

Snapshots from Poznan

New Film Festival in Poznan



Jan A.P. Kaczmarek, Polish composer and Academy Award winner for music to "Finding Neverland", announced during his latest visit to Poznan that he has had an idea for a new film festival. He appeared in Poznan City Hall with the famous statuette. "I would like to introduce to you a guest that has never been to Poznan before," he said, presenting the Oscar statuette that he was given five years ago.

Poznan is one of the cities competing for the title of European Capital of Culture 2016. It is Kaczmarek who is the ambassador of Poznan in its efforts to receive the title. The new film festival is said to be a combination of a Hollywood show and ambitious cinema that could be a great opportunity for the Hollywood stars to visit Poznan. The first edition of the festival will be held during Summer, next year. The festival

will be a part of Poznan's efforts to become European Capital of Culture 2016. The composer's

relationship with Poznan is not accidental – Kaczmarek studied and lived here for some time.

Magdalena's Braid (Warkocz Magdaleny)

Who could boast the longest braid in Poznan? We will get the answer during another church-fair fete called 'Magdalena's Braid', organised each year by the Poznan Society of Friends of the Fara Church. The event will take place on the 25th July in the courtyard of the Poznan City Hall. Music, dance, sport, play and history are planned all day, and one of the competitions is the choosing of the woman with the longest braid in Poznan.

The aim of the fete is not only fun but also fund-raising for the renovation of one of the most beautiful churches in the city as well as its main attraction – the Ladegast

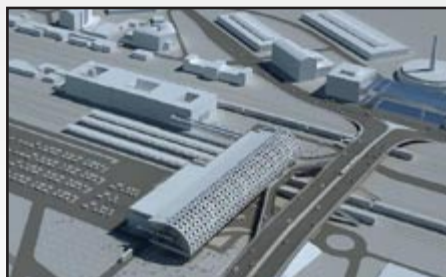
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organ. Artistic groups from places located near Wolsztyn have already confirmed their participation in the fete. The recreational part of the fete is organised by parish groups with the tourist services to be provided by the Marceli Motty Guides' Club and catering offered by Aleksander Teclaw and Adam Nowak – craftsmen from Poznan. In the afternoon we will have the opportunity to see the Brozi magic show and hear a concert by the Dixie Company in the evening. – "There will also be the chance to demonstrate one's knowledge of the Fara Church. That is why it is worth it to familiarise oneself with its history and to visit the Church, see its decor and equipment as well as search for the main figures of saints present there," Anita Bittner says, an organiser of the fete. The honorary patronage of the event is held by the Metropolitan Archbishop of Poznan, Stanisław Gądecki and the Mayor of the City of Poznan, Ryszard Grobelny. One of the major attractions of the Fara Church is the Ladegast organ. The organ's beautiful sounds can be heard each Thursday in July and August at 8:00 p.m.

Investments

New Railway Station



The start of the construction works on the new railway station is getting closer. The Polish State Railway company has signed an agreement with TriGranit Development Corporation. Under the agreement, the construction of the railway station is scheduled to commence by the end of this year and to be completed by April 2012 – by the time of the EURO 2012 European Football Championships. The cost of the investment is estimated at € 160 million.

The new railway station is said to be an Integrated Communication Centre where – apart from booking offices and waiting rooms – a shopping centre, bus station and a car park with 900 parking places will be built.

The Integrated Communication Centre will occupy a surface of 16,000 m². The Centre will have three levels: the ground level with a bus terminal for at least 12 places for buses; the higher level where a shopping centre with shops, service outlets, bars and restaurants will be created – this part is said to be profitable for the investor which would make it possible to finance the construction of the non-commercial part of the station – as well as the

highest level designed for the passengers service. A new network of streets, which will allow easy access to the station, is to be built around the Integrated Communication Centre. The extended tram line of the Poznan Fast Tram will end there as well.

The new railway station is said to be completed by the first half of 2012. After completion of the new station, the former venue will be dismantled. In future, office buildings, hotels and apartments are to be built there.

IKEA Town Centre



Inter Ikea Centre (the owner of the IKEA store network) has just received permission for construction of a shopping centre – the Bulwary Poznańskie (Poznan Boulevards). The investor wants to commence construction works this year. IKEA does not specify the exact date of completion of the centre, until the construction works start. The investor's spokeswoman has only announced that the construction of the town centre would take no longer than two years. Customers will also have the possibility to get to Bulwary Poznanskie by tram as a new

tram line, leading to Franowo, is to be built by May 2012. The construction of the new tram line will start by the end of the year. One of the stops will be located near Bulwary Poznanskie.

Bulwary Poznanskie will be different from the shopping centres that Poznan's inhabitants have become used to. Instead of a large object with commercial and service points, the investor will build a town centre situated behind the IKEA store. Customers will enjoy greenery and squares with fountains and sculptures.

