

Nearly 200 years ago,

members of the Society founded the oldest public museum in Poland. Today, the Mazovian Museum is located in the renovated Secession building at Tumsk Street, the town's main pedestrian zone. The conscientiously reproduced interiors dating back to that age will take you for a journey in time to the bourgeois world from the previous century. It is the largest collection of applied arts Secession exhibits in Poland, including glass, ceramic, jewelry and furniture as well as a collection of Polish painting (such artists as Wyspiański, Wyczółkowski, Mehoffer) and sculpture (Laszczka). For those who are interested in the town's history, the multimedia exhibition "10 centuries of Płock" will be a great choice. They should also see the newest section of the museum dedicated to Jews from Płock, who used to constitute an important part of the local community. The building of an old synagogue was adapted to host the Museum of the History of Mazovian Jews. You can see there a multimedia exhibition presenting the everyday life of Mazovian Jews, their faces, the smell of their dishes...

Mazovian Museum



Now you're just a few steps

from the oldest existing school in Poland, continuing the traditions of the Benedictine liberal arts education from the year 1180 – Marshal Stanisław Małachowski's High School. Gothic walls remind us of the school's past. So does its tower, where the astronomical observatory is located, as well as the community of school's professors and alumni who contributed to the country's and region's glorious past. Many distinguished figures attended Małachowianka – presidents and prime ministers, saint and blessed Catholic eminencies, travelers and heroic soldiers. The archeological research which is being conducted in the School has revealed a lot of its secrets: wall paintings, Roman foundations and probably the remains of the Mazovian ducal family.

Astronomical Observatory



The Old Town

And that's how you imperceptibly

arrived at the Old Town Market Square (Stary Rynek), the most favorite meeting place of all the citizens of Płock. The classicistic Town Hall building, designed by Jakub Kubicki, catches everybody's attention. According to the common belief, the last session of the Polish Kingdom parliament and government took place here before failure of the January Uprising (Powstanie Styczniowe) in 1831. At noon, you can watch the accolade scene and listen to the trumpeter playing the traditional bugle call of Płock from the Town Hall's tower.

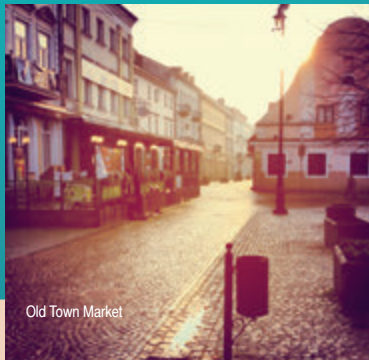
Buildings surrounding the market place date back to the turn of the 18th and 19th century. Two of them host the God's Mercy Sanctuary (Sanktuarium Bożego Miłosierdzia). On the 22nd February 1931, Saint Sister Faustina had her first saint revelations there, in the Monastic House. The cult of God's Mercy has spread beyond the Polish boundaries and the Chapel and Museum of Saint Sister Faustina are a popular pilgrimage destination for the visitors from all over the world.

Not everybody knows that Płock has one more cathedral basilica, the Temple of God's Mercy and Love, belonging to the Old Catholic Church of Mariavites. Among many Christian streams throughout the world, Mariavitism is the only one having Polish origin. Sister Maria Franciszka Kozłowska, the founder of the Church, was buried in the underground cave of this Neo-Gothic cathedral with soaring towers. Each year, on the 15th of August, Mariavites from all over the country and the world come to Płock to commemorate Saint Mary as well as the anniversary of the temple's foundation.

Płock City Hall



Old Town Market



Don't lose power,

there's one more attraction waiting for you. It's the exploration of the jungle and a face-to-face meeting with snakes, lizards and colorful butterflies. In the Płock ZOO, the brave ones can visit the exposition of a real tropical forest. Those with weaker nerves can admire lions from the safe distance. Don't worry, they like sweet dreaming much more than camera flashes.

