

POLAND

General facts

Area: 312.685 km² (120.727 sqm) – ninth country in Europe
Population: 38,6 million (2000)
Capital: Warszawa (Warsaw)
Official language: Polish
Ethnic groups: Polish (99%)
Religion: Roman Catholic (95%), Orthodox (2%), Protestant (1%)
Currency: 1 zloty (PLN) = 100 groszy
Political system: parliamentary democracy

Constitutional attributes

National flag: 



National emblem:

National anthem: "Mazurek Dąbrowskiego"

Territorial extremes

The most northern point: 54° 50' (Rozewie cape at the Baltic Sea coastline)
The most eastern point: 24° 08' (Zosin at the Bug river, Ukrainian border)
The most southern point: 49° 00' (Opolonek peak in the Bieszczady mountains, Ukrainian border)
The most western point: 14° 07' (Osinów Dolny at the Odra river, German border)

Borders

Total length of borders is 3582 km, therefore:

- ❑ Baltic Sea – 528 km
- ❑ Russia – 210 km
- ❑ Lithuania – 103 km
- ❑ Byelorussia – 416 km
- ❑ Ukraine – 529 km
- ❑ Slovakia – 539 km
- ❑ Czech Republic – 790 km
- ❑ Germany – 467 km

Hydrography

Basins:

- ❑ Baltic Sea 99,7% of the territory (therefore: Vistula river 54%, Odra river 34%).
- ❑ North Sea (high Izera valley, Okrzeszyn area, Kudowa Zdrój area and Dzika Orlica valley in the Sudety mountains),
- ❑ Black Sea (high Czadeczká valley, high Orawa valley and Ustrzyki Dolne area in the Carpathian mountains).

The longest rivers: Vistula 1047 km, Odra 854 km (742 km in Poland), Warta 808 km, Bug 772 km (587 km in Poland)

The biggest lakes: Śniardwy (114 km²), Mamry (105 km²), Łebsko (71 km²)

The deepest lakes: Hańcza (109 m.), Drawsko (80 m.), Wielki Staw (79 m.)

Climate

Moderate with changeable weather.

Average temperatures: January from -7°C (in the mountains) to 0°C (on the coast); July: from +16°C (on the coast) to +19°C (in the south)

The highest recorded temperature: +40°C (Opole area, 1921)

The lowest recorded temperature: -41°C (Siedlce area, 1940)

Average annual rainfall: 600 mm

The highest annual rainfall: 2770 mm (Dolina Pięciu Stawów in the Tatry mountains, 2001)

The lowest annual rainfall: 275 mm (Poznań, 1982)

Geomorphology

Average altitude: 173 m. (terrain over 500 m. asl states approx. 3% of the territory)

The highest point: Rysy (NW peak) 2499 m. (prominence 10 m.) in the Tatry mountains

The lowest point: Raczki Elbląskie -2 m. in the Żuławy Wiślane area

Despite the majority of a lowland the Polish landscape is very varied.

Prominent peaks

In Poland there are at least 453 peaks with prominence equal or greater than 100 m., therefore 97 has altitude over 1000 m. They can be divided into three main groups:

- The Carpathian mountains (south-east Poland) – 339 peaks (87 over 1000 m.)
- The Sudety mountains (south-west Poland) – 88 peaks (10 over 1000 m.)
- Other highland and lowland (rest of Poland) – at least 26 peaks (all below 1000 m.)

The most prominent peak is Śnieżka (Karkonosze, Sudety mountains) – 1602m/1202m.

Other three peaks has prominence greater than 600 m.: Diablak (Babia Góra, Carpathian mountains) – 1725m/1075m, Śnieżnik (Sudety mountains) – 1425m/657m and Turbacz (Gorce, Carpathian mountains) – 1315m/605m.

The highest prominent peak is Mięguszwiecki Szczyt Wielki (Tatry, Carpathian mountains) – 2438m/207m. Other seven peaks have altitude over 2000 m. (all in the Tatry mountains).

The extreme prominent peaks are:

- the northernmost: Rowokół (115m/100m) 54:39:15N
- the southernmost: Opołonek (1028m/165m) 49:00:10N
- the westernmost: Góra Grzywacz (116m/116m) 14:29:55E
- the easternmost: Wapielnia (387m/112m) 23:16:06E

Note: The list for the Polish lowland is still uncompleted. The only regions thoroughly covered and map-checked are: Jura Krakowsko-Częstochowska, Góry Świętokrzyskie, Roztocze, Wyżyna Śląska and northern Poland. In the other area one can expect approx. 5-10 points with altitude 100-300 m. and prominence lower than 150 m.

58 maps are used to estimate height, prominence, key cols, prominent parents. Many observations are verified in terrain by the author.

Source number, name of the map, scale, contour lines grid, editor and edition year.

