

4. Tourist attractions in Central European Countries



**SLEZSKÁ
UNIVERZITA**

OBCHODNĚ PODNIKATELSKÁ
FAKULTA V KARVINĚ

Předmět:

**The Tourist Attractions in
the Czech Republic and in
the World**

Geography of Switzerland



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- ❑ The beautiful, mountainous country of Switzerland is landlocked in south-central Europe, and remains one of the most popular travel destinations on the planet.
 - ❑ Mountains cover 60% of Switzerland's land area, with ranges of the Alps in the south and the Jura Mountains to the north.
 - ❑ Switzerland's highest point is Dufourspitze (Monte Rosa), in the Pennine Alps, which rises to (4,634 m).
 - ❑ Also located within the Pennine Alps is the infamous Matterhorn whose summit is (4,478 m) high.
 - ❑ Moving north, the Rhine River makes up much of Switzerland's border with Germany, as well as part of Lake Constance.
 - ❑ Switzerland's two largest lakes are Lake Geneva (shared with France) and Lake Neuchatel - which is the largest lake entirely within the country's borders.
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The main tourist attractions in Switzerland



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- ❑ **The Matterhorn**, Switzerland's iconic pointed peak is one of the highest mountains in the Alps. On the border with Italy, this legendary peak rises to 4,478 meters, and its four steep faces lie in the direction of the compass points. The first summiting in 1865 ended tragically when four climbers fell to their death during the descent. Today, thousands of experienced climbers come here each summer.
 - ❑ One of the most popular experiences in the beautiful Bernese Oberland is the **train journey to Jungfrauoch**, the "Top of Europe," with an observation terrace and scientific observatory perched at 3,454 meters. The longest glacier in Europe, the Great Aletsch Glacier begins at Jungfrauoch, and is a UNESCO World Heritage Site. The famous Eiger Trail from the Eiger glacier station to Alpiglen clings to the rocks at the foot of the north face.
 - ❑ Nestled between Lake Thun to the west and Lake Brienz to the east, **Interlaken** is one of Switzerland's most popular summer holiday resorts. In the center of town, Höhematte is a marvel of urban planning with 35 acres of open space. Flower gardens, hotels, and cafés surround the Höheweg.
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The main tourist attractions in Switzerland



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- ❑ Imagine a sparkling blue lake surrounded by mountains, a car-free medieval old town, covered bridges, waterfront promenades, frescoed historic buildings, and sun-splashed plazas with bubbling fountains. No wonder **Lucerne** is a top spot for tourists. Famed for its music concerts, this quintessential Swiss town lures renowned soloists, conductors, and orchestras to its annual International Music Festival. One of the city's most famous landmarks is the **Chapel Bridge**, built in the 14th century. In a small park, lies the famous **Lion Monument**, a poignant sculpture of a dying lion, which honors the heroic death of Swiss Guards during the attack on the Tuileries in the French Revolution. History buffs will enjoy **the Swiss Transport Museum** with extensive exhibits on all forms of transport, including air and space travel, railroad locomotives, and a Planetarium.
 - ❑ **Lake Geneva**, Europe's largest Alpine lake, straddles the Swiss/French border, and laps at the shores of some of Switzerland's most popular cities.
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- ❑ On the shores of Lake Geneva, near Montreux, the **Chateau de Chillon** (Chillon Castle) has inspired artists and writers for centuries. Lord Byron, Jean Jacques Rousseau, and Victor Hugo are among the luminaries who have written about this architectural treasure. Highlights include the **Great Halls**, with magnificent views of **Lake Geneva**; the Gothic underground rooms; the Chapel, adorned with 14th-century paintings; and the Camera Domini.
- ❑ Mirror-like lakes, glaciers, jagged peaks, alpine forests, and oodles of sunshine make **St. Moritz** one of the world's top mountain destinations. Palatial hotels and pricey restaurants are par for the course at this chic resort town, which has hosted two winter Olympics. In an alpine valley 1,800 meters above sea level, the town is divided into two parts: St. Moritz Dorf sits on a sunny terrace overlooking the Lake of St. Moritz. The other part of town, lakeside St. Moritz Bad on the valley floor, is a health resort with less expensive lodging.
- ❑ Spanning 150 meters, the **Rhine Falls** (Rheinfall) at Schaffhausen are the largest falls in Central Europe. The best time to visit is during June and July when the mountain snow melts, and the falls swell in volume to spill over a 21-meter-high ledge of Jurassic limestone.

