



# JOINT FORCE TRAINING CENTRE

*"Transformation Through Training"*



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## CITY OF BYDGOSZCZ

The following text (photos included) is written by the City Hall of Bydgoszcz and published on [www.bydgoszcz.pl](http://www.bydgoszcz.pl). The text is included in this Information folder with the approval of the President of Bydgoszcz and is fully attributed to the City Hall.

### 1. The City in brief

Bydgoszcz, located in the north central part of Poland along the Brda River, is the capital of the Kujawsko-Pomorskie province. One of Poland's major inland ports, the Bydgoszcz Canal, built 1773-1774, links the Brda River with the Notec River, and is part of the larger Vistula-Oder waterway. This canal is one of the most popular tourist attractions.

Chartered in 1346, the city developed in the Middle-Ages on the site of a prehistoric fort. During the 15<sup>th</sup> and 16<sup>th</sup> centuries, it became an important trade centre. In 1772, it was part of the area taken over by Prussia. In 1919, it was returned to Poland. During World War II, it was occupied by Germany.

Despite the damage suffered during World War II, Bydgoszcz has an architectural heritage representing Eclecticism and Art Nouveau dating from the late 19<sup>th</sup> and early 20<sup>th</sup> centuries. The best examples of this are to be found on Gdanska, Cieszkowskiego and Mickiewicza streets. This style also dominates the Old Market Square. On the western end of this square, you can find the gothic St. Nicolas church, which dates back to the 15<sup>th</sup> century.



The city is not only an important administrative centre for the province, but also is a major business centre with many financial and insurance companies. Bydgoszcz is one of Poland's leading trade fair centres. As an important educational centre, future engineers, medical doctors, humanists and musicians all study at local educational institutions.

At the very heart of the city, its cultural hub can be found, which includes the Opera Nova House, the Pomeranian Concert Hall, the Polish Theatre, the Regional Museum and the Municipal Art Gallery. Several events are held in the city on a regular

basis, including the Bydgoszcz Opera Festival, the Festival Musica Antiqua Europea Orientalis, the Bydgoszcz Music Festival, and the Drama World Premiere Festival. Less formally, the city is home to a wide variety of galleries and pubs, which regularly present a variety of art and music.

Sports have always been a major part of Bydgoszcz, and continue to be to this day. For a number of years, the Polonia Stadium has hosted Grand Prix racing in Speedway.

For someone seeking open air activity, the Myslecinek Forest Park is an outstanding resource. In its 500 hectare forest, you can find the Polish Fauna Garden, a botanical garden, an equestrian centre, tennis courts and an Alpinarium, among other facilities.

You will have no problem finding hotel accommodations and good restaurants in Bydgoszcz. In addition, many hotels and restaurants can provide services and facilities for conferences, symposiums, and banquets.

In conclusion, have a great stay in Bydgoszcz.

### **Coat of arms, civic colours, bugle call**



**Civic coat of arms** depicts battlemented red city walls on a silver background, with a gate and three towers, the middle one being taller and larger. Each tower has an arched black window. The towers are covered with blue pitched roofs crowned with golden balls. The middle ball is topped with a weathervane turned right. The gate is equipped with a golden portcullis; it is lifted, the right half of the gate is open and a silver background can be seen through the open gate; the gate is blue with golden fixtures.”



**Civic colours:** white, red and blue horizontal stripes of equal width, forming a rectangle of 8:5 proportion. The coat of arms is positioned centrally, at the diagonals' crossing point.

## 2. Tours around the City and the surrounding area

To make it easier for all visitors to Bydgoszcz to get to know the highlights and peculiarities of the city on the Brda and Wisła Rivers we prepared a guide – TOURS IN THE CITY. IN THE OLD TOWN

**The tour starts in the Old Market Square (Stary Rynek)** – a place of execution of many Bydgoszcz dwellers during the Nazi occupation which is commemorated by Fight and Martyrdom of the Bydgoszcz Land Monument (Pomnik Walki i Męczeństwa). On the southern side of the square at number 24 you can see Dr. Witold Bełza Voivodship and City Public Library (Wojewódzka i Miejska Biblioteka Publiczna im. dr. Witolda Bełzy), and right in front of it a small stone well. Then make your way down ul. Farna (Farna Street) to the late-gothic Co-cathedral of St. Martin and Nicolas (konkatedra p.w. św. Marcina i Mikołaja) and proceed down ul. Jezuicka (Jesuit Street) with a building of former Jesuit College which has been housing the



