



Silesia

POP 9.5 MILLION

Includes ➔

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Best Places to Eat

- ➔ Steinhaus (p248)
- ➔ Bernard (p247)
- ➔ Madame (p270)
- ➔ Tatiana (p276)
- ➔ Frykówka (p279)

Best Places to Stay

- ➔ Hotel Piast (p245)
- ➔ Villa Navigator (p269)
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Why Go?

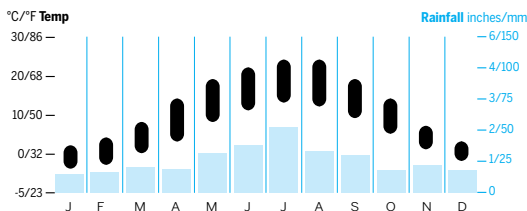
Occupying the whole of southwestern Poland, Silesia (Śląsk, pronounced 'shlonsk', in Polish), is a diverse collection of attractive cities, industrial centres and mountain scenery.

Wrocław is a historical gem and well worth a visit, while inviting 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, the mountains are 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



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 Racławice in **Wrocław** (p239).
- 2 Eyeballing bony remains at the macabre **Chapel of Skulls** (p265) near Kudowa-Zdrój.
- 3 Contemplating the infinite within the tranquil Church of Peace in **Świdnica** (p253).
- 4 Hiking between Mt Sreńca and Mt Śnieżka in **Karkonosze National Park** (p259).
- 5 Learning the lessons of history at the former German extermination camp at **Auschwitz-Birkenau Memorial & Museum** (p279) in Oświęcim.
- 6 Visiting the impressive **Książ Castle** (p255) near Świdnica.
- 7 Exploring the mighty fortress at **Kłodzko** (p263).
- 8 Enjoying the peaceful atmosphere of spa town
- 9 Spotting dwarf statues in **Wrocław's Old Town** (p241).

