



MUSEUMS AND GALLERIES

Museum of Częstochowa

Muzeum Częstochowskie is the oldest cultural institution in the Częstochowa region. With its magnificent collection of art and various branches (no. 1 to 7), the museum plays an important role in social and cultural life of the city.

1 Old Town Hall

al. N.M.P. 45

Old Town Hall is one of Częstochowa's most representative buildings with an interesting and rich history. Built in 1828, it was the seat of the municipal administration, and since 1967 it belongs to the Museum of Częstochowa. It houses a permanent historical exhibition entitled „History of the City of Częstochowa” as well as various temporary exhibitions.

2 Merchant's House – Jewish Museum of Częstochowa

ul. Katedralna 8

The building was erected within the historical site of old Jewish ghetto. It holds exhibitions created with the support of the World Association of Częstochowa Jews and Their Descendants, showing the culture and life of the Jewish community in Częstochowa before the WWII. Here you can find a 3D model of the old synagogue, on which foundations the building of Częstochowa Philharmonic Hall was constructed.

3 Archaeological Reserve

ul. Łukasińskiego 20

Situated in a modern pavillon in Raków district, this archaeological reserve is the only one in the world that presents cemetery artifacts of Lusatian culture (750-550 BC) still remaining at the spot where they were uncovered. Excavated burial sites hold ceramic pots, tools, jewelry and weapons in a permanent exhibition named „From the Darkness of History”.

4 Good Art Gallery

al. N.M.P. 47

Good Art Gallery is located in a building erected in 1875 as the seat of Orthodox clergy. In 1973, the building was handed over to the Museum of Częstochowa. Nowadays it holds a permanent exhibition „Polish Art of the 19th and 20th century” with wonderful art by Axentowicz, Fałat, Malczewski, Wyspiański and Madeyski, as well as various temporary exhibitions.

5 House of Poetry – Museum of Halina Poświatowska

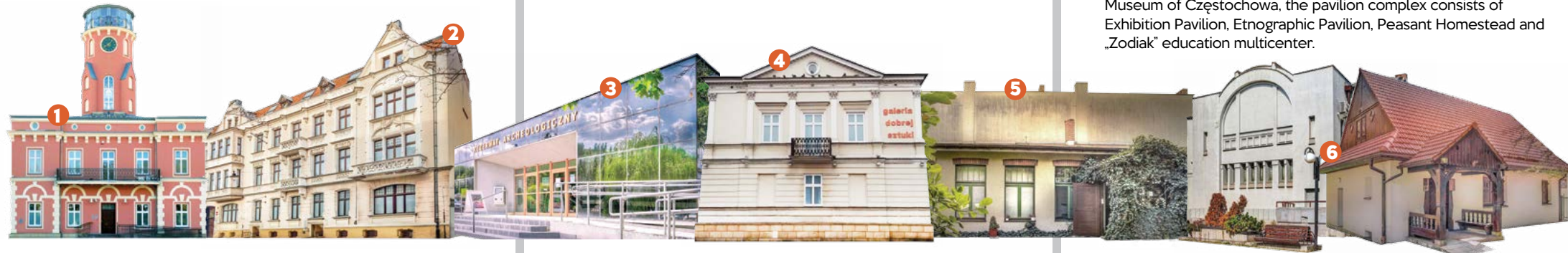
ul. Jasnogórska 23

Situated in the family home of Halina Poświatowska, a famous Polish poet, the House of Poetry is a meeting place for lovers of literature.

6 Exhibition Pavilions

Stanisław Staszic Park

Exhibition pavilions in Staszic park were erected in 1909 for the Exhibition of Industry and Agriculture. Nowadays a part of the Museum of Częstochowa, the pavilion complex consists of Exhibition Pavilion, Ethnographic Pavilion, Peasant Homestead and „Zodiak” education multicenter.



HISTORY, MUSEUMS AND GALLERIES

Foot pilgrimages to Jasna Góra monastery are a centuries-old phenomenon, inseparably linked to history of Częstochowa. Amazing atmosphere of spirituality and rich history enchanted within the walls of the Pauline Monastery attracts and amazes millions of pilgrims and tourists each year.

The Częstochowa Upland, which covers a large part of the Kraków-Częstochowa Upland, was first settled during the Stone Age. In Częstochowa, there are still traces of Iron Age cemeteries and a pagan settlement. On the Gąszczyk hill there was already the northwestern-most fortified settlement in the times of the Vistula Land (9th -11th centuries).