*Old Market Square (Stary Rynek)*

City Hall since 1897. Next go along ul. Ku Młynom (To the Mills Street) towards Wyspa Młyńska (Mill Island) with remains of Bydgoszcz Mint which has worked from 1594 to 1688 and Biały Spichlerz (the White Granary) where you can visit a constant exhibition of craft work. On the nearby Brda Młyńska River there is Bydgoszcz Venice situated – a graceful subject for painters and photographers. Now make your way down ul. Długa (Long Street) – the main track in the Old Town back to ul. Jezuicka and head west to Wełniany Rynek (Wool Market Square). If you turn left into ul. Wierzbickiego (Wierzbicki Street), go east through Nowy Rynek (New Market Square) and along ul. Wały Jagiellońskie (the Jagellons' Banks Street) where you can see a complex of law court edifices and right opposite it, on the back of ul. Pod Blankami (Under Battlements Street), fragments of town strongholds from 15th Century you will reach Zbożowy Rynek (Grain Market Square). Turn left into ul. Bernardyńska (Bernardine Street). On your right there is a complex of a former church (now the Garrison Church of the Holy Virgin Mary, Queen of Peace – Kościół Garnizonowy p.w. NPM Królowej Pokoju) and buildings of Bernardine monastery. Nearby a Grave and Monument of the Unknown Wielkopolska Insurgent.

On your left, in the place of former Bydgoszcz castle, demolished in 1895 you can see the late-Gothic Church of St Andrew Bobola (Kościół p.w. św. Andrzeja Boboli). Now reach ul. Mostowa (Bridge Street) walking down ul. Grodzka (Castle Street) near the classical building of PZU Inspectorate, a complex of modern buildings of BRE Bank S.A. and former Grain Granaries from 18. and 19. Century which now houses a branch of the Leon Wyczółkowski Regional Museum. In front of you, on the square, you may sight the Leon Barciszewski Monument – the last president of Bydgoszcz before the outbreak of the Second World War. Crossing Jerzy Sulima-Kamiński Bridge you enter the city-centre.

### **In the City Centre**

From Pl. Teatralny (Theatre Square) make your way towards north down ul. Gdańska (Gdańsk Street). On your right you will pass by the Gothic-Renaissance Saint Clare's Order's Church of Assumption of the Holy Virgin, then former monastic buildings which now are a seat of the Leon Wyczółkowski Regional Museum, further a representative hotel 'Pod Orłem' ('The Eagle' Hotel) and at pl. Wolności (Freedom Square) the Neo-Gothic Church of Saint Peter and Paul, together with Artistic Exhibitions Bureau on the northern edge of Kazimierz Wielki Park (on the left of the church) and, in the centre of the square, an obelisk commemorating a march in of the Polish Army



*Statue of Bydgoszcz Archeress*

to Bydgoszcz in 1920 and other events important for the city. At the junction of ul. Gdańska and Slowackiego you can notice the building of the broadcasting station of the Polish Radio of Kujawy and Pomorze (Polskie Radio PiK). Turn right and on the left you will see Feliks Nowowiejski Music University (Akademia Muzyczna) and straight ahead the edifice of the I.J. Paderewski Pomeranian Concert Hall (Filharmonia Pomorska). You will be enchanted by the gallery of sculptures of world-famous composers and virtuosi around the edifice and in the neighbouring Jan Kochanowski Park with the Henryk Sienkiewicz Monument at the entrance to the park. Turn left into ul. 20 Stycznia 1920 r. (January 20<sup>th</sup>, 1920 Street). Near the Polish Theatre you will spot the Statue of Bydgoszcz Archeress. Make your way east down Aleje Adama Mickiewicza (Adam Mickiewicz Avenue) to pl. Weysenhoffa (Wyssenhoff Square) where you will find a complex of agricultural institutes of the Kazimierz Wielki Bydgoszcz University (Akademia Bydgoska). Walking along Al. Ossolińskich (Ossolińscy Avenue) parallel to the eastern edge of urban and architectural complex 'Sielanka' ('Idyll') proceed south-east to Rondo Ossolińskich (Ossolińscy Roundabout). On your left you may contemplate the monumental Minor Basilica of saint Wincenty a Paulo of the