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- ❑ Founded in 1914, **Swiss National Park** in the Engadine Valley is the oldest reserve in the Alps. The park encompasses more than 170 square kilometers of mountain pine forests, flower-dotted hollows, shrubs, fast-flowing rivers, and limestone crags. Nature-lovers can explore the region on the large network of trails, though veering off these paths is forbidden in an effort to preserve the natural ecosystems.
- ❑ **Zurich** is Switzerland's largest city, a major transportation hub, and a top starting point for travelers. The city lies at the northwestern end of Lake Zurich astride the river Limmat. Beyond its buttoned-up façade, this affluent banking capital boasts a rich line-up of cultural treasures. A great place to begin a walking tour is the cobbled streets of the **Old Town** with its quaint shops, cafés, and galleries. **Mile-long Bahnhofstrasse**, one of Europe's finest shopping strands, beckons with designer stores selling fashion, watches, and jewelry. A top pick is the **Kunsthau Zürich**, the museum of fine arts, with an impressive collection of art from the Middle Ages to the present day. Another favorite is the **Rietberg Museum**, focusing on non-European art with many works from China, India, and Africa.

Geography of Liechtenstein



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- ❑ One of only two doubly landlocked countries in the world, Liechtenstein is a small country barely the size of Washington DC, in the United States.
 - ❑ The Rhine River valley covers the western third of the country, with the mountainous (Alps) the balance.
 - ❑ Liechtenstein's highest point is Vorder Grauspitz, which reaches (2,599 m).
 - ❑ Aside from its tax haven status, Liechtenstein is also a well known Alpine skiing destination, and is home to many museums and castles, including the famed Vaduz Castle in which the Prince of Liechtenstein resides.
 - ❑ And for those seeking adventure, this pocket sized country is brimming with trails and forests for bikers and hikers alike; quaint villages dot the surrounding areas for moments of rest and relaxation.
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The main tourist attractions in Liechtenstein



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- ❑ One of the most picturesque capitals in Europe - and certainly the smallest - **Vaduz** is home to the Liechtenstein Center, a tourist information center offering everything the traveler needs to get the most out of their visit. From here, it's easy to explore the city's main attractions, including its parliament building near the banks of the River Rhine in Peter-Kaiser-Platz. Also worth seeing is the Rathausplatz, home to the historic **Town Hall**, and the **Neo-Gothic parish church** built in 1873, also known as the **Cathedral of St. Florin**. Although it's not open to the public, you'll want to get some photos of the impressive 12th-century **Vaduz Castle**, home to the country's monarch.
 - ❑ High above the village of Balzers in the south of Liechtenstein stands **majestic Gutenberg Castle**, a superbly preserved fortress dating from the Middle Ages. The 70-meter-high hill on which the castle stands has been inhabited since Neolithic times, with many of the most important archaeological finds - including the ancient Mars von Gutenberg statuette - now housed in the Liechtenstein Landesmuseum.
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The main tourist attractions in Liechtenstein



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- ❑ A must-see while in Vaduz is the excellent Liechtenstein National Museum (Liechtenstein Landesmuseum), a state-owned attraction housed in a splendidly preserved 15th-century former inn once visited by Johann Wolfgang von Goethe in 1788.
 - ❑ The small towns of Nendeln and Eschen are the principal communities of the lowland area of Liechtenstein and are well worth a visit. Nendeln is notable for its old foundations from a Roman villa, as well as the Schädler Pottery, established in 1836 and the oldest craft workshop in the country.
 - ❑ Just three kilometers north of Vaduz at the foot of the Drei Schwestern massif is **Schaan**, a busy little industrial town notable for its old Roman fort foundations. In a beautiful location perched above the town is the 18th-century pilgrimage church of Maria zum Trost, notable for its fine views. One of the oldest towns in Liechtenstein, Schaan is home to the **DoMuS** center with its exhibits of local history and art, an interesting coppersmith's workshop, as well as the nearby **Calculator and Typewriter Museum**.
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Geography of Austria