KAR[1] Beskid Śląski, 1:50k, 20m, 20m, ExpressMap 2004

KAR[2] Beskid Śląski, 1:50k, 10m, Compass 2004

KAR[3] Beskid Mały, 1:50k, 10m, Compass 2003

KAR[4] Beskid Żywiecki, 1:50k, 20m, ExpressMap 2005

KAR[5] Kysucke Beskidy, 1:50k, 20m, VKU Harmanec 2002

KAR[6] Wokół Babiej Góry, 1:50k, 20m Compass 2005

KAR[7] Zapadne Tatry, 1:25k, 10m, VKU Harmanec 2005

KAR[8] Wysoke Tatry, 1:25k, 10m, VKU Harmanec 2005

KAR[9] Beskid Makowski, 1:50k, 10m, Compass 2003

KAR[10] Beskid Makowski 1:75k, 20m, PPWK 2002

KAR[11] Okolice Krakowa, 1:50k, 20m, WZKart. 1998

KAR[12] Gorce i Kotlina Nowotarska, 1:50k, 20m, VKU Harmanec 2004

KAR[13] Gorce i Pieniny, 1:50k, 20m, ExpressMap 2004

KAR[14] Beskid Wyspowy, 1:50k, 10m, Compass 2005

KAR[15] Beskid Wyspowy, 1:75k, 20m, PPWK 2002

KAR[16] Pieniny, 1:25k, 10m, AW WiT 2004

KAR[17] Beskid Sądecki, 1:50k, 20m, ExpressMap 2005

KAR[18] Beskid Niski, 1:50k, 20m, Compass 2005

KAR[19] Beskid Niski 1:75k, 20m, Demart 2005

KAR[20] Beskid Niski - zapadna cast, 1:50k, 20m, VKU Harmanec 2001

KAR[21] Beski Niski - sredna cast, 1:50k, 20m, VKU Harmanec 2002

KAR[22] Beskid Niski - część wschodnia, 1:50k, 20m, WZKart. 2005

KAR[23] Pogórze Różnowskie, 1:50k, 10m, Compass 2004
KAR[24] Pogórze Ciężkowickie, 1:50k, 10m, Compass 2005
KAR[25] Beskid Niski i Pogórze, 1:125k, 25m, PPWK 2005
KAR[26] Bieszczady, 1:50k, 10m, Compass 2001
KAR[27] Bieszczady, 1:65k, 20m, ExpressMap 2005
KAR[28] Bukovske vrchy, 1:50k, 20m, VKU Harmanec 1996
KAR[29] Bieszczady Wysokie, 1:40k, 20m, W. Krukar Ruthensus 2004
KAR[30] Bieszczady i Góry Sanockie, 1:75k, 20m, PPWK 2005
KAR[31] Krosno, 1:100k, 20m, WZKart. 1995
KAR[32] Przemyśl, 1:100k, 20m, WZKart. 1995
SUD[1] Góry Izerskie, 1:40k, 20m, Plan 2005
SUD[2] Karkonosze, 1:30k, 20m, ExpressMap 2005
SUD[3] Rudawy Janowickie, 1:25k, 10m, Plan 2005
SUD[4] Góry Kaczawskie, 1:40k, 20m, Plan 2005
SUD[5] Góry Wałbrzyskie i Kamienne, 1:40k, 20m, Plan 2005
SUD[6] Góry Stołowe, 1: 60k, 20m, ExpressMap 2005
SUD[7] Ziemia Kłodzka, 1:50k, 10m, Compass 2005
SUD[8] Jeseniky - Rychlebske Hory, 1:50k, 10m, SHOCart 2003
SUD[9] Jeseniky - Kralicky Sneznik, 1:75k, 20m, SHOCart 2004
SUD[10] Masyw Ślęży, 1:25k, 10m, Plan 2005
SUD[11] Sudety Zachodnie, 1:75k, 50m, Plan 2005
SUD[12] Jelenia Góra, 1:100k, 20m, WZKart 1996
SUD[13] Przedgórze Sudeckie, 1:50k, 10m, Plan 2005
SUD[14] Ziemia Kłodzka, 1:60k, 20m, ExpressMap 2005
POL[1] Jura Krakowsko-Częstochowska, 1:50k, 10m, Compass 2005
POL[2] Jura Krakowsko-Częstochowska, 1:50k, 20m, ExpressMap 2005
POL[3] Góry Świętokrzyskie, 1:75k, 20m, ExpressMap 2005
POL[4] Kielce, 1:100k, 20m, WZKart. 1997
POL[5] Jastrzębie Zdrój, 1:100k, 20m, WZKart. 1994
POL[6] Bytom, 1:100k, 20m, WZKart. 2000 (M-34-49/50)
POL[7] Rostocze Środkowe, 1:60k, 20m, WNTE 2005
POL[8] Wyspa Wolin, 1:50k, 20m, ExpressMap 2006
POL[9] Słowiński Park Narodowy, 1:45k, 10m, Gallileos 2007
POL[10] Kaszuby, 1:75k, 10m, Demart 2006
POL[11] Elbląg, 1:100k, 20m, WZKart. 2000 (M-34-63/64)
POL[12] Suwalszczyzna, 1:85k, 10m, ExpressMap 2006

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