Assembly of Missionary Priests and visit a nearby villa which homes the Museum of Polish Diplomacy and Exile. Through Wincenty Witos Common Park (Park Ludowy im. Wincentego Witosa) near the open-air concert hall and the bust of its patron reach ul. Jagiellońska (Jagiellons Street). Turn right and on your right you will pass Youth's Palace and a branch of Bank Handlowy S.A. (Commerce Bank) and on the left Bydgoszcz House of Technician – a provincial branch of NOT. By the subway cross Rondo Jagiellonów (Jagiellons Roundabout) you will pass the buildings of L. Rydygier Medical University (Akademia Medyczna), Kazimierz Wielki Bydgoszcz University (Akademia Bydgoska) and the Voivodship Office on your right and on your left – Polish National Bank, the Main Post Office and Bank Gdański S.A. (Gdański Bank S.A.). The finish of your tour is Pl. Teatralny.

### **At the Bydgoszcz Canal**

This part of the tour starts from Pl. Teatralny. Go west down ul. Focha. On the left you will soon pass the Opera Nova House and then cross the bridge over the Brda River and its arm – the Młynówka (the Mill's River). On your right you can sight the town's lock – a fragment of the Bydgoszcz Canal dated to 1915. Right behind Rondo Grunwaldzkie (Grunwald Roudabout) you will find a part of the historic Old Bydgoszcz Canal which was filled in with soil in the city centre in the 1970's in connection with the rebuilding of the city's traffic system. Go down the park path towards ul. Wrocławska (Wrocław Street). The most interesting parts of the canal stretch further for about 3 kilometres but you turn right into ul Grunwaldzka and turn right again to reach the Old Parish Cemetery where many Bydgoszcz citizens of merit rest in peace. Soon you will reach Rondo Grunwaldzkie – the end of the tour.



*Opera Nova*

### 3. Parks

**Jan Kochanowski Park** (placed in the square between ul. 20 Stycznia 1920 r., Aleje Mickiewicza, ul. Ignacego J. Paderewskiego and the Pomeranian Concert Hall)

It was established at the beginning of the 20th century in English style on an area of 3.15 hectares. It is rich in trees and decorative shrubs (about 80 species). The park gallery shows sculptures of world-famous composers and virtuosi.

**Wincenty Witos Common Park** (ul. Jagiellońska)

It was created in 1953, mainly on the area of the former evangelical cemetery which was liquidated in 1948-1950 and now it covers 6.42 hectares of land. A bust of the patron and an open air concert hall are situated in the park.

**Forest Culture and Leisure Park** (ul. Gdańska 173-175)

The park covers 800 hectares of land and is situated between the highway to Gdansk, so-called coal trail, and the northern slope of Toruń and Bydgoszcz Valley – a chain of 'Myślęcinek hills' which are from 55 to 95 m high (40 m above the lowest terrace) and are divided by picturesque ravines. On the slope there is a ski lift (open in good weather conditions) and in the ravines and valleys - a 600 metres' long sledge run. The park consists of four parts: woodland, a sports and recreation part, an exhibition area and breeding part. The sports and recreation part, together with a sports sector, an entrance sector and Amusement Park are situated on the border with the 'Zawisza' sports centre, whereas the exhibition and didactic part, together with Botanical Garden and horse riding stables is located in the non-wooded area of the park. The north-western part of the park which gradually changes into a woodland complex that covers the Brda River valley was earmarked for tourist purpose.

**Polish Fauna Garden** (in Forest Culture and Leisure Park)

The garden was established in 1979-83 and holds 300 animals representing over 100 species of mammals, amphibians, reptiles and birds which appear in Poland. It is visited by about 150,000 people annually.

