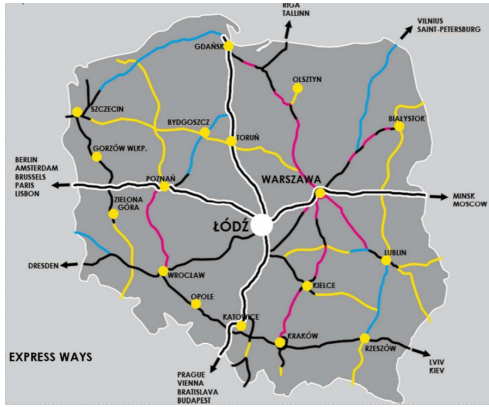


## ŁÓDŹ 9. - 12. SEPTEMBER 2019

We read that Łódź is a nice city. We looked at pictures and videos on line and decided that we should go there.



Map



City flag

The reason for the boat in flag and coat of arms is that Łódź means boat in Polish.



Coat of arms

Łódź is Poland's third largest city and the capital of Łódź [voivodship](#) in the middle of the country.

Łódź is mentioned for the first time in 1332. It was granted city rights by King [Władysław II Jagiełło](#) in 1423. However, the heyday came however in the early 1800s. The small agricultural town, which in 1820 had less than thousand inhabitants, was then transformed into one of Europe's largest textile industry centers with over half a million inhabitants just before the outbreak of the First World War.

However, the two world wars stopped the adventurous development. The multicultural character of Łódź was also lost, with Poles, Jews, Germans and Russians creating a multicultural crucible in the city known as 'The Promised Land'. After World War II, Łódź became Poland's informal capital until the reconstruction of Warsaw was finished.

The financially difficult period in the 1990s took its toll on the textile industry in the city, but after investing in new technology industries, business in Łódź has gained a new foundation.

Today, the city is the main center for the textile and film industries as well as the electronics and entertainment industry in Poland. With its universities, theaters, museums and the world famous film college, Łódź is also an important academic and cultural center. The city's historic 19th-century center is painstakingly restored, and old post-factory complexes are revitalized.



It was [Norwegian](#) who had the easiest connection. There are direct flights from [Oslo Airport Gardermoen](#) to Warsaw. From there we chose to take the train to Łódź. The plane departed early in the morning, at 07.35, so in order to avoid leaving home in the middle of the night, we therefore booked accommodation at the [Park Inn by Radisson Oslo Airport Hotel West](#) and space for the car at [Gardermoen Parkering](#), which is right next to the hotel.



At the airport in Warsaw we could buy the train tickets at a vending machine on the train as it started. They last for 20 minutes, as long as the train ride to the center lasts.



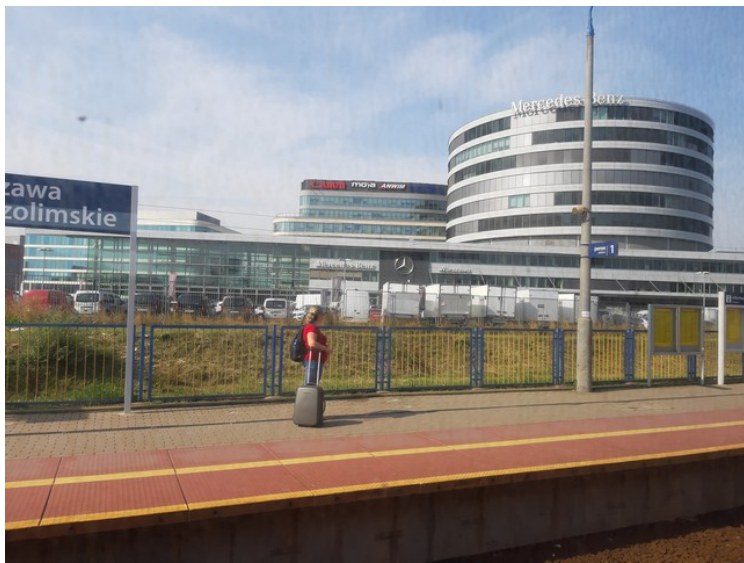
This guy helped us.



