in the engraving by J. Bensheimer. Mid 17th century.

Owned by: National Museum in Cracow.
Częstochowa - is a good city - words of Holy Father
John Paul II spoken in Castel Gandolfo in 1993.

GAUDE MATER International Festival of Sacred Music

This is currently one of the major musical events in Poland. The Festival ranks among the leading festivals of sacred music and takes place from 1st to 6th of May every year. It is based on the idea of bringing cultures together by means of different religious performances. The Festival is open to modern music but also old music is of concern. Every year there is the Polish sacred music concert on the first performances ever of old time sacred music. The Festival is accompanied by an **academic seminar** on the sacrum in music, as well as **art exhibitions, theatrical performances and interdisciplinary shows**. Over 1.000 performers from different countries take part in the Festival signing and playing music in the city churches and concert halls.

Organizer: GAUDE MATER
Centre of Culture Promotion in Częstochowa
ul. Dąbrowskiego 1
tel. +48.34/324 36 38
www.gaudemater.pl, e-mail: biuro@gaudemater.pl



“Sacrum” Triennial Art Festival

The festival presents a great works of art variety intended to express, experience and contemplate the sacred sphere of the contemporary man's life. The art exhibition is accompanied by **open-air presentations, film shows, theatrical performances and publications**. The art festival is open to all religions and denominations presenting works inspired by Christianity and other religious traditions. Each edition of the Triennial presentations has a different form and programme. Works of both well-known and young artists are presented, the latter having thus a forum for promotion. “*Sacrum*” is a prestigious and well-known festival, taking place every three years.

Next edition: September 2006

Organizer: City Art Gallery in Częstochowa
Aleja Najświętszej Maryi Panny 64, tel. +48.34/324 60 57
www.galeria.czest.pl, e-mail: mgs64@wp.pl

Bronisław Huberman Violin Festival

The Festival takes place every two years and its formula includes both recitals and concerts with orchestra. It is an occasion for both presentation of outstanding masterpieces of music performed by eminent artists and for promotion of young and talented musicians as well. The Festival is called after the name of Bronisław Huberman, the worldwide famous violin virtuoso and a great Polish musician born in Częstochowa. Because of his outstanding performance technique and extraordinary flair for music, the Huberman Festival gained a permanent place in the world history of violin performance. Huberman **belonged to the most distinguished and famous violinists of the last century**. He was also a great humanist and his idea of the united Europe called "Pan-European" makes him a forerunner of the European integration based on respect for cultural and ethnic differences and at the same time independence of all nations. Huberman's name has also been given to the Israeli Philharmonic Society. The nearest festival edition will be held in 2005.

Organizer: Częstochowa Philharmonic Hall, ul. Wilsona 16
tel. +48 34/324 42 30
www.filharmonia.com.pl, e-mail: filharmonia@filharmonia.com.pl



„Jurassic Autumn“ Open-Air Painting Sessions

Every year in wonderful, picturesque autumn, Polish and foreign artists meet in a chosen nook of the Cracow Częstochowa Uplands to work together. They create works, which are inspired by the surrounding nature and landscape, but are varied in their form and content. Motifs of nature dominate in these pictures: limestone rocks of the Jura Uplands, imprints of shells on rock surfaces, trees, grass and fairy-tale associations. A visit to the Open-Air Painting Exhibition, always held in spring, is an unforgettable experience, a journey to the land of impressions, associations and feelings.

Organizer: City Art Gallery Aleja Najświętszej Maryi Panny 64,
tel. +48.34/324 60 57, www.galeria.czest.pl, e-mail: mgs64@wp.pl



Adela Wiśniewska
"Jesienny ogród"

HOT JAZZ SPRING Traditional Jazz Festival

Every year in May Częstochowa resounds with traditional jazz music. Concerts of well-known bands and performers are held in the Philharmonic Hall and in restaurants and music clubs in night jazz sessions. The Festival attracts a large audience, as jazz is a very appealing music. Something of a novelty in the Festival is a singular **Traditional Jazz Contest called "Swinging Raven"** aimed at young solo players and singers.

