

## "CRYSTAL DAYS" FESTIVAL IN LUBAN, POLAND

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1. Drone view on the Main Square in Luban and Mineral show. Exhibits are located in Town Hall (with the clock tower).

**Photo: "Spirifer".**

2. Crowds on main square during the "Crystal Days".

3. Workshop "Modern methods of amateur gold rinsing".



The "Crystal Days" festival in Poland is one of the lesser-known but more exciting mineral events in Europe. Held each year in Lower Silesia in Southwestern Poland, it's now hosted in the town of Luban after running for many years in the nearby town of Lwówek Śląski.

The festival is built around an open-air mineral/fossil/jewellery market attended by many dealers from Poland and beyond along with presentations, mineral displays (both thematic and competitive) and live music and events.

This year the thematic displays, held in the main town hall was dominated by Johann Holzmann's magnificent agate collection, displayed by region and with some truly exceptional agates. For me the highlights were the agates from China (which you rarely hear about) along with some truly exceptional Argentinian and Mexican classics.

The next display was dedicated to calcite from the nearby Grabiszyc quarry, where it occurs as both well-defined orange crystal groups and spherical yellow-greenish balls.

Moving on, another display entitled "Poland – Mineralogical Eldorado" was put together by Andrzej Korzekwa, Mariusz Oleszczuk and the "Spirifer" Geological Society to show some of the very best minerals from Poland found in recent years. This includes halite and gypsum coloured green by inclusions of various copper minerals (atacamite, etc), an incredible 2018 topaz find from Strzegom, and Baryte with pyrite from the Lubin mine, also found in 2018.

The final thematic display was entitled "Mineralogical Discotheque" – a display of worldwide minerals from both the "Spirifer" and Mariusz Oleszczuk collections dedicated to the variety of colour and form in the mineral world.



4. Exhibit "Mineralogical Discotheque".



5. Exhibit "Poland – Mineralogical Eldorado" featuring recent finds from Poland.



6. Exhibit "Agates of the World" from Hannes Holzmann collection.



7. The best known **topaz** specimen from recent find in Boryw, Strzegom area, Poland. Size 11 cm. Specimen: "Spirifer".  
8. **Halite** with copper secondary minerals inclusions from recent find in Lubin, Poland. Size 16 cm. Specimen: "Spirifer".  
9. **Baryte** with **pyrite** from recent find in Luban, Poland. Size 20 cm. Specimen: "Spirifer".  
10. Spheroidal **calcite** from Grabiszyce quarry, Luban area, Poland. Size about 5–7 cm. Specimens: M. Oleszczuk (left), and "Spirifer" (right).  
11. Deep orange **calcite** from Grabiszyce quarry, Luban area, Poland. Size 15 cm. Specimen: "Spirifer".