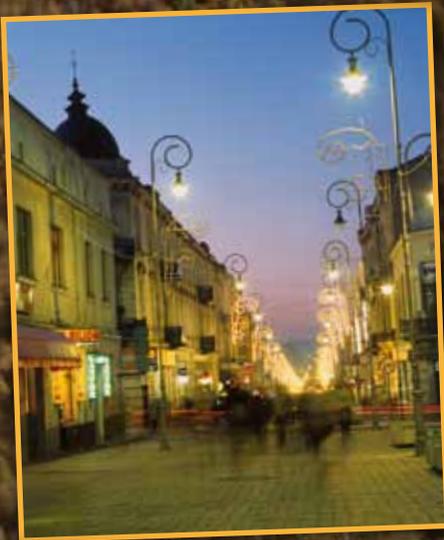


The Świętokrzyski Region Its Major Tourist Attractions





The Świętokrzyskie voivodeship occupies an area of 11,691 sq km – 3.7% of Poland's total area, and its population amounts to 1.3 million people – 3.4% of Poland's nationals.

The voivodeship comprises 14 counties and 102 communes, while the city of Kielce itself enjoys the status of a county. The biggest cities of the region include Kielce (pop 200,000), its economic and tourist center, Ostrowiec Świętokrzyski (pop 74,000), Starachowice (pop 55,000), Skarżysko-Kamienna (pop 49,000), Sandomierz (pop 25,000), and Końskie (pop 23,000). It borders on such voivodeships as Małopolskie, Śląskie, Łódzkie, Mazowieckie, Lubelskie, and Podkarpackie.

Nearly the whole of the Świętokrzyskie voivodeship spreads over the hilly area of the Małopolska Upland. River Vistula defines its eastern and southern borders, while River Pilica determines its border on the west. The Kielce upland occupies the northeastern part of the voivodeship, the Przedborska upland - its western part, and the eastern section of the Nidziańska Basin – its southern part. The whole region is located in the left-hand side section of the Vistula Basin. The Vistula, Pilica, Kamienna, Nida and Czarna are the biggest rivers of the Świętokrzyski region.

The Świętokrzyskie voivodeship has diversified and variegated landscape. Here the history intermingles with legend and its splendid monuments of architecture, culture and nature are witnesses of the region's eventful past. Especially noteworthy are the Holy Cross Mountains (Góry Świętokrzyskie), constituting the tourist center of the region. The relics of the Holy Cross enshrined in the Benedictine abbey on top of Mt Łysa Góra gave their name to the whole region. The Świętokrzyskie Mountains spread from the west to the east, across the central part of the voivodeship. Next to the Sudeten Mountains, this is Poland's oldest mountainous geological formation and one of the oldest in Europe. It has a peak at each end: Mt Łysica (612m) in the west and Mt Łysa Góra (595m) in the east.

The Świętokrzyskie voivodeship is one of Poland's cleanest regions. It also distinguishes itself thanks to its diversified geological structure, land formations, climatic and hydrogeological conditions as well as to its rich fauna and flora. Thus, 67% of the voivodeship's area is under legal protection. Boasting one of Poland's most protected natural environment, the Świętokrzyski region shelters many important elements of the European ecological network known as NATURA 2000 and of the ECONET program. From year to year, the Świętokrzyskie voivodeship becomes more and more attractive for tourists due to the continuous promotion of its tourist attraction through the development of its hospitality facilities and better sign-posting of its tourist trails for hikers, bikers and horse-riders.

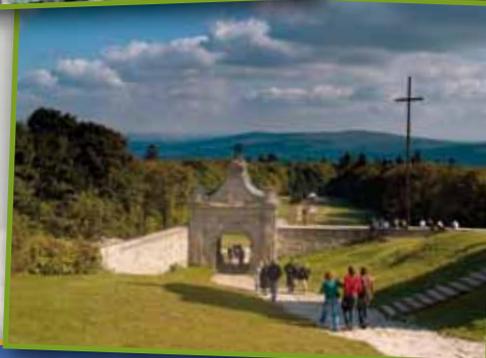
The Świętokrzyski Region, or a Spiritual Energy Site

You are welcome to visit the magic and rich in spiritual energy Świętokrzyski Region.

You are invited to the Spiritual Energy Sites from which one can derive spiritual, physical and intellectual energy.

In search of spiritual energy provided by religious experiences as well as by religious cult sites one can travel to Święty Krzyż, Kalków-Godów, various sanctuaries and along the Cistercian trail. It's worth a while to pay a visit to remote places of peace and silence such as the Pustelnia Złotego Lasu (Golden Forest Hermitage) in Rytwiany, stop by wayside shrines of the Poniemie Region, or look into more and less important holy places and churches. Visiting historical sites of the Świętokrzyski Region to see traces of the past and treasures left by its inhabitants will supply you with a load of intellectual energy. Especially noteworthy are the historical monuments of architecture in such cities as Sandomierz, Kielce, Pińczów, or Szydłów. The whole region is dotted with castles, palaces and manors (Ujazd, Kurozwęki, Sobków, Chęciny), and its rich culture and history are documented by numerous museums, memory rooms and displays. You will be taken for a journey into the times of the Old Polish Industrial Center thanks to well-preserved monuments of technology, while the skansen (Open-Air Ethnographic Park) in Tokarnia will put you in contact with folk traditions and customs. A rich offer of active tourism and our region's spas will provide you with unlimited source of physical energy. Modern health resorts of Busko-Zdrój and Solec-Zdrój ensure full regeneration of vital forces. Enthusiasts of sports experiences will certainly enjoy airstrips at Masłów and Pińczów as well as equestrian centers, ski-lifts, kayaking trips and many other outdoor events. Hikers and bikers have hundreds of kilometers of tourist trails at their disposal, running through very scenic countryside and near attractive water reservoirs. And the above described are only a sample of tourist attractions which you can encounter and enjoy while visiting the Świętokrzyski Region.

Welcome!



Święty Krzyż (Holy Cross)

Centuries ago, Mount Łysiec known as Święty Krzyż used to be a favorite meeting place of witches. According to folk tales their sabbaths were accompanied by wizardry, hellish dances and games. The remains of a stone ring (8th c.) surrounding the mountain top testify to the existence of an important pagan place of worship. In Poland and abroad, Święty Krzyż is known for its Benedictine Abbey that enshrines a fragment from Jesus' cross. At present, the 1000-year-old sanctuary of Holy Cross serves as a monastery for the Oblate missionaries. Tourists and pilgrims can visit a neoclassical church (18th c.) as well as the Oleśnicki family chapel with a reliquary containing a fragment of Holy Cross and their burial crypt. The Oblate Missionary Museum and the exhibitions of the Świętokrzyski National Park are certainly worth a visit. The monastery



kitchen serves nice meals, and the old pharmacy – now a café – offers traditional herbal drugs and syrups.

Sanctuary of the Relics of Holy Cross and the Museum of the Oblate Missionaries of Our Lady the Immaculate

Święty Krzyż 1, 26-004 Bieliny, gmina Nowa Słupia
tel. 41 317 70 21, www.swietykrzyz.pl

Museum opening hours:

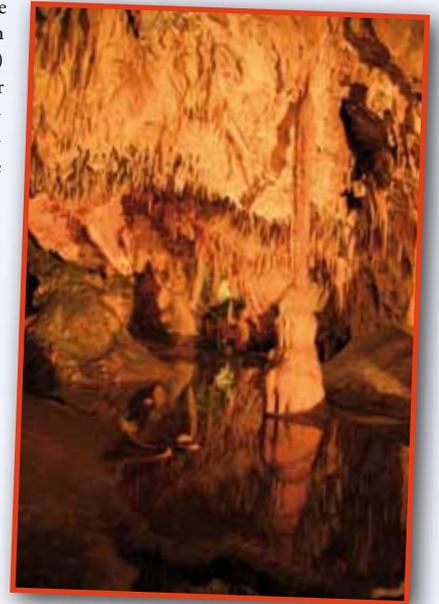
9am–12.00 and 1pm–4pm on weekdays, 13.00–4pm on Sundays.

Monastic Complex on Święty Krzyż

Open to visitors: 9am–12:30pm and 1pm–5pm on weekdays,
1pm–5pm on Sundays and holidays.

Paradise Cave

While traveling across the Świętokrzyski Region, it's enough to exit E7 road (Kraków – Kielce) to find yourselves in the very center of the Paradise – the most beautiful cave in Poland known as Paradise Cave. Visitors cover a route of about 180 meters, which leads through many spectacular galleries, chambers and rooms featuring wonders of inanimate nature such as stalactites, stalagmites, columns, draperies, and pisolites. A museum display was set up at the entrance to the cave. It features a campsite of a Neanderthal family with three natural-size figures as well as animal bone fragments of mammoth, woolly rhinoceros, and cave bear.