**Botanical Garden** (in Forest Culture and Leisure Park)

The Garden was established in 1979-83 according to the plan by dr hab.inż. Edward Bartman. It is situated in the north-eastern part of the Park in the area of Myślęcinek and Zacisze spurts, where 11 cascade ponds were built. It covers about 100 hectares of land. A 50-70 years old beech and oak forest that straggles onto the Myślęcinek slope, is also part of the Garden. The terrain is variously shaped and has a variety of flora, as well as a 60 hectares large forest and a park area with a place for rest and sightseeing. The garden is full of character because of its modern spatial and visual conception adjusted in considerable extent to natural conditions. Plants from different climatic zones are exposed in the natural flora groups. In the ponds of the Myślęcinek Valley (on 4.5 hectares of land) there are gardens of water plants, bank plants, marshy low and high peat and in the western part you will find a garden of highland plants. Near 'Zacisze' there are three cascade ponds from the source – water lilies. There are plans to create a palm site with water plants, aquariums and an aviary for exotic birds. Near the Garden there is Botanical Garden of the Institute for Plant Breeding and Acclimatisation.

**Equestrian Centre** (ul. Konna 10)

It keeps about 40 horses which are used mainly for riding or pulling carriages. From autumn to spring and during rainy weather rides are accompanied by instructors and take place in the breaking-in room. The Centre also organises horse contests, hunting runs, rides in carriages round Forest Culture and Leisure Park, May fêtes, picnics and winter rides in sleighs, as well as horse-camps for children and teenagers during the summer holidays. What is more, in the Centre there is the Hippo Therapy Association that employs hippo therapy (therapy using horses) in the rehabilitation of the handicapped children.

### **Ecology Education Centre of the Kujawsko-Pomorskie Voivodship** (in the west part of Forest Culture and Leisure Park)

The Centre started its educational activity in 1994. The didactic programs are aimed mainly at school children and teenagers as well as their teachers. It organises activities in the Forest Culture and Leisure Park which comprise of lectures, talks and discussions, ecology knowledge contests, exhibitions, tours to landscape parks and sanctuaries and many more. There is also a library and a collection of films on the theme of nature and ecology.

## **4. Sports centres**

### **Sports centres Sports and Spectacle Hall 'Łuczniczka'**

[www.luczniczka.bydgoszcz.pl](http://www.luczniczka.bydgoszcz.pl)

The Hall was put to use in October 2002 and it can serve as a sports, concert and exposition hall. "Łuczniczka" is the newest and most modern structure in Poland that can serve so many functions. It is situated in the close vicinity of the most crucial transport arteries in the centre of Bydgoszcz, and it blends in perfectly with the picturesque landscape of the Brda River waterside, which is also a great asset during the organisation of outdoor events.

### **'Polonia' Stadium**

It was built in 1920 and is well-known mainly by speedway fans because of the fact that the stadium has been hosting the Speedway Grand Prix of Poland since 1998 - a part of the individual world championships in speedway. During speedway matches the Stadium is regularly packed with 20,000 spectators. It is one of the most modern stadiums of this type in the world.

### **Z. Krzyszkowiak WKS (Army Sports Club) Zawisza Stadium** (ul. Gdańska 163)

The stadium with a seating capacity of 15,000 people and a standing capacity of 30,000, is one of the prettiest stadiums in Poland and at the same time the largest in Bydgoszcz. It was built in a woodland and park area in 1955-64 according to the plans of the architects: W.Wyszkowski, A. Bigon and J. Hoffman. In the green part, there are training grounds, tennis courts, a target range for small-calibre shotguns, a sports hall with gyms, an indoor running track, a cafe and a hotel for 150 guests. In 1972 a grandstand with a covered box was built and the crown of the stadium was joined together. In 1974, tartan was laid on the running track and other training grounds, which covered 6,500 m<sup>2</sup> and a grand athletics hall with an auditorium for 1,000 people was built. What is more, in 2003 the central stand was covered with a new roof. Fairs and trade events are also organised at the stadium, as well as mass cultural events for about 8,000 people in the open-air theatre.