



# Silesia

POP 9.5 MILLION

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## Best Places to Eat

- » Bernard (p236)
- » Restauracja Zagłoba (p262)
- » Ziemiańska (p243)
- » Pod Aniołami (p259)
- » Złoty Osioł (p266)

## Best Places to Stay

- » Hostel Mleczarnia (p235)
- » Hotel Patio (p235)
- » Villa Navigator (p259)
- » Hotel Castle (p257)
- » Hotel Śródmiejski (p241)

## Why Go?

Occupying the whole of southwestern Poland, Silesia, or Śląsk (pronounced 'shlonsk') in Polish, is a diverse collection of attractive cities, industrial centres and mountain scenery.

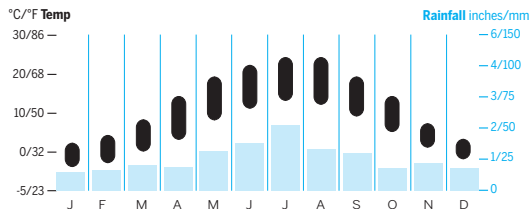
Wrocław is a historical gem and well worth a visit, while attractive smaller centres such as Nysa and Jelenia Góra offer distinctive sights and activities. A natural attraction is presented by the Sudetes Mountains, stretching along the Czech border and home to scenic beauty and idyllic resort towns – popular with hikers, bikers and spa fans alike.

The rich history of the region underpins its charm, with architecture ranging from medieval fortresses to Baroque cathedrals. Silesia also contains the Auschwitz-Birkenau extermination camp complex set up by Nazi Germany, now a grim but moving memorial.

From tumultuous history to modern-day cities and countryside, Silesia affords plenty of opportunities for relaxation, and for immersion in the story of this once-turbulent corner of Europe.

## When to Go

### Wrocław



### Mar/Apr

Spring's vitality is a good match for the Jazz on the Odra festival in Wrocław.

### Jun-Aug

Summer is the season to enjoy hiking in the Sudetes Mountains.

### Sep

In autumn Polish wine is celebrated at Zielona Góra's Wine Festival.

# Silesia Highlights

- 1 Marvelling at the enormous **Panorama of Ractawice** in Wrocław (p231)
- 2 Eyeballing bony remains at the macabre **Chapel of Skulls** (p255) near Kudowa-Zdrój
- 3 Contemplating the infinite within the tranquil **Church of Peace** (p242) in Swidnica
- 4 Hiking between Mt Srenica and Mt Śnieżka in **Karkonosze National Park** (p249)
- 5 Learning the lessons of history at the former Nazi extermination camp at **Auschwitz-Birkenau Memorial & Museum** (p268) in Oświęcim
- 6 Visiting the impressive **Książ Castle** (p244) near Swidnica
- 7 Exploring the mighty **fortress** at Kłodzko (p252)
- 8 Enjoying the peaceful atmosphere of spa town **Cieplice Śląskie-Zdrój** (p248) near Jelenia Góra
- 9 Spotting **gnome statues** (p230) in Wrocław Old Town.

