

# Leisure in Poland



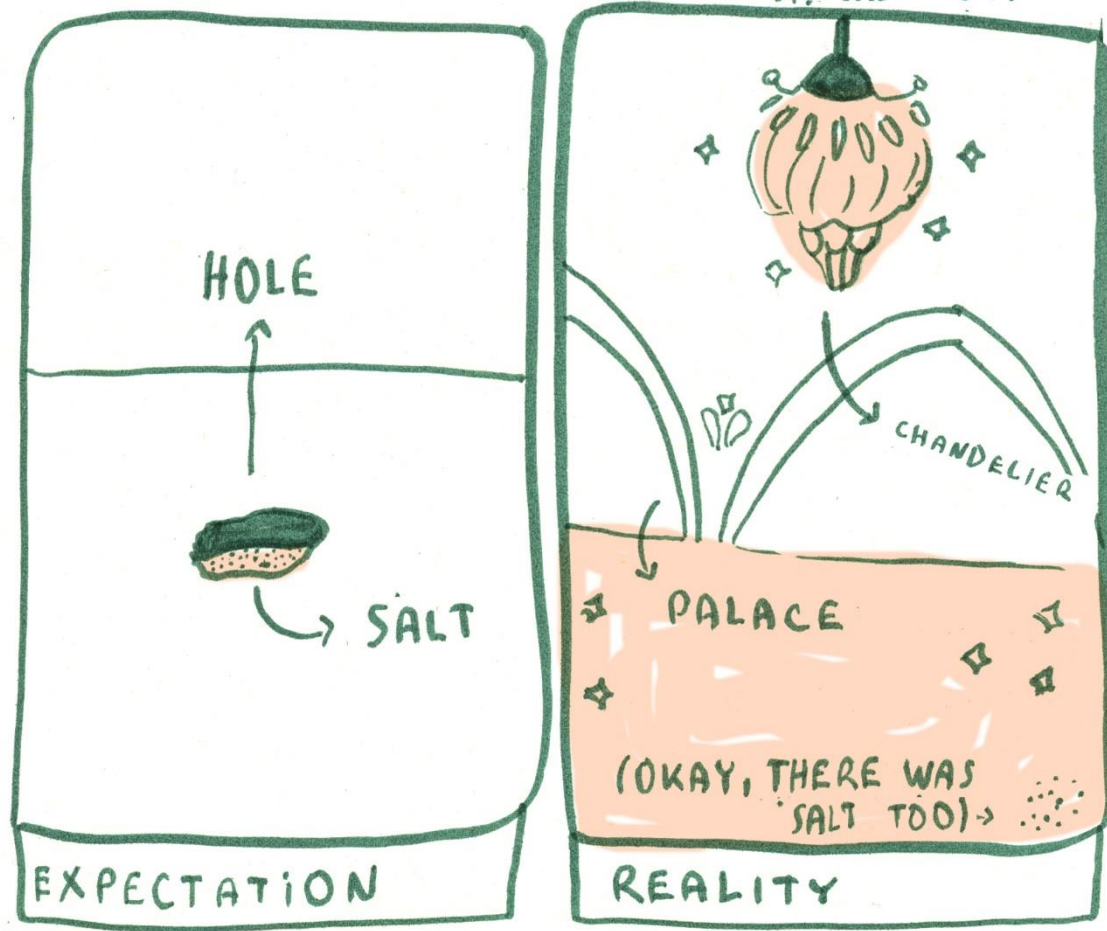
*This is an academic semester, but this does not mean that it should not include a lot of fun! For me Erasmus is just as much about exploring as it is about my studies, because apart from academic knowledge, it's just as useful to learn about the world itself. In this entry I will write about amazing places to visit in Poland, both for multiple day trips and for just an afternoon program.*

I've just got back from Krakow, and I have to give credit to the Eugeniusz Geppert Academy because the school organised this three-days trip for the Erasmus students as a gift – it was completely free! – in order to introduce them another Polish city. On the first day of the trip we had three different tour guides showing us around the Wawel Castle and the Main Square, and they were both giving off rustic, almost medieval vibes, one could easily feel like they're in a fantasy novel. Despite of our countries being close to one another, Polish cities have a different structure and a very distinctive architecture, so I'd recommend checking out those colourful buildings if you are a fellow architecture enthusiast (...or if you'd like to have a cool background for your insta selfies;).

The peak of the trip for me was the Wieliczka salt mines – and I really did not expect a salt mine to be this amazing, but it looked like a palace on the inside with giant chandeliers and shiny marble floors. Of course the floor was not marble but salt, which covered most of the walls also – in the corner of my eyes I caught a kid quickly lick the wall out of curiosity, the expression on his face told me that it was salty indeed 😊. Wieliczka is a small town on the outskirts of Krakow, and when we took a walk in the cobblestoned streets only to find this little treasure: a small family-restaurant with traditional Polish food being made in front of our eyes. I took a chance to taste some salty pancakes – one with cabbage, and one with mushrooms. If you ask me, a dish is only truly Polish if it contains either one of these ingredients.



### THE SALT MINES:



We also took a visit to the MOCAK contemporary art museum, which is an absolute must for everybody who's involved with arts. The permanent exhibition is packed with amazing and even interactive artwork, for example there is a complete stage design scene exhibited, and it's not only

for the eyes: You can go and interact with the items just like you were part of the show. If you explore the scene you can find video documentations of actual plays that took place on that stage, and all in all it's nice how they are so open to bring artworks closer to people through the possibility of interaction. The bookshop of the gallery felt like another exhibition itself, the best part that you can actually take home what you like 😊. I have collected art books and art magazines for so many years, and this place felt like a heaven to me.

So all in all, I would absolutely recommend Krakow for a mid-semester visit, it's only four hours away from here and you can see so many things even during one weekend.

Now let's talk about my city – Wrocław. This is my second semester here as you might already know, but I still haven't run out of amazing places to discover and try out. As the weather gets warmer I try to spend as much time outside as possible, so I visited the Japanese Garden, which is an eastern-style botanical park with giant koi fish and small creeks. It's not located far from the city centre, yet when we entered it felt like we're in a different universe: everything was so calm and you could hear the nature around you. It was very relaxing to take a break for a mid-semester afternoon. Actually, this is one very important lesson that Erasmus teaches: at home probably I wouldn't go to places like this, but here I try to experience more and therefore when I go back, I will continue to visit new places every now and then. It helps maintain interest in your everyday tasks and helps keep you motivated.

## A PHILOSOPHICAL AFTERNOON WITH DUCKS:



With the whole erasmus group we usually go on the Student Island which is a great place for piknik and even setting campfires is allowed. We also visit an Art Café often, and on Friday night they invite international musicians to play live. I have seen bands from Northern Europe to South America, including some local bands singing in polish.

I hope I managed to make you more interested in spending your freetime and semester here in Poland, because this truly is one of the most atmospheric places I've ever been to! In the next entry I will talk about career development during the erasmus program and some opportunities you can live with ever before becoming a student here!







