

TORUŃ

& Kuyavia-Pomerania

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BEST TORUŃ **Toruń: Vistulian Panorama**

The view of the Old Quarter as seen from the south bank of the river (Kępa Bazarowa islet, a forest reservation unique for its central location in the city) is among the most beautiful city panoramas. It has always inspired painters, poets and raftsmen floating their rafts down the Vistula. It is, at the same time, the most popular view of Toruń, stunningly illuminated at night.

BEST TORUŃ **Toruń: Gingerbread of Toruń**

Toruń gingerbread has long been the most famous gingerbread in the world. The plain or sophisticatedly shaped cakes, the former known as „Catherines”, are the tradition, heritage and symbol of Toruń, as well as an indispensable souvenir of the city. Their peculiarity lies not only in their taste, but also in their figural forms. The beautiful richly ornamental wooden baking tray moulds are masterpieces of the high-level woodcarving art themselves, which is well-illustrated by the surviving examples in the City Hall museum or on the permanent exhibition „The world of Toruń gingerbread”.



▪ **More information on Toruń gingerbread:** www.visittorun.pl

BEST TORUŃ **Toruń: Nicolaus Copernicus Tradition**

The tradition relating to the greatest and most famous astronomer of all time... born in Toruń, who is said to have “held the Sun and moved the Earth”, is still alive in his hometown. His spirit seems to pervade the field of science he developed, motivating other eminent scientists in the history of Toruń to follow his example. These include Professor Władysław Dziewulski, a co-founder and professor at the Nicolaus Copernicus University, as well as the first director of Toruń Astronomic Observatory in 1945-1960 who also initiated the study of astrophysics and star astronomy in Poland; and Professor Wilhelmina Iwanowska, a co-founder of astronomical science at Toruń university, a vice-President of International Astronomical Union and the Freeman of the City of Toruń.



▪ **More information on Nicolaus Copernicus:** www.visittorun.pl

BEST TORUŃ Born in 1946, Aleksander Wolszczan is Toruń university graduate and the greatest living astronomer in the world. USA-based since 1982, he was working in Toruń since 1994. In 1990, while doing some academic research in Puerto Rico

using the greatest radio telescope in the world, Wolszczan discovered Pulsar PSR B1257+12; in 1992 he officially announced the theory of a planetary system around the pulsar, which partially met with skepticism in the scientific world; in 1994, in the course of further research Wolszczan published data confirming the existence of the newly discovered non-solar planetary system; in 1992 he was awarded the Prize of the Foundation for Polish Science.



BEST TORUŃ Walking in the footsteps of Nicolaus Copernicus should begin at his birthplace: red brick Copernicus family house. This should be followed by visiting Copernicus Chapel in St. Johns' Cathedral, housing a number of Copernicus-related memorabilia such as the baptismal font where he was baptized, a commemorative plaque from 1589 – his first memorial, or a marble bust dating from 1766, his oldest monument. However, the most famous Nicolaus Copernicus monument is located centrally – in the Old City Market Square, the most important part of the city. The last places commemorating the great astronomer include the Astronomical Observatory under the auspices of Nicolaus Copernicus University (with one of the biggest radio telescopes in the world, potent enough to locate a mobile phone on the Moon with the accuracy of several metres) and:

BEST TORUŃ Toruń: Nicolaus Copernicus University

Toruń University is the biggest and oldest academic institution in the north of Poland, which received high appraisal for its Department of Law and Administration as well as the Department of Physics and Astronomy. It is also the only university in Poland employing world-famous restorers in the Department of Fine Arts. The university is made up of 16 departments and a number of other organizational units which accommodate over 32 thousand students. It employs over 4.4 thousand people, including over 2.2 thousand academic workers. The university is also the only secular academic institution in Poland which hosted Pope John Paul II.



■ **More information on the university:**
www.visittorun.pl

BEST TORUŃ Toruń: Gothic

In Poland Toruń is second to Krakow in respect of the unique and original large medieval architectural complex. It is also the first such city in the north of Poland, which is why it is often referred to as the Krakow of the North or Little Krakow. The complex has survived largely intact since the Copernicus



time and can boast the greatest number of world-class monuments and the greatest number of monuments in total. The Gothic burgher architecture with the Old City Town Hall, the St. George Guild House, numerous tenement houses, granaries, defense walls, towers and gates, as well as some other secular buildings, is original, unique and the biggest in Poland.

■ **More information on Toruń monuments:** www.visittorun.pl

**BEST
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Toruń: Old City Town Hall

Old City Town Hall is the most impressive building of its kind in Poland and one of the biggest in the world. Its tower dating from 1274 is the oldest city hall tower in this part of Europe. Toruń City Hall is among the most outstanding achievements of burgher architecture in Europe. Its perfect and well-balanced proportions, together with the rich and artistic interior furnishing reflect the architectural artistry and an excellent taste of Toruń patriciate who considered it their pride. It was the manifestation of the economic power of Toruń, the former Hanseatic trade emporium, and the most splendid secular building in the city, the venue for momentous occasions and grand ceremonies, as well as the residence of the Kings of Poland who particularly frequently paid visits to Toruń. Today the building houses the District Museum with its collections that perfectly reflect the former glory of the city and its high artistic culture.

■ **More information on the Old City Town Hall:** www.visittorun.pl



**BEST
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Toruń: St. Johns' Cathedral

St. John the Baptist and St. John Evangelist are the patrons of the red brick Gothic high-hall building with “Tuba Dei”, the second seven-ton-heavy bell in Poland, numerous Copernicus-related memorabilia, the font where the great astronomer took baptism, the heart of King Jan Olbracht (John Albert) and the first attic over the north galilees in Poland. The church, one of the oldest and one of the three biggest buildings of its kind in the north of Poland, boasts many valuable works of art, particularly those of the Gothic period. It witnessed numerous ceremonies, including those dignified by the Kings of Poland and was at the centre of attention of the powerful Toruń patriciate and gentry, who took it under their care and endowed chapels, epitaphs, and gravestones surviving till today.