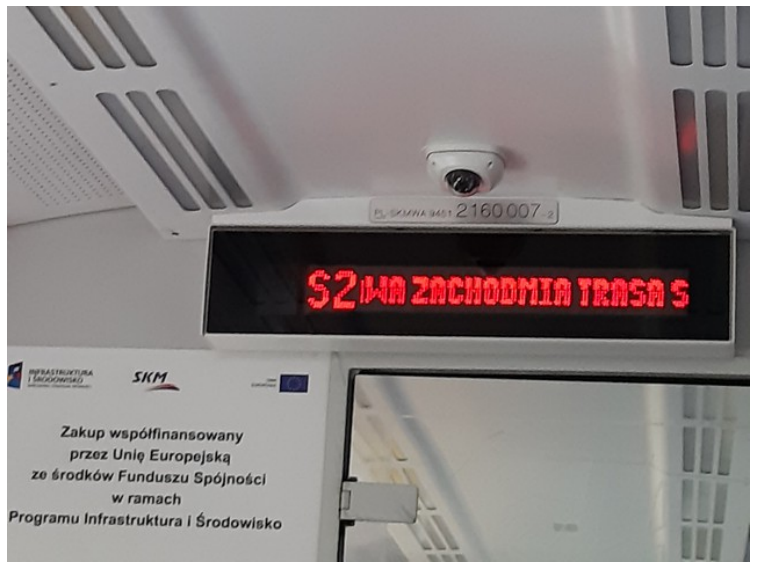
Just before start.



Underway.



This train went directly to [Warszawa Zachodnia](#). Here we pass a station.



Here we arrived at the station. We went off here.



Then we bought tickets to Łódź. The train was departing at 11:30. Here I study the information boards to find the right track.



I study the train tables posted on the platform.



On the platform.



Then came the train we should take.



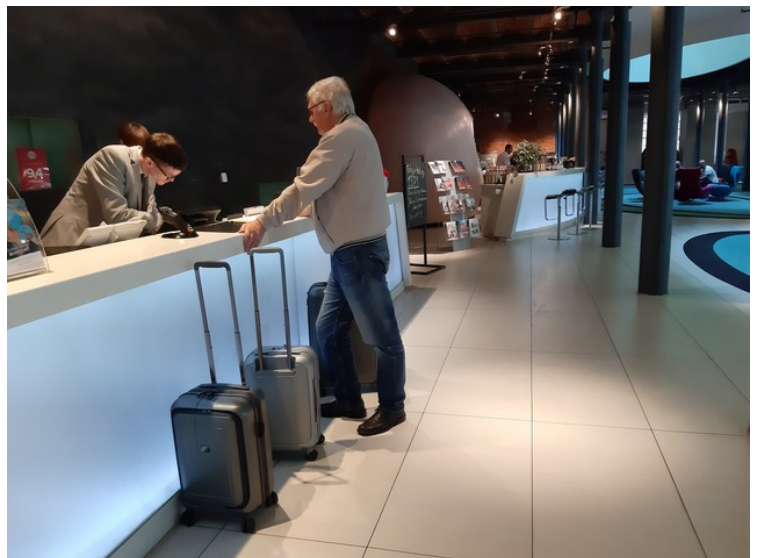
A jackdaw sat on top of the information board. It should not take the train, because it flew on before the train arrived.



