

HYDROPOLIS – EVERYTHING STARTS WITH WATER HERE

PHOTOS BY SYLWIA PIWOWAR

It's more than just a museum, an exhibition, or a science center. Hydropolis in Wrocław is a unique multimedia center dedicated to water knowledge, which in an original way combines history, nature, technology, and modern design into one coherent story about the most valuable resource on our planet. And it has been like that for 10 years.



Acrylic copy of Michelangelo's
David sculpture.
Man and Water Zone



1

Photo 1
65-meter 360-degree screen
in the Planet of Water zone

In the heart of Wrocław, on Na Grobli Street, there is an old underground reservoir for clean water, dating back to the turn of the 19th and 20th centuries, which served as a key part of the city's water supply system for over 100 years. Today, thanks to careful revitalization, this historic site, with its brick architecture and industrial character, has been given new life as Hydropolis – a modern center devoted to water knowledge.

Hydropolis captivates with its attractions even before a visitor steps through the doors. The longest multimedia water printer in Europe (46.5 m) is drawn open like a curtain in front of the visitors entering the center. The exhibition is divided into seven thematic zones, each presenting the substance of life from a unique and fascinating perspective.

The tour begins with the Planet of Water zone. This is a prologue to the history of water, shown on a 360-degree panoramic screen 65 m in length. The narrative is voiced by Krystyna Czubówna (national voice-over legend), who tells the story of the birth of water in the universe and its journey to the surface of the Earth. In the Depths zone, we delve thousands of meters beneath the ocean's surface. Faithful models of the creatures dwelling there, along with a replica of the Trieste bathyscaphe, remind us how little we know about this mysterious world. The Ocean of Life reveals the diversity of aquatic organisms – from microscopic fry to giant marine mammals. Interactive installations enable visitors to explore coral reef ecosystems and understand their delicate balance. In the Man and Water zone, we discover that water is not only a component of our body but also a symbol present in culture – representing birth, purification, and the sacred. The statistics presented in this zone highlight huge contrasts in water consumption worldwide. The City and Water zone prompts reflection on the impact of urbanization. We learn about the mechanisms of the sewerage system, water consumption in Wrocław, and the history and magnitude of the 1997 millennium flood.

Young visitors will discover a place to learn through play at Hydropolis, where you can build a dam, steer a boat, or explore the water cycle. The relaxation area offers a moment of respite amidst the sounds of a tropical forest and a living moss wall, which depicts the distinctive nature of the Amazon. History and technology enthusiasts will enjoy the History of Water Engineering zone. Here, visitors can see inventions such as the Archimedes screw, the water clock or Heron's turbine, which demonstrate how people sought to harness the power of water in ancient civilizations. In the States of Water zone, visitors can become meteorologists, learning the basics of weather forecasting, different types of clouds, and the water cycle, as well as experiencing a snowstorm and fire from water vapor.

Hydropolis is an excellent space for individual tourists or families, and thanks to its rich program of workshops, it is also ideal for school trips and organized groups. The facility is fully accessible to people with disabilities.

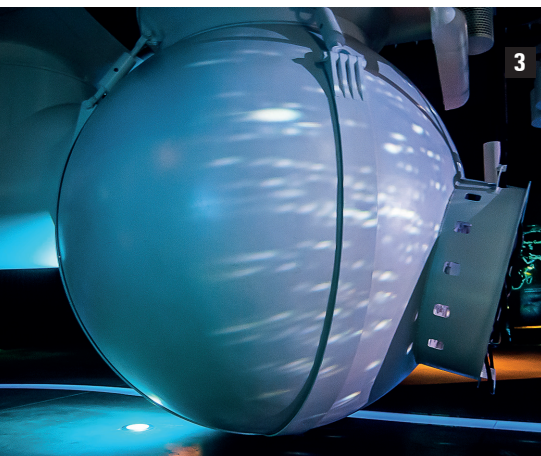
The modern center for water knowledge, which blends theoretical science with experiences and fun, has welcomed over 3 million visitors in 10 years, becoming one of the biggest tourist attractions in Wrocław. Hydropolis inspires reflection on the role of water in human life and the ecosystem, teaching respect for natural resources. The centre is the most spectacular embodiment of the educational mission pursued by the Municipal Water and Sewerage Company in Wrocław. For years, the company has been committed to caring for the environment and engaging in social initiatives. Hydropolis is a place created for people, so that they could satisfy the curiosity about the world in an accessible way and look for solutions to the mysteries of physical phenomena around us, as well as for the planet, helping to leave it in a better condition for future generations.

RAFAŁ STEFANIAK, MPWIK WROCŁAW



2

Photo 2
Visitors can watch a 10-minute film about the origins of water on Earth on a spherical screen. Planet of Water Zone



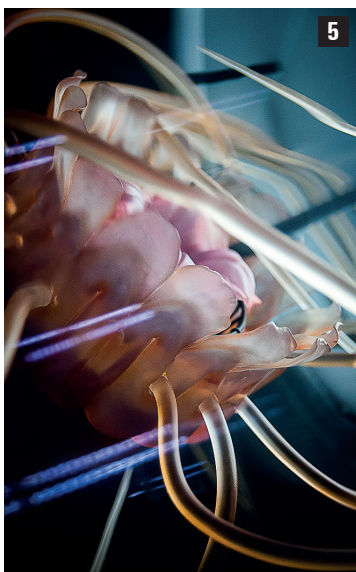
3

Photo 3
Trieste bathyscaphe cabin. Depths Zone



4

Photo 4
Interactive map of the world's shipwrecks. Depths Zone



5

Photo 5
Periphylla periphylla. Depths Zone



6

Photo 6
Scotoplanes globosa. Depths Zone



7

Photo 7
Caulophryne pelagica. Depths Zone



8

Photo 8
The green wall in the Relaxation Zone, symbolizing the Amazon, is covered by reindeer lichen



9

Photo 9
In the Depths Zone, you can see creatures that live as deep as 8,000 m below sea level

Photo 10
A tiger shark hunting a school of 1,500 tuna. Ocean of Life Zone



10

Photo 11
The best way to explore Hydropolis is to follow the path of water



11



Photo 12
 Replica of Karl Heinrich
 Klingert's diving suit – one of
 the world's first diving suits.
 City and Water Zone

Photo 13
 Archimedes Screw. History
 of Water Engineering Zone

Photo 14
 A replica of the Trieste
 bathyscaphe, which was
 the first vessel to reach
 the bottom of the Mariana
 Trench. Depths Zone

Photo 15
 The longest outdoor water
 printer in Europe

