

PIKNIK NAD ODRA 2019

On the weekend of 11 and 12 May, the fifteenth edition of the Picnic on the Oder was held. On the waterfront of the Odra River near Wały Chrobrego in Szczecin, Poland, travelers, food lovers and people who just want to have a good time met to participate in the great open-air event. The event gathered 244 exhibitors, the tourist and gastronomic offer predominated.

This year the weather was beautiful. Blue sky, rich offer in the tourist fair zone, smells coming from an enormous pot where the local specialty was cooking and music traveling with the wind, attracted crowds of visitors. According to information received from the local police, about 100,000 people visited the Picnic during two days of the event.

"We've heard about the Picnic from our colleague, we decided to come and see how such events look like in Poland. We had a great time" - says Oscar from Mexico, who has been living and working in Szczecin for a year. At the Picnic you could meet people from different parts of the globe. Some of them came to the city especially to take a part in this event. Among the crowd you could hear German, Danish or English language.

As every year, many attractions awaited the participants of the Picnic. The main part of the event was the Tourism Fair MARKET TOUR, which this year was organized for the 28th time. It is the second oldest tourism fair in Poland.

At the POLREGIO stand there were quizzes and lotteries, you could also take a picture of yourself in a photo booth. Thanks to them the inhabitants of West Pomerania could take a part in the "Pociąg do Pikniku" – a free guided tour around Szczecin.

The Brandenburg representation also provided us with a lot of entertainment. In addition to their large stand, where we had the opportunity to learn about the most interesting parts of the region, a quiz with prizes took place on stage, and the "Fanfaregarde" orchestra from Frankfurt / Oder, invited by the exhibitor, marched through the Picnic alleys. Once again, we were visited by the Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development with its beautiful wooden stand promoting vacation in the countryside, they also held a contest for the participants of the event.

Stargard's stand was officialy recognized as the best exhibition. Together with the organizers of the post-apocalyptic festival OldTown, the Baks Café and Browar Stargard, they prepared a unique zone where you could eat delicious ice cream, enjoy a good beer and hear about the city's tourist offer.

There would be no Picnic without the Great Cooking - a West Pomeranian fish soup was prepared in a giant pot. For several hours the participant of the events lined up in order to try a delicious soup. About 140 kilograms of cod were used for its preparation.

At the Picnic's stage we were introduced to the local artists such as ETA, Vintage Love, Lepiej nie będzie, Kapitan Stereo, ZGRA:JA, Vendre, L.U.Z. Blues, Lipka, DJ Noxrate and DJane Cannabiswhisky. LORD - Sound of Queen recreated the greatest hits of the famous American band. Dancers from Twerk Factory, Fabulous Gyalz and Hold di Fire made Earth itself tremble. We could also watch performances of Crystal Gymnastics Academy, Grace Dance Group, Rytmix Dance Studio and Just Cheerleaders. The Traveler's Club Soliści gave us a recipe for cheap travelling, and the organizers of the OldTown festival talked about their vision of the world after nuclear annihilation. The event was led by a charismatic presenter - Wojciech Heliński from Kudowa Zdrój.

The regional stage of the XIX edition of the "Our Culinary Heritage - Tastes of Regions" culinary competition was also held on the scene. Two teams of chefs fought for a place in the national finals. The Marshal's Office of the Zachodniopomorskie Voivodship was responsible for this event.

From Texas, through Europe, to Thailand - mobile restaurants, which came to the Odra embankment as part of the Festival of Food Trucks, took us on a culinary journey. In the traditional products zone, we could buy high-quality delicacies from West Pomerania, Greater Poland and Lubusz voivodeships. The best craft beer, from the region and beyond, could be enjoyed in the brewery zone.

The Picnic on the Oder is also a spring family festival, which offers attractions for both children and adults. This year kids and their parents could also enjoy a theme park, playgrounds and little shops with toys and sweets.

The organizing crew from the West Pomeranian Agency for Tourism Development (ZART) is extremely pleased with this year's Picnic on the Oder. "Despite the fears about the weather, which in the last days frightened us with rain, everything went well. The attendance was good, we received positive feedback from the exhibitors. We are already preparing for the Picnic on the Oder 2020. We would like to invite you to join us next year. The second weekend of May – save the date! "