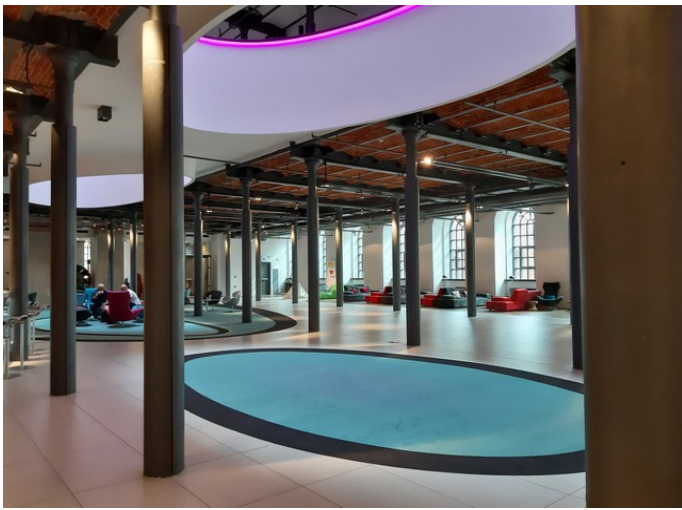
Then we are on the train. The train ride took 1 hour and 23 minutes and we got off at a station called [Lodz Fabryczna](#). We walked out of the station and found a taxi that drove us to the hotel.



The hotel is called [Vienna House Andel's Lodz](#). It is located in the old town, Stare Miasto, in a building that used to be a spinning mill. It opened in 2009.



Here I check in.



The reception area is quite big.



We had booked a junior suite. Then we got plenty of room. Some photos from the suite.





The view.  
There was road work in the street outside the hotel.



When we had installed ourselves in our suite, we went out to eat. We walked just behind the hotel where there were many restaurants. We went into one called [Galicja](#).



The restaurant is decorated in old style.



This is the front of the menu.



We just wanted a little lunch.

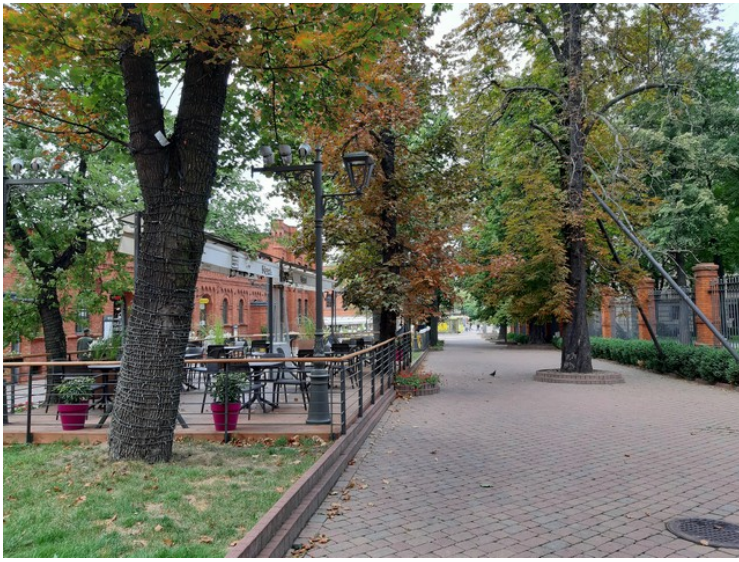


We therefore ordered a goulash soup. It looked something like this. It was very good, but there was so much meat in it that we satiated for the rest of the evening.



We took some more pictures on the way out.





This is right outside the restaurant. They have an outdoor area here, but it was probably a bit too cold to sit out here now.



We walked down the square a few meters. It's pretty big.



This whole area is called Manufaktura. It is a huge area that was the center of the cotton industry in the 20th century. Now it has been transformed into a mall and service area.



On the way back to the hotel. The back of the hotel on the left.