- ❑ In essence, Austria has three main geographical areas.
 - ❑ The Lowlands of the east and southeast are the country's agriculture center. A sliver of lowland also fronts the Lake Constance area on its border with Switzerland.
 - ❑ In the Hill Country, north of the Danube River, the land rises into forested hills and lower mountains up to its border with the Czech Republic.
 - ❑ Most of Austria (70%), is covered by the Alpine Region, central and west, as the Alps extend on into Austria from Switzerland.
 - ❑ In this region several branches of the Alps dominate. The major ones include the Bavarian, Carnic and Otztaler ranges.
 - ❑ The tallest peaks are in the central Tauern Range. The country's highest point, at 12,460 ft. (3,798 m), is located there.
 - ❑ The Tauern Range eventually slopes into the Danube River Valley, and into the eastern lowlands, from Vienna, south to its border with Slovenia.
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Geography of Austria



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- ❑ The Danube (1,771 miles) (2,850 km), is the most significant river in the country. It's the second longest river in Europe, and a vital waterway for commerce. Additional rivers of size include the Drau, Enns, Inn, Mur, Raab and Traun.
 - ❑ Dozens and dozens of lakes run amidst the mountain ranges, especially in the south and to the immediate east of Salzburg. The largest in the county is Lake Neusiedler.
 - ❑ Austria, one of Europe's most popular holiday destinations, attracts tourists year-round, and winter is almost as busy as summer in the spectacular mountain regions. Visitors are drawn as much for the scenic beauty of this Alpine republic's provinces as they are for splendid cities like Vienna (Wien), the historic capital, and beautiful Salzburg, birthplace of Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart.
 - ❑ One of Europe's smallest countries, Austria is predominantly a nation of upland areas and high mountains, with the Eastern Alps occupying a good 60 percent of its territory.
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The main tourist attractions in Austria



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- ❑ The spectacular **Hofburg Palace** in Vienna was for centuries the seat of Austria's monarchy, the powerful Habsburgs. Now the President conducts state business in the same rooms that once belonged to Emperor Joseph II. Nearly every Austrian ruler since 1275 ordered additions or alterations, resulting in many different architectural influences, including Gothic, Renaissance, Baroque, Rococo, and Classicism. Together with its squares and gardens, the entire Hofburg complex occupies 59 acres encompassing 19 courtyards and 2,600 rooms. Highlights of a visit include the **Imperial Silver Collection** and an array of dining services giving a taste of the lavish imperial banquets that once took place here; the **Sisi Museum**, focusing on the life and times of Empress Elisabeth; and the **Imperial Apartments**.
 - ❑ Numerous cities claim a connection to Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart, but few were as important to the famous composer as Salzburg. It's here you'll find No. 9 Getreidegasse, the house where Mozart was born on January 27th, 1756. Now a museum called **Mozart's Birthplace**, the rooms once occupied by his family are full of mementos, instruments, and portraits.
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The main tourist attractions in Austria



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- ❑ Innsbruck is home to the **Hofkirche**, or Court Church, with its spectacular Tomb of Emperor Maximilian I who died in 1519. Widely considered the finest work of German Renaissance sculpture, the monument's central feature is the massive black marble sarcophagus with a bronze figure of the Emperor. On the sides of the sarcophagus are 24 marble reliefs depicting events in the Emperor's life, and around it stand 28 larger-than-life-size bronze statues of the Emperor's ancestors and contemporaries (look out for King Arthur). Other pieces of sculpture include 23 bronze statues of saints from the Habsburg family and 20 bronze busts of Roman emperors. Innsbruck also has the **Maximilianeum**.
- ❑ At 1,998 meters, the **Kitzbüheler Horn** in the Tyrol region is one of the most picturesque of Austria's many summits. Accessible by cableway via the Pletzeralm or by climbing from the village of Kitzbühel, the summit affords glorious views: to the south from the Radstädter Tauern to the Ötztal Alps; to the north, the nearby Kaisergebirge; to the west, the Lechtal Alps; and to the east, the Hochkönig. To the south of the Kitzbüheler Horn rises the 1,772-meter-high Hornköpfli, also reached by cableway.