Jaskinia Raj (Paradise Cave)

26-060 Chęciny, ul. Dobrzączka

Booking Office:

tel./fax 41 346 55 18

www.jaskiniaraj.pl

Open: 15 Jan – 15 Nov, Tue–Sun 10am–5pm

Legendary Oak Bartek

According to different sources the legendary oak *Bartek's* age ranges from 700 to 1000 years. It is the most famous and most admired monument of nature in Poland. A legend has it that in the shade of its huge boughs rested such Polish kings as Bolesław Krzywousty, Kazimierz III Wielki and Jan III Sobieski. The latter one deposited royal treasures in *Bartek's* hollow. The measures of old *Bartek* still make a great impression on onlookers (30m high, 10m girth, 3m diameter). Next to it stands *Bartek's* son – a young oak planted during the celebrations of Poland's millennium.

www.zagnansk.pl



Sandomierz



Due to its scenic location on seven hills, and with one hundred and twenty well-preserved monuments of architecture from different epochs, the medieval town of Sandomierz is considered one of Poland's oldest and most attractive cities. Its medieval urban layout with Renaissance town hall in the middle

of the market square and St James' Church (1226), one of Poland's oldest brick buildings, belong to top-class category of historical monuments. The Royal Castle, now housing the Regional Museum, the Opatów Gate, one of Poland's best-preserved medieval city gates, and the cathedral with rare Russo-Byzantine frescoes, all date back to the times of King Kazimierz III Wielki (14th c.). The late-Renaissance Collegium Gostomianum (18th c.) has been housing one of Poland's oldest gymnasium for the last 400 years. Rich collections of the Diocesan Museum are sheltered by the Gothic building of the Długosz House, an example of a well-preserved burgher house from medieval times. One of the town's star attractions is the Underground Tourist Route (470 m in length). On warm and sunny days the market square serves as grounds for knights' tournaments and the Oleśnicki family house hosts artists demonstrating court dances. The International Knights' Tournament for Zawisza Czarny Sword is organized in Sandomierz in early July every year.

Municipal Office in Sandomierz

Plac Poniatowskiego 3, 27-600 Sandomierz
tel. 15 644 01 00, fax 15 644 01 01, www.sandomierz.pl

Tourist Information Center

Rynek 20, 27-600 Sandomierz, tel. 15 832 29 64, 15 644 01 33

Tourist Information Center

PTTK Branch in Sandomierz, ul. Rynek 12, 27-600 Sandomierz,
tel. 15 832 23 05, tel./fax 15 832 26 82, www.pttk-sandomierz.pl

Cruises on the Vistula

Cruises on the Vistula are very popular with tourists visiting Sandomierz and its environs. Beautiful, panoramic view over the town situated on the high escarpment unfolds from the ship slowly cruising up- and down-stream. The *Cruises at Sunset* (2 hrs) include a stop in an excellent viewing place during which a bonfire or grill can be organized. Picturesque banks of the Vistula can be even better admired during full-day cruises between Sandomierz and Baranów, or even farther on to Annapol. Guides tell passengers interesting stories about places past which the ship passes.

Tourist Information Center

Rynek 20, 27-600 Sandomierz,
tel. 15 832 29 64, 15 644 01 33

Tourist Information Center

PTTK Branch in Sandomierz, ul. Rynek 12, 27-600 Sandomierz, tel. 15 832 23 05, tel./fax 15 832 26 82, www.pttk-sandomierz.pl

Pepper Mountains and the Gorge of Queen Jadwiga

The 500-million-year-old Pepper Mountains derive their name from the color of the rock of which they are built. They are built of Cambrian clay-stone which crumbled under the influence of atmospheric oxidation and now looks like pepper. A unique in Europe geological and natural reserve was created in the Pepper Mountains. It contains the largest natural habitat of wild rose shrubs in Poland and is home to juniper bearing navy blue fruits. From here unfolds a beautiful view over the cityscape of the town. The second natural attraction of Sandomierz is the Gorge of Queen Jadwiga. Ten-meter-deep and 400-meter-long gorge is believed to be the favorite walking path of Queen Jadwiga (born in 1374) during her stays in Sandomierz.



Krzemionki near Ostrowiec Świętokrzyski

On the territory of the archaeological reserve (865 acres) one can admire very well-preserved surface mine landscape such as mine spoil heaps and old shaft craters as well as perfectly reconstructed 4-5 thousand-year-old underground constructions and facilities. Thanks to 500-meter-long underground tourist route visitors can get acquainted with nearly all striped flint mining techniques and see unique chamber mines to be found nowhere else in the world. Besides the whole complex of mines, the reserve features a reconstruction of a shaft and a near the shaft camp as well as a model of a Neolithic village with cottages of people representing the Funnelbeaker and Globular



Amphora cultures. Museum classes are

often organized on the reserve territory.

Museum and Archaeological & Nature Reserve

Krzemionki near Ostrowiec Świętokrzyski,

27-400 Ostrowiec Świętokrzyski

tel. 41 262 09 78; fax 41 265 36 51

Opening hours:

April, Oct, Mon-Sat 9am-4pm; Sun 11am-4pm;

May, June, Mon-Fri 9am-6pm, Sat 9am-5pm, Sun 11am-5pm;

July, Aug, Mon-Fri 9am-6pm, Sat 9am-7pm, Sun 11am-7pm;

Sept, Mon-Fri 9am-6pm, Sat 9am-5pm, Sun 11am-5pm;

Nov-March, Mon-Sat 9am-3pm, Sun 11am-3pm.

www.krzemionki.pl

Krzyżtopór Castle

Designed and supervised by an Italian architect Laurence Senes in the years 1631-44, the castle of Krzyżtopór in Ujazd was the biggest palatial building in Europe till the construction of the Versailles. The founder of this *palazzo in fortezza* residence, Sandomierz voivode Krzysztof Ossoliński, wanted to excite admiration of his contemporaries. Built inside massive stone walls with bastions at the five corners, this mannerist palace embodied the structure of the calendar. It had four towers symbolizing the four seasons and 12 big halls, one for each month. Exactly 52 rooms were built, one for each week in the year, and 356



windows. The building that cost Ossoliński 3 million Polish zlotys occupied an area of 3.2 acres, its walls were 600-meter-long and its cubature amounted to 70 thousand cubic meters. Marble and mirrors were used in the interiors of the underground stables, while the ball room had an aquarium in place of the ceiling. At present, the gigantic ruins of the Krzyżtopór Castle come alive on the occasions of knights' tournaments organized on the castle premises from time to time.

Zamek Krzyżtopór w Ujeździe, gmina Iwaniska (Krzyżtopór Castle in Ujazd, Iwaniska commune)

Ujazd 73, 27-570 Iwaniska

Tel/fax. 15 860 11 33

Opening hours: April-Sept 8am-8pm, Oct-March 8am-4pm

www.krzyztopor.org.pl

JuraPark Bałtów

It's a rare opportunity that one can see and come closer to natural-size prehistoric reptiles. Poland's first Jurassic Park (7.5 acres) is located in Bałtów near Ostrowiec Świętokrzyski and features more than seventy models of dinosaurs. The biggest one known as *Diplodocus* is nearly 47 meters long. In order to make the tour of the park easy, a special path was prepared; it offers description of all geological periods, from the Cambrian till the Neolithic. The Jurassic Museum displays fossils from Poland and from the whole world as well as a rich collections of minerals from Northern Africa. There is a special play-ground for children with such exciting activities as digging out of a several-meter-long skeleton of tyrannosaur and participation in geological art workshops. Other attractions of stay in Bałtów include a rafting trip down the Kamienna River, a horse-riding offer of the "W Krainie Koni" equestrian center, "Zwierzyniec Bałtowski" (animal park) and new ski-lifts as well as a thrilling experience provided by a recently installed Rollercoaster.



JuraPark Bałtów

27-423 Bałtów 8a (12 km north from Ostrowiec Świętokrzyski)

Information and reservation office:

tel. 41 264 14 21, tel./fax 41 264 14 20

www.jurapark.pl

Opening hours:

April, Sept, Oct, Mon-Fri 9am-5pm; Sat-Sun 10am-6pm;

May, June, Mon-Fri 9am-5pm; Sat-Sun 10am-7pm;

July, Aug, Mon-Fri 10am-7pm; Sat-Sun 9am-9pm;

„Zwierzyniec Bałtowski”

Reservation office: 41 264 14 20, 264 14 21

Rafting Trips, 27-423 Bałtów 8a

tel. 41 264 14 20;

Opening hours: April-Oct, 9am-5pm

www.baltow.info

Chęciny

The town of Chęciny is situated near Kielce, on the Warsaw – Kraków road. Its development was mainly due to the deposits of precious ores (lead, silver, copper). The panoramic view of the town is dominated by a picturesque ruin of the royal castle raised on the hill around 1300. The ghost of Queen Bona, its former resident, is said to still haunt the ruined construction. Knights' tournaments are frequently organized on the castle premises.

There are a few other historical monuments in Chęciny which are worth a visit: an early Baroque convent of the Bernardine nuns, Franciscan church and monastery founded by Kazimierz II Wielki in 1368, parish church erected in the early 14th century, and a Renaissance building of the former inn known as *Niemcówka*. The late-Renaissance synagogue built in the mid-17th century as well as the Jewish cemetery remind us of the former large Jewish community.



Municipal and Communal Office in Chęciny

Plac 2-go Czerwca 4, 26-060 Chęciny,

tel. 41 315 10 06; Castle: tel. 0 602 503 473

Opening hours: April-Oct 9am-5pm

www.checiny.pl

Palatial Complex in Kurozwęki

According to a document from 1400 known as *castrum Curoswank*, a castle was built in Kurozwęki in the late 14th century. Remodeled many times, the building was gaining in importance during the subsequent centuries to eventually become a splendid Baroque and neoclassical residence in the end of the 18th century. The present palace-cum-park complex is dominated by the palace with richly adorned front and graceful arcaded courtyard. Visitors can tour the palace interiors and its basement, or even spend an overnight in the stylish rooms of the palace, orangery or the annex. Additional attraction is a herd of American bison (80 animals) that can be admired while touring the enclosure in a special safari bison wagon. Enthusiasts of active rest can ride on horseback, bike, play paintball, or try a rope slide. Shows of knights' combats, artillery fire, and historical dances can be organized.



