



Weekend in SZCZECIN

Does the capital of West Pomerania still seem like undiscovered land? Would you like to see its most interesting places during one weekend? It surely looks like too little time but definitely enough to feel the atmosphere of the city and see what it has to offer. Let that weekend be a foretaste which will make you come back and stay in Szczecin longer.

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visit
SZCZECIN!

floating garden
project
Łódź Szczecin

Day one

FRIDAY



Good Day (in) Szczecin! (3 h)

Have you just arrived in the capital of Western Pomerania? It's time to get to know the city and taste its specialities. The list of culinary establishments is quite extensive but **there is only one king and has been for over 50 years: pasztecik**. You will find it in a little bar at the Wojska Polskiego Avenue. It's a cult dish and a symbol of the city. The recipe has remained unchanged over the years and in 2010 Szczecin's pasztecik was entered into the prestigious List of Traditional Products and is protected by EU law.

Would you believe that the next gem is at the same street? Just 550 m away, when going towards the **Port Gate**, there is (almost) the oldest non-stop running cinema in the world. In the **The Pionier** cinema was entered into the Guinness Book of World Records in 2005. In the year 2022 however, it was officially dethroned by Washington's State Theatre. You will surely find the time to enjoy a movie in the main hall or in the charming Kiniarnia. But you will not find any blockbusters here, only ambitious movies for true connoisseurs. And forget about popcorn or nachos; these are – as the staff likes to call it – non-smacking séances. Surely it is late now, so it's time for a rest! Tomorrow morning we're hitting the town again to give you even more surprises.



Day two

SATURDAY



Let's meet at Jasne Błonia (2h)

Good day... is a day we start with a delicious coffee. If this is what you believe plus you like to surround yourself with greenery, then you must start your visit in Szczecin at **Jasne Błonia**. Drinking coffee from a local coffee-roasting shop, you may listen to birds singing and in early spring – see a carpet of crocuses in bloom. The aromatic drink is served by a **coffee-bike**, which will also satisfy your hunger with its assortment of home-baked cakes. You simply can't miss this mobile café, and after the caffeine kick-start it's time to walk around the **Kasprowicz Park**. The park alleys will lead you down to the **Helena Majdaniec Summer Theatre**. It is one of the biggest amphitheatres in Poland and in the 1960s it hosted the Young Talent Festival. If you follow the guideposts, you will find yourself in the Rose Garden, located near the amphitheatre. On summer Saturdays and Sundays the **Rose Garden** organises various concerts, workshops for children and dancing parties.

Architectural gems and a bit of history (2h)

Let's walk – along the John Paul II Avenue (al. Jana Pawła II) and Flower Avenue (Aleja Kwiatowa) – to the Solidarity Square (Plac Solidarności). Are you there? Under your feet there is the Centre for Dialogue "Przełomy". The museum tells Szczecin's history from the end of the World War II to the fall of communism. Before you leave the **Centre for Dialogue "Przełomy"**, you should try a **sandwich with herring** or with the famous **paprykarz szczeciński**, served at the exit. Across the street there is the **Mieczysław Karłowicz Szczecin Philharmonic**. The philharmonic looks like a cross between an iceberg and Hanseatic tenement houses.

If there is no closed event inside, you may enter the building and see what has left you more impressed – the outside shape or the main hall. Two concert halls – Gold (also called "Sun") and black (called "Moon") stay deep in memory too. Both places – since they are so young – are relatively new on the list of Szczecin's landmarks. Since time immemorial, however, this list is opened by **Wały Chrobrego**. From the Szczecin Philharmonic it's a short walk along Małopolska Street. The place was created as the initiative of Herman Haken. The central building in the area is the **National Museum**, on top of which you will find a viewing terrace.



Szczecin Boulevards and Crane-o-sauruses (3h)

Once you are at Wały Chrobrego (Haken's Terraces), you may also want to take a walk along the nearby **boulevards**. You can start for instance at the **Piast Boulevard** (Bulwar Piastowski), where the famous **Sailors' Alley** (Aleja Żeglarzy) is situated. The Alley features many elements emphasising the marine nature of the city, e.g. sculptures of sea captains. Additional charm to the Boulevard is added by three historic cranes, affectionately called **Cranosauruses** (Dźwigozaury). At night they are illuminated in various colours – along with the **Maritime Museum** they create an amazing light composition.

Are you here in the Summer? Go for a ride on the Poland's biggest ferris wheel. **Wheel of Szczecin** gives you an unforgettable view on Szczecin's panorama. And if you like having a shot of adrenaline, ride on one of Holiday Park's attractions. After coming back from the walk along the banks of the Oder, you can treat yourself to a little cruise in one of the Szczecin's **motorboats**. You don't need a sailing licence to see interesting places, such as **Szczecin's Venice**, **Lake Dąbie** and many canals and islands. This trip is also a great chance to encounter wild nature!