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- ❑ **Melk Abbey** is one of the world's most famous monastic sites, and its spectacular buildings are laid out around seven courtyards. The most prominent part of this massive 325-meter-long complex is the west end and its twin-towered church rising above a semicircular terrace range.
- ❑ **The Krimmler Ache** plunges 380 meters in three tremendous cascades and makes for an excellent excursion from the nearby village of Krimml. At an altitude of 1,076 meters, Krimml - perched high above the Salzachtal in a wooded valley - is a wonderful place to stop for a few days if you're into hiking.
- ❑ To the east of **St. Veit**, on a crag rising some 160-meters above the valley, sprawls the imposing Burg Hochosterwitz, Austria's most important medieval castle.
- ❑ **Hallstatt**, undoubtedly one of the most picturesque small towns in Austria, is a good place from which to explore the spectacular Dachstein Salzkammergut region, a UNESCO World Heritage site. You'll be rewarded with a chance to explore the **Dachstein Caves**, one of Europe's most impressive cavern networks, which are, in places, up to 1,174 meters deep.

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- ❑ Highlights include the **Giant Ice Cave** with its sub-zero summer temperatures and huge caverns with magnificent frozen waterfalls, and the **Mammoth Cave** with its huge pipe-shaped galleries formed by an ancient underground river.
 - ❑ **The Grossglockner Road** from Bruck, in the Pinzgau, to Heiligenblut, at the foot of the Grossglockner was constructed between 1930 and 1935 and is one of the most magnificent mountain roads in Europe.
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Geography of Germany



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- ❑ By size, Germany is the seventh-largest European country and from north to south the topography varies quite dramatically.
- ❑ The North European Plain extends across the northern reaches of the country; this flat, lowland terrain is dissected by numerous bogs, rivers and streams, and is mostly used as farmland.
- ❑ The North Sea coastline is low, marshy wet land, with dikes, mudflats and scattered islands. The Baltic Sea is hillier with some jagged cliffs. Rugen, Germany's largest island, is forested and rather hilly with steep cliffs and sandy beaches.
- ❑ The land then rises into the forested uplands of central Germany. Major landforms here include the volcanic in origin Harz Mountains and the thickly wooded Rothaargebirge Mountains.
- ❑ Further south the rounded hills and mountains of the Eifel and Huynsruck uplands front the Rhine River Valley. Moving eastward through Germany, the Vogelsberg Mountains, Rhon Plateau (or Mts.) and Thuringian Forest are the dominate features.

Geography of Germany



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- ❑ In the far south the land remains mostly hilly, with heavily forested mountains. The Bohemian Forest covers a lower mountain range along the Czech Republic border, and along the country's far-southwestern border with the Rhine River and France stands the thick (story-book famous) Black Forest.
 - ❑ The Bavarian Alps, the highest mountains in Germany stretch across its southern border with Austria. Snow covered Zugspitze, Germany's highest point is found here.
 - ❑ The country is drained by dozens of rivers. The longest river in Germany is the Rhine. Rising in the Alps of Switzerland, it's overall length runs (820 miles) (1,319 km), and along its path numerous tributaries and branches stretch in all directions
 - ❑ Another river of note is the Danube, which rises in the Black Forest to then stretch across central Europe all the way to the Black Sea.
 - ❑ Additional rivers of size include the Elbe, Ems, Havel, Isar, Lahn, Lech, Main, Moselle, Oder, Spree and Weser.
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The main tourist attractions in Germany



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- ❑ Modeled on the Acropolis in Athens and built for King Frederick William II in 1791, the monumental sandstone **Brandenburg Gate** in Berlin's Mitte district was the city's first Neoclassical structure. Measuring an impressive 26-meters in height - including the spectacular four-horse chariot perched atop - its six huge columns on each side of the structure form five impressive passages: four were used by regular traffic, while the center was reserved for the royal carriages.
 - ❑ The beautiful Black Forest with its dark, densely-wooded hills is one of the most visited upland regions in Europe. In the southwestern corner of Germany and extending 160 kilometers from Pforzheim in the north to Waldshut on the High Rhine in the south, it's a hiker's heaven. Popular spots include Germany's oldest ski area at Todtnau, the magnificent spa facilities of **Baden-Baden**, and the attractive resort of Bad Liebenzell. Other highlights include the spectacular **Black Forest Railway** centered on Triberg with its famous falls, and Triberg itself, home to the **Black Forest Open Air Museum**.
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The main tourist attractions in Germany