Pensjonat „Popielówka” Zespół Pałacowy sp. z o.o.
ul. Zamkowa 3, Kurozwęki, 28-200 Staszów
tel. 15 866 72 72, 15 866 72 71, fax 15 866 72 36,
www.bizony.com
Opening hours: on weekdays 7am–3pm

Przytkowski Museum of Sundials in Jędrzejów

Situated in the market square, the museum was founded and is still run by the Przytkowski family. It occupies two houses (18th c.) and contains the world's third-largest collection of sundials after those found in the Chicago Planetarium and the Oxford Science Museum. Among over 600 exhibits are sundials and various time measuring instruments that have been manufactured since the 16th century till the recent times. The museum has also an extensive gnomonics (science of sundials) library, old clocks



and watches, furniture and household implements. The old prints section (600 items) has a copy of „De revolutionibus orbium coelestium” (1566) by Nicolaus Copernicus and works signed by Hevelius, Descartes and Huygens. Very interesting is the collection of drawings and bookplates (25,000 items) from 16th-20th centuries as well as the interiors of the Przytkowski family house featuring many works of art.

Muzeum im. Przytkowskich
(Przytkowski Museum of Sundials)
Pl. T. Kościuszki 7/8, 28-300 Jędrzejów
tel. 41 386 24 45
Opening hours: Tue-Sun, April 16 – Oct 15
8am–4pm, Oct 16 – April 15 8am – 3pm
www.muzeum.jedrzejow.pl

Opatów

Opatów, which lies on the Amber Route, has retained a number of historical monuments. One of them is the Romanesque collegiate church of St Martin the Bishop, containing bifurcated Romanesque windows (biforia) and decorated with frieze. Noteworthy are tombstones of the Szydłowiecki family located in the left transept nave. One bronze bas-relief on the chancellor's tombstone is known as the Opatów Lament: it shows Opatów residents mourning the deceased owner of the town. Erected on the Latin cross pattern, the three-nave church is best reached through the Renaissance Warsaw Gate. Near the church is the market square with the town hall (16th-17th cc.). The highlight of Opatów is its underground tourist route (400 meters) leading through the basements of the former burgher houses surrounding the market square. Worth a visit is the Bernardine monastery with its Baroque church interiors decorated with rococo sculptures.



Tourist Information Canter, PTTK branch office in Opatów
Pl. Obróńców Pokoju 18, 27-500 Opatów, tel. 15 868 27 78
www.free.ngo.pl/pttkopatow

St Martin the Bishop Roman-Catholic Parish
ul. S. „Grot” Roweckiego 8, 27-500 Opatów, tel./fax 15 868 27 64
www.kolegiataopatow.sandomierz.opoka.org.pl
Opening hours: Sundays and holidays 1:30pm–4:30pm,
weekdays: 10am–5pm

Wiślica – the Breath of the Bygone Times

Located in the Ponidzie Region, Wiślica existed already in the 9th century. According to legend, it was founded by prince Wiślimir, hence its name. It was one of the strongholds belonging to the tribal community of the Wiślanie, which was incorporated into the budding Polish state by Duke Mieszko I in 990. Some sources maintain that the ruler of the Wiślanie converted into Christianity in 880. A gypsum baptismal basin (4.5m in diameter, 37cm in depth) used for group baptism is still there. The townscape is dominated by the Basilica Minor, once a collegiate church erected by Kazimierz III Wielki in the 14th century. It shelters a Romanesque-Gothic figure of Our Lady known as Madonna Łokietkowa (1300). Today the place is known as the Sanctuary of Our Lady of Wiślica. Remains of two earlier Romanesque churches (12th and 13th cc.) were discovered beneath the floor level, as well as a unique Orantów Plate, a Romanesque floor from 1170.



The Wiślica Statutes, the first Polish codification of law, were issued here in 1347. The town's old urban layout includes the Długosz House from 1460, now the Regional Museum, and a Gothic belfry.

Regional Museum – Dom Długosza
ul. Plac Solny 32, 28-160 Wiślica, tel. 41 379 21 64, 0 508 869 366
Opening hours: Wed-Sun 10am–4pm, www.muzeum.wisllica.pl

Sanktuarium Matki Bożej Wiślickiej zw. Łokietkowa
(Sanctuary of Our Lady of Wiślica known as Madonna Łokietkowa)
ul. Długosza 26, 28-160 Wiślica, tel. 41 379 20 39
www.kielce.opoka.org.pl/dekanaty/sanktuarial/wisllica.html

National Museum

The palace that today houses the National Museum once belonged to the Cracovian bishops, and was founded by bishop Jakub Zadzik in the years 1637-1644. It is Poland's best-preserved historical monument of architecture from the Vasa dynasty times. The upper floor rooms have original interior decorations with beam ceilings, ceiling frescoes and friezes on walls. An Italian garden beds with 17th century layout were reconstructed in the back yard of the residence. The museum permanent exhibitions include period interiors (17th -18th cc.), old European and Far East arms and weaponry, memory room devoted to Marshal Józef Piłsudski, Polish painting and decorative art gallery with masterpieces by Piotr Michałowski, Juliusz Kossak, Józef Brandt, Józef Chelmoński, Jacek Malczewski.

National Museum – Pałac Biskupów Krakowskich
 Plac Zamkowy 1, 25-010 Kielce
 Booking office: tel. 41 344 23 18, 344 40 14
www.mnki.pl
 Opening hours: Tue-Sun 10am–6pm



Toy Museum

The museum was opened in 1979. It changed its name and location in 2006. Its fame reposes on the collection of old toys. The following are the most precious items: a German wax doll (late 18th c.), dolls with porcelain heads in costumes from the turn of the 19th century, lead soldiers, furnished rooms for dolls, miniature sawing machine, projector for slides, Polish and foreign bricks – all from the 19th century. Besides old items, there are also folk toys and modern entertainment exhibits such as *Afternoon Tea*, *In Grandma's Attic*, *Teddy Bears in the Forest* as well as temporary exhibitions: *Made in Poland* – cultic toys from the PRL (Polish People's Republic) and *Croatian Traditional Toys*.

Toy Museum
 Plac Wolności 2, 25 – 367 Kielce
 tel. 41 34 337 00, 41 34 440 78
 fax 41 34 448 19
www.muzeumzabawek.eu
 Opening hours: every day except Mondays 9am – 5pm



Cathedral

In 1171 bishop Gedeon founded a Romanesque collegiate church of the Ascension of the Holy Virgin Mary on the Castle Hill. Altered several times during the subsequent centuries, the church has eventually acquired its present-day shape of an early Baroque, three-nave basilica. Its richly decorated interiors feature a Gothic triptych representing the coronation of Our Lady and figures of St Adalbert and St Stanislas, wall-paintings from 1898, a bas-relief of the Holy Virgin Mary made of galena, and the Baroque main altarpiece designed by Jakub Fontana. There is also a highly venerated picture of Our Lady of Grace with the Infant. Tourists can visit the cathedral treasury and the burial crypt of the Kielce bishops.

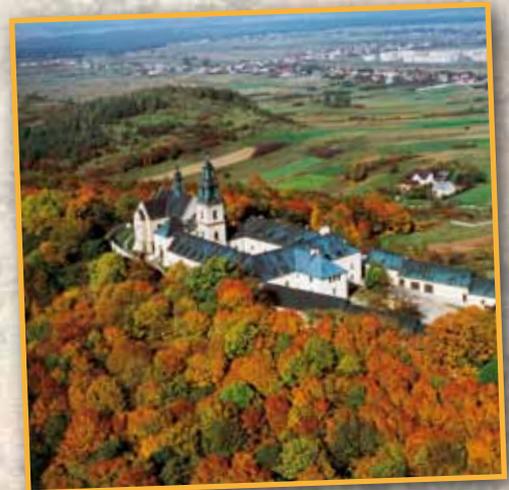
Cathedral of the Ascension of the Holy Virgin Mary
 Plac Marii Panny 3, 25-013 Kielce, tel. 41 344 63 07
www.katedra.opoka.org.pl
 Open to visitors: 11am–1pm



Karczówka

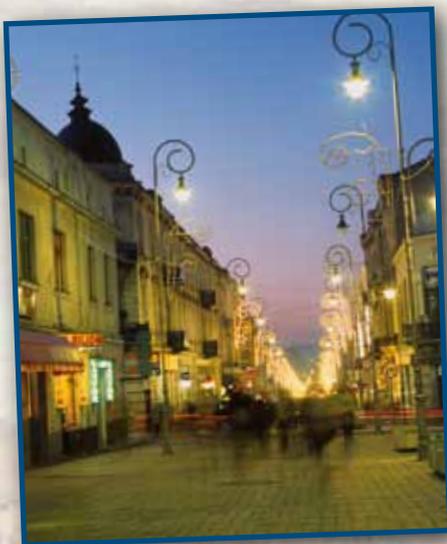
It's a picturesque hill situated in the western part of the city and topped with a beautiful Bernardine monastery (17th c.) founded by bishop Marcin Szyszkowski. First an early Baroque church was built (1624–28), and later a monastery with cloisters and monastic outbuildings were added (1629–31). The plaque (1626) commemorating the church construction can be seen in the vestibule. Noteworthy is St Barbara's Chapel with an interesting Baroque sculpture representing the patroness of miners. It was hewn out of a lump of galena (lead ore) extracted near Karczówka in 1664. The Karczówka hill is a landscape reserve overgrown with pine and from its top unfolds a beautiful panoramic view over the city of Kielce and, weather permitting, over the remote peaks of the Świętokrzyskie Mountains.