■ **More information on the cathedral:** www.visittorun.pl



**BEST
TORUŃ**

Toruń: Tuba Dei Bell

Since 1500 St. Johns' Cathedral tower has accommodated an unusual bell – Tuba Dei (God's Trumpet). Its peculiarity lies in the fact that it is not only the biggest medieval bell in Poland, but also one of the biggest Polish bells in general (until recently

the second biggest). Before casting the famous Sigismund Bell in Krakow (1521), Tuba Dei had been recognized as the biggest in the Kingdom of Poland.

Today it is no small attraction for tourists, especially when it sounds, which takes place several times a year. Not once in its over 500-year-old history had it been subject to destruction or plunder during war.

■ **More information:** www.visittorun.pl



BEST TORUŃ Toruń: Church of the Blessed Virgin Mary (Our Lady Church)

One of the most outstanding achievements of Gothic church architecture in Poland and among the three biggest churches in the north of Poland. The slender monumental post-Franciscan church towering over the north part of the Old City boasts a number of valuable artistic and historic works of art, such as the Gothic stalls, mural polychromes, a large Renaissance organ – the oldest and most beautiful in Poland, epitaphs and the mausoleum of Princess Anna Vasa. During the Renaissance the post-monastic buildings adjacent to the church accommodated the famous Academic Gymnasium marking the intellectual level of Royal Prussia.

■ **More information on St. Mary's Church:** www.visittorun.pl



BEST TORUŃ Toruń: St. James's Church

St. James's Church is another example of an excellent Gothic church building. It is the smallest such building in Toruń and it is distinctive for its architectural features which were rare in Poland and characteristic of West European medieval church buildings. Some consider it the most balanced and the most beautiful Toruń church.

Its most valuable interior furnishings include the rich medieval mural polychromes and numerous Gothic works of art, such as the Tree of Life, the painting of the Passion of Christ, a number of statues and sculptures and the Renaissance organ front.

■ **More information on St. James's Church:** www.visittorun.pl



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Toruń: The Passion of Christ

A large 274 × 221 cm (9 × 7.3 feet) painting presenting 22 scenes of the Passion of Christ against landscape and late Gothic architecture imitating that of Jerusalem can be found in the presbytery of St. James's Church. It is a precious and fascinating example of Gothic panel painting, made after 1480 in Toruń workshop. Formerly it belonged to Toruń St. Nicholas Church, dismantled in the 19th century. All the scenes – an evangelical lecture of a moralizing character – are characteristic of Dominican teachings. The sacral scenes are accompanied here by the genre scenes which show, for example, a shepherd with oxen, hunting, women with baskets, and a figure of a person in a boat. At the bottom and in the middle of the painting, there is a kneeling figure of its founder, presented against a background of a wall. It has been partly influenced by the Netherlandic art, while its creator in all probability referred to Hans Memling's Passion of 1480 in Turin.

■ **More information on St. James's Church:** www.visittorun.pl



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Toruń: The Leaning Tower

Formerly part of the city fortifications with 54 other fortified towers. Contrary to what the legends say, its tilt is the result of the instability of the clay ground. Surviving in the line of the city walls, it is among the biggest wonders and tourist attractions in Toruń today. It is another symbol of the city, most frequently photographed by tourists.

■ **More information on the Leaning Tower:** www.visittorun.pl



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Toruń: Artus House (Artus Court)

Artus Court in Toruń and Gdańsk are the only buildings of their kind in the world today. Even though the present-day building dates back to the 19th century, its structure has been modeled on that from 1386. Few people realize that Toruń Artus Court was the first building of its kind erected in the Teutonic State. It was the seat of St. George Brotherhood, an exclusive association of merchants and rich Toruń patricians, active in Toruń in 1311–1842. It was the venue for a number of important meetings, including those of a political character, the most important of which was signing the Second Peace Treaty of Toruń in 1466 concluding the

■ **More information:** www.visittorun.pl



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Toruń: The Star Residence

The Star Residence is among the most imposing and best preserved Baroque patrician houses in central and northern Europe and one of the six world-class monuments in Toruń.

Before its reconstruction in the Baroque style, it was the property of renowned Filippo Buonaccorsi, in 1496, known as Callimachus, an outstanding humanist and royal counselor at Wawel court in Krakow.

Today the building is the best example of a typical Toruń Baroque patrician tenement house with the interior and furnishings typical of the south Baltic coast. These include the spiral staircase with Minerva and a lion, polychrome structural ceilings, antique woodwork and the splendid, richly ornamental floral façade.

■ **More information:** www.visittorun.pl



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Toruń: Medieval patrician houses

Toruń can boast the greatest number of well-preserved medieval burgher tenements, dating back mainly to the 14th and 15th centuries. There are a few hundred houses with more or less discernible Gothic features, unique on both the national and European scale. They are among the best preserved buildings of their kind and well illustrate a typical house in an old affluent medieval city. Despite numerous reconstructions in the 19th century, many tenements have retained their original Gothic interior layout today, together with the precious mural polychromes, polychrome vaults and ceilings, and facades.

Toruń has the greatest number of surviving murals in secular homes. Beside Toruń, they can be found in some of Warsaw tenements,

two in Gdańsk City Hall and one on the façade of a tenement in Wrocław.

Toruń patrician tenements and their rich ornamentation manifest the former affluence of the city and the artistic aspirations of its inhabitants shaped by West-European patterns.

■ **More information:** www.visittorun.pl



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Toruń: Mural and ceiling polychromes

Toruń is undoubtedly one of the few cities which can boast surviving mural and ceiling polychromes both in the secular and church buildings. They are unique both for their number and quality. Most Gothic polychromes have survived in medieval Toruń churches and, extremely rarely, in patrician houses. They are, at the same time, the oldest examples of Gothic polychromes in burgher residences in Poland. Vigorous Toruń studios produced a number of outstanding artworks. In the Renaissance and Mannerism, the successive periods of cultural development of Toruń, polychromes were largely produced in private homes, which proved the good taste and financial capacity of Toruń burghers. Polychrome ceilings in Toruń patrician tenements are unique for their number despite numerous cataclysms the city suffered in the 17th and 18th centuries and 19th century reconstructions.

