A few words about Poznań

Poznań is one of the largest and oldest cities in Poland. It is a historical capital of the Wielkopolska region in which the Polish state was born 1000 years ago. Today the city has a population of over 550,000 and is a major socio-economic centre in the country.

The city lies on one of the most important transport (road and railway) corridors of Europe connecting the western and the eastern part of the continent, halfway between Berlin and Warsaw. Its airport Ławica serves both domestic and international lines.

Like the whole of Wielkopolska, Poznań is known in Poland for its tradition of good management and its hard-working and frugal inhabitants, which shows in the city's steady dynamic development. The present level of economic development is also due to the effective use of the favourable conditions that appeared as a result of the systemic transformation launched in Poland in 1989. The restructuring of large industrial plants, a growing proportion of small and medium-sized firms in the economic structure, the development of an institutional business-environment system, and the ever greater part that innovativeness and creativity play in the city's development are proof its transformation going in the right direction.

In spite of growing competition, Poznań remains Poland's unquestioned trade capital. The grounds of its International Poznań Fair are used every year to organise dozens of international fair events in a wide variety of fields hosting more than 10,000 exhibitors from 60 countries of the world.

Poznań is also one of the main sites where foreign investments are located, an important conference centre, a major academic and scientific hub (the city has 28 higher schools with a total of 131,000 students, and close to 50 R&D institutions), and a cultural centre.
well known at home and abroad (it has 9 theatres and musical institutions, including a concert hall, many choirs and orchestras, 22 museums, dozens of exhibition galleries and salons, and other cultural facilities). The city is renowned for its many musical festivals and competitions (the Henryk Wieniawski International Competition, the International University Choirs Festival "Universitas Cantat", an early-music festival), and its international theatrical, film and music festivals. It is full of architectural monuments: Gothic (the cathedral and many other churches), Renaissance (the Town Hall, considered the most beautiful Renaissance town hall north of the Alps) and Baroque (the Parish Church, considered the most beautiful Polish Baroque temple). Reconstruction work has been in progress on the Gothic castle of king Premyslas II, nonexistent for a few hundred years. The city's attractions also include green spaces, especially its many parks, as well as sports and recreation grounds, the most important being the complex located on Lake Malta, with its regatta courses being among the most advanced in Europe, an all-year artificial ski run, a sledge run, and a big, modern aquapark (the Malta Baths). All this makes Poznań also a large hub of tourist traffic.