Karczówka Klasztor 1
 POBox 17
 25-602 Kielce 11
 tel. 41 345 05 38
 368 38 09
www.karczowka.pl



Kielce by night

To the enthusiasts of evening entertainment and nightlife Kielce offers quite a choice of cafés, pubs, discos, restaurants, theaters, concert halls and cinemas. There are enough options to meet all kinds of expectations and satisfy desires of those who like dancing, listening to good contemporary or classical music, seeing a new film, or enjoying a meal composed of traditional dishes of old Polish cuisine or tasting ethnic cuisines. Everywhere the hosts show their hospitality and do their best to create a pleasant ambiance.



Regional Tourist Information Center in Kielce
 ul. Sienkiewicza 29, 25-007 Kielce,
 tel./fax 41 348 00 60
www.swietokrzyskie.travel
 e-mail: informacja@swietokrzyskie.travel

Valley of Reptiles

Opened in April 2007, the Kielce exotarium is located on the premises of the *Park Stadion*. The exhibition occupies a building specially adapted for the needs of the exotic residents. Tour of the exotarium can be very emotional for some visitors as they have a rare opportunity to face the biggest reptiles of the world from Africa, America, Asia and remote Australia: spectacled caiman, Yemen chameleon, Indian python, Chinese water dragon, bearded dragon and frilled lizard. Very interesting are monitor lizards and snakes such as boa constrictor, reticulated and royal pythons. Certain endangered species (Ceylon python, Russian tortoise) are also present in the Kielce exotarium.



Egzotarium "Dolina Gadów"
 (Exotarium Valley of Reptiles)
 Kielce ul. Kusocińskiego 61A
 Tel. 514 908 336
www.dolinagadow.pl
 e-mail: info@dolinagadow.pl

Kielce Culture Center

The Kielce Culture Center occupies a well-established and highly valued position in the artistic life of the region thanks to the organization of a great number of spectacular events such as music concerts as well as opera, musical and theatrical performances. Their rich offer includes both classical and contemporary works performed by outstanding Polish and foreign artists. The Kielce Culture Center has a little stage and the big one that is equipped with two rotating smaller stages and is believed to be the third largest stage in Poland. It also houses the Świętokrzyska Philharmonics, Kielce branch of Polish TV, Modern Art Gallery *Winda*, and the Kielce Dance Theater.



Kielce Culture Center
 Plac Moniuszki 2 b, 25-334 Kielce
 tel. 41 344 40 32, www.kck.com.pl

Geopark

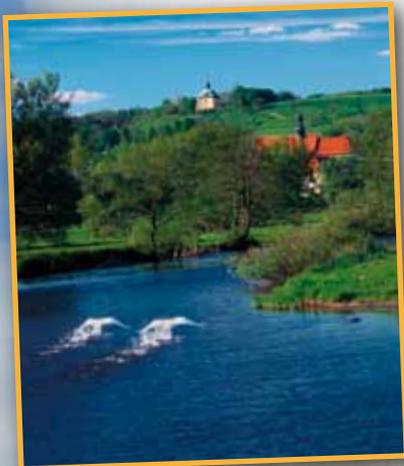
Geological attractiveness of Kielce is best proved by the presence of four inanimate nature reserves on the city's territory. Very well-known is the *Kadzielnia* that contains an inselberg known as the Rock of Geologists located in the central part of the former open-pit quarry. Various fossils of corals, cephalopods, rare Placoderms and brachiopods are kept here under protection. In the *Kadzielnia* reserve and its vicinity one can observe interesting examples of tectonic, mineralization and karstic phenomena, including some of Poland's most attractive forms of mineral karst (sinks, rock stacks, etc.). There is also a splendid amphitheater picturesquely situated amidst rocks. The *Ślichowice* reserve was created in order to preserve an overturned fold separating two closed quarries on Mt Ślichowica. It shows an interesting fragment of Hercynian tectonics of the Świętokrzyskie Mountains in form of characteristic and strongly folded lime rocks. The *Wietrznia* reserve situated in the eastern part of the Kadzielnia Range features upper Devonian limestone with alternating thickness of layers containing remnants of prehistoric fauna such as corals, brachiopods, snails, bivalves, trilobate crinoids, and Placoderms. Surrounded by forest the *Biesak-Białogon* reserve protects outcrops of Cambrian and Ordovician rocks representing many interesting tectonic phenomena such as rock shapes, complex system of faults, and slickensides (Caledonian Foldings).



Geopark Kielce
 ul. Strycharska 6, 25-659 Kielce
 tel. 41 367 66 53,
 fax 41 367 65 83
www.geopark-kielce.pl

Pińczów, or Sarmatian Athens

Pińczów upon the Nida River is situated in the heart of the Poniż Region. Purchased and developed by the Cracovian bishop Zbigniew Oleśnicki, Pińczów was supposed to become a family nest of the Oleśnickis. Mikołaj Oleśnicki created here an important center of Reformation in the Małopolska Region. The first translation of the Bible into Polish was made in Pińczów and the text was published in Brześć upon Bug in 1563. It is known under the name of the Brześć, Radziwiłł or the Pińczów Bible. In the 18th century Pińczów became the principle town of *ordynacja* (landed property) established by the Myszkowski family. Here royal court architect Santi Gucci of Florence (1530-1600) had his stone workshop.



From the Pińczów gymnasium graduated Hugo Kołłątaj, later the parish priest in Krzyżanowice and Pińczów, and co-author of the 3rd

of May Constitution. Noteworthy historical

monuments include the former Pauline monastery, Reformat church and monastery, Renaissance synagogue, Wielkopolski family palace, and *Dom na Mirowie* known as the Arian printing house. A beautiful view over the meandering Nida and meadows unfolds from the hilltop on which stands St Ann's Chapel designed by Santi Gucci.

In Pińczów stops the narrow-gauge railway service of the *Ciuchcia Express Poniż*.

Tourist Information Center

Regional Museum

Piśudskiego 2a, 28-400 Pińczów

tel. 41 357 24 72

www.muzeumitpinczow.eu, e-mail: mrpinczow@wp.pl

Końskie

Founded already in the 11th century, the town was subsequently owned by the families of Odrowąż and since the 17th century by the Małachowski family. Well-preserved is one of Poland's most interesting parklands with the so-called small garden architecture from the late 18th and early 19th centuries. Surrounded by a wall with towers, the park contains an Egyptian Orangery, Greek Temple, neo-Gothic *Domek Wnuczątów* (Grand Kids' House), bower, gloriolite, as well as many old linden trees and oaks among which stands a palatial complex with two semi-circular wings. Late-Gothic collegiate church of St Nicolas in the town center is decorated with a late-Romanesque portal and a sundial from 1621.

Tourist Information Center

26-200 Końskie, ul. Partyzantów 1

tel./fax +48 41 372 90 88

e-mail: informacja@konskie.travel

Opening hours:

Mon-Fri 8am – 4pm

www.konskie.travel



Szydłów, or Polish Carcassonne

Years ago Szydłów acquired the name of Polish Carcassonne thanks to its well-preserved medieval urban layout and fortification walls with the Renaissance Cracovian Gate. Built of the locally extracted limestone in the 14th century, the city walls were 1080 meters long and 1.8m thick. The town and its castle erected by king Kazimierz III Wielki in 1354



were additionally protected by a moat; its remains are still visible. Of the partly preserved castle premises worth a visit is the Knights' Hall and the *Skarbczyk*, now the seat of the Regional Museum. North of the market square stands a late-Gothic synagogue (1564) housing the communal culture center.

Regional Museum

ul. Szkolna 8, 28-225 Szydłów, tel. 41 354 51 46

Opening hours: May-Sept, Tue-Fri 7:30am–3:30pm,

Sat-Sun 10am–2pm;

Oct-April, Mon-Fri 7:30am–3:30pm

www.szydlow.pl

Communal Culture Center – former Synagogue

ul. Targowa 3, 28-225 Szydłów, tel. 41 35 45 313

Nowy Korczyn

Founded by prince Bolesław Wstydlivy (1226-1279), Nowy Korczyn is a good example of small town architecture. Its historical buildings include a parish church (16th c.) and the former Franciscan monastery erected in the late 13th century. The parish church was reshaped in the early

17th century and now attracts

our attention due to its splendid

western front kept in mannerist

style, Baroque high altar, vault

decorated with stucco ornaments,

and a fragment of late-Gothic

triptych representing the Mourning

of Christ. The Franciscan monastery

was founded by Bolesław Wstydlivy

and his wife Kinga, and extended

by king Kazimierz III Wielki in the

14th century. Its interiors contain

splendid Gothic and Baroque

frescoes. Ruins of the neoclassical

synagogue (late 18th c.) testify to

the existence of once prospering

and large Jewish community of

Nowy Korczyn.



Nowy Korczyn Communal Office

ul. Krakowska 1, 28-136 Nowy Korczyn, tel. 41 377 10 03

www.nowykorczyn.pl

e-mail: gmina@nowykorczyn.pl

Bodzentyń



The little town of Bodzentyń is famous for its horse fairs and is one of the most frequently visited tourist localities in the heart of the Świętokrzyskie Mountains. It was founded by Cracovian bishop Jan Bodzanta in 1335. The castle on the high escarpment and the defensive walls were erected

on the initiative of bishop Florian Mokrzycki in the 14th century. King Władysław Jagiełło spent here two days in 1410 on his pilgrimage to Święty Krzyż before the historical Battle of Grunwald. The second most important historical building of Bodzentyń is the Gothic collegiate church of the Ascension of the Holy Virgin Mary and St Stanislas. It contains the famous Bodzentyń Triptych (early 16th c.) painted by Marcin Czarny, Wit Stwosz's (Veit Stoss) disciple as well as the Renaissance high altar with a masterpiece painted in 1546 by Pietro degli Ingannati (Petrus Venetus) for king Zygmunt Stary and designated to be placed in the high altar of the Wawel Cathedral. An old Czernikowicz family farm (1897) is worth a visit. It belongs to the ethnographic collection managed by the Open-Air Museum of the Kielce Village.