■ **More information:** www.visittorun.pl



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Toruń: Granaries

Toruń, as one of the principal trade centres and the most important Vistula harbour in the 13th and 14th centuries, developed sophisticated architectural designs employed not only in churches, public buildings, fortifications and residences, but also in granaries. As early as the beginning of the 14th century Toruń merchant tenements were higher and had larger storage facilities (the so-called granary houses). The number of individual granaries in the 14th century totaled about 30. They were typically located within the city walls rather than immediately beside the river. Apart from these, there were also the Teutonic granaries.

The surviving Toruń granaries are among the oldest and most valuable in Poland, well illustrating the architectural forms and ornamental details of their time. They also mark Toruń membership in the Hanseatic League and its active involvement in the early long-distance trade.

■ **More information:** www.visittorun.pl



BEST
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Toruń: Museums

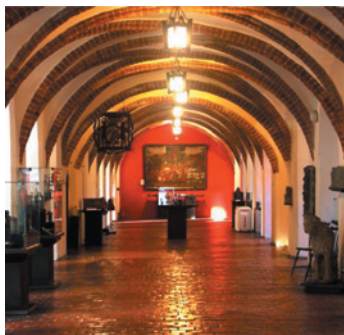
Toruń District Museum (one of the biggest in the north of Poland), holding exhibitions in several departments, offers the biggest high-class collections of old Toruń art and unique Pomeranian, Polish and world masterpieces. The biggest collections are on show in the Old City Town Hall, housing as many as 9 exhibitions. The most valuable include the unique medieval Judicial Hall, Gothic stained glass and religious sculptures, the Renaissance portraits of Toruń patriciate, the oldest pictorial guide to Kings of Poland painted in their lifetime, a rich collection of Toruń intarsia furniture, the goldsmithery collection with the unique treasure of Skrwilno and the gallery of Polish painting of the mid-18th century onwards, including works

by Bacciarelli, Smuglewicz, Gerson, Gieryski brothers, Witkiewicz, Malczewski, Matejko and many others.

Two medieval Hanseatic tenements accommodate Copernicus House, while the exquisite Star Residence contains not only the marvelous interior furnishing of a typical Toruń patrician residence house, but also the collections of the Far-Eastern art with the oldest Chinese artwork of the Han dynasty.

Equally interesting are also Tony Halik Travellers' Museum, the Museum of Ethnography, the University Museum, Toruń Fort No. 4, the Centre For Modern Art, etc.

■ **More information:** www.visittorun.pl



BEST TORUŃ Toruń: Pictorial Guide to the Kings of Poland

The Toruń set of 24 portraits of Polish kings, exhibited in the Royal Hall of the Old City Town Hall is a valuable collection of portraits of Polish monarchs. The 13 oldest portraits were painted during the lifetime of King Władysław IV Vasa, on the foundation of Toruń Council, probably before the year 1645 – to celebrate the meeting of Charitativum Colloquium organized at the initiative of that king.

The pictorial guide to the Polish kings in Toruń is the oldest one in Poland.

■ **More information:** www.visittorun.pl



BEST TORUŃ Toruń: Stained Glass

In the Middle Ages Toruń was one of the most important stained-glass production centres. Toruń's stained-glass producers were widely-known for their skills and exported their products even as far as Courland. The surviving stained-glass fragments from the presbytery in St. Johns' and St. Mary's Churches and above all the precious collection of figurative stained glass from St. Nicholas Church suggest that the 14th century saw the flowering of the high quality stained-glass art in Toruń. All of them are stored at the District Museum, which houses the largest collection of stained glass in Poland. The collection encompasses stained glass from non-existent St. Nicholas's Church and St. Mary's Church in Toruń, and the parish church in Chełmno.

■ **More information:** www.visittorun.pl



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Toruń: The Skrwilno Treasure

The set of Mannerist and Renaissance jewellery of the 16th and 17th centuries is an uncommon treasure exhibited in the District Museum. The objects constitute a precious collection of decorative handicraft articles of high artistic quality. The exceptional significance of this collection of objects derives from the fact that it was the possession of a particular family, a household; thus the treasure becomes a kind of document, presenting the level of wealth of a representative of nobility from the central part of the country in the first half of the 17th century.

■ **More information:** www.visittorun.pl



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Toruń: Intarsia woodwork (Toruń furniture)

The Toruń intarsia woodwork reached its peak in the 18th century, though the technique had been used in the city since the second half of the 16th century. Around 1730 it became the dominant decorative technique, applied to nearly all elements of patrician interior furnishings, such as hall wardrobes, hanging cabinets, longcase clocks, chests, boxes and doors, as well as to those with a representative function, for example, the portals, doors and panels in the Old City Hall and churches. This high quality artistic furniture earned the name of Toruń furniture. Produced in large quantities, the Baroque and Rococo furniture gained enormous popularity, making Toruń artisans widely recognized. The year 1793, which saw the incorporation of Toruń into German Prussia, irretrievably brought an end to the golden age of Toruń furniture making.

Today the Toruń intarsia woodwork can be seen in the Old City Town Hall museum or the Holy Spirit Church.

■ **More information:** www.visittorun.pl



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Toruń: Gothic Castles

Rarely can a Polish city boast more than one castle located within its boundaries. In Toruń there were two, representative of two separate countries in the past and currently in ruins. These are the mid-13th century Teutonic Castle – the headquarters of the Commander on the right Vistula bank and early 13th century Polish Dybów Castle – the headquarters of the royal district governors (starost), on the left river bank, i.e. within the territory of the Kingdom of Poland.

Toruń, as a Teutonic border city and the so-called 'Gate to Prussia', was located the furthest south in the Teutonic State and was the first and biggest Prussian city

to be encountered while traveling from the Kingdom of Poland. It was thus the natural meeting point and an arena for a number of political events in the history of Polish-Teutonic relations. Its strategic position led to erecting two important watchtowers here, each belonging to a different state. Besides them, the area boasts the castles in Zamek Bierzgowski and Złotoria, the latter currently in ruins.