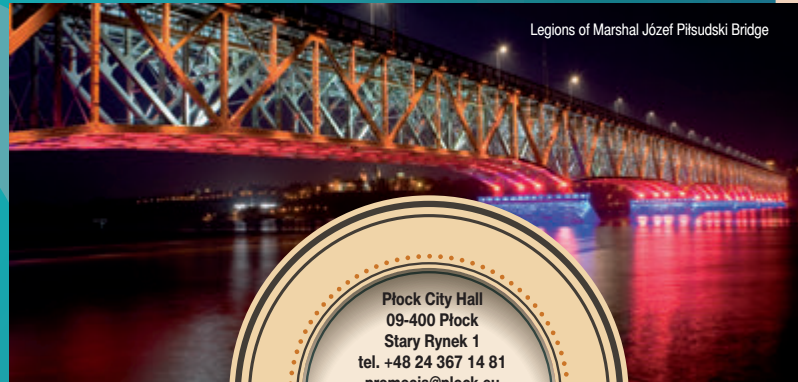
ZOO



After this tiring walk,

you can peacefully rest by the Vistula river. A 365 meter long pier is a place to visit here. It's the first river pier in Poland, and at the same time the only one in the whole Europe. You can see from here two bridges joining the left and the right bank of the town. The old rail and road bridge named after the Józef Piłsudski's Legions is illuminated with the town's official colors. It's worth waiting until sunset to admire this view and the illumination of the Tumskie Hill together with the amphitheater, which looks like a spacecraft preparing for a trans-galactic expedition.

Legions of Marshal Józef Piłsudski Bridge



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PŁOCK



For Centuries on the Top

THE DUKE'S PŁOCK



Take a short stroll

through the streets of Płock and you'll immediately notice that this is a town rich in traditions and that its heritage constitutes an important chapter in the history of Poland. Ancient walls, witnesses of the great past, whisper here about sumptuous feasts, chivalry duels and heroic deeds. They can show you the history of the town and of many generations of its inhabitants, famous for their outstanding personalities and actions which had left everlasting traces – milestones on the way through centuries. Don't hesitate, let yourself follow their story and explore the secrets of Płock.



Płock Cathedral

Opposite the Cathedral,

in the former Benedictine abbey, the Diocesan Museum is located. Among a large variety of exhibits, including for example kontusz sashes (kontusz being a traditional Polish robe-like male garment) and liturgical vestments, certain manuscripts and documents represent the greatest value. These are among others The Bible of Płock from the 12th century and the town's foundation act from the year 1237. Museum's treasury is the greatest pride of all museologists from Płock. You can admire there shiny gold monstrances, calyxes and reliquaries encrusted with precious stones. Moreover, the collection includes a Roman calyx of Konrad Mazowiecki, Duke of Mazovia and a herm – reliquary for the head of Saint Sigmund, a gift from Kazimierz Wielki, the king of Poland.



Post Benedictine Abbey



Diocesan Museum Vault



Tumskie Hill Park

While standing on the Tumskie Hill,

which is the town's medieval cradle, it's easy to feel the magic of the place that inspires reflections and memories. In the shade of the Cathedral Basilica and two towers: Noblemen's Tower and Clock Tower – constituting the remnants of the ducal castle – you can feel the wind of history. For centuries, Płock had been the seat of the Dukes of Mazovia and at the turn of the 11th and 12th century – the capital of Poland. A monumental complex, situated on a steep scarp next to the Vistula river bank, is the town's landmark.



Famous Płock Cathedral Doors

Let's take a closer look at the Cathedral Basilica

of the Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary. Founded in the 12th century, it had then been frequently rebuilt. Finally, at the beginning of the 20th century, its initial renaissance character was restored. Monumental bronze doors covered with reliefs lead to the Cathedral's interior. They are a copy of the Roman red brass doors (called Drzwi Płockie), manufactured in Magdeburg around the year 1154 and transported to the Cathedral in Płock. Open the doors and your eyes will behold the Cathedral's interior, richly ornamented with polychromies. Stop for a while at the King's Chapel to experience the majesty and power of the Dukes of Mazovia. A marble sarcophagus is a resting place of two kings of Poland – Władysław Herman and his son Bolesław Krzywousty, who, as Władysław Broniewski, Polish poet born in Płock wrote, had been observing their King Forest from the Tumskie Hill. The Cathedral, with its over 900-year history, is the town's most precious monument.



Royal Chapel



Mariavite Church

Walking down a paved street,

you will reach the Gothic brick canonry which is the seat of the Płock Scientific Society (TNP). Founded in 1820, it's one of the oldest establishments of this kind in Poland. Throughout decades, it had been collecting works of art, books and historical souvenirs. A spectacular set of 80 prints by Francisco Goya, entitled Caprichos, is a particularly noteworthy item in the TNP's collection.



Płock Scientific Society