

Bydgoszcz: a hidden gem

Located directly between Poznań and Gdańsk, the picturesque city of Bydgoszcz will play host to an estimated 1,200 Irish fans.

After suffering under Nazi-aggression and Soviet oppression, this beautifully crafted city is starting to find its feet once more and a return to the vibrancy and wealth it enjoyed in the 19th century could be on the way.

Just a two-hour drive from both Gdańsk and Poznań, Bydgoszcz is an ideal base of operations for Irish fans visiting Poland this month and is certainly a cheaper alternative for members of the green army looking to cut costs.

While hotel costs in Poznań and Gdansk have risen by up to 500%, Bydgoszcz has only experienced a 30% rise in accommodation costs, while food and drink prices are also much lower.

Four star hotels like the City Hotel, which has its own restaurant, nightclub and casino, would

suit the needs of Irish fans perfectly.

Built on the Brda River, Bydgoszcz also has an extensive canal network which saw it experience tremendous growth at the turn of the 20th century as it connected with cities like Gdańsk, Berlin and Amsterdam.

Although beautiful buildings like the City Theatre were demolished in the Second World War, the city boast a wonderfully poignant memorial to the thousands of inhabitants who were killed in the "Bloody Sunday" massacre by the Nazis as well as the man on wire statue which dangles over the river and the stunning Opera Nova.

Located at the heart of the city is Mill Island, an area which used to contain a network of flour-mills but has been transformed into a stunning park area which is perfect for family gatherings.

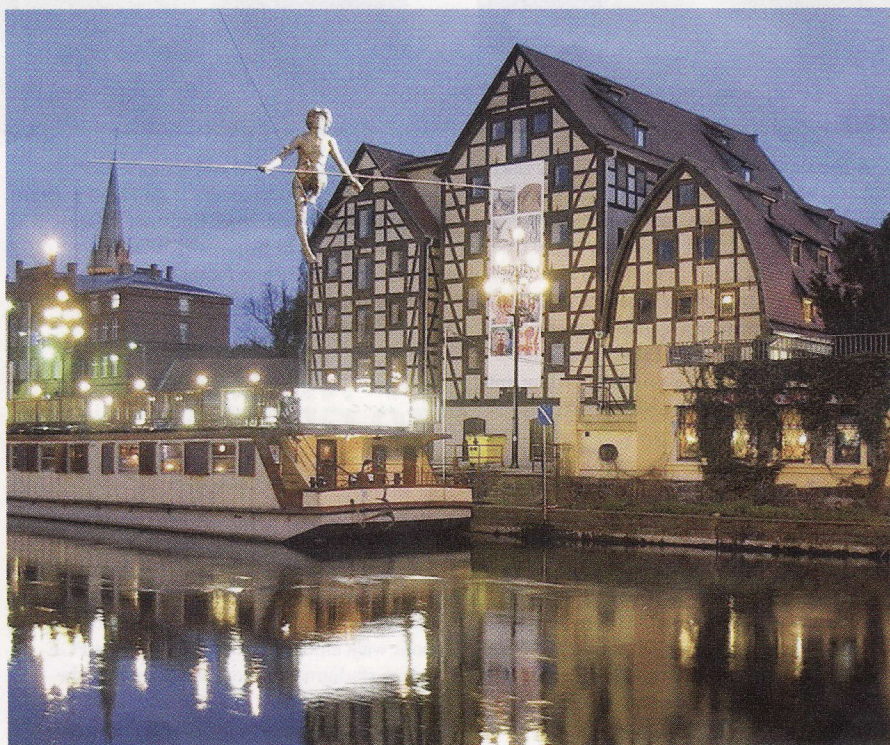
The area is famous for brewing and the local lagers are amazing. Carlsberg and Heineken are

available for around 8 zloty (€2).

Bydgoszcz is a university city and there is plenty of energy around when the sun goes down. Modern watering-holes like Club Soda have a very highend feel, while live music venue MOSQ and The Kubrick are more popular with the locals and have a great bohemian atmosphere while there are a wide variety of restaurants to cater for everyone's tastes.

Medical tourism has been building between Dublin and Bydgoszcz in recent years and dentistry work is particularly popular. *Cheapdentist.ie* have been flying Irish people to the city for the past few years where patients can save up to 70 per cent on dental costs and their business continues to grow and grow.

There are no issues with accessibility as Ryanair operate three flights per week on Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays to the city's airport which is just a €5 (10 minute) taxi journey from the city centre.



SOME USEFUL EXPRESSIONS:

When asking for something, always say please ("proszę") at the front or end of the sentence then add 'a' to the end of the noun. So, Poproszę Guinnessa. *A Guinness please.*

Robbie Keane is a legend.

Robbie Keane to legenda!

(to, as in the thing on the end of your foot; hard 'g' in legenda)

Do you sell Solpadeine?

Czy dostane Solpadeine?

(chee (as in tree) dostanaine Solpadeine - e = aine (more or less))

Do you have an iPhone charger?

Czy ma Pan / Pani zasilacz do iPhone'a?

(zashilatch; doe, as in deer, a 'female deer', not do as in 'must do'. Also, remember the 'a' at the end of iPhone. It's important!)