

# 20 reasons to visit Görlitz

## Did you know that...

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**Görlitz with its 4000 listed buildings is considered to be Germany's largest heritage area?** It presents one of the best preserved historic cityscapes all over Central Europe.

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**it takes nothing but a short walk across the Old Town Bridge to reach the Polish twin city Zgorzelec?** Two countries, one city – the European City Görlitz-Zgorzelec was proclaimed in 1998, today you can feel the German-Polish way of life in all fields of daily coexistence.

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**from 1995 to 2016 an anonymous benefactor donated one million German Marks, later half a million Euros to the city every year?** – The fairytale of the so-called Old Town Million is a true story.

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**culture in Görlitz has a cross-border character?** The International Street Theatre Festival *ViaThea* turning streets and squares into stages for comedians, acrobats and pantomimes from all over the world every year in July, and the Old Town Festival or *Jakuby Festival* held at the last weekend in August are celebrated on both sides of the Neisse River in Görlitz and Zgorzelec.



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**the Holy Sepulchre in Görlitz is regarded to be the most faithful copy of the Holy Sepulchre in Jerusalem?** Georg Emmerich, a Görlitz citizen, built this copy after he had returned from a pilgrimage to Jerusalem. Ever since its completion in 1504, it was neither damaged nor modified.



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**the sun rises over Germany in Görlitz first?** Görlitz is Germany's most eastern city.



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**the time in Görlitz corresponds exactly to Central European Time?** The city is located on the 15th meridian.

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**the clock of Trinity Church on the Upper Market is always seven minutes ahead?** This goes back to the clothmakers' uprising in 1527, when a traitor made the clock ring too early, so the conspirators holding one of their secret meetings literally bumped into the night guards. There are many more of these mysterious legends to be discovered in Görlitz.

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**Görlitz has played various roles in different films, turning into New York, Berlin, Munich, Frankfurt, Paris or Heidelberg?** The city is fondly called "Görlitwood", because more than 100 national and international films have been produced here since the 1950-ies. As the film location for the "Grand Budapest Hotel", Görlitz was chosen to be THE European film location of the decade.

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**Görlitz is located near a lake?**

Right at the gates of the city, there is Berzdorf Lake, one of Saxony's biggest lakes. Sailors and surfers, cyclists and skaters really appreciate this local recreation area and natural resort created out of a former opencast mine.



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**Görlitz is situated along the Oder-Neiße-cycle path?** It is 630 km long and one of Germany's most popular long-distance cycle tracks.

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**the Birkenstock Group runs its biggest production site in Görlitz?**

It all started with the production of the cork-latex foot beds – today, the complete shoes are produced here.

Every day, about 50.000 pairs of shoes leave the production site. The fashionable Birkenstock shoes are exported even to America and Asia.

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**the nickname of the city's theatre is „the Little Semper Opera House“?**

Visitors are delighted by the splendid spectator terraces with stucco and gold decoration, a ceiling adorned with artistic ornaments, or the drop-shaped chandelier reflecting the light of the theatre hall.

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**Germany's oldest secular Renaissance building can be found in Görlitz?**

The so-called Schönhof was built in 1526, today it houses the Silesian Museum.

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**a boat or canoe trip on the Neiße River, reveals the idyllic charm of Görlitz-Zgorzelec in a very special way?**

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**University of Applied Sciences Zittau/Görlitz is a truly international institution?**

There are partnerships with altogether 140 universities in more than 40 countries – from South Africa to the United States of America, from Brazil to the United Kingdom and Russia. This is where the idea of the „springboard into the wider world“ gets a realistic dimension.

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**the world-famous sun organ in St. Peter's Church, built by Eugenio Casparini at the end of the 17th century, is able to imitate even birdcalls?**

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**beer is brewed here in an industrial monument according to a traditional method?**

The Landskron-Brewery has been existing already since 1896. Guided tours lead you into the underground vaults cellars, where the delicious beer is stored for several weeks.

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**the so-called hall houses are typical of Görlitz?** Their impressive cross vaults covering the entire entrance halls provided space for complete horse-drawn carriages. It was here where the merchants presented the cloth. 35 of these extraordinary buildings are still existing today in the Old Town of Görlitz.



19

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**Jacob Böhme (1575–1624) is city's most famous son?** He worked in Görlitz being a simple shoemaker, and at the same time, he developed his theories about the Unity of Man and Nature, which were meant to attract worldwide attention later on.

Numerous thinkers of subsequent generations, among them Goethe and Leibniz, regarded Böhme's works as one of their most influential impacts. Filmstar Nicolas Cage is one of the most prominent fans of Jacob Böhme. In order to walk in Böhme's tracks, he visited Görlitz in 2006.



**And you, when will you discover Görlitz?**

**Görlitz-Information**

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