There will also be restaurants and cafes with gardens. Customers coming to Bulwary Poznanskie by car will have the possibility to park their cars in the street – like in the real city – as well as in an underground car park. Shops with clothes, shoes as well as electronic equip-

ment and food, will be entered directly from the streets. At first there were plans to build about 100 shops at Bulwary Poznanskie. However, IKEA had to adjust to the local area development plan of Franowo, which was approved last year, and by implication, limit the investment to some extent. At present there are plans to build 70 shops at Bulwary Poznanskie. The investor has already signed leasing agreements with traders for over 60% of the premises. IKEA will invest PLN 240 million in Bulwary Poznanskie.

(source: Gazeta Wyborcza)

Castle to be converted

The implementation of the conversion is estimated at PLN 49



There is no reason why a conversion of Sala Wielka (Great Hall) in Poznań should not be started. Minister of Culture and National Heritage, Bogdan Zdrojewski and the director of the 'Zamek' Culture Centre, Marek Raczak have signed an agreement on the conversion of the castle. Under the agreement, the 'Zamek' Culture Centre will receive PLN 30 million from the European funds.

"It will be both one of the most expensive and most wonderful projects in the field of culture", said, shortly after signing the agreement, the Minister of Culture, Bogdan Zdrojewski. The Minister also said that the project was very well-planned and therefore there should be no problems with its implementation. According to the agreement the 'Zamek' Culture Centre will receive PLN 30 million from the Operational Programme Infrastructure and Environment Priority: Culture and Cultural Heritage.

million. The remaining cost will be covered by the City of Poznań.

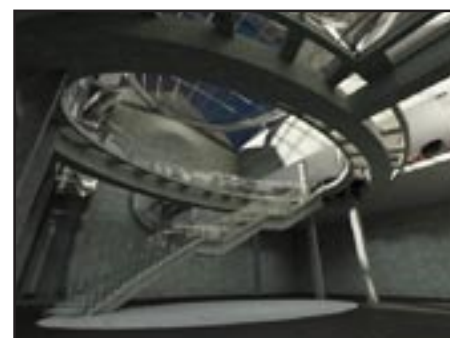
"This year we are celebrating the 100th anniversary of the 'Zamek' Culture Centre. Built by the Prussian occupier, a seat of the Prussian emperor has not gained total acceptance among Poznań's inhabitants. We hope that the investment will encourage the development of Polish culture resulting in a greater acceptance of the 'Zamek' Culture Centre among the Poznań inhabitants", said the Mayor of the City of Poznań, Ryszard Grobelny.

The conversion is said to create an entirely new space for artistic events taking place at the 'Zamek' Culture Centre. The ceiling, dividing the ground floor and the first floor hallway next to Sala Wielka, will be demolished. Sala Wielka will be converted to a modern performance hall holding 500 places. Another smaller performance hall with 200 places will be situated above Sala Wielka.

Theatrical performances, concerts and film screenings will be held in both halls. There are also plans to construct a new exhibition hall. The demolition of the ceiling will make it possible to build a modern staircase and a mezzanine with a café to be located in it.

The conversion project has been developed in Toya Design studio. "The agreement signed today enables us to start a tender proceeding to find a substitute investor and main construction contractor", emphasises Anna Hryniewiecka, the Deputy Director of the 'Zamek' Culture Centre. If everything goes according to plan, the conversion may start as early as autumn this year and will last about 16 months. Art connoisseurs will have the chance to use new space in the beginning of 2012.

The 'Zamek' Culture Centre belongs to the most dynamic cultural institutions to be realised in Poznań. Each year several dozen concerts, theatrical performances, film screenings and exhibitions are held here. The Centre is also a partner of the Malta International Theatre Festival. In the summertime the castles' courtyards are teeming with life as many concerts and theatrical performances take place here.



Academic Poznan

Poznan – the capital of the worldwide chemistry

Prominent scientists and professors from all over the world including the 2005 laureate of the Nobel Prize in chemistry – professor Robert H. Grubbs from the USA – were the guests of the 17th International Symposium on Homogeneous Catalysis (ISHC-17). The Symposium was organised by Adam Mickiewicz University, Polish Chemical Society, Polish Academy of Sciences as well as Poznan Science and Technology Park.

Over 370 scientists from all over the world presented their latest achievements in the field of catalysis. Specialists from the academic environment as well as the research and development centres participated in the Symposium. The lectures were delivered by the laureate of the Nobel Prize, professor Robert H. Grubbs from the USA, and other professors including David Cole-Hamilton from the UK, Walter Leitner from Germany, Krzysztof Matyjaszewski from Poland and the USA and Kyoko Nozaki from Japan.