Municipal and Communal Office in Bodzentyń

ul. Suchedniowska 3, 26-010 Bodzentyń
tel. 41 31 15 010, 31 15 511, www.bodzentyń.ugm.pl

Chmielnik



The name of Chmielnik appeared in the annals of the Polish history following a dramatic battle against Tatar invaders that took place in its vicinity on 18 March 1241. It is believed to be one of the major military clashes of the 13th century Europe. The renovated synagogue raised in the years 1633-34 testifies to the existence of important Jewish community. The Meetings with Jewish Culture festival held here annually brings back the characteristic ambiance to the town. In addition to the market square (20th c.) and interesting old burgher houses, worth seeing are other historical monuments such as the parish church (18th c.), and the church of the Holy Trinity erected in place of the former wooden temple from the 16th century.

Municipal and Communal Office in Chmielnik

Plac Kościelny 5, 26-020 Chmielnik
tel./fax 41 354 32 73, 354 22 78, 354 21 81, 354 20 29
www.chmielnik.com, e-mail: umig@chmielnik.com

Połaniec

Połaniec is located in the eastern section of the Połaniec subsidence basin, a part of the bigger Sandomierz Basin. The Vistula River constitutes its eastern boundary line, while in the north and west it borders on the Golejów Forest. Its first records date from the 11th century. The town was a few times destroyed during the Tatar invasions (13th c.). Worth a visit is the parish church dedicated to St Martin (1893-99) with an older Baroque chapel of Our Lady of Rosary (18th c.), as well as the 18th century synagogue. In Połaniec general Tadeusz Kościuszko issued his proclamation that abolished serfdom and granted freedom to peasants (7 May 1794). The Kościuszko Mound was erected in the place where the Kościuszko Insurrection troops set up their camp. The anniversary of the Proclamation of Połaniec is celebrated here every year. One of Poland's biggest power stations is located in Połaniec. The town is proud of its modern indoor swimming-pool Delfin.

Tourist Information Center in Połaniec

Culture and Art Center
(Centrum Kultury i Sztuki)
ul. Czarnieckiego 5
28-230 Połaniec
tel. 15 865 09 17 (to be changed)



Zawichost

Located near the historical river crossing of the Vistula, which served merchants traveling from western Europe to the Russian lands, Zawichost used to be a royal town. It still has a number of historical buildings worth a visit. The former Franciscan church dedicated to St John the Baptist (13th c.) once belonged to the nuns of the order of St Clare and was their first seat in Poland. Founded by prince Bolesław Wstydlivy, the church and the nunnery were the dowry of the prince's sister Salome who entered the order and came to live in Zawichost. This magnificent early Gothic building features two chapels built in the 17th and 18th centuries. The church of the Ascension of the Holy Virgin Mary was erected in the 18th century in place of the 12th century place of worship. Old walls are still visible in the church basement, while from its backyard unfolds a beautiful view over the Vistula.

Municipal and Communal Office in Zawichost

ul. Żeromskiego 50, 27-630 Zawichost
tel. 15 836 41 15, fax 15 836 40 51, www.zawichost.pl



Old Foundry in Maleniec



Over 200-year-old is the historical complex of rolling mill and nail making workshop located in Maleniec upon River Czarna, 24 km west of Końskie. Founded in 1782, it was developed by castellan of Łuków, Jacek Jezierski, who had an honor to show it to king Stanisław August Poniatowski in 1787. Owners changed in the course of years, some of them modernized machine park and changed the production profile. Machines and water wheels of a production line built in 1784 that once served to manufacture nails and spades are still to be seen. Worth a visit are the more recent workshops of rolling mill, nail press and spade manufacturing from 1839. On 21 June 1967 the whole complex was entered on the list of the voivodeship industrial heritage. It includes the hydroelectric system, production buildings, lodgings for workers and managerial staff as well as the so-called castellan road. All machines and facilities can be seen in operation during the annual festival of technology known as the Końskie Foundries.

Old Foundry

Maleniec 54, 26-242 Ruda Maleniecka

tel. 41 373 11 42

Opening hours: daily from 8am till 6pm

www.maleniec.powiat.konskie.pl

Museum of Natural History and Technology in Starachowice



The museum has a variety of collections, but its star exhibit is the blast furnace complex from the late 19th and early 20th centuries. It is one of Europe's best-preserved metallurgical industry sites. Its diversified collections include a settlement with old metallurgical production with the use of primitive smelting furnaces known as *dymarki*, old trucks manufactured in the Starachowice Auto Works, and petrified foot-prints of dinosaurs. Children and youth can attend classes falling into three thematic categories: *From Primitive Smelting Furnace to Blast Furnace*, *The City of Star Trucks and Bofors Guns*, and *In the Footsteps of the Świętokrzyskie Dinosaurs*. The *Iron*

Roots Festival and *U Starzecha Fair* are the most popular among many events organized on the premises of the old metallurgical complex.

Jan Pazdur Ecomuseum of Natural History and Technology

ul. Wielkopieczowa 1, 27-200 Starachowice

tel. /fax: 41 275 40 83, www.ekomuzeum.pl

Opening hours: April-Oct, Tue-Fri 8am-6pm, Sat-Sun 12:00-6pm,

Nov-March, Tue-Fri 8am-4pm, Sat-Sun 12:00-4pm

Closed till the end of May 2010 due to renovation works.

Museum of the Old Polish Industrial Center in Sielpia



Sielpia is a rest and recreation spot of the Świętokrzyski region located upon River Czarna Konecka and close to the nearby artificial lake (150 acres). However, in the 19th century Sielpia was known for quite different reasons. It hosted one of the major establishments of the Old Polish Industrial Center designed by engineers Fryderyk Lempe and Filip Girard. It was constructed between 1821 and 1841, and stayed in operation till 1921. On 10 March 1934, the plant was recognized as the historical monument of engineering, and became Poland's first monument of technology protected by law. Today the former buildings of rolling mill and puddling processes contain the Museum of the Old Polish Industrial Center. Visitors can admire old machinery such as lathes, planers, presses, and 150-year-old machine tools still in operation as well as products of metallurgical industry and a metal water wheel 8m in diameter. Well-preserved are also water system facilities (dykes, sluices, canals), production halls, timber seasoning rooms, gate-house and old workers' lodgings.

Museum of the Old Polish Industrial Center in Sielpia

Ul. Słoneczna 19, Sielpia, 26-200 Końskie, tel. 41 372 02 93

Opening hours: Tue-Sun 9am-12:00, 1pm-5pm

Old Mechanical Forge in Stara Kuźnica

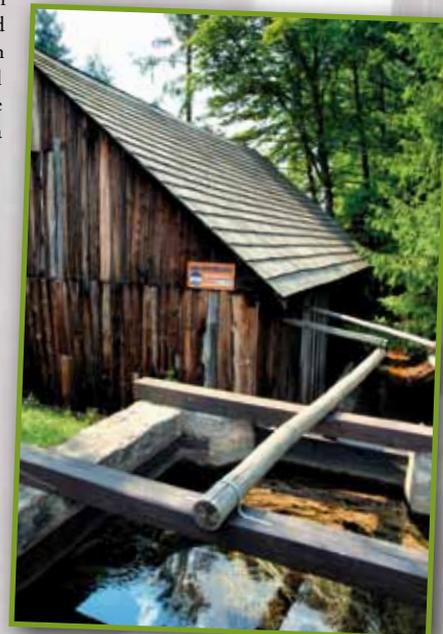
In Stara Kuźnica upon Młynkowska River stands the only Poland's original old forge with the water system from the 18th century. Its machinery is composed of a huge hammer striking the anvil 60 times per minute, wooden box bellows, hand-operated metal plate shears, forge furnace and other forging tools. Next to the wooden building of the forge stands the mechanism damming up water and powering the hammer and bellows. A gate with wooden trough feeding the water wheel with water is a part of it. The old mechanical forge in Stara Kuźnica is now a museum.

Mechanical Forge

Stara Kuźnica 46, 26-205

Nieświń, tel. 41 371 91 87

Open on request by living next door Mr Niewęglowski.



*R*emains of the Blast Furnace in Samsonów



The production of iron in Samsonów is connected with the foundation of the Michałowska forge in the late 16th century. It was located a few hundred meters north from the ruins of the blast furnace. The Samsonów forge derives its name from Łukasz Samson, who managed the forge in 1594. It was reshaped many times by subsequent owners and produced cannons, cannon balls and side-arms. The blast furnace plant known as Huta Józef of which ruins are still visible was built in the years 1818-1823 on the initiative of Stanisław Staszic. That modern facility could produce about 800 tons of pig-iron annually. Destroyed by fire in 1866, it was never rebuilt. Now the remains of the blast furnace plant look like a neoclassical palatial complex dominated by its hoist tower and a round form of the blast furnace.

Communal Office of Zagnańsk
ul. Spacerowa 8
26-050 Zagnańsk
tel. 41 300 13 22
www.zagnansk.pl

*R*olling Mill in Nietulisko Duże

The rolling mill of small shapes and sheets in Nietulisko Duże is what remained of the plant which was the last link of the whole chain of iron factories located along River Kamienna. Built in the years 1834-46, the factory was a carefully planned urban and industrial complex with managerial staff and workers' lodgings and water supply system. It included a rolling mill, two drying rooms, store room, shed, stables, administration building, weigher, and 36 houses for workers and managerial staff. The most valuable part of this industrial heritage site is the well-preserved and original water system.

