**POLAND AND ITS PLACE IN EUROPE AND EUROPEAN UNION**

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Summary

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Poland is a fascinating country, which surprises of majority of first time visitors. It geographical location and library history made it a unique place. Poland lies on the central Europe and borders with Russian Federation, Lithuania, Belarus, Ukraine, Slovakia, Czech Republic and Germany. The total area of land makes Poland the 9th largest country in Europe.

Poland is a democracy. With a president who is a head of state. The Polish Constitution dates from 1997. The government structure is leaded by prime minister. On the 1st of may 2004 Poland joined the European Union and 2007 the Schengen zone. Thus travelling to Poland requires the Schengen visa. After joining EU Poland experienced a tremendous increase in the number of foreign visitors. Every year Poland is visited by about 60 million travelers.

The Polish economy has come a long way since a communism from 1989. Polish free market economy is one of the biggest success stories among the post communist countries. The world bank considers Poland to be one of the healthiest high income economy of the region. And one of the fastest growing within the EU. Poland was the only member of the EU to avoid recession and have the positive GDP. It is one of the a major direct of foreign investment process in central Europe.

Thanks to the dynamic political and economy changes in recent years Poland has taken a major step forward in virtually every sphere of life.