Day three

SUNDAY

Central Cemetery and Old Town (4h)

You should know that Szczecin calls itself a Floating Garden. 25% of the city's surface is water and 20% is greenery. In the city centre – apart from parks and Jasne Błonia – you will find it at... the **Central Cemetery**. It is one of Europe's largest necropolises. We hope that our extraordinary botanical garden has left you impressed. Two tourist routes pre-made for the self-sightseeing will help you with discovering the secrets of this truly unusual place. You can go back to the **Old Town**, which is next to the boulevards. This charming place is famous for its restaurants. And now for a little fun fact: the Old Town is not as old as the name would suggest. This part of Szczecin was obliterated during World War II. Only the **Old City Hall** and a few tenement houses have been rebuilt according to their original state. When sightseeing the New Old Town, don't forget to climb up the Kuśnierska Street towards the courtyard of the Ducal Castle and its Bell Tower.

Underground route and a trip to the past (4h)

You are only 15 minutes away from the **Central Railway Station**. Under the station there is another site of our trip: the **largest civil air-raid shelter in Poland**. The entrance to the shelter is at the first platform. Did you like that? You won't be saying good-bye to history, though, as vis-à-vis the railway station there is a stop where you can catch tram line No. 3. When you go in the direction of **Las Arkoński**, in 20 minutes you will find yourself at a stop called **"Muzeum Techniki"** – Museum of Technology and Transport. The old tram depot has been transformed into a real mecca for motorheads who look for gems from eras past. Apart from titbits about the exhibits, you can also listen to the old motors' roar and even feel like a real tram driver. If you are interested more in abundant interiors of a bourgeois villa than obsolete technology, see the inside of the **August Lentz's Villa**. August Lentz was a chairman of **Szczecin Factory** of chamotte products. Today, this incredibly beautiful interior of a monumental building hosts a cultural institution that connects present and the past cultural life of Szczecin. The Lentz Villa is available for individual sightseeing and guided tours.

The third day in the capital of West Pomerania is about to an end and you still haven't walked around the Emerald Lake, haven't seen and open-air Arkonka aquapark, haven't jumped from the Europe's highest dream jump platform.



Where to stay?

Accommodation in Szczecin is provided by a number of hotels, hostels and apartments – and each of them meets the current sanitary requirements.

+ The list of the facilities can be found here:
www.visitszczecin.eu

What should you know before coming to Szczecin?

Our website www.visitszczecin.pl provides you with all the information you need to plan your city break in Szczecin. You should start your stay by visiting the Tourist Information Centre in Plac Żołnierza Polskiego, where we will answer all your questions and help you adapt your trip plan to your needs. You can also get a package with maps and guidebooks full of interesting facts and tips.

+ Szczecin is a city of great events! When planning your trip, check the event calendar at www.wydarzenia.szczecin.eu



What should you eat?

Szczecin's Pasztecik is a local yeast-dough treat with savoury filling – but also a restaurant whose interior will take you for a trip in time. Mosaic on the walls, red neon and decorations taken right out of the 1970s create unforgettable atmosphere.



There are more unique flavours and aromas in Szczecin. You should definitely try **coffee from the oldest coffee roasting house in Poland (Korona 1912)**, marine-inspired gingerbread, a herring sandwich or the world-famous **paprykarz**, freshly prepared by local chefs.



Where to eat?

The most restaurants and cafés are located on Deptak Bogusława and in the Old Town. There are more and more restaurant pavilions and food trucks on Szczecin's boulevards, and also the atmospheric food court Hala Odra (on M. Beniowskiego Boulevard).

- Szczecin smells of chocolate! This is due to a chocolate factory located right next to Szczecin's boulevards, where you can best feel this amazing aroma.
- See Szczecin from up above. Take the lift at the Cathedral Basilica of St. James or visit Cafe22, a café located on the 22nd floor of the PAZIM skyscraper.
- Try to find as many **griffins** as you can. This legendary creature is a symbol of Szczecin and can be found on pavements, street lamps, gates and fronts of many buildings.
- Discover water Szczecin by taking a canoe, motorboat or a ship cruise. You are only a couple of minutes away from Szczecin's Venice and wild areas of Międzyodrze (Lower Oder).
- With the **"Explore Oder" app** - available for Android and iOS - your adventure is going to be safe and full of discoveries. It allows you to explore all water areas of Szczecin and its surroundings. Plus, it includes bike routes on top of that!

How to get to Szczecin?



By train

Szczecin's Central Railway Station is located at the Oder River, close to the Old Town. To get to the city centre, you need a 15-minute walk or a few minutes' ride on the public transport or a taxi. The railway station features luggage lockers, cafes, grocery shops, newsagents and fast food restaurants.



By coach

Depending on the transport company you choose, the coach will take you to the well-communicated PKS Coach and Bus Station or the nearby Central Railway Station.



By car

When travelling by car, you must remember about the Paid Parking Zone, where you have to pay on weekdays, from 8:00 a.m. to 5 p.m. Each parking space is equipped with parking meters and you may also pay using Skycash or moBiLET platforms.



Check which hotels offer you a discount for the bearers of the **Tourist Card**: www.visitszczecin.eu



How to move around?

You should definitely give public transport a go. You can buy tickets in the ticket machines available in every vehicle or via an app (Skycash, moBiLET or zBiletem). Szczecin Tourist Card replaces all tickets for 24-72 hours and additionally provides you with attractive discounts.

A convenient way to go around the city are city bikes (Bike_S, bike-smr.pl), electric scooters (Bolt, Tier) and mopeds (ECOSHARE).