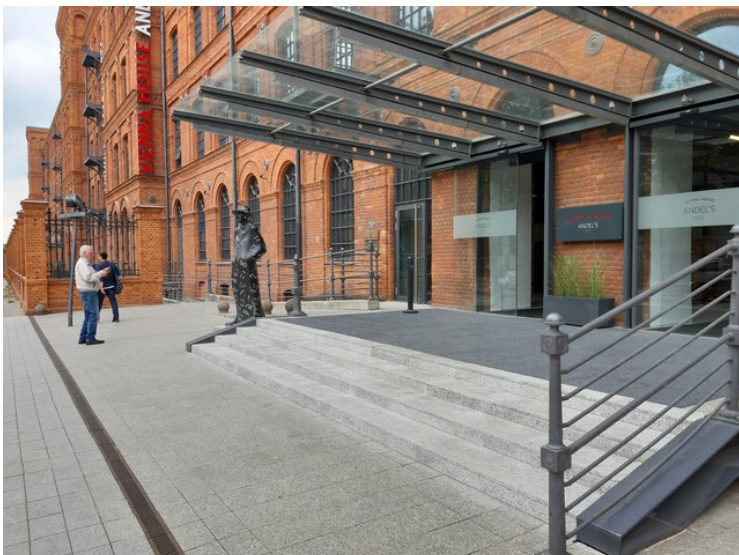
This is one of the entrances to the area.



Great work in wrought iron.



He stands here outside the entrance to the hotel.



I had to have a picture.



This pigeon walked with us.





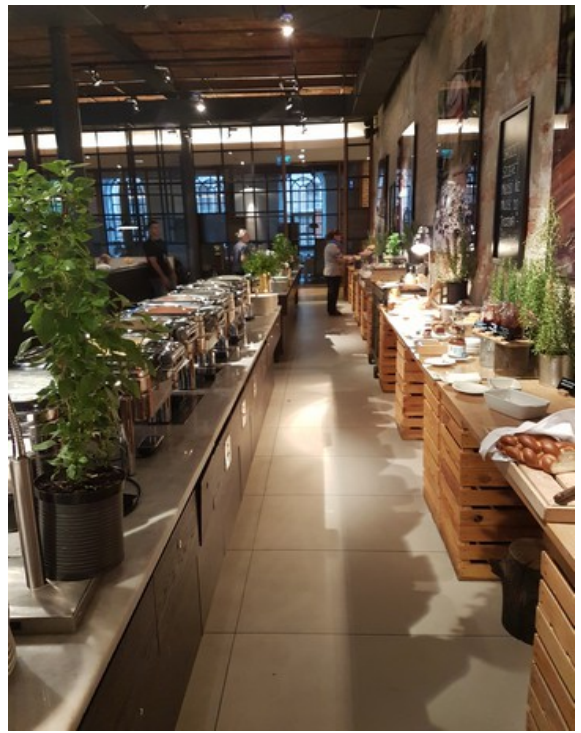
Photos from the bathroom.



In the room we noticed this tag on a wine bottle that stood on the bench.



The water bottles were also equipped with a label.



The breakfast at the hotel had a great selection of just about everything imaginable. It has not been so extensive in any hotel we have been to before.



Many choices.



The most original was that a wax board was placed where the honey ran into a spoon lying in a wooden barrel.



This is in the hallway outside the room. The old brick walls show everywhere.



Drawings have been made in several places.





Openings in the hallway from the 3rd to the 1st floor. The colored lighting on the edge changed color continuously in all the colors of the rainbow.



In the reception.



Advertising on the Sky Fly Bar, which is located on the roof of the hotel.



Outside the entrance stands a device that has certainly been used in the spinning mill.



This is an ashtray made of a brick. It stands in the smoking area outside the entrance.



Then some pictures from the square in the area.



The fountain, which is Europe's longest by 300 meters.



The cinema in the background.