■ **More information:** www.visittorun.pl



BEST TORUŃ Toruń: Toruń Fortress

Nearly 150 surviving structures comprising one of the biggest 19th-century fortresses in Europe built by the Prussians are open to visitors today. Among other things, the fortress includes 15 large forts, well preserved and overwhelming in their size. The black tourist trail is designed to take visitors to the surviving structures of Toruń fortress.

■ **More information:** www.visittorun.pl



BEST TORUŃ Toruń: Planetarium

Copernican Toruń would by no means do without a planetarium, the most up-to-date and popular institution of its kind in Poland. Its modern facilities and special effects guarantee an unforgettable show. Here one can see a starry night in the middle of the day, experience a space flight to distant planets, fly through Saturn rings or look into the space from the perspective of other planets.

■ **More information:** www.visittorun.pl



BEST TORUŃ Toruń: Centre for Contemporary Art

Toruń Centre for Modern Art „Znaki Czasu” is the first newly erected modern art museum since 1939. Its construction won the 2nd place on the Radio Channel 3 plebiscite for the most important cultural event in Poland in 2008. Aspiring to the role of the contemporary centre of Toruń’s artistic life, the centre aims to develop, popularize and promote modern art. These objectives will be met through creating regional art collections, organizing exhibitions, issuing publications and engaging in educational activities.

■ **More information:** www.visittorun.pl



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Toruń: Museum and Park of Ethnography

Museum of Ethnography located in the very centre of Toruń, adjacent to the Old City, offers the possibility to become familiar with the old Polish countryside (especially from the regions of Kuiavia, Kashubia and the Tuchola Forest) and its traditions. It comprises folk architecture with fully-equipped farmsteads, a post mill, a water mill, a forge and a fire station. The museum is one of the three independent and biggest museums of their kind in Poland. Its collection spans the whole of the folk culture in the north of Poland and the fisherman's tradition in Poland.

Another open-air museum is located outside the city centre in Kaszczorek. Its exhibition relates to fishing and rafting traditions on the Vistula River.

■ **More information:** www.visittorun.pl



BEST
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Toruń: St. Catherine District

Although this Toruń district reaches its medieval history, it has modern face of the nineteenth century. In its current form it was shaped as a military and barracks area, and as a presentable on the other hand.

In 1884 the new urban arrangement was laid out (called Wilhelmstadt) which has preserved to this day. The neighborhood was surrounded by a ring of forts established in 1878, with two gates: Kaszownika and Lubicka. Most of the area was allocated to the military barracks and hospital buildings. The other part of the district, located along the New City walls, was divided into some areas for housing with a large square in the centre for St. Catherine church.

■ **More information:** www.visittorun.pl



BEST
TORUŃ

Toruń: Bydgoskie Przedmieście District

Bydgoskie Przedmieście District (or Bydgoskie Suburb; suburb as compared to the Old Quarter) is located to the west of the city centre, owes its unique character to its exceptional location on the Vistula escarpment, the English-style park of 1817, the abundance of greenery and a variety of architectural styles. Its present-day architecture dates back to the 19th and early 20th centuries and comprises Classicist, Eclectic, Art Nouveau, and neo-Gothic tenements, as well as half-timbered houses. The buildings are characterized by corner turrets, ornamented tops, half-timbered walls, the multitude of details and decorations. Bydgoskie Suburb was an



exclusive and privileged district of the city attracting office workers, officers and freelancers. A large number of well-known and significant people resided here. In the interwar period the so-called 'Zofijówka', a pension run by Kazimiera Żuławska, hosted such artists as Stanisław Przybyszewski, Tymon Niesiołowski, Stanisław Ignacy Witkiewicz, Juliusz Osterwa and others. Here the first Polish Officer Naval Academy was established.

■ **More information:** www.visittorun.pl

BEST Toruń: Philadelphia Boulevard

The Vistula boulevard running between the mediaeval city walls and the river is among people's most favourite walking areas. It covers the area previously occupied by the harbour, operating from the foundation of the city in the 13th century until the 1970s. In 1976 the boulevard received its present-day name in honour of Philadelphia, one of Toruń's sister cities. The main part of the old harbour, situated between the Convent Gate and the Sailors Gate, accommodated harbour facilities, a 200-metre-long wooden unloading ramp, a crane, commodity warehouses and others. In 1585 the whole area was paved. The former harbour was teeming with life, filled with sailors and merchants bustling about dozens of docked ships from where the overseas commodities were unloaded and transported to huge granaries, cellars and warehouses. In the Middle Ages Toruń harbour hosted seagoing ships. According to the 14th century sources, there were as many as 172 Toruń merchants involved in the great sea trade.

■ **More information:** www.visittorun.pl



BEST Toruń: Kępa Bazarowa Islet

Kępa Bazarowa is a unique centrally located islet with the area of 70 ha (173 acres), over 2.5 km (1.5 miles) long and over 400 m (1313 feet) wide. Half of its surface (32.4 ha; 80 acres) is covered by a nature reservation, a riverine forest – the remains of the riparian forests in the Valley of Toruń. Here, on a modest viewing platform, the most popular and fascinating panorama of Toruń Old City can be seen. The place also bears historical significance. On February 1 it witnessed signing the First Peace Treaty of Toruń, concluding the so-called Great War between Poland and the Teutonic State. Its name dates back to the 13th century and originates from merchants stopping over here.

■ **More information:** www.visittorun.pl



MAPA

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Toruń: Greenery

Toruń is remarkable for its greenery. Numerous urban parks, street greenery, extensive forests and valleys along the river make it a beauty spot. An amazing place of exceptional natural beauty is the centrally located forest reservation on Kępa Bazarowa islet, situated on the left bank of the Vistula opposite the Old Quarter. The areas south, east and north of Toruń are part of a wider protected landscape. The southern (Kuiavian) part of the city is covered by one of the biggest protected complexes of inland dunes in Poland, known as "The Dune Area to the South of Toruń". The northern part with historic Barbarka, covered by forest, is the leisure hinterland of Toruń offering hiking and cycling trails, as well as the famous regional trail of natural and educational value running through Bielany, Barbarka, Przysiek and Bydgoskie Przedmieście District.