Since 1978, the International Symposia on Homogeneous Catalysis are organised every two years. The first Symposium took place in Corpus Christi (USA). Recently, chemists have met in Florence, Sun City and Munich. The patronage of the Symposium is held by the Minister of Science and Higher Education as well as the President of the Polish Academy of Sciences.

Distinction for the Poznan Universities

The Poznan University of Technology and Adam Mickiewicz University were awarded a distinction by the Chairman of the Polish Chamber of Commerce – one of the largest Polish employer organizations. The Poznan universities were the only universities to be awarded the distinction by the Polish Chamber of Commerce.

The Poznan University of Technology was awarded in the category 'Innovative service, organisational solution' for a project 'Engineer's era. Expansion of the development potential of the Poznan University of Technology'. Since August 2008, the 'Engineer's era' project, co-financed from the European Social Fund, has been implemented by the Poznan University of Technology. The aim of the project is adapting higher education to the economy needs as well as improving the quality of education offered by the Poznan University of Technology. 6000 people has participated in the project so far. Adam Mickiewicz University was awarded a distinction in the category 'Innovative company/university'.

Millions for Adam Mickiewicz University

Adam Mickiewicz University will be given PLN 190 million (over € 45 million) for the development from the state budget. A special act, applying to the financial support for the University, was approved by the Polish Parliament. Thanks to the amendment

a grant, which Adam Mickiewicz University will receive from the state budget by 2015, will increase to the value of PLN 500 million (over € 120 million).

The grant is primarily designed for construction and modernisation of academic campus in Morasko. A number of modern faculties, including Faculties of Chemistry, Physics, Geography and Biology, have been established in recent years. Apart from Adam Mickiewicz University the second university to obtain such a substantial grant is the Jagiellonian University in Krakow.

New Academic Campus

Three private universities in Poznan have entered into cooperation on the basis of which they will create the Poznan Academic Campus. The Campus will be established by: the Poznan School of Social Sciences, College of Education and Administration in Poznan as well as Poznan Trade and Commerce College. The campus offer encompasses BA and MA studies; it is also planned to launch PhD studies. Apart from a didactic offer, the universities want to conduct joint publishing initiatives as well as students' parties. Some 17,000 places, on 8 MA and 11 BA majors, will be waiting for the students.

It is already the second Poznan Academic Campus to be established by private universities. The first one, was created in March 2010 by the School of Humanities and Journalism as well as the Warsaw School of Social Sciences and Humanities.

The National Park of Wielkopolska



Summer is the best season for visiting the National Park of Wielkopolska. The National Park of Wielkopolska is a large forest complex situated about 20-25 kilometres from Poznan.

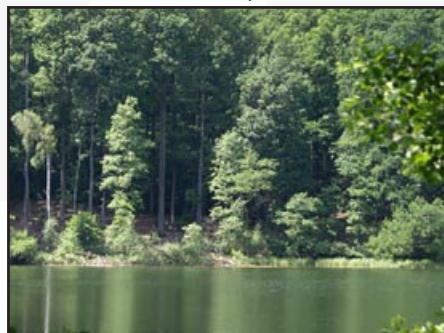
The National Park of Wielkopolska is one of 23 national parks in Poland. The Park was created in 1957; however, the plans to protect animals and vegetation in this part of the Wielkopolska region have already been proposed before the Second World War. Over 7,500 ha of forest and more than 7,000 ha of buffer zone, an area around the park, constitute the National Park of Wielkopolska.

More than 3,000 species of insects, including those under strict protection, can be spotted in the Park. Some 200 species of birds, both breeding and fleeting, as well as over 40 species of mammals also live in the Park.

Due to its proximity to Poznan, the National Park of Wielkopolska is frequently visited by tourists – over 1 million visitors each year. Nature lovers and tourists are offered some 90 kilometres of hiking trails, over 100 kilometres of cycle paths and 30 kilometres designed for horse riding.

To other trails running through the Park belong: the Kórnik Trail – some 80- kilometres-long car trail connecting Poznan with Kórnik and Rogalin, villages rich in monuments – as well as a fragment of the Road of St. Jacob – the European network of pilgrimage routes to Santiago de Compostela Cathedral in Galicia, northern-east Spain. The Camino de Santiago trail used to begin in Estonia leading through Poland, Germany, Switzerland, France to Santiago.

The Park is home to numerous monuments with the most precious one being the wooden church in Łódź, which dates back to the 17th century.

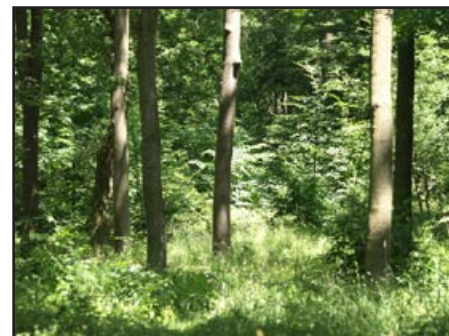


Other churches of a slightly lesser value can be spotted in Puszczyków, Stężew and Wiry. In Szreniawa and Trzebaw one also have the possibility to see manor houses from the 19th century. Another place worth visiting is a palace, the seat of the Management of the National Park, in the Jezioro village, situated beside Jezioro Góreckie (Lake Góreckie). The Museum of Nature is also located in Jezioro.