Organizer: Częstochowa Philharmonic Hall
and Częstochowa Jazz Association
ul. Wilsona 16; tel. +4834/ 324 42 30
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City Open-Air Painting Sessions

The attention and sensitivity of artists taking part in this Open-Air Painting Session focuses on city scapes. On canvases and cardboards we can spot both well-known motifs and the ones that can only be discovered through a work of art. All the themes and motifs are presented in an original way, peculiar to each artist. The paintings represent either street views, often enriched by artistic imagination with unreal elements, or concentrate on single architectural details or show the city from an unusual perspective. Thanks to the City Open-Air Painting exhibition held every year in spring Częstochowa becomes an even more magical and unusual place.

Organizer: City Art Gallery in Częstochowa
Aleja Najświętszej Maryi Panny 64, tel. +48.34/324 55 81
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International Folk Music Festival „From far and near“

The Festival gathers groups from the Częstochowa region as well as from the whole Europe. The concerts take place on stages in Częstochowa, Koniecpol, Kłomnice, Przyrów and Kamienica Polska. During the festival the participants have the chance to learn about the cultural heritage of the city, region and country. The Festival is held under the auspices of the International Organisation Folkart Polish Section.

Organizer: Regional Centre of Culture
ul. Ogińskiego 13a, tel. +48/34 324 46 51
www.rok.czestochowa.pl
e-mail: rok@rok.czestochowa.pl

International Biennial Miniature Exhibition

The exhibition following the Miniature Contest comprises hundreds of miniatures, works small in size, but with extraordinary artistic values. These works require special attention and concentration on the potential of creative expression, on the charm and depth of meaning captured in miniature works. A visit to the Biennial Miniature Exhibition is also a unique opportunity to acquaint oneself with works of artists from different continents. The next Miniature Contest will be held in August 2006.

Organizer:
GAUDE MATER Centre of Culture Promotion in Częstochowa
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www.gaudemater.pl, e-mail: biuro@gaudemater.pl

Harvest Festival at Jasna Góra

The most famous and not to be missed feast of the Polish country folk and culture held annually on the first Saturday and Sunday of September. On those days farmers from all the country come to the Jasna Góra hill with splendid wreaths which are the symbol of their constant efforts and toil with fields ploughing and collection of crops all the year long. They come to thank the Holy Virgin Mary, or in other words the Black Madonna, and plead with the Mother of God for her protection and presence in their lives. The Harvest Festival is accompanied by local agriculture fair with its exhibition of highly regarded regional products. One can also spot there quite a few places of interest for holiday makers, mainly small villages, which offer accomodation in rural surrounding for every visitor.

In the Holy Virgin Mary Avenue artists present their works. Folk sculptures and paintings are to be seen in the Museum and apart from that folk rites, dances and songs from several European countries are performed on the city stages. During the **European Days of Folk Culture** held at that time winners of the **International Folk Art Contest** are selected.

Organizer: National Farmers' Pastoral Centre
Regional Advisory Centre for Agriculture
and Rural Areas Development
Częstochowa, ul. Wyszyńskiego 70/126
tel. +48 34/37 70 101
Częstochowa City Office



Częstochowa Days

Concerts, performances, presentations, exhibitions and happenings present the achievement of Częstochowa artists and invited guests. This city feast is always organized about the 26th August (Our Lady of Częstochowa holiday).

Organizer:
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EVENTS

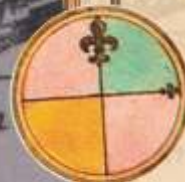


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Biegański Square

Częstochowa - the city known all over the world due to the presence of the Holy Virgin Mary embodied in the icon of the Black Madonna in the Monastery of the Pauline Fathers. A large multitude makes pilgrimage to the Madonna with their thanks, pleas, and prayers, both in difficult and happy moments of their life. Down through the ages Częstochowa has become one of the main pilgrimage centres of the world. Every year the shrine is visited on average by 4-5 million pilgrims from as many as 80 countries from all over the world. A religious and social phenomenon, peculiar to Poles, is associated with the so called on-foot pilgrimage. It is estimated that over 200,000 pilgrims come to Częstochowa this way. The longest pilgrimage routes in Poland itself are over 600 km long and it usually takes pilgrims up to 20 days to cover that distance.