■ **More information:** www.visittorun.pl



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Toruń: Barbarka District

Located north-west of the city limits, Barbarka is an over 700-year-old forest hamlet with a rich history and many places of interest. However, it is not only historically significant; it offers also a number of leisure facilities and is an ideal destination for all nature lovers.

In the medieval times Barbarka was the shrine of St. Barbara, who, according to a legend, was to reveal herself to a hermit. It soon became a pilgrimage site and received a visit from, for example, Polish King Zygmunt Stary (Sigismund the Elder) who in 1521 came to see the local chapel and the Gothic figure of St. Barbara. For a few hundred years Barbarka owned a mill. During World War II Barbarka witnessed mass executions of Toruń intelligentsia by Germans.

Today it is a large interesting and full-fledged leisure spot, picturesquely located near a pond in the forest.

■ **More information:** www.visittorun.pl



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Toruń: Theatres

Apart from the unique architectural design, Toruń theatres offer diverse programs and can boast long historical traditions reaching as far back as the 16th century, which was when the theatres of Academic Gymnasium and the Jesuit College staged their performances in Arthus House.

The present-day building of Wilam Horzyca Theatre was erected in 1904 by a famous Vienna company owned by F. Fellner and H. Helmer. Its architecture combines the elements of the Eclectic, Baroque and Art Nouveau styles. Since 1991, the theatre has been organising "Kontakt" festivals.



Baj Pomorski Theatre is located in an unusual fairytale building with a unique facade, resembling a large wooden wardrobe at the entrance.

▪ **More information:** www.visittorun.pl

BEST TORUŃ **Toruń: Uncommon avenues**

Toruń Walk of Merchants' Marks

(Aleja Gmerków) is located in Żeglarska Street, formerly a part of the Royal Route (Via Regia) and includes 25 marks of medieval Toruń Hanseatic merchants residing. Only a small number of medieval merchant families involved in the great international sea trade are listed here. Their activities were not confined only to their membership in the Hanseatic League but included also other areas of life. More information available here.



Another Toruń attraction is the **Gingerbread Walk of Fame** (Piernikowa Aleja Gwiazd) located in the centre of the Old City, in front of Artus Court. Each year two celebrities distinguished by their contributions to the city reveal their autographs here.

▪ **More information:** www.visittorun.pl

Walk of the Hanseatic Cities' Crests is routed in the surface of the main streets of the Old Quarter, linking the Old Town Market Square with the New Town Market Square: Szeroka (Broadway) Street and Królowej Jadwigi (Queen Hedwig) Street. There are presented 30 European cities, with which Toruń maintained close trade relations as one of the biggest commercial centres of Europe

▪ **More information:** www.visittorun.pl

BEST TORUŃ **Toruń: Significant cultural events**

A cultural climate of a city can be defined by a number of cultural events organized there. The city earned its reputation as an important cultural centre for such large-scale cultural events as Toruń Festival of Science and Art (April), International Theatre Festival „Kontakt” (May), Probalтика Festival of Music and Art from the Baltic States (May), the international Ecumenical Christian Music Festival „Song of Songs” (June), International Summer Festival „Toruń – Music and Architecture” (summer), summer movie shows (July) and practically hundreds of other events.

▪ **The calendar of annual cultural events:** www.visittorun.pl



BEST TORUŃ **Toruń: The Crucifixion and the Last Judgement**

This unusual mural in the cathedral's presbytery is a precious medieval work of art, made around 1380. The 6.40 × 5.10 metre (21 × 17 feet) painting is divided into the heavenly, earthly and infernal scenes. Its central point is the scene of the Crucifixion of Christ on the Tree of Life rooted in the side of Jesse, the ancestor of Christ.

At the top there is the heavenly scene: in the centre, God the Father is sitting on the throne, encircled by angels announcing the Final Judgement; on the right St. Peter with the key to Heaven's Gate is leading the redeemed through the gate; on the left, St. Gabriel the Archangel with a sword is driving out the fallen souls from the Paradise.

The bottom part presents a suggestive imagery of hell with a wide variety of punishments awaiting sinners, regardless of their position and social status on earth.

■ **More information:** www.visittorun.pl



BEST Toruń: The Beautiful Madonna of Toruń

This priceless Gothic Beautiful Madonna of Toruń is a masterpiece of high artistic standard on a world scale and an outstanding example of Toruń's sculpture. This is one of the flagship examples of the European Gothic of turn of the fourteenth and fifteenth centuries.

This sculpture is also a synonym of medieval art in Toruń, which was the most developed area in the Teutonic state.

The previous statue, made at the turn of the fifteenth century, disappeared in 1944.

Nowadays one can admire just a replica of it in the St. Johns' Cathedral.

■ **More information:** www.visittorun.pl



BEST Toruń: Renaissance Organs

The Mannerist organ of 1602-09 in St. Mary's Church is an outstanding example of Toruń high-class sculpture. The organ pipe set is a high-level sculptural masterpiece abounding in ornaments and complex allegories. The organ is one of the oldest such instruments in Poland, characteristic of northern Europe.

Another masterpiece of that kind is the Mannerist organ of 1611 in St. James's Church. It is profusely adorned with carved acanthus leaves, grapevines, mascarons, lions' heads, puttos, fruit bunches, wrought-iron decoration and coats of arms of Toruń, Royal Prussia, the Republic of Poland-Lithuania and the New City of Toruń. Besides that of St. Mary's Church, the organ is among the oldest and most precious such instruments in Poland.

■ **More information:** www.visittorun.pl



BEST
TORUŃ

Toruń: Medieval Walls, Gates and Bastions

Toruń medieval fortification walls are the oldest in Poland. Their first part of them was built about 1246–1262.

Since its foundation in the first half of the 13th century, Toruń had been enclosed within a double line of defensive walls (the so-called lower wall outside and the higher wall inside the city) with a wet moat between them.

