



General information

Łódź is the third third-largest city in Poland located in the central part of the country, with a population of circa 715,000. It is the capital of Łódź Voivodship, and is approximately 135 kilometers south-west of Warsaw, Poland's capital. The city's coat of arms is an example of canting: depicting a boat, it alludes to the city's name which translates literally as "boat."

History

Łódź has a very long history (the city rights were granted in 1423) but until the beginning of the 19th century, the city remained a small settlement. This situation completely changed in the 19th century when Lodz was turned into a modern industrial center and a main textile production center populated by Poles, Germans, Jews and Russians, who started to arrive since 1848. The immigrants came to the *Promised Land* (*Ziemia obiecana*, the city's nickname) from all over Europe.

From the very beginning Łódź's economy focused on the textile industry. As a result, Łódź grew from a population of 13,000 in 1840 to over 500,000 in 1913. By the time right before World War I Łódź had become one of the most densely populated industrial cities in the world, with 13,280 inhabitants per km². The textile industry declined dramatically in 1990 and 1991, and no major textile company survives in Łódź today. However, countless small companies still provide a significant output of textiles, mostly for export to Russia and other countries of the former Soviet Union.

Nowadays

The city benefits from its central location in Poland. A number of domestic and international firms have located their logistics centers in the vicinity. Two motorways, A1 spanning from the north to the south of Poland, and A2 going from the east to the west intersect northeast of the city. Work has also begun on upgrading the railway connection with Warsaw, which reduces the travel time.

Academic Łódź

Łódź is a thriving center of academic life. Currently Łódź hosts three major state-owned universities, six higher education establishments operating for more than a half of the century, and a number of smaller schools of higher education. The tertiary institutes with the most students in Łódź include: University of Łódź (*Uniwersytet Łódzki*), Lodz University of Technology (*Politechnika Łódzka*), Medical University of Łódź (*Uniwersytet Medyczny w Łodzi*), National Film School in Łódź (*Państwowa Wyższa Szkoła Filmowa, Telewizyjna i Teatralna w Łodzi*), Academy of Music in Łódź (*Akademia Muzyczna im. Grażyna i Kiejstuta Bacewiczów w Łodzi*), Strzemiński Academy of Art Łódź (*Akademia Sztuk Pięknych im. Wł. Strzemińskiego w Łodzi*).

For more information about the University of Lodz see <http://iso.uni.lodz.pl/> .For more information about the Centre of Tax Documentation and Studies see <http://www.cdisp.uni.lodz.pl/en/> .

Touristic attractions

Lodz offers many touristic attractions. They include the Piotrkowska Street (one of the longest commercial streets in the world, the site of most restaurants, bars and cafes), many large 19th century textile-factory complexes, including the largest built by Izrael Poznanski and now converted to a shopping center called "Manufaktura" and a museum of modern art (i.e. Muzeum Sztuki II, which displays a 20th and 21st century art collection. For the further details, please refer to the website: <http://www.inyourpocket.com/poland/lodz> with a PDF travel guide *Lodz in Your Pocket* for download.

Weather

In Poland in October it is usually cold. Average temperatures in June range from 10°C to 15°C. Please check the current weather forecast at <http://www.accuweather.com/en-us/pl/lodz/lodz/quick-look.aspx?cityid=274340> .

Access

Łódź Władysław Reymont Airport (LCJ) is an international airport located approximately 6 km (3.7 mi) southwest of the Lodz city center. It offers connections to: Amsterdam, Dublin, East Midlands, Edinburgh, London, Munich, Oslo and Prague. For further details, please, check: <http://www.airport.lodz.pl/en/our-destinations.html>. While travelling to Lodz by air, travelers frequently choose the largest Polish international airport F. Chopin Airport in Warsaw (WAW) which is located approximately 130 km north-east from Lodz. The Warsaw F. Chopin Airport has connections with most European airports, as well as airports outside Europe. Transportation options from Warsaw F. Chopin Airport include: a taxi to Lodz (travel time approximately 1,5 hours, depending on traffic; estimated cost: PLN 600), a train to Lodz (travel time approximately 2 hours, estimated cost PLN 60).

Local transportation

Taxis in Łódź are the best travel option and are affordable. Fees amount to about PLN 2,50 per kilometer (plus about PLN 6,00 of an initial fee). Taxis wait near the airport, railway stations, hotels and main touristic sites. Besides, it is easy to order a taxi by phone (average waiting time is 5 minutes). Lodz also has an extensive net of public transportation connections: buses and trams (see <http://mpk.lodz.pl/lang.action?lang=en>).