Municipal and Communal Office in Kunów
ul. Warszawska 45 B
27-415 Kunów, tel./fax 41 261 31 74
www.kunow.pl



*R*etaining Wall in Bobrza

Poland's first metallurgical furnace was built here in 1598 by Jan Cacci of Bergamo (Italy). A unique retaining wall is preserved: it is a fragment of never completed complex of five blast furnaces planned to be constructed in the years 1825-28 within the framework of an industrialization plan to be carried out in the Kingdom of Poland. Huge retaining walls (500m long, 5m thick, 15m high in places) were built in order to solidify the mountain slope from the top level of which the furnaces were to be charged. Ore storing yard, coal charging machines, ore roasting furnaces, workers' lodgings and water supply system were constructed on the premises of the factory. Further development of the plant was halted by flood and the outburst of the November Insurrection (1830-31). Today visitors can tour the remains of the blast furnace, workers' lodgings and the retaining wall.

Communal Office in Miedziana Góra
ul. Urzędnicza 18
26-085 Miedziana Góra
tel. 41 303 16 26
www.miedziana-gora.pl



*B*last Furnace in Kuźniaki

Once belonging to the Jadwiga ironworks, the blast furnace in Kuźniaki is worth seeing due to its curious architectural form. Looking like a truncated pyramid, the furnace was in operation from 1782 till 1897, producing nearly 1000 tons of pig-iron in its best times. Its produce was manufactured into balustrades, bars, crosses, pipes and sheets. Besides the blast furnace, the whole water system (dyke, pond, sluice), underground canal (100m) and heaps of slag at its outlet were preserved.

Communal Office in Strawczyn
ul. Żeromskiego 16
26-067 Strawczyn, tel. 41 30 38 002
www.strawczyn.pl
www.strawczyn.pl



Oblęgorek – Henryk Sienkiewicz

In 1900 the palace in Oblęgorek was offered to Henryk Sienkiewicz by the Polish people in order to commemorate the 25th year of his literary career. He lived in the palace from 1902 till 1914. The family gave the palace to the Polish state in 1955 and now it houses the Henryk Sienkiewicz Museum.

Little was changed in the house once lived by the writer and his family. The exhibition tells us about his life, journeys and non-literary activities.

It also displays valuable mementos such as albums, documents and letters offered and sent to the writer by admirers of his works.

Henryk Sienkiewicz Museum in Oblęgorek (Branch of the National Museum in Kielce)

26-067 Strawczyn
tel. 41 303 04 26
fax 41 303 04 26 w. 21
www.mnki.pl

Due to renovation works, the museum will be closed till mid 2010.



Kielce – Stefan Żeromski

The writer's life was closely linked to the Kielce region. Born in Strawczyn near Kielce, he spent his childhood in Ciekoty, then lived in Kielce and attended one of the city's gymnasiums. Today the school building houses the Museum of Stefan Żeromski's School Years. Besides the first editions of his works, the museum features a rich collection of family mementos, objects from his school years, documents and pictures of his family, friends and youthful loves and fascinations. The Świętokrzyski region is present in nearly all his literary works. Plots of his many well-known writings are placed in Kielce. Descriptions of the region landscapes and of the city of Kielce itself are found in such novels as *Szyfowe Prace*, *Dzieje Grzechu*, *Ludzie Bezdumni* and *Puszcza Jodłowa*.



Museum of Stefan Żeromski's School Years

(Branch of the National Museum in Kielce)
ul. Jana Pawła II 5, 25-013 Kielce, tel. 41 344 57 92
www.mnki.pl

Opening hours: Tue, Thu, Fri, Sun 9am–3:30pm, Wed 11am–5:30pm

Nagłowice – Mikołaj Rej

“A niechaj narodowie wždy postronni znają,
iż Polacy nie geśi, iż swój język mają.”

(“Let it by all and sundry foreign nations be known that Poles are no geese
— they have a language of their own.”)



The author of this well-known saying is often called the father of the Polish literature, because he was the first one to exclusively use the Polish language in his writings. The present-day building was raised in 1784 by Kacper Walewski in place where once stood the manor of Mikołaj Rej, one of the best-known Poland's poets and writers of the Renaissance period. Today the building houses the

Mikołaj Rej Memory Room featuring various items showing the poet's links with Nagłowice and importance of his literary works for Polish culture and literature. Surrounding the manor is the English-style park with old oaks most probably remembering the writer's lifetime.

Tourists coming to Nagłowice can find accommodations in the Mikołaj Rej manor-house.

Mikołaj Rej Manor

ul. Kacpra Walewskiego 7, 28-362 Nagłowice
tel/fax. 41 381 45 70
www.naglowice.glt.pl
e-mail dworekreja@wp.pl

Opening hours: Mon-Sat 8am–4pm,
May-Sept, Sundays and holidays 9am–5pm

Bodzechów, Doły Biskupie – Witold Gombrowicz

The author of novels, plays and essays, Witold Gombrowicz (1904-69), was born in Małoszyce near Opatów. He spent his childhood in Bodzechów, where his father was the director of the local iron factory. His later literary works were greatly influenced by the observations made during his early years spent in the atmosphere of the landowner's manor-house. Many scenes found in his *Pornografia*, *Ferdynand* or *Ślub* show direct links with such localities as Ćmielów, Brzóstowa, Grocholice, Ostrowiec Świętokrzyski, Ruda (today Ruda Kościelna) or Bodzechów.

In Doły Biskupie his father managed a carton factory Witulin. The annual Witold Gombrowicz Picnic is organized here in June during which theater performances, exhibitions, outdoor events and film shows are presented. Places connected with the writer's childhood and youth are linked by a green tourist trail for bikes and cars known as the Świętokrzyski Literary Route.

www.swietokrzyskie.travel



Starachowice Narrow-Gauge Railway



The development of narrow-gauge railway lines in the neighborhood of Starachowice was closely connected with industrial and mining activities carried out within the framework of an inter-war project known as the Central Industrial Region. A network of narrow-railway lines was built in order to connect the blast furnace of Starachowice and timber-mill on Bugaj with the mines of Majówka,

Mikołaj, Zębiec, Władysław, and Henryk as well as with numerous timber loading facilities.

Today the Starachowice Narrow-Gauge Railway Line offers 6km rides on the route joining Wierzbnik (Eastern Starachowice Station) with the village of Lipie.

Association of the Upper-Silesian Narrow-Gauge Railways

tel. 660 509 105, 660 509 104, 600 390 992

www.skw.org.pl

Scheduled services:

Starachowice - Lipie, departures 10:30am, 1:30pm, 5pm

Lipie - Starachowice, departures 1pm, 4pm, 6:30pm

Ilża - Marcule, departures 11am, 2pm, 5pm

Marcule - Ilża, departures 1pm, 4pm, 6:30pm

Group tours can be organized on request at any time.

Ciuchcia Express Ponidzie

The *Ciuchcia Express Ponidzie* is one of the major tourist attractions of the Ponidzie Region. It uses the installations of the narrow-gauge railway line built for the Austrian army in 1915. Pulled by a steam or diesel engine, the train is composed of passenger carriages designed for different purposes. Thus, there is a plain-air carriage as well as a summer roofless carriage and a carriage that offered catering services. In summer, the service is operated every weekend or on request. Servicing the route Jędrzejów – Pińczów and back, the line runs through the splendid countryside of the Ponidzie Region and across the Nadnidziański Landscape Park. There is a possibility of a stop-over at Umianowice, where passengers can picnic under an umbrella roof with wooden tables and benches, and enjoy a large bonfire site.



Świętokrzyska Narrow-Gauge Railway Line – Ciuchcia Express Ponidzie from Jędrzejów to Pińczów

ul. Dojazd 1, 28-300 Jędrzejów

tel. 41 386 22 55

www.ciuchcia.eu

Garden at the Crossroads



The Garden at the Crossroads was designed by a sculptor Tadeusz Kurczyna at Młodzawy Małe, only 6 km from Pińczów. We find there a fairytale landscape with a several-meter-high waterfall, grotto, little ponds and a large number of different flowers and shrubs arranged on three levels. The garden fauna is represented by white and black swans, black stork, varieties of ducks, peacocks, and parrots. The little ponds are home to many colorful fish varieties.

Garden at the Crossroads

Młodzawy Małe 17, 28-400 Pińczów, tel. 41 357 92 65

Opening hours: April-Nov, Sat-Sun 9am-7pm

www.ogrodnarozstajach.pl

Nature Trail in the Sitkówka – Nowiny Commune

The clearly sign-posted nature trail in the Sitkówka – Nowiny commune leads through charming spots of the countryside dotted with natural, cultural and historical attractions. They include the Bobrza River valley, closed quarry on Berberysówka with blue and clear water body, xerothermic flora on Mt Panek, and a holiday spot Trzcianka with its old residential buildings. It takes about 3 hours to cover the loop of the nature trail with its 14 stops.