Ruins of a castle, built in 1827 on the Castle Island beside Jezioro Góreckie, are also worth seeing. One of the local legends is related to the Island. According to the legend a man named Górk, who

lived here centuries ago, imprisoned the owner of the region in his wife's castle situated on the Island. After his death, Górk ended up in hell and was allowed to return to earth one time a year. Since then his spirit is said to wander on the island, in search of the ruins of the castle, which is accompanied by ravens making awful sounds. Unfortunately, the island can be admired only from the banks of the lake as it is not open to the visitors.

The fastest way to reach the National Park of Wielkopolska is to travel there by car – first driving to Wrocław and then through Komorniki (about 15 kilometres from the Poznan city centre) to Puszczykowo. One can reach Puszczykowo by train as well (about 20 minutes). In Puszczykówko, situated near Poznan (about 18 kilometres from the Poznan city centre) one can also visit Arkady Fiedler's Museum. He was one of the most famous Polish travellers – travelling across South and North America. Today, his house serves as a museum with a garden holding the real-size replica of 'Santa Maria', the caravel on which Christopher Columbus sailed to America. Among the participants of a symbolic launching of 'Santa Maria' was one of descendants of Columbus.



Calendar of Events

Małe Instrumenty – in concert

16-07-2010, 8:30pm

Scena na Piętrze (Stage on the Upper Floor), ul. Masztalarska 8
The band "Małe Instrumenty" (Small Instruments) made its debut at the Era New Horizons International Film Festival in 2007. Since then the band has engaged in many music projects. "Małe Instrumenty" creates music using small professional instruments, sound toys, bizarre musical inventions as well as many kinds of small items that make sound.

Blues Express Festival



17-07-2010, 2:00pm

The PKP Railway Station

The Blues Express Festival, the only one taking place on a train with a steam locomotive, has been attracting several thousand fans of both blues and steam locomotives for seventeen years now. This year the festival's opening concert will be held on the 16th July in Piła at "Park na Wyspie". Many popular blues bands – Midnight Travel, Zydeco Flow, Obstawy Prezydenta – will be performing there. On the

17th July at 2.00 p.m. the train with the steam locomotive will depart from Poznan to set off on a concert tour to Zakrzewo, also known as 'the Polish village of blues'. Seven unforgettable concerts will be given at the PKP Railway Station in Poznan as well as other intermediate stations.

Photo: www.bluesexpress.pl

En Attendant Chopin – Waiting for Chopin

18-07-2010, 8:00pm

Waga Miejska (The City Scale), the Old Market

"En Attendant Chopin" is a theatrical and musical play based on a fictional meeting of 6 admirers of Chopin, expecting the Polish virtuoso in a living room of a palace or a mansion and preparing a spectacular party. They are telling stories of the composer's life and anecdotes, as well as teaching audiences unknown songs by the master.

Musical direction: Michele Fedrigotti; staging: Michał Znaniecki

Myslovitz in concert



18-07-2010, 9:00pm

Rose Courtyard (Dziedziniec Różany) at the "Zamek" Culture Centre

Myslovitz is a Polish rock band formed in 1992 in Mysłowice by Artur Rojek and Wojtek Powaga. Myslovitz, whose music incorpo-

rates elements of College rock and Britpop, has recently been playing alternative rock. Due to its continuous search for musical inspirations, the band is very often referred to as "the Polish Radiohead".

Photo: Wikipedia

La Serva Padrona (The Servant Mistress)

22-07-2010, 9:30pm

Masztalarnia Courtyard (Dziedziniec Masztalarni) at the "Zamek" Culture Centre

"La Serva Padrona", a play in the "Opera Kieszonkowa" series, is a funny story about a rich man terrorised by his maid. The man, wanting to get rid of the maid, decides to get married in the hope that his future wife will control the servants and restore order in his house. However, the clever maid makes the man marry her instead of another woman.

St. Francis of Assisi and the Wolf of Gubbio – Brother Francis' Lamb Chops

29-07-2010, 9:30pm

Masztalarnia Courtyard (Dziedziniec Masztalarni) at the "Zamek" Culture Centre

Another play in the "Opera Kieszonkowa" series. This two-act play from 1954 is a reference to the parable of the wolf being tamed by St. Francis. Stefan Themerson turns it into a story about a young rebel abandoning his family to redeem the world. Having learned about a wolf killing lambs, he decides to propose to the wolf creation of a tinning factory where the lambs could be murdered in a humane way.