For the first time ever Częstochowa was mentioned in the year 1220. In the 14th century the town was granted its foundation charter, according to the German law by King Casimir the Great, and then the town developed into an important trade centre on the route from Russia and Wallachia to Lower Silesia and Saxony. The next significant stage in the development of Częstochowa was initiated when the town was granted the privilege to excavate and smelt iron ore. The advantageous location on the Warta River and the proximity of the Monastery undoubtedly encouraged the town development. Soon another settlement began to expand, this time around the Monastery and that settlement was granted municipal rights in 1717.

The two towns became officially joined in 1826. It was then that the Holy Virgin Mary Avenue got erected and became an axis around which new houses as well as shops were built. The most intensive development of the town took place at the time of the Industrial Revolution. The town had access to water intakes and was situated on the Warsaw Vienna Railway, hence textile factories and steelworks were built here and haberdashery and chemical industries began to thrive. Following earlier traditions, Częstochowa craftsmen manufactured goods from coloured metals, and also glass and ceramic articles were manufactured. At the end of the 19th century Częstochowa was one of the most developed industrial centres and the fourth biggest town in the Kingdom of Poland as regards its inhabitants. The significance of the city was accentuated during the Exhibition of Industry and Agriculture held in 1909. The exhibition itself was a comprehensive survey of Polish cultural and technological capabilities, the national demonstration of Polish cultural and technological possibilities as well as production potential. In 1933 Częstochowa was

of a municipal district (*starostwo grodzkie*). At the beginning of the 20th century Częstochowa set up its cultural heritage institutions. Thus the museum, the theatre, libraries, cinemas as well as several schools of educational, polytechnic and academic background got founded. Also, the local press started burgeoning. In 1925 the Diocese of Częstochowa was established and later the Diocese was awarded the status of Archdiocese by Pope John Paul II in the year 1992.

The good business climate has always prevailed in Częstochowa. The city is now a big centre with a well-developed infrastructure and a strong social and economic potential. As an important academic centre with its nine higher profile schools with over 40,000 students, the city is a centre of culture based on tradition. Częstochowa, the city open for the world from the very beginning, was the first town in Poland to be granted the Prix de l'Europe award by the Council of Europe. The award gave a special splendour to the City and its inhabitants.

You can spend an unforgettable time when in the city, due to its exceptional climate and the special atmosphere of the Holy Virgin Mary Avenue.

The Jasna Góra hill (A/B-4) - The first Pauline Fathers settled on the hill in 1382 when Prince Ladislaus of Opole (*Władysław Opolczyk*) donated the Holy Virgin Mary Parish Church to the Order of Pauline Fathers. Soon the monastery was built on this site in 1393 following the foundation by King Ladislaus Jagiello and his wife Queen Jadwiga, as well as many other donations afterwards. Fortifications built in 1620-1644 by King Ladislaus IV Vasa made the monastery an important part of the country's defences. In 1655 the fortress successfully fought off the Swedish army under King Charles X Gustavus. At that time the defence at Prior Augustyn Kordecki's command had a great moral and political significance. Monarchs and ever growing multitudes of the faithful started going on pilgrimage to Częstochowa.

Then King John Casimir in his Lvov Vows declared the Mother of God to be the Queen of Poland. It happened that the fortifications of Jasna Góra withstood the sieges of the Swedish army during the Northern Wars in 1702, 1704 and 1705. After some time in the year 1717 the first coronation of the Black Madonna picture took place in Poland.



The Jasna Góra Monastery - view from the East

The Monastery proved its military power when the Confederates of the city of Bar under orders of Kazimierz Pułaski managed successfully to resist Russian troops for the period of three years. During the Napoleon era the Jasna Góra Monastery played the role of fortress for the last time defending the freedom of Poland against the attacks of the Austrian army. After Napoleon's defeat the fortress was seized by the Russian army and very quickly the defensive walls were pulled down.

In 1910 the picture of the Black Madonna was crowned again and ten years later, this time in independent Poland, the Episcopate declared again The Holy Virgin Mary the Queen of Poland.