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- ❑ The old town of **Füssen**, between the Ammergau and Allgäu Alps, a popular alpine resort and winter sports center, is a good base from which to explore nearby **Neuschwanstein Castle**, one of Europe's most famous royal castles.
 - ❑ In the heart of the historic Port of Hamburg, the magnificent **Miniatur Wunderland**, the world's largest model railway, is an attraction that appeals equally to young and old alike. Boasting more than 12,000 meters of track, this massive scale model includes sections dedicated to the USA and Scandinavia (as well as Hamburg) and incorporates 890 trains, more than 300,000 lights and in excess of 200,000 human figures. Port of Hamburg while you're there. Covering 100 square kilometers, this huge tidal harbor known as the Gateway to Germany is best explored by boat. Afterwards, visit the **harborside promenade**, a lovely pedestrian route, and the **Warehouse District** with its continuous lines of tall brick-built warehouses.
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- ❑ **The Rhine** is Europe's most important waterway, and its most beautiful. With a total length of 1,320 kilometers, this magnificent river stretches from Switzerland through Germany all the way to the Netherlands.
 - ❑ World-famous Museumsinsel, or Museum Island, lies between the River Spree and the Kupfergraben - a 400-meter-long canal off the river - and includes many of Berlin's oldest and most important museums. The heart of this pedestrian-friendly district is the **Old Museum**, constructed in 1830 as a place to exhibit the royal treasures. Soon after, the land behind the museum was set aside for art and the "knowledge of antiquity." Between 1843-55 the **New Museum** took shape, and the **National Gallery** was added in 1876, along with the **Bode Museum**, built in 1904 and home to collections of antiquities. Another highlight of a walking tour of these spectacular museums is the **Pergamon** with its recreated historic buildings from the Middle East.
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The main tourist attractions in Germany



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- ❑ Part of the Wetterstein mountain range, the Zugspitze massif straddles the frontier between Germany and Austria and is surrounded by steep valleys. The eastern summit, at 2,962 meters, is crowned by a gilded cross and can be reached by the Bayerische Zugspitzbahn, a cog railway, or by cable car. Another great way to enjoy this area of outstanding natural beauty is aboard the **Tiroler Zugspitzbahn**, a railway that runs to the Zugspitzkamm station at 2,805 meters.
 - ❑ **Insel Mainau**, the spectacular Flower Island on beautiful Lake Constance, covers an area of 110 acres and attracts many visitors with its beautiful parks and gardens, luxuriant with semitropical and tropical vegetation.
 - ❑ While not exactly the most picturesque of places, the Berlin Wall - or what's left of it - is one of those attractions that any visitor to Berlin simply must see, if only to say they've been there. Also of note is the excellent **Berlin Wall Exhibition**, with its permanent exhibits relating to the Berlin Wall, and the **Berlin Wall Memorial**.
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Geography of Poland



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- ❑ Fronting the Baltic Sea, a lowland plain blends into sandy beaches and dunes.
- ❑ The northern regions are somewhat hilly while flat fertile farmlands dominate the Central Lowlands.
- ❑ Moving south, the land rises into hilly uplands that front the Sudetic and Carpathian Mountain ranges. The tallest peaks are in the Tatra Mountains. The highest point is Rysy at (2,499m)
- ❑ The Oder, Vistula and Warta are the country's major rivers. Numerous small lakes dot the far northeast.
- ❑ Poland has 21 mountains over 2,000 m in elevation, and all are located in the Tatras, along the border with Slovakia. Poland's measured highest-point is Mt. Rysy in the High Tatras; it stands at 2,499 m in elevation. The lowest point in Poland at -1.8 m is located at Raczki Elblaskie in the Vistula Delta.
- ❑ The Bledow Desert, located in southern Poland, is only one of five natural deserts in Europe. It has a total area of 32 sq km. Some of its dunes extend up to 30 m.