All the three Toruń urban units, i.e. the Old City, the New City (which, despite their unification in 1454, were separate units with the wall running along Podmurna Street) and the Teutonic Castle had their own defensive system. The 4-kilometre (2.5 mile) wall included 54 fortified towers, 11 gates and 2 typical barbicans. Nine towers and three gates have survived till today.

■ **More information:** www.visittorun.pl



BEST
TORUŃ

Toruń: St. George Guild House

The old and exclusive Brotherhood of St. George, which used 'their' Artus Court together with other merchant confraternities – like the one in Gdańsk – in the late 15th century settled down in their new summer residence, otherwise known as 'small' Artus Court.

The Court (also referred to as the Burgher Court) was built after 1489 in the Old City intramural area between the Guardhouse Tower and the Teutonic castle moat dam. Allegedly, the material used to build the court came from the remains of the Teutonic Castle.

It is very likely that the building served as a meeting point for a smaller group of people, consisting exclusively of the Brotherhood members, while Artus Court was also used by other brotherhoods, i.e., by all the merchants and rich patriciate. The Brotherhood of St. George was dissolved in 1842.

■ **More information:** www.visittorun.pl



BEST
TORUŃ

Toruń: The Royal Route

The Royal Route in Toruń was called the way that Polish kings were arriving to Toruń. Kings, frequently visiting Toruń, were entering it from the south, the island Kępa Bazarowa, and then the bridge over the Vistula River, and marching through the Sailors Gate. The first kings to be in Toruń was Władysław Jagiełło, who visited Toruń in 1404 and 1410. After passing through the gate the king went to hear the holy mass in the St. Johns' church and then on to the Old City Town Hall. The custom lasted until the eighteenth century, only the king John Casimir with the Queen Marie Louise rode on horseback with a solemn procession through the Old-Toruń Gate.



Toruń Guided Walks

Run by:  **PCU Guide Service Centre. More: www.visittorun.pl**

The walking season usually lasts from the 1st of April until the 31st of October, but some tours take place all year round. Detailed information on how to book and where to meet, is listed below. Enjoy the beautiful hanseatic city on a stroll and listen to the stories which will give you insights you have never heard of before. It's a great pleasure to present our Toruń Guided Tours to you. We give you a choice of some different tours in Toruń and 6 different tours in the region of Toruń. This presentation will help you choose the tours and fix up your stay in Toruń.



1.1. Standard Tour: TORUŃ UNESCO: TORUŃ HITS (Old City + Teutonic Castle + New City)

This tour is a must for people visiting Toruń for the first time! It retraces the history of Toruń and shows the whole of the Old Quarter which consist of three old districts: the Old Town (1233), the New Town (1264) and the Teutonic Knights' Castle (mid. 13th cent.).

Itinerary: Short Standard Tour 1.2 + The Eskens' House – Bridge Gate – St. George Brotherhood Manor and Guardhouse Tower – Teutonic Castle Ruins – St. James's Church – New City Market Square – additionally: St. Nicolas Church relicts.

The minimum tour (3hrs) doesn't include sightseeing of interiors and museums of: Old City Town Hall (Ratusz Staromiejski), its tower, Arthus' Court (Dwór Artusa), Holy Spirit Church (Kosciol sw. Ducha), The Star House (Kamienica pod Gwiazda; Far East Art Museum), The Leaning Tower (Krzywa Wieza).

■ Ask a details, Book a tour: www.visittorun.pl



1.2. Short Standard Tour: TORUŃ MEDIEVAL OLD CITY

The tour comprises the Old Town – one out of three the oldest districts of the medieval Old Quarter.

Itinerary: The Caesar Arch – St. Mary's Church – Old City Market Square (Old City Town Hall, Arthus' Court, Holy Spirit Church, The Star House, rafters' inn, Copernicus Monument, The Rafter) – Nicholas Copernicus House – The Leaning Tower – city defence walls complex – granaries – Holy Spirit Gate – Royal Route – St. Johns' Cathedral

The minimum tour (2hrs) doesn't include sightseeing of interiors and museums of: Old City Town Hall (Ratusz Staromiejski), its tower, Arthus' Court (Dwór Artusa), Holy Spirit Church (Kosciol sw. Ducha), The Star House (Kamienica pod Gwiazda; Far East Art Museum), The Leaning Tower (Krzywa Wieza)

■ Ask a details, Book a tour: www.visittorun.pl



Tour 1.4: COPERNICUS AND ASTRONOMY IN TORUŃ

This tour is dedicated to the famous Polish astronomer who was the founder of modern astronomy. The tour is led by a guide specializing in the life of one of the most eminent scholars of all time. Torun has plenty of objects associated with his life, and we will help you to explore them.

Itinerary: Nicolaus Copernicus House – St. Johns' Cathedral (Copernicus Chapel) – Copernicus Monument – Cosmopolis Fountain – Asteroid Toruń – Astronomy Centre (observatory) or: Planetarium (astronomy show).

The tour includes entrance to: Copernicus House, St. Johns' Cathedral, Astronomy Centre (or Planetarium).

■ Ask a details, Book a tour: www.visittorun.pl





Tour 1.6: THE GREAT GOTHIC IN TORUŃ

A Pearl of Gothic – the name of Toruń derives from the greatest number of Gothic historical monument and of the highest class of them.

Itinerary: Old City Town Hall* – St. Mary’s Church – Nicolaus Copernicus House – The Leaning Tower – granaries – Monastery Gate – city defence walls complex – Żeglarska Gate – Żeglarska Street (patrician houses & merchants’ marks) – St. Johns’ Cathedral – Łazienna Street (patrician houses) – Bridge Gate – granaries – St. George Brotherhood Mansion – St. James’ Church.



The optimal version lasts about six hours and includes the entries to: Old City Town Hall (Court Hall, Gothic Art Gallery, exposition Former Toruń – The History and Art Handicraft); St. Johns’ Cathedral with climbing up the tower; Copernicus House. The minimum tour doesn’t include any entries.