Tourist Information Center

Communal Office of Sitkówka-Nowiny

tel. 41 346 52 60, 41 345 96 50 wew. 35

www.perla.maximum.pl



Golden Forest Hermitage in Rytwiary

The Eremu Silvae Aureae, or the Golden Forest Hermitage, was built near Rytwiary (1624-27) for the Monte Korona Cameldolese congregation. The complex included a church of the Annunciation of the Holy Virgin Mary, monastic and administration buildings as well as ermitorium (16 dwellings for hermits). Today tourists can visit the church with Baroque elements, part of ground-floor monastic buildings, the only one preserved hermitage of Jan Magnus Tęczyński, and some outbuildings containing monastery kitchen, infirmeria and pharmacy. It's been a year now that the renovated Golden Forest Hermitage functions as a therapeutic center and offers therapeutic and relaxation stays to those

who seek spiritual relief and wish to spend some time in silence, solitude, without radio, TV or telephone. The center has 20 guest rooms, kitchen and therapeutic rooms.

Relaksacyjno-Kontemplacyjne Centrum Terapeutyczne „Pustelnia Złotego Lasu”

(Relaxation and Contemplation Therapeutic Center)

ul. Klasztorna 25, 28-236 Rytwiary

tel. 15 864 77 95

www.pustelnia.com.pl

e-mail: pustelnia@pustelnia.com.pl



Blizyn, Mroczków – on the Wooden Architecture Trail

Blizyn is proud to have hosted king Władysław Jagiełło in June 1410, on his way to Grunwald battlefield. Worth a visit is the larch, oriented chapel of St Sophie completed in the log cabin technology in 1818. Other noteworthy sites include remains of a steelworks (19th c.), neo-Gothic palace of the Plater family, and the parish church of St Luis from 1896.

Mroczków has a beautiful, larch church of St Roch, apparently built on graves of the victims of an epidemic from the turn of the 16th century as a votive offering to Our Lord for taking the pest away. This log cabin construction has boarding outside and inside. The alter with the oil painting of St Roch was built (1856) thanks to donations made by the owner and the employees of the brickyard in Sołtyków.

Communal Office in Blizyn

ul. Kościuszki 79a

26-120 Blizyn

tel. 41 25 41 104, 41 25 41 172

e-mail: ugblizyn@wp.pl

www.ugblizyn.bip.doc.pl

www.drewniane.swietokrzyskie.travel



Collegiate Church of St Joseph in Klimontów

In picturesquely located Klimontów stands a splendid Baroque collegiate church founded by chancellor Jerzy Ossoliński and erected in the years 1643-50. Constructed on an ellipsoid plan according to the design by an Italian architect Laurence Senes, this original building imitates the never completed project of the Santo Spirito dei Napoletani church in Rome. The church has stucco works designed by

1647, early Baroque portals, rococo frescoes on the walls and in the vestibule vault, rococo organ loft and four side alters. Worth a visit is also the former Dominican church and monastery (1613-23) founded by Jan Zbigniew Ossoliński, and the neoclassical synagogue from 1851.

Jan Chrzyciel Falconi before

portals, rococo frescoes on the walls and in the vestibule vault, rococo organ loft and four side alters. Worth a visit is also the former Dominican church and monastery (1613-23) founded by Jan Zbigniew Ossoliński, and the neoclassical synagogue from 1851.

Communal Office in Klimontów

ul. Zysmana 1, 27 – 640 Klimontów

tel. 15 866 11 00, 866 10 06

www.klimontow.ugm.pl



Sanctuary of Our Lady of Sorrows in Kalków-Godów

This important center of Marian cult was erected in the 1980s thanks to the efforts of priest Czesław Wala and the support of the local people.

The complex of sacral buildings include the Świętokrzyska Golgotha, Pantheon of the Polish Nation Martyrology, parish church with the miraculous picture of Our Lady of Sorrows, Way of the Cross, Bethlehem Route, Rosary Chapels, Chapel of the Pieta, House of Pope John Paul II, Pilgrim House, and the Świętokrzyska Panorama – a revolving Passion of Jesus. A workshop of occupational therapy functions on the premises of the sanctuary.

Sanctuary of Our Lady of Sorrows, Queen of Poland and Mother of the Świętokrzyski Region

Kalków-Godów 84a, gm. Pawłów

Information office in the Pilgrim House, tel. 41 272 18 88,

www.kalkow-godow.pl



Cistercian Abbey in Wąchock

By the majority of Poles, the name of Wąchock is associated with its *sołtys* (village head) who is a hero of hundreds of jokes. Nevertheless, the origins of Wąchock go back to the 12th century, when a settlement developed around the Cistercian Abbey. The Cistercians were brought to Wąchock from the Marimond abbey in Burgundy (France) by Cracovian bishop Gedeon in 1179. In the years 1218-39, a Cistercian workshop from Italy directed by brother Simon erected a stone abbey inspired by architectural trends popular in Tuscany. Till today survived its Romanesque layout of the monastic complex with the chapter house, phratry and *karcer* (solitary confinement cell). Re-



modeled many times, the complex features a late-Romanesque church built on the Latin cross pattern of two-colored stone blocks. The legendary commander of the Świętokrzyskie Home Army Groups major Jan Piwnik alias *Ponury* is buried in the crypt located in the monastery cloisters. The Museum of Cistercian Fathers is situated next to the monastery gate and contains a unique collection of mementos from the national uprisings gathered by colonel Father Walenty Ślusarczyk. The Cistercian Abbey complex of Wąchock belongs to the group of major sites on the European Cultural Cistercian and Romanesque Trails.

Museum of the Cistercian Fathers – Monastery in Wąchock

ul. Kościelna 14, 27-215 Wąchock, tel. 41 271 50 66

Opening hours: May-Oct, on weekdays 9am–12.00, 1:30pm–5:15pm, 6pm–8pm, Sundays and church holidays 2:30pm–5:15pm; Nov-April, on weekdays 1:30pm–5:15pm, Sundays and church holidays 2:30pm–5:15pm, www.cystersi.pl

Cistercian Abbey in Jędrzejów

French monks from the Cistercian abbey in Marimond (Burgundy, France) came to Jędrzejów in 1149 and built the first monastery in Poland. Located near the road leading to Katowice, the abbey complex included a three-nave basilica with transept and monastic buildings of which only three wings survived till today. The church has late-Romanesque corbels in the southern chapels. Blessed Wincenty Kadłubek gave up his bishop's position and took the monk's frock in order to spend the last years of his life in the abbey. The remains of



Wincenty Kadłubek buried in a silver-plated coffin are located in one of the chapels. The annual International Organ Music Festival is held in August and September.

Sanctuary of the Blessed Wincenty Kadłubek

ul. Klasztorna 10, 28-300 Jędrzejów
tel. 41 386 23 08, www.cystersi.pl

Koprzywnica – Romanesque Relics

Koprzywnica upon River Koprzywnianka owes its fame to the Cistercians who built an abbey here in the early 13th century. Founded by Mikołaj Bogoria, the abbey was totally reshaped in the 18th century. Raised of stone blocks, the Romanesque temple has Gothic tops made of brick. The sacristy, chapel, western front with vestibule and cup-shaped ave-bell were added during the Baroque period. Very impressive are the Gothic frescoes and cross-ribbed vaults of the church. The same type of vaults is found in the Romanesque chapter house of the monastery.