In 1956 on the 300th anniversary of the King John Casimir's Vows, beloved by all Poles, Cardinal Stefan Wyszyński renewed the Jasna Góra Vows, **In 1979 the Holy Father John Paul II, the first Polish Pope in the Church, came to the Jasna Góra Monastery on one of his first visits after the conclave.**

The present architectural complex, built over a period of more than five centuries constitutes a compact set of monastery buildings. Within the walls of the Jasna Góra fortress there are historical buildings and relics of the past of utmost importance for the Polish nation. They are the testimony of the epochs, moreover they are the testimony of the people and the cultural heritage of Poland.

The Holy Virgin Mary Chapel - the Gothic Chapel with the Black Madonna picture. That famous and sacred picture placed in the Baroque ebony altar is highly regarded for many miracles that make it the object of pilgrims' devotion from all parts of the Globe. A great many of pleas and thanksgiving brought to the Madonna are commemorated by countless votive offerings placed by the faithful on the Chapel walls. In 1662 -1664 the Chapel was extended by a three-nave Baroque building, which is now an outstanding example of Polish architecture of the Counter-Reformation period. The third part of the Chapel was added in 1929. Adjacent to the Chapel we can find the Basilica of the Invention of the Cross and the Birth of the Blessed Virgin Mary, two superb masterpieces of the Baroque architecture. The vaults are covered with frescoes dating from the late 17th century. The main altar is an exquisite example of the late Baroque art. Three 17th century chapels adjoin the Basilica. They are as follows: St. Paul the First Hermit's Chapel, the Holy Relics Chapel and the Heart of Jesus Chapel. On the choir gallery, over the main entrance to the Basilica there is a magnificent organ, one of the biggest in Poland with 105 voices, 4 keyboards and two counters.

The Knights' Hall - a very representative hall of the Monastery in Renaissance style, adorned with a series of 17th century paintings documenting significant events in the history of the Monastery.

The Monastery Walls - the area along the fortress walls, at the four ends of which there are four bastions of the former quadrangular fortification of Jasna Góra. We can enumerate the following bastions: St. Barbara's, St. Roch's, St. James's Bastions and the Holy Trinity bastion.

The Tower - one of the highest in the country, above 106 metres tall with 519 steps leading to its top. The viewing platform is a great place to admire the whole panorama of Częstochowa. On the second storey of the tower there is a chiming clock, playing Marian hymns with its 36 bells.

The national heritage and the Pauline Fathers' collections can be seen in **the Treasury, the Arsenal, the Museum of the 600th Anniversary and the Library.**

St. Andrew and St. Barbara's Church (A/B-7) - built in the mid-17th century for the novitiate of the Jasna Góra Monastery. The location of the Church was probably determined by the presence of the spring in which, according to the legend, the profaned picture of the Black Madonna, stolen from the Jasna Góra Monastery, was washed in 1430. At the end of the 19th century the church became a parish church. The church itself was built in Baroque style with some traces of Gothic, originally with one nave, later extended by two side aisles into chapels. The tower is crowned with a Baroque dome. Behind the church there is St. Barbara's Chapel with the spring.



The Stanisław Staszic Park

Parks near Jasna Góra:

Stanisław Staszic Park (B/C-4/5) - established on the eastern slope of the Jasna Góra hill in 1826. It was the site of the National Industrial and Agricultural Exhibition in 1909. Several buildings have remained in the Park since that time: the Secession Exhibition Pavilion, now housing the collections of the Częstochowa Museum, the unique and the only model of a peasant farm in Poland, a stylish wooden summer house and the Astronomical Observatory. Two ponds connected with a narrow canal add variety to the Park's landscape. Among the plants in the Park there are some rare tree and shrub species such as the Austrian pine, the Chinese juniper, the Pennsylvania ash and the Douglas fir.

The 3rd May Park (B/C-4) - established in 1938, is situated on the eastern slope of the Jasna Góra hill. In the Park there are tennis courts with clubhouse in an old-style. Chess enthusiasts have their meeting point near the Stanisław Moniuszko monument, where they can enjoy this royal game. There are 1581 specimens of trees and shrubs in the park, which belong to 83 species and varieties. Foreign species come mainly from South America and Asia.