Geography of Poland



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- ❑ As for rivers, the longest river in Poland is the Vistula at 1,047 km (651 mi) long. It is followed by the Oder which forms part of Poland's western border, at 854 km (531 mi) long. Other rivers of note include the Bug and the Warta.
 - ❑ Poland has hundreds of small lakes, and in Europe, only Finland has a greater density of lakes.
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The main tourist attractions in Poland



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- ❑ **Bieszczady Mountains** - A paradise for romantics, lovers of nature and restless drifters. The soft green mountains peppered with traditional wooden churches are one of the most secluded areas in Europe. The extraordinary wildlife and picturesque landscapes make it an ideal holiday destination. Bieszczady is the most beautiful in summer and autumn, whereas during winter they invite the fans of skiing.
- ❑ The medium size city of **Czestochowa** lies in the heart of Krakowsko-Czestochowska Upland, the region characterised by picturesque Jurassic rocks. Czestochowa is usually associated with Jasna Gora Monastery which is the biggest Marian sanctuary in the country. For the majority of Poles it is an important pilgrimage destination and a main cult place of the Virgin Mary.
- ❑ **Gdansk** - The cheerful maritime city is popular with both tourist and holiday destination. Situated by the sea, it has a gentle climate and beautiful beaches. A famous seaside resort Sopot is nearby. The exclusive architecture of the Old Town, including the largest brick Gothic church in the world is undoubtedly worth exploring.

The main tourist attractions in Poland



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- ❑ **Cracow** - The former country's capital is one of the top tourist attractions in Europe. Most of the city guests are captivated by its magical atmosphere and the splendid architecture. In Krakow you can see mediaeval cathedrals, the Renaissance castle, Baroque churches, the Art Nouveau theatre and many other monuments. However old and beautiful it is, do not think that Krakow is limited to the monuments and museums.
- ❑ **Malbork (Marienburg)** - The Teutonic Order was founded around 1190 in Palestine to crusade against the Muslims and pagans. In the 14th century the Teutonic Knights conquered a pagan tribe of Prussians and moved their headquarters from Venice to Malbork on the Nogat river which is now northern Poland. A trace of their presence in the town is the imposing red brick castle from 1274 on the river bank, which is the largest Gothic fortress in Europe.
- ❑ **Oswiecim (Auschwitz)** - The modest provincial town of Oswiecim better known under its German name "Auschwitz" was a witness to an enormous evil caused by mankind. During World War II in the largest German extermination camp around 1.5 million people perished.

The main tourist attractions in Poland



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- ❑ **Tatra Mountains** - The highest mountain range between the Alps and the Caucasus. Rocky peaks covered with all-year snow, sharp ridges, picturesque ponds, waterfalls and valleys make this place supposedly the most spectacular in Poland.
 - ❑ **Warsaw** - The capital of Poland. Rebuilt after World War II practically from scratch. Warsaw's vibrant business downtown takes pride in many skyscrapers and ambitious plans to build more. The catchy skyline is still dominated by the enormous Palace of Culture and Science – a Stalin's donation. Warsaw is a big world with an east European flavour. Do not miss the beautiful Old Town, the Royal Route, the Chopin museum, several magnificent palaces and the former Jewish ghetto.
 - ❑ **Bialowieza Forest** - Probably the only intact primeval forest in Europe. Deeply deep. A highly protected biosphere area on the border with Byelorussia. The reserve of European bison (żubr), an animal extinct elsewhere. Plenty of wild game. Orthodox churches and two surviving Tartar mosques.
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Geography of Slovak Republic



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- ❑ Heavily-forested, the rugged Ore Mountains dominate the central regions of Slovakia, while the Carpathian Mountains cover its northern borders with the Czech Republic and Poland.
 - ❑ The tallest peaks are in the Tatra Mountains. The highest point is Gerlach Peak, rising to (2,665m).
 - ❑ The mountains slope into the fertile lowlands of the Danube River plain as well as to its southeastern border with the Ukraine.
 - ❑ Significant rivers include the Danube, Morava, Hron, Hornad and Vah. The Hron, is a 298 km long tributary of the Danube and the second longest river in Slovakia. Its basin covers approximately 11% of Slovakia's territory.
 - ❑ Slovakia is rich in small natural lakes, as well as reservoirs that were built in order to store water to prevent flooding or to generate electricity.
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The main tourist attractions in Slovak Republic



