



# TARNÓW REGION

## 330 minutes in Tarnów



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- MP3 audio-guide
- Luggage lockers



Town Square



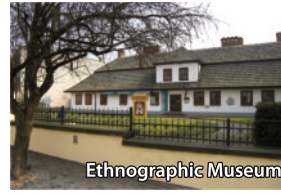
'Church on Burek'



Diocesan Museum



Seklers' Gate



Ethnographic Museum



Gen. Bem's Mausoleum



Poets' Bench



Organ Grinder



Bimah



Cathedral Basilica



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Tarnów Tourist Centre

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330 minutes in Tarnów' is a short guide for the travelers who stop for just a few hours in Tarnów. Follow us to get the most out of time spent in the warmest Polish city, known as 'the Pearl of Polish Renaissance'.

Our journey begins at **Town Square (Rynek)** considered one of the smallest, yet most beautiful in Poland. Its borders are marked by historic buildings. The most precious are two Renaissance arcaded houses on the northern side. In the middle of the square stands Town Hall. The building, originally Gothic, was remodelled in Renaissance form by Giovanni Maria Padovano - one of the greatest architects of his times. Some Gothic elements were incorporated into the new structure and survived until today. Town Hall is topped with an attic decorated with 14 masks. Turret clock set in the 30-meter high tower is believed to be the oldest hand wound tower clock in Poland. At the south-eastern corner of the building a 'pillory for the wicked women' was situated.

Our next stop is **the Cathedral Basilica**. It is the principal church for the city and Diocese of Tarnów. Inside we find several unique monuments. First two are over 13-meter high two-story sculptured tombs of the Tarnowski and Ostrogski families in the chance. The Tarnowski tomb by Giovanni Maria Padovano (set against northern wall) is dedicated to Herman Jan Tarnowski and Jan Krzysztof, his son. It is believed to be the first church monument of this kind in Poland. The Ostrogski tomb, opposite, is thought to be sculptured either by John Pfister from Wrocław or by Wilhelm van den Block from the Netherlands. And in the south nave there is tomb of Barbara of Tęczyński, Herman Tarnowski's first wife, another work of Giovanni Maria Padovano. It is considered the most beautiful Renaissance sculpture of a woman in Poland. Outside the Cathedral stands the first Polish monument to Pope John Paul II, set up in 1981.

Opposite to the Cathedral's main gate stands the oldest concrete house in Tarnów - **the Mikotajowski house**. It was built in 1524 with one wall adjacent to the city walls (Herman Tarnowski surrounded Tarnów with over 900-meter long defensive wall, preserved in some parts until today). It hosts the oldest church museum in Poland - **Muzeum Diecezjalne (Diocesan Museum)**. The collection comprises pieces of Medieval art: paintings, sculptures, priest's vestments, documents, incunabula as well as folk art including a collection of glass painting. The true masterpieces are paintings: 'Mourning', from Chornianice village (1440-1450); 'Misericordia Domini' from Zbylitowska Góra village (1450); 'Pieta' from Biecz village (1380-1400); 'Mourning' from Czarny Potok village (1450) and a triptych - original altar from the UNESCO listed St. Leonard church in Lipnica Murowana.

Let's move on to Bem Square (down Katedralny Square, along Katedralna St to Sobieski Square than left down). Nowadays it is the most popular farmers market in Tarnów. The square was given its name after General Joseph Bem, national hero of both the Polish and Hungarian nations who was born in 1794 in one of the corner houses. Don't miss the 'Organ Grinder' statue as it plays few classics of the street musicians' repertoire when you approach it.

Go down Najświętszej Marii Panny St. to see one of **three wooden Gothic churches in the city. Matki Bożej Szkaplerznej (the Mother of God of The Scapular)** Church and Sanctuary, colloquially called 'the church on Burek; is believed to be built of timber from the original building of the Cathedral. In years 1852-1854 it was moved back a few meters from the stream. The altarpiece is the 16th century painting of the Mother of God of The Scapular on wood. It's been worshipped for centuries now. The church also served as a cemetery church for Stary Cmentarz (Old Cemetery) located right across busy Narutowicza street. The cemetery is one of the oldest (1787) and most beautiful in Malopolska.

The three churches: **'on Burek, 'in Terlikowka'** (1527, located on the opposite side of the Old Cemetery) and **St. Martin** (15th c., atop St. Martin Hill) are part of 'Wooden Architecture Route in Malopolska'.