The Holy Virgin Mary Avenue (Aleje Najświętszej Maryi Panny) (C/F-4/5) - one of the most representative streets of Częstochowa leading from St. Sigismund's Church to the Parks near the Jasna Góra hill thus joining the Old and the New city of Częstochowa. It was here that from the mid-19th century the most valuable public buildings and residences of local factory owners were built, with façades richly decorated with bay windows, balconies and other architectural details. In the Avenue one can also see houses of the city middle class. Those historical buildings on both sides of the Avenue remind us what the city life looked like in the not so remote past.



One of the houses in the Holy Virgin Mary Avenue

The Church of the Holy Virgin Mary (C/D-4) - built together with the convent of Mariavite Sisters in 1859 - 1862. The Neo-Gothic, one-nave interior without separate presbytery is covered with a panelled ceiling decorated with wooden rosettes. The walls are covered with Secession paintings of flowery motifs. The former convent church has become now the academic church. Pictures of famous painters are to be found here like: the picture of Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary by Rafał Hodziewicz; also paintings by January Suchodolski and Piotr Le Brin. On the wooden choir gallery there is an organ dating from 1935. Under the choir gallery there are two sandstone stoups with Baroque features.

The Town Hall (D-4/5) - a symbol of the city, reminds us of the foundation of the up-to-date Częstochowa. It was erected for the seat of the local government of the new town in 1828, two years after the official merger of the Old and the New City. Unlike municipal buildings in most other towns, the Częstochowa Town Hall is situated on the transverse axis of the town's central square. Extended in 1908, the Town Hall became a two-storey building with a round tower in the centre and two detached buildings nearby.. Originally the Town Hall was surrounded by a big garden on its three sides except for the front. On the ground floor there were offices, whereas the upper floor was designed as the apartment for the Mayor of the town. The right-side building housed a prison, whereas in the left-side building was assigned to guards and officers. Now the old Town Hall is the main seat of the Częstochowa Museum.

St. Sigismund's Church (F-5) - the oldest church in Częstochowa, founded in the 14th century, three-nave with elongated presbytery and one Gothic tower. Later extensions include the building of St. Gregory's Chapel in the years 1625-1643, the building of the vestry on the northern side later pulled down in the 19th century. The Old Town cemetery which once surrounded the Church was closed down and demolished. The Church which has survived in its present Baroque form since 1783 has a façade with two towers. Next to the church there are buildings of the two-storey presbytery and a former brick monastery dating from the early 17th century, connected with the church on the upper floor level. On the site of today's Mirowska Street running in the immediate vicinity of the Church there was once a belfry with adjoining town walls and a tower.

The Holy Family Cathedral of Częstochowa Archdiocese (F-5) - built in stages in 1901-1927 is one of the biggest churches in Poland. Made of brick with stone and sandstone architectural details, in Neo-gothic style, three-naved, with elongated presbytery and a façade topped with two towers. The interior of the Cathedral has Scandinavian granite finishing, and stained-glass windows representing the most important events in the history of the nation and the Church.

In the 1930's balustrades with tracery and brass-reliefs were erected in front of the three altars. In front of the Holy Virgin Mary Chapel there are the tombs of the city former bishops.

St. Roch and St. Sebastian's Church and Cemetery - the oldest of the existing cemeteries of Częstochowa, situated between St. Roch Street and St. Sebastian Street, near the church of the same name. The cemetery was established in the 1640's. In the mid-19th century the Protestant section was allotted and 30 years later - a Russian Orthodox one.

The oldest tombstone preserved in the cemetery dates from 1849. Insurgents of the 3rd Silesian Uprising, poet Halina Poświatowska, Ignacy Koziulewski as well as many others are buried here.

The history of St. Roch and St. Sebastian's Church dates back to the mid-17th century, when a brick chapel was erected on this site. The chapel was demolished during the Swedish war of 1655-60, but in 1680 a brick and stone church was built on the site of the destroyed chapel and then consecrated. The originally Baroque church had one nave with an arched ceiling, but after reconstruction a tripartite façade with two towers topped with Baroque domes was added.

The Golden Mount (Złota Góra) - a limestone hill on the Eagles' Nests' Route facing Jasna Góra. On its white slopes the Mount reflects the rays of the sun over the City. From this place the panorama of Częstochowa can easily be seen. Limestone used to be a very popular building material in the past and many of the City buildings were constructed of stone excavated here. Today excavation pits went out of use but are still an attraction of paramount importance.



The Holy Family Cathedral