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- ❑ **Spiš Castle – The largest castle complex in Europe** - Spiš Castle 200 meters above the surrounding land, located on a dolomite rock, lies one of the most precious cultural monuments – Spiš Castle (Spišský hrad). It is situated in a region called Spiš, above the town of Spišské podhradie and the village Žehra. It is evidence of a huge architectural development from the 12th to 18th century and with its area of 41426 m² – one of the largest castles in Central Europe.
 - ❑ One of the oldest continuously manufacturing companies worldwide – **Kremnica Mint** is situated in a small town called Kremnica. Kremnica was promoted to a free royal town by Hungarian King Charles Robert of Anjou on 17th of November in 1328, the same year the Kremnica Mint was established.
 - ❑ **Janko Král' Orchard** is located in the northern part of Bratislava – Petržalka. It is bordered by Danube, the Old Bridge (Starý most) access road, the New Bridge (Nový most) access road and the main road. Janko Král' Orchard was established in 1774–1776 to create a public park.
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The main tourist attractions in Slovak Republic



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- ❑ There are only 3 aragonite caves worldwide; one in Mexico, one in Argentina, one in Slovakia. **Ochtinská Aragonite Cave** is situated in southern part of the country, near to Rožňava. It is only 300 meters long, but still very significant because of its aragonite filling. The cave was discovered by Jan Bystrický in 1954 and it has been opened to public in 1972. The most attractive part of the cave is Milky Way Hall with its characteristic oval formations.
 - ❑ **Dobšinská Ice Cave** is an amazing ice cave in Slovakia, situated close to the mining town of Dobšiná, in Slovak Paradise mountains, and 130 meters above the river Hnilec. Total length of the cave is 1483 meters (according to some sources – 1232 meters), of which 515 meters are open to public from May to September. It is included in the UNESCO World Heritage list as a part of Caves of Aggtelek Karst and Slovak Karst site.
 - ❑ **The wooden bridge** in a small town called Kolárovo in the south of Slovakia is the longest bridge in Europe built entirely from wood. The bridge over the river Malý Dunaj is 2.25 meters wide and 86 meters long.
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The main tourist attractions in Slovak Republic



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- ❑ **The biggest wooden altar** in the world is a part of the Church of St. Jacob (Kostol sv. Jakuba) that is located in a small but historically rich town – **Levoča**.
 - ❑ The largest city in Slovakia, as well as being the capital, **Bratislava** lies on the River Danube and borders both Austria and Hungary. Come here for a trip to the imposing Bratislava Castle, perched on a plateau above the city and originally built in the 10th century. The city is located in an area of lush vegetation so there are a wealth of parks, open spaces, and lakes in and around Bratislava, including Rusovce Lake, although if you choose to venture there, be forewarned, it is also famous as an area for nudists.
 - ❑ **Štrbské Pleso**-Among all the Vysoke Tatry (High Tatra) towns that is my all time favourite. Located at the end of the railway line from Poprad it's the most famous thanks to the lake that is in the middle of the town. Walking around it takes around half an hour and is definitely one of the most pleasant things to do there. The most famous landmark in Štrbské Pleso is the ski jumping hill that was built for the FIS Ski Championships in 1970, sadly it's not used anymore.
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Geography of Hungary



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- ❑ Hungary is a mostly flat country, dominated by the Great Hungarian Plain east of the Danube. The plain includes approximately 56% of the country's land. The terrain ranges from flat to rolling plains.
 - ❑ The land rises into hills and some low mountains in the north along the Slovakian border. The highest point, located in the Matra Hills, is Mt Kekes at (1,015m).
 - ❑ The lowest spot is 77.6 m above sea level, located along the Tisza River in the south of Hungary, near Szeged.
 - ❑ The Danube is the major river, as it divides the country almost in half, and is navigable within Hungary for 418 km. Additional rivers of note include the Drava and Tisza.
 - ❑ Hungary has three major lakes. Lake Balaton, the largest at 78 km long and from 3 to 14 km wide, has an area of 592 sq km. It's central Europe's largest freshwater lake.
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The main tourist attractions in Hungary