In medieval times, region of Częstochowa was a part of Krakow Voivodeship. After death of Casimir the Great, who is credited with building many castles situated on the Trail of Eagle's Nests, Częstochowa became a fief of prince Vladislaus II of Opole. It was him who decided to further develop our region by founding a Pauline monastery on Jasna Góra and obtaining urban privileges. Until the end of XVIIIth century two settlements grew simultaneously – Old Częstochowa (one of largest towns of Lower Poland, a centre of trade and craft) and Częstochówka, neighboring with Jasna Góra, which obtained its own town privileges in 1717.

7 Museum of Iron Ore Mining

Stanisław Staszic Park

The only permanent exhibition dedicated to history of iron ore mining in Poland. Its underground exhibitions contain: mining excavations with mining equipment from the closed „Szczekaczka” mine, unique maps and documents. The museum is a part of the Industrial Monuments Route of the Silesian Voivodeship.



8 Museum of Railway History

ul. Pułaskiego 100/120

Located in the building of the Częstochowa-Stradom railway station, the museum was created thanks to involvement of railway workers and railway enthusiasts. The exhibition includes: a collection of railway lamps, plates from carriages and locomotives, track equipment, rails and documents. The museum is a part of the Industrial Monuments Route of the Silesian Voivodeship.



9 Match Factory Museum

ul. Ogrodowa 68

Until recently, it was an active factory, established in the 19th century. Located in the post-industrial part of the city, it presents an efficient technological line from the beginning of the 20th century. The museum is a part of the Industrial Monuments Route of the Silesian Voivodeship.



10 Beksiński. The Second Museum

al. NMP 64

The City Art Gallery exhibits 30 paintings and 30 drawings by an outstanding contemporary Polish artist Zdzisław Beksiński. It is already the second collection of his works lent to the gallery by their owners - art collectors from Paris, Anna and Piotr Dmochowski.



11 Tomasz Sętowski's Museum of Imagination

A place arranged by the author in accordance with his painting style, known as magical realism. The spaces of the gallery resemble landscapes known from the artist's canvases, allowing viewers to immerse themselves in the fantastic universe he created.

12 Museum of Coins and Medals of Pope John Paul II

This museum contains almost 10 000 exhibits, which make up the world's largest collection of coins and medals with the image of Karol Wojtyła. One of the real rarities is a coin with a face value of 200,000 PLN from 1987, issued in only five copies and a coin from 1983, originating from the island of Haiti.

13 Museum of the Archdiocese of Częstochowa

The museum collection includes sacred art from different time periods, of not only artistic, but also historical and cultural value, from Częstochowa and the region. One of the most interesting exhibits is a statue of The Madonna and Child from approx. 1430.



XIXth century was a time of great prosperity and growth for our city, thanks to merger of Old Częstochowa and Częstochówka (New Częstochowa) via aleja Najświętszej Maryi Panny (the Holy Virgin Mary Avenue) and granting of urban privileges on par with voivodeship capitals.

Aleja Najświętszej Maryi Panny became the axis of the newly formed urban environment, constituting the shortest route between the Old Częstochowa and Jasna Góra monastery, leading pilgrims straight to their destination. Surrounded on both sides by trees, the avenue became the most characteristic element of Częstochowa. Thanks to the Warsaw-Vienna railway, which became operational in 1846, Częstochowa achieved rapid economic growth, which led to organization of the Industrial and Agriculture Expo in 1909.

After Poland regained independence in 1918, Częstochowa became a city of 2nd Polish Republic and grew steadily, becoming country's 10th largest city before the start of World War II. In the first days of September 1939 Częstochowa was occupied by German army. The occupation left its mark on all citizens of our city, especially those of Jewish descent.

After the war, a decision was made to build a metallurgical plant in Częstochowa, which created lots of new workplaces and facilitated urban growth. New housing projects were erected along with schools and pre-schools. The tramlines were extended and city infrastructure developed rapidly.

Nowadays, Częstochowa is a town with population of 220.000 and a vibrant academic, cultural and industrial hub. Thanks to well developed accommodation and gastronomic facilities, as well as convenient communication routes, Częstochowa is truly a gate to the Krakow-Częstochowa Uplands.

**CZĘSTO
CHÓWA**

Publisher

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