- Ask a details, Book a tour: www.visittorun.pl



Tour 1.12: THE LEGENDS AND MYTHS OF TORUŃ

Not only for kids! Toruń in a light way.

Itinerary: the Leaning Tower – the Rafter – Old City Town Hall – Cathedral – Teutonic Knights’ Castle – the Dragon of Toruń – Cat’s Head Tower – historical residences – the Toruń gingerbread (+ gingerbread museum and show).

- Ask a details, Book a tour: www.visittorun.pl



Tour 1.14: MEDIEVAL DEFENSIVE TORUŃ: the Old Quarter

Did you know that Toruń was one of the best fortified city in the territory of Poland? Besides it was the first city to be the medieval walls, turrets, bastions and moats constructed? One can trace here all the fortifications forms though many of them has not survived till today.

See as well: Tour 2.20: Nineteenth-century Defensive Toruń here

Itinerary: The Old Toruń Barbican – defence complex of the Old Toruń Gate – Old City defence walls – Monastery Gate – Dovecote Tower – Żeglarska Gate – The Crane – Bridge Gate – Guardhouse Tower – Monstrance Tower – Teutonic Castle (west moat, castle gates, east moat) – New City defence walls.

- Ask a details, Book a tour: www.visittorun.pl



Tour 2.20: NINETEENTH-century DEFENSIVE TORUŃ

After the Congress of Vienna, 1815, there ended the era of the Duchy of Warsaw, and Toruń was awarded to Prussia. The border between Prussia and Russia ran about 10 kms east of Toruń, which meant that the maintenance of the fortress of Toruń and its further development has become more and more important. There started the period of construction the Toruń Fortress, divided into two stages: in first one (till the year 1871) the inner ring of fortifications were constructed, and the other period has left the outer ring – the fortress of the 1st rank, which includes 15 large forts and hundreds of smaller objects.

Itinerary: Inner ring: Artillery Arsenal, Barracks of Bastion V, IV, St. Catherine District, Mint Bastion, Raclawickie Barracks, 5th Dam.

Outer ring: Fort I, Fort IV, Fort, Uhlan Barracks, Fort IX, Bridgehead Fort, Fort XIII, Battery AB IV, Stalag XXa

- Ask a details, Book a tour: www.visittorun.pl



Further information, details, booking:

PCU Guide Service Centre

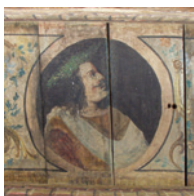
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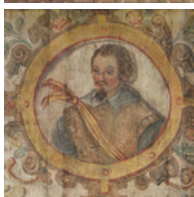
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Visit Toruń with us

Tour operator: **PCU** PCU Guide Service Centre. More: www.visittorun.pl

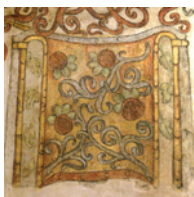


PCU Guide Service Centre (Przewodnickie Centrum Usługowe) in Toruń was founded in 1992. We specialize in incoming tourism and guide services, so we offer you travel to Toruń, its region and around Poland. We would like to recommend you sightseeing – cultural tours and also visiting excellent Polish sanatoriums. We address our offer to all travel agents and individual tourists. We would like to invite you to Toruń and Poland. Our bureau offers complete service for individual tourists and groups.



As a fully licensed tour operator, apart from guided tours, our company also boasts comprehensive experience in terms of services provided for groups. We assist our groups throughout the entire stay ensuring top-class services covering:

- professional tour guides and tour leaders service,
- accommodation,
- boarding,
- tickets and entrance fees,
- complete professional motivation, religious, political and sport programmes and special programmes for all age groups,
- working out extra tour routes,
- arranging stay in Toruń and Poland.



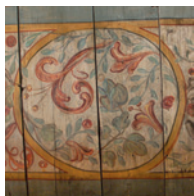
Toruń and Poland the way you like it.

You want to discover Toruń with your school, your club, your company? Traveling with others is more pleasant and also cheaper, and Toruń offers reasons enough to at least one visit the Gothic City.

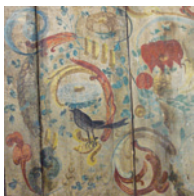
You are in good hands with us. We'll give you advice, we'll plan for you, we'll guide you so that your trip to Toruń is a complete success and unforgettable experience for every member of the group.

We can make special arrangements for each group. Contact us and tell us about your wishes, and we will get a package made to measure for your group: hotels, events, highlights!

We will be happy to serve you in Poland.

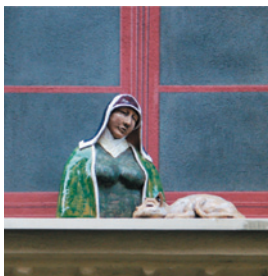


We will custom quote offers that will meet your expectations. For more, please contact our Booking Department:



e-mail: visittorun@wp.pl

telephone: +48 566210422 or: +48 660061352



Year after year Toruń attracts ever bigger crowd of tourists who willingly come back because, in addition to the well-known places of historical interest, the city offers variety of cultural events no to be missed by visitors.

From among hundreds of entertainment and cultural events organized every year in Toruń, we point to a few of large cyclic events, which always gather an audience of several thousand people.

January	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Afryka Reggae Festival
February	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Jazz Od Nowa Festival
March	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • „Klamra” Alternative Theatre Meeting • CoCArt Music Festival
April	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Toruń Festival of Science and Art
May	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • „Probaltica” Music and Art Festival of the Balic States • „Kontakt” International Theatre Festival • „Plaster” International Festival of Typography and Poster Design • May Poetry Boom
June	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • St. John’s Festival of Organ Music • International Meeting of Folk Bands • The Days of Toruń City Festival
Summer	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • „Europe-Toruń. Music and Architecture” International Festival • Artus Jazz Festival • „Skyway” International Light Festival
September	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • „Colour in Graphics” International Print Triennial • Small Painting Forms Triennial
October	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • „Spotkania” International Puppet Theatre Festival • „Tofifest” International Film Festival • „Forte Piano” International Festival of Stars • Graphic Arts of Children and Youths International Biennial
November	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Toruń Blues Meeting • “Aspekty” Festival of Visual Anthropology • Toruń Books Festival • One-Man Theatre Shows
December	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Grzegorz Ciechowski Artistic Awards

Toruń & Kuyavia-Pomerania

Tour operator: **PCU** Guide Service Centre. More: www.visittorun.pl

Toruń is the self-government capital of Kuyavia-Pomerania Voivodeship (administrative region; Polish: Województwo Kujawsko-Pomorskie). Toruń is situated in the centre of the region. This fact enhances Toruń's attractiveness as a few-day tourist centre and makes the city excellent escapade point to many other attractions – cultural, historical, natural and folk. It is also here where you can find excellent conditions for recreation in a beautiful landscapes of many lakes and forests.