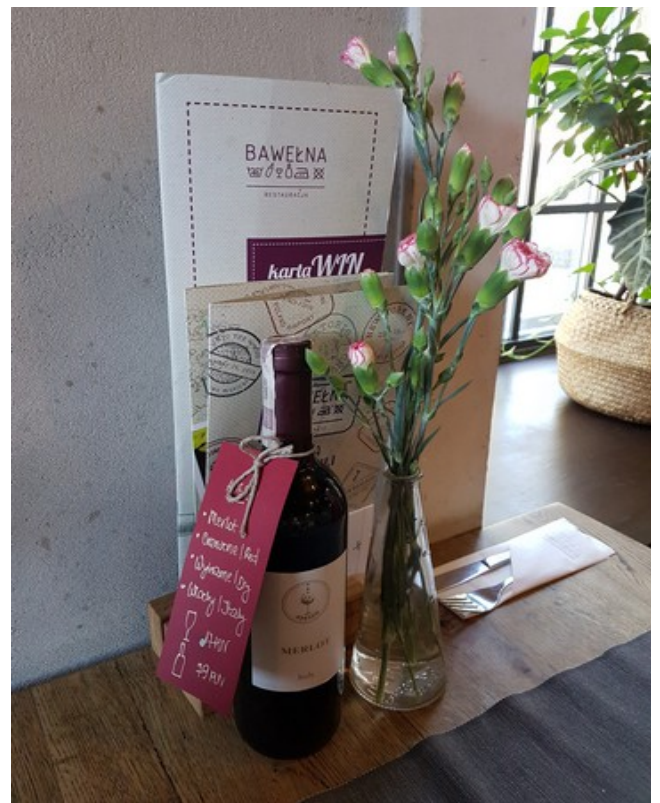
This was a large factory area. The letters are also large.



The next evening we ate at a restaurant called [Bawełna](#). It is located by the square.



There are labels on the wine bottles here as well.



I ate a steak with pepper sauce.



Anne Berit had a chicken salad.



Afterwards we sat outside for a while until the sun disappeared.

#### A little more about the history of this area

The story begins in 1835, when Kalman Poznański's family moved from Aleksandrów Łódzki to Łódź. Kalman then had a store on the old town square, and he sold spices and various other goods. He also built the first two-story house. Over a dozen years later, he handed over the family business to his son, Izrael, at a time when Łódź was transformed from a sleepy little town into a multicultural, European metropolis.

In 1871, Izrael Kalmanowicz Poznański bought the first plots in the western part of the city, along Ogrodowa Street. One year later, the first loom was put into operation, with two hundred English mechanical looms powered by a steam engine. The factory grew each year and gained new weaving mills, bleaching, finishing facilities, spinning mill, its own gas station and fire station, and the wealthy factory owner began to build a magnificent palace, now considered one of the historic monuments in Łódź.

At the end of his life, Poznański was one of the richest industrialists in Poland. After his passing away, the family company went to his eldest son, Ignacy Poznański. At that time it was a huge factory with a then impressive modern housing for workers, where they lived in buildings on several floors. Ignacy completed the palace and continued to expand the factory. In 1913, as many as 7,000 people worked for I.K. Poznański Cotton Products Company, but during the First World War and in the interwar period, the Joint Stock Society of Cotton Products I. K. Poznański had to deal with financial setbacks and the family lost its position in the company.

The new part of factory history came after World War II. Nationalized Cotton Products Company No. 2, dedicated to Julian Marchlewski and then given a trade name 'Poltex', was in full swing for a few decades, continuing the textile tradition in Łódź.

The 1990s and the currency crisis resulted in many bankruptcies. The Ogrodowa Street plant did not escape the crisis. It went bankrupt, but a few years later, a vision emerged of reviving the factory complex as a whole. The author of this concept was Mieczysław Michalski. He was President of Poltex's Board of Directors and found partners who were ready to bring new life into this unique post-industrial area. In 2003, the company Apsys Polska started construction on the site of the former I.K. Poznański factory. Three years later, on May 17, 2006, Manufaktura was taken into use.

During the redevelopment, great emphasis was placed on preserving the old atmosphere of the place, and Manufaktura is therefore dominated by old post-factory buildings in red brick. The complex's trademark is the old, five-story spinning mill at Ogrodowa Street. In 2009, the four-star hotel Andel's was opened here. The other buildings in Manufaktura are erected in a similar style, but are smaller than the spinning mill. The exception is the Trade Gallery, which is a brand new construction made of glass and steel. However, it is lower than the surrounding brick buildings and therefore cannot be seen from the outside.