



MORE INFORMATION ABOUT POLAND

• FACTS

Official name: The Republic of Poland, short form: Poland
(*Rzeczpospolita Polska, Polska*)

Location: Central Europe, bordered by Germany to the West, the Czech Republic and Slovakia to the South, Ukraine, Belarus, Lithuania to the East, and Russia and the Baltic Sea coast to the North

Capital City: Warsaw (*Warszawa*)

Major Cities: Kraków, Łódź, Wrocław, Poznań, Gdańsk, Szczecin, Bydgoszcz, Lublin, Katowice, Białystok

Official Language: Polish

Political System: Parliamentary Republic (multi-party democracy with a two-chamber parliament and a president)

Area: 312,685 km²; Poland is the ninth largest country in Europe

Population: 38 million

Time zone: Central European time zone – (GMT + 1 hour/UTC + 1 hour)

Currency: 1 złoty (PLN) = 100 groszy

Religion: ca. 90% of Poles are Roman Catholics

Dialling Code: +48

Weather: As the climate is moderate, the weather patterns can vary. The warmest months are: June, July and August (with average temperatures ranging from 19°C to 32°C), while the coldest: January and February (average temperatures: -15°C to 5°C).

• HOLIDAYS

- 1st January – New Year
- 6th January – Epiphany
- March/April – Easter Sunday and Easter Monday
- 1st May – Labour Day
- 3rd May – Constitution Day
- May/June – Corpus Christi (Thursday of the ninth week after Easter)
- 15th August – Feast of the Assumption
- 1st November – All Saints' Day
- 11th November – Independence Day



- 25th–26th December – Christmas Day and Boxing Day

- **LANGUAGE**

Polish is spoken by approximately 38 million people in Poland, along with several million more Polish speakers living abroad. In terms of speaker numbers, it ranks 17th among the world's languages.

It is part of the Slavic branch of the Indo-European language family, which is divided into East, West, and South Slavic subgroups, comprising over 20 languages in total. Today, Slavic languages are spoken across a wide geographic range, including Central, Eastern, and Southern Europe, the Balkans, and regions extending from Siberia to the Russian Far East. Around the early 2000s, the total number of Slavic language speakers was estimated at 315 million, making it the largest ethno-linguistic group in Europe.

Polish uses a 32-letter version of the Latin alphabet, enhanced by nine unique characters (ą, ć, ę, ł, ń, ó, ś, ź, ż). It includes 23 consonants and 9 vowels, two of which are nasal. Letters such as q, x, and v are not part of the native Polish alphabet and appear only in loanwords. Stress typically falls on the penultimate (second-to-last) syllable, though there are some exceptions.

In terms of grammar, Polish has three tenses—past, present, and future—and distinguishes between singular and plural. It also has three grammatical genders: masculine, feminine, and neuter. Polish is a highly inflected language with seven noun cases that determine function within a sentence. Adjectives must match the gender, number, and case of the nouns they describe. Verbs differ depending on aspect (perfective or imperfective), and are conjugated according to tense, gender, and number. There are no articles, subject pronouns are often omitted, word order is flexible, and double negatives are grammatically correct.

- **CLIMATE**

Poland has a temperate climate characterized by cold winters and warm summers. This is due to the interplay of oceanic air from the west, cold polar masses from Scandinavia and Russia, and warmer, subtropical air from the south. During winter, polar-continental systems often dominate, resulting in freezing temperatures and occasional heavy snow. In contrast, late summer and autumn are typically warm and dry, thanks to continental subtropical air. The country's average annual temperature is around 9°C, and yearly precipitation ranges from 500 to 700 mm, with snowfall accounting for only 5–20% of that.

The Polish coastline is known for its sandy beaches. If you enjoy the seaside, the Hel Peninsula is a must-visit—an iconic strip of land that's a summer hotspot. But Hel isn't just for sunbathers; it also features a seal sanctuary, WWII military sites, and a lighthouse.



Deserts in Poland? Surprisingly, yes! Just two hours from Gdańsk, near the town of Łeba, you'll find shifting sand dunes that create a desert-like landscape—though with much milder weather than the Sahara.

The north-east of Poland is famous for its lakes, particularly in the Masurian region. The Great Masurian Lakes offer peaceful natural beauty, and the country's largest lake, Śniardwy, is found here.

Poland also boasts plateau mountain ranges like the Stołowe Mountains, known for their dense forests and rich birdlife. Above all, visitors come for the breathtaking views.

The country's tallest mountains are the Tatras, located to the south near Kraków. With dramatic landscapes and the bustling resort town of Zakopane, they're ideal for skiing and hiking. A visit to Morskie Oko, a picturesque lake nestled in the peaks, is highly recommended.

For a more rugged, untamed experience, head to the Bieszczady Mountains—often called the wildest part of Poland. Ideal for adventurers, these mountains are home to wildlife like bears and wolves. With no need for Wi-Fi or luxury amenities, it's a perfect escape into raw nature.

Useful links:

[Krakow Travel - information for tourists](#)

[Karnet - cultural life in Krakow](#)

[Magiczny Krakow - cultural events and others](#)

[Tripadvisor on Krakow](#)