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- ❑ When you first set eyes on spectacular **Buda Castle in Budapest**, you'll appreciate why so many people consider the city the "Paris of the East." This spectacular historic landmark - now a UNESCO World Heritage Site - ranks right up there with Versailles in terms of its majestic proportions and wonderful design. Its symmetrical layout focuses on the lovely 61-meter-high central dome facing the **Danube**, where you can get stunning views of the castle and the other buildings on Castle Hill. Parts of the original medieval building have been reconstructed, including the **Buzogány Tower** and the impressive 15th-century South Tower.
 - ❑ The beautiful Danube River flows through Hungary from north to south, and as it passes through Budapest, it splits the city in two. One of the best sunset views of the river and of both Buda and Pest is from the **Freedom Bridge**, a favorite spot for locals. Other great places from which to view this majestic river are at the **Danube Bend**, one of the country's most popular recreational and excursion spots. This is where the river winds its way through the heavily wooded **Visegrád Mountains** before turning sharply south (the river's "knee") towards Budapest.
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The main tourist attractions in Hungary



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- ❑ If you're looking for a vacation that combines some down time with a rich cultural experience, Hungary delivers. There are many historic spa towns and facilities throughout the country offering everything from simple bathing in regenerative waters to longer stays in lovely spa resorts. Hungary's reputation for its hot springs and baths dates back more than 2,000 years to the Romans, who highly valued the healing effects of Hungarian thermal waters. Then, in the 16th century, it was the turn of the Turks who built the many **Turkish Baths** still in use today. All told, more than 1,000 springs provide medicinal and thermal water to natural and medical spas, one of the most popular being **Lake Hévíz** with its 25°C yearly average water temperature, the largest biologically active thermal lake in Europe. In Budapest, excellent spa packages are available at the lovely **Szechenyi Bath and Spa**.
 - ❑ Tihany is one of the most popular holiday resorts on **Lake Balaton**. Originally an island, this tiny peninsula - covering just eight square kilometers - boasts some of Hungary's most extraordinary scenery.
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The main tourist attractions in Hungary



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- ❑ Lillafüred in the **Bükk Mountains** is another very popular spa destination in Hungary. It's also famous for its many spectacular caves, all within an easy walk of the town. Some of the most interesting to explore are the **István Cave** with its fantastic stalactite formations, and the **Petofi Cave**, famous the world over for the impressions of extinct plant species left in the limestone walls. For a more adventurous hike, take the trail to the **Szeleta Cave** with its relics from the Ice Age, including skillfully made arrows and spears.
 - ❑ Sopron, just 64 kilometers south of Vienna and eight kilometers from the **Austrian** border near the eastern foothills of the **Alps**, is a popular destination for day trippers. Its allure stems as much from its attractive surroundings as from its many well-preserved medieval and Baroque buildings.
 - ❑ Hungary has many delightful historic forts, castles, and palaces, each steeped in history. One of the best known is Eger Castle. Located in the lovely spa town of **Eger** on the southern slopes of the **Bükk Mountains**, Eger Castle once protected the gateway into northern Hungary.
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The main tourist attractions in Hungary



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- ❑ Dominating the northwest corner of the fortified **Old Town** of **Pecs** lies the Cathedral of St. Peter. Built on the site of an ancient Roman burial chapel, the cathedral, like so many historic attractions in Hungary, shows influences from many different cultures. Afterwards, take a walk over to the nearby **Mosque of Yakovali Hassan Pasha**, with its 22-meter-high minaret and museum. In the center of the Old Town, look for **Szénchenyi tér**, a lovely medieval marketplace.
 - ❑ Located above the beautiful old town of **Visegrád** in the **Danube Bend**, just 40 kilometers north of Budapest, the ruins of **Visegrád Royal Palace** and the old citadel are an easy day trip from Hungary's capital.
 - ❑ One of the largest and most impressive stalactite caves anywhere in Europe and the largest in Hungary, **Baradla Cave** is protected by Aggtelek National Park, on the Slovak-Hungarian border about 2.5 hours by car from Budapest. The park covers almost 200 square kilometers, much of it also protected as a **UNESCO World Heritage Site**.
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Thank you for your attention