Let's get back to Sobieskiego Square and turn left. We now enter Krakowska St, the main street of the city, once part of the Emperor route that connected Tarnów and other Galician cities with the capital — Vienna. Architecture of Krakowska St recalls the times of the 19th/20th century 'Imperial and Royal' Tarnów as it was patterned on the Vienna Secession. Bristol Hotel at No. 9 hosted the offices of the Ukrainian parliament in the 1920's. Opposite the hotel an old inn is located. Today it hosts the most famous **Polish Ethnographic Museum** in Europe with collection and exhibition of Gypsy history and culture. Several original Gypsy carriages are parked in the backyard. All take part in an annual 'Tabor Pamifici' (Caravan of Remembrance) celebration of the martyrdom of local Romanian community annihilated during the WWII. That several day long journey allows the spectators to participate in an everyday life of the Gypsies and familiarize with their culture.

Walking down Krakowska St, we reach **'Hungarian section'** of the city - Petofi Square (national poet of Hungary, adjutant of General Bem). The square is furnished with gifts from our Hungarian cousins. The entrance to the square is guarded by Seklers Gate, than there are two Koppjafa's (Hungarian wooden grave posts), dedicated to the memory of Forgon Mihale and Norbert Lippóczy and a bust monument of Sandor Petofi.

Further down Krakowska St., stands a two-tower Church of the Missionaries, former garrison church, built in the years 1904-1906. In the neighbouring square large **'Solar system' fountain** was mounted. Kids love to run around the glass and metal Sun and granite planets. On the opposite side of the street, hidden behind 'Plany Kolejowe' park, another outstanding example of the Secession (Art Nouveau) architecture is located. It is the 1910 building of a **train station**. Not less interesting is the 1953 locomotive resting in a garage on the opposite side of the railway tracks.

Let's get back to Sobieskiego Square again. If you need refreshment make sure to stop at Tatrzańska Restaurant. That historic place offers the best ice-creams in town. From the square we go up left onto Walowa St. Soon, we reach cosy square with a **statue of King Władysław Łokietek** who granted Tarnów town privileges. Urban legend says that touching King's feet with right hand helps dreams come true. Just a few steps further down the street there are two more interesting sites. One is **Ławka Poetów ('Poets' Bench)** - a tribute to three Polish poets: Agnieszka Osiecka, Jan Brzechwa and Zbigniew Herbert. The other is a symbolic tram stop — reminder of a tram line operating in Tarnów in years 1911 - 1942. The trams (called lady-birds) ran every six minutes. From the stop you can see the Unknown Soldier Monument erected at the beginning of Pilsudskiego St. (former Seminary St., named after the biggest Christian seminary in Europe located down the street). In Strzelecki Park, further to the north on Pilsudskiego St., General Bem's Mausoleum is located.

Another stop on Walowa St. is **Basteja (half turret)** — one of the preserved fragments of medieval city walls. It is best seen from Basztowa St. As we move on Walowa St. we reach a statue of Roman Brandstaetter, famous Polish writer, born in Tarnów. His life-sized figure stands against the corner house, smoking pipe and watching the passerby. The statue was set up at the crossing of Walowa, Rybna and Goldhammera streets, symbolic borderline between the Catholic and Jewish districts of the prewar Tarnów.

Let's now turn left into Goldhammera St., the main street of the Jewish district. House at 1 Goldhammera St. was the last prayer house, closed in 1993. Yiddish and Polish inscriptions still advertise specialties of a restaurant once located at number 6. Further on we find recently renovated square. Entire set up is a tribute to Jan Szczepanik, famous Polish inventor, known as 'the Polish Edison'. Further north, at Szpitalna St., one of the oldest and most interesting Jewish cemeteries in Malopolska is located (key to the gate available in Tourist Information).

But we go back to Walowa St. and follow it to a **statue of General Bem** (1985). Today the site is frequently visited by official delegations from the Hungary. We continue our walk to the end of the street and turn right onto Brama Pilznieńska St. and than right again onto Żydowska (Jewish) St. We pass the 16th c. 'Florence House' and reach **the Bimah**. The structure is the only remaining part of Old Synagogue, the first Jewish house of prayer in Tarnów. The whole site together with neighbouring Rybny Square and city walls was renovated in 2011. Today it is a site of annual concerts organized here during Galician Jews' Remembrance Days.

Following Żydowska St., we arrive back at **the Town Square**. If you still have some time left, consider a stop at a cafe, pub or restaurant in the Old Town to taste some of our specialties. We encourage you to taste two unique products made of tarnina (blackthorn) - a shrub Tarnów was named after. One is Tarninówka - tea, reach with vitamin C. The other is Tarninówka - nalewka, mixture of herbs with alcohol base.

1  
10 + 30 minutes  
Town Square

2  
30 minutes  
Cathedral Basilica

3  
45 minutes  
Diocesan Museum

4  
30 minutes  
Church of the Mother of God of the Scapular

5  
45 minutes  
Ethnographic Museum

6  
15 minutes  
Hungarian section

7  
30 minutes  
Solar System fountain and train station

8  
15 minutes  
Monument to King Lokietek and Poets' bench

9  
30 minutes  
Half Turret

10  
20 + 30 minutes  
Town Square and Old Town