Virtually all the most splendid features of Poland have originated in the regions of Kuyavia-Pomerania. This is the birthplace of Nicolaus Copernicus, the site of the most magnificent churches and the home of the renowned gingerbread. Included on the UNESCO World Heritage List, Toruń, is the best-preserved complex of Gothic residential architecture in northern Europe. When in Toruń admire the family house of Nicolaus Copernicus, a resident of the town, other brick Gothic, Renaissance, Baroque patrician houses, the ruins of Teutonic castle and the classical 13th-century cathedral of St. Johns' and other extensive medieval churches and other pearls of historical architectures.



The treasures of Kuyavia-Pomerania are not limited to Toruń however. To discover them, follow the picturesque **Piast Route** running across one of the oldest towns of Central Europe, whom chronicles mentioned already in the 10th century: Mogilno, Kruszwica, Żnin, as well as the most famous Biskupin – almost 3000-year-old settlement. Must-see highlights include the post-Benedictine monastery in Mogilno and the basilica of the Holy Trinity from the turn of 12th century in Strzelno. The historical **Chełmno Land** will astonish you with numerous Gothic brick and stone churches as well as Gothic Teutonic castles as the territory was the seat of the Teutonic Order. Must-see spots there are: splendid mediaeval town of **Chełmno**, cathedral in **Chełmża** and Teutonic castles in **Golub** and **Radzyń Chełmiński**.



CHELMNO (45 km north of Toruń)

Charming medieval town full of Gothic monuments, seat of the historical Chełmno Land. Old Town is inscribed on the Polish National Historical Monuments List.

One of the oldest, most valuable and beautiful towns of Poland with impressive historical monuments of Gothic and of Renaissance styles and of unique atmosphere encouraging to make a next visit. According to the original intentions the town was planned to be the capital city of the Teutonic State thence its great urban character as for Middle Ages.

■ Ask a details, Book a tour: www.visittorun.pl



CIECHOCINEK (25 km south of Toruń)

The most famous Polish lowland health-resort. It is here where one can find particular complex of the 19th century saline graduation towers.

The air surrounding them is saturated with atomised iodine-content brine and has specific medical properties. Beautiful parks and flowerbeds, fountains, pump-wells and so on. In the vicinity picturesque castle ruins in Raciążek and historical town of Nieszawa are located.

■ Ask a details, Book a tour: www.visittorun.pl



GOLUB-DOBZYŃ & SZAFARNIA

(42 km east of Toruń)

Famous Anna Vasa castle & old town.

In Szafarnia: Frederic Chopin Museum. Town on the Drwęca River combined of two former urban units: Golub situated on the northern bank nad Dobrzyń on the southern one. One of the best known castles in Poland is located in Golub. Erected in the 14th century by the Teutonic knights after being returned to Poland in 1466 the seat of Anna Vasa royal princess. It's picturesquely situated on the hill known among others because of The Great International Knights' Tournaments in July. Nearby located Szafarnia is the second Frederic Chopin centre in Poland.

■ Ask a details, Book a tour: www.visittorun.pl



SZLAK PIASTOWSKI (Kruszwica, Biskupin, Mogilno, Strzelno, Gniezno)

The trip shows the traces of Polish statehood origins. The route is one of the best known tourist routes in Poland, where you can find prehistoric and Romanesque monuments of architecture, also old narrow-gauge railway ride from Żnin to Wenecja (Venice; where the Narrow-Gauge Railway Museum is located) and Biskupin – famous archaeological reserve



of Lusatian culture. Gniezno – Polish first capital town, magnificent Bernardine cloister in Mogilno, Romanesque collegiate churches of high class in Strzelno, Kruszwica and Inowrocław towns. In Kruszwica also the famous Mice Tower.

▪ Ask a details, Book a tour: www.visittorun.pl

RADZYŃ CHEŁMIŃSKI

(57 km north of Toruń)

The Chełmno Land (Ziemia Chełmińska) – the oldest Teutonic territory in Poland from where the pagan Prussians conquest and the powerful Teutonic State creating started. There are the oldest Teutonic Knights' castles in Chełmno Land. The very first and original one in Toruń, the other most important in Golub, Radzyń Chełmiński, Kwidzyn, Bierzgłowo Castle (Zamek Bierzgłowski), Rogóźno, etc.

▪ Ask a details, Book a tour: www.visittorun.pl



GRUDZIĄDZ (65 km north of Toruń)

Historical medieval old quarter located on the high River Vistula escarpment with interested and picturesque granaries.

The former Teutonic town developed mainly thanks to income coming from trade in grains in the 16th and 17th centuries. Grudziądz boasts of a picturesque panorama of the city walls with Gothic gates, granaries and churches. It is also in Grudziądz that one can visit one of Europe's largest fortifications – 18th-19th century citadel constructed during German occupation.

▪ Ask a details, Book a tour: www.visittorun.pl

BRODNICA & THE LAKELAND

(65 km north-east of Toruń)

One of the most attractive tourist areas. Its charm and popularity is decided by picturesque and clean lakes, luxuriant forests, varied landscape, rich cultural heritage and fine tourist equipment. The centre of the region is historical town of Brodnica, where one can find old quarter and the Teutonic Knights' castle ruins.

▪ Ask a details, Book a tour: www.visittorun.pl



