

## More amazing things to see in Lublin...

Lublin is a little bit like a 37-year-old Ryan Giggs; it just keeps giving.

Early this morning and late this afternoon I had the opportunity to explore even more of the city's cultural heritage by visiting the Grodzka Gate museum at the Teatr NN as well as the open-air village museum on the outskirts of the city.

Everything I've seen over the past few days has been truly fascinating and today was no different.

This morning I was given a tour around the museum at Grodzka Gate, this is probably one of the most impressive museums I have ever visited. The exhibit charts the history of Lublin's Jewish community that had thrived in the region up until the outbreak of World War II, only to be completely destroyed by the time the Nazi occupation of Poland came to an end.

Before the occupation the area in Lublin around Grodzka Gate was home to an enormous Jewish community, which accounted for around 40 per cent of the city's overall population. However, nowadays Lublin's Jewish district has been all but destroyed with only a few remnants left behind and even fewer Jews officially registered as residents of the city.

Such is the harrowing nature of holocaust history, the majority of museums I've visited focus on statistics and numbers, but with Grodzka things are totally different. The purpose of the museum is to rebuild Lublin's Jewish history through primary sources including photographs, town planning documents, address details and most fascinatingly through testimonials from Jews who used to live in either the community prior to the war or in the ghetto that was established under Nazi rule.



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Later in the evening some locals took me by car to the outskirts of the city to visit Lublin's open-air museum. The centre is made up of old houses taken from across the Voivodeship of Lublin to help convey how Poles used to live in past centuries. Again, this was pretty magical too.









Tomorrow I'll have to sum up the top-five best and worst things to see and I'm finding it difficult to muster any bad words about Lublin. It's more likely to be a top-twenty best places to see list... The mind boggles when you hear that this place missed out on the European Capital of Culture 2016 award, it really does.