Roman-Catholic Parish of St Florian the Evangelist

ul. Krakowska 76, 27-660 Koprzywnica
tel. 15 847 62 02, www.koprzyzlosci.pl



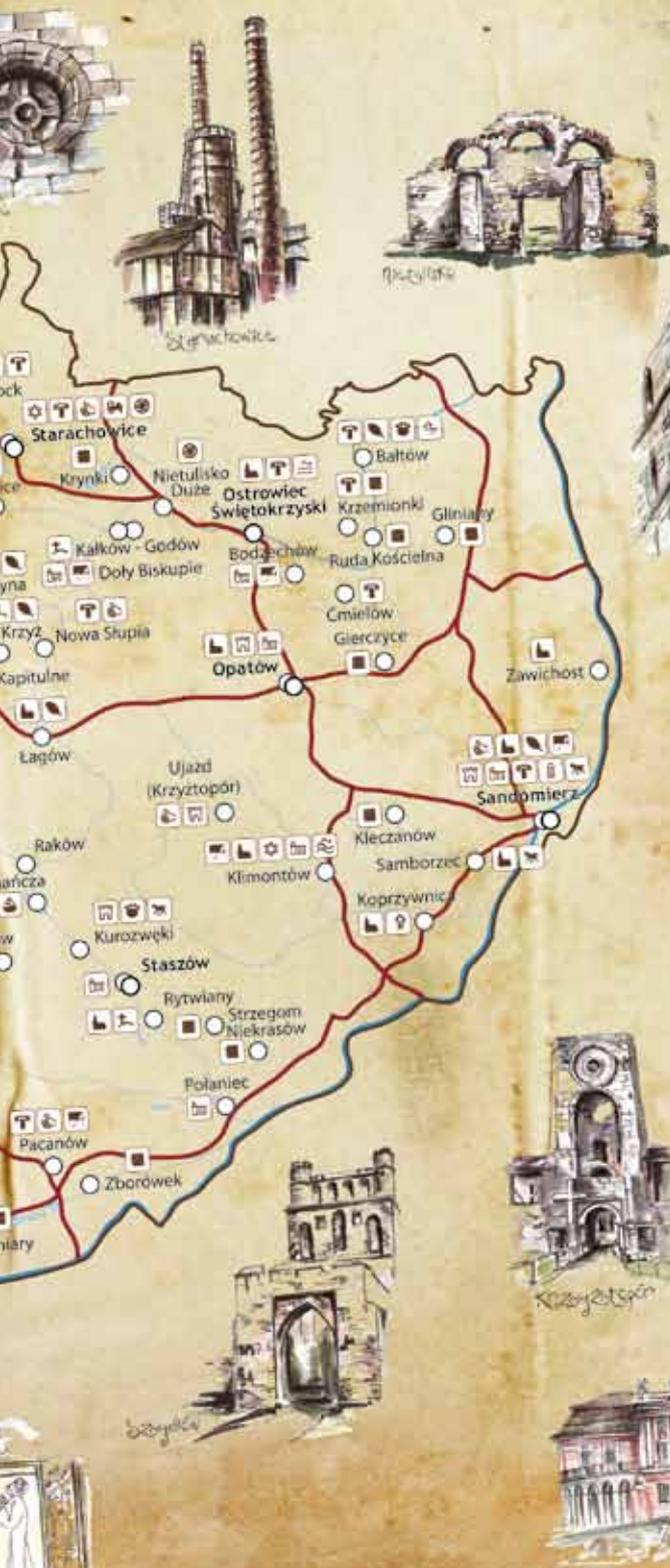
Samborzec

The landowner, Paweł Samborzycycki, had a brick church built here in the mid-13th century. Standing on a hilltop, the Holy Trinity church was mentioned by the chronicler Jan Długosz as a medieval structure. Destroyed during the Swedish wars and later many times remodeled, the temple has many Baroque characteristic features with a few Romanesque elements. The history of Samborzec goes back to 5,000 years BC. The oldest traces of prehistoric settlement date back to those times, and from the latest prehistoric period come still noticeable grave-mounds. The *Mogila Kwacala* is located between Złota and Malice, while the *Kocot* is found in Gorzyczany. Worth a visit is the stronghold of Złota culture (4,000 BC) in Złota and Samborzec, burial grounds from the Bronze Age, loessic ravines in Chobrzany, Gorzyczany and Samborzec, Baroque manor house, and a church with frescoes (14th c.) in Skotniki. The folklore Festival of Blossoming Apple Trees is held every year in the first decade of May.



Communal Office in Samborzec

Samborzec 43, 27-650 Samborzec
tel. 15 831 44 43, 831 44 67
www.samborzec.eu



KEY TO SYMBOLS

- Tourist attractions 
- Poviats (counties) 
- Literary trail 
- Industrial heritage trail 
- Wooden architecture trail 
- Trail of legends 
- Cistercian trail 
- Narrow-gauge railway 
- Natural attractions 
- ZOO/animal parks 
- Water bodies 
- Water sports 
- Swimming pools 
- Fishing 
- Kayaks 
- Rental of tourist & water sports gear 
- Cultural attractions 
- Equestrian center 
- Ski lifts 
- Museum 
- Theater 
- Health resort 
- Church 
- Jewish Heritage sites 
- Religious cult sites 
- Pagan cult sites 
- Castles/palaces 
- Manor houses 
- Burgher houses 
- Historical towns & townlets 

eXtremalnie in Sielpia

The *Konecka Setka* or *Sielpia eXtreme Marathon* are two long-distance hiking events organized in Sielpia between August and September. More and more participants take part in these rallies every year. They all want to test their own physical condition and experience thrilling atmosphere of sports competitions.

The *Konecka Setka* is meant for rather experienced race-walkers and runners who have 27 hours to cover a distance of 75 or 100 kilometers. It always begins on Friday evening in Sielpia. Less experienced but equally brave participants can choose the *Sielpia eXtreme Marathon* of 25 or 50 kilometers within the time limit of 11 hours.



All distances should be covered on foot.

Tourist Information Center

26-200 Końskie, ul. Partyzantów 1
tel./fax +48 41 372 90 88
e-mail: informacja@konskie.travel
Opening hours: Mon-Fri 8am – 4pm
www.konskie.travel

Air Sports – Pińczów and Masłów



The sports airfields at Pińczów and Masłów have prepared an attractive offer for those who are after fresh air and adrenaline, seek exciting experiences, and are holders of appropriate licenses. Their offer includes gliding (gliders, para-gliders, hang-gliders, motor gliders) and parachuting as well as taking part in training courses organized by Aeroclubs. This type of active rest will let you admire breath-taking views of the Świętokrzyski landscape

such as the Nida River meanders, summits of the Świętokrzyskie Mountains and colorful patches of elongated fields.

Kielce Aeroklub – Airfield in Masłów

26-001 Masłów, tel. 41 311 08 93
www.aeroklub.kielce.pl

Pińczów Aeroklub

ul. Legionistów 26, 28-400 Pińczów
tel. 0 501 383 275 – Dir Leszek Mankowski

Motorsports – Racing Track in Miedziana Góra

A car racing track was put into use in Miedziana Góra near Kielce in 1977. It's Poland's only track of that type (4,160 m) with mountain sections. The whole complex is managed by the Kielce Automobile Club. There is a go-cart track of 880 m and a little loop of the car racing track of 1,140 m as well as the administration and technical building, a motel and the *Moto-raj* camp-site. Car racing contests attract motor-sport fans from the whole world. Many various sports and fitness events are organized each year. Training courses in driving skills improvement and car breakdown rescue and recovery service operations are also available. There is also a possibility to organize sports and recreation events, trainings and professional meetings for groups.



Car Racing Track

Automobilklub, ul. Słowackiego 16, 25-365 Kielce
tel./fax 41 361 98 55, www.automobilklub.kielce.pl

Kayaking Trips in the Ponidzie Region

There is no better way to discover the beauty of the Ponidzie Region than to take part in a kayaking trip along the Nida River watercourse. Those who seek active rest and direct contact with nature will not be disappointed. Interesting are the offers of the Municipal Center of Sports and Recreation (MOSiR)



in Pińczów and that of the *Kajakiem.pl* Tourist Agency from Jędrzejów. They sell trip packages as well as such services as kayaks for hire, gear transportation, and assistance of qualified tour guides.

„KAJAKIEM.PL” Tourist Agency

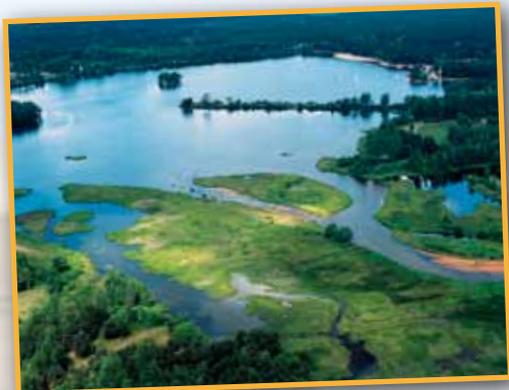
Anita Górecka, ul. Rakowska 29, 28-300 Jędrzejów
tel./fax 41 386 30 74, 0 600 288 375, www.kajakiem.pl

Municipal Center of Sports and Recreation (MOSiR)

ul. Pałki 26, 28-400 Pińczów
tel./fax 41 357 28 11, 357 20 44, 0 600 821 095

Sielpia

Surrounded by pine forests, Sielpia is a rest and recreation spot of the Świętokrzyski region located upon River Czarna Konecka and close to the nearby artificial lake (150 acres) – an ideal place for water sports and recreation as well as for evening entertainment in a disco. Splendid nature and unpolluted water attract many investors. They have built a number of rest and recreation centers of different standard. Well sign-posted hiking and biking tourist trails await fans of active rest. Many cultural



events are organized in Sielpia, but the most popular is the Kuźnica Koneckie on the site of the former metallurgical factory, currently the Museum of the Old Polish Industrial Center.

Tourist Information Center

26-200 Końskie, ul. Partyzantów 1
tel./fax +48 41 372 90 88
e-mail: informacja@konskie.travel
Opening hours: Mon-Fri 8am - 4pm

Indoor Swimming-Pool „Perła” in Sitkówka-Nowiny

The facilities of the indoor swimming-pool „Perła” can satisfy even very demanding fans of rest and recreation. There is a complex of swimming-pools, Finish sauna, fitness club, and a café. The greatest attraction of the center is the sliding pipe 93 m long and 1.2 m in diameter. The biggest pool offers underwater massage, wild springs, waterfalls, and a special kind of bubble baths. A little pool with water slide and cascade were constructed to



please children.

Various contests, competitions, festivals, shows and charity events are organized here throughout the year.

Indoor Swimming-Pool „Perła”

ul. Kubusia Puchatka, 26-052 Sitkówka – Nowiny
tel. 41 345 96 50, 346 52 60
www.perla.maximum.pl

Chańcza

Chańcza is an artificial water body on River Czarna Staszowska. In summer, enthusiasts of such water sports as sailing, windsurfing, swimming and sun-bathing flock to this reservoir of over 1,200 acres (3-11 meters deep). They can avail themselves of quite convenient accommodations and catering facilities. Water sports equipment can be hired on the spot.

Communal Office

in Raków
ul. Ogrodowa 1
26-035 Raków
tel./fax 41 353 50 18
www.rakow.pl



Indoor Swimming-Pool „Rawszczyzna” in Ostrowiec Świętokrzyski

Inaugurated in 2004, the 50-meter-long indoor swimming-pool „Rawszczyzna” is believed to be one Poland’s most modern facilities. With its 10 lanes and seats for 1,500 spectators, it meets all FINA requirements and standards for the organization of national and international swimming competitions. Its recreation space includes two smaller pools and a number of entertainment facilities such as pipe slide (78 m), open slide (13 m), artificial river, bottom geysers, water jets, and an underwater massage bathtub for seven persons. There is also a center of physical renewal and rehabilitation. Polish Olympic Games champion Otylia Jędrzejczak exercises in the indoor swimming-pool „Rawszczyzna”.



Indoor Swimming-Pool „Rawszczyzna”

Municipal Center of Sports and Recreation (MOSiR),
ul. Mickiewicza 32, 27-400 Ostrowiec Świętokrzyski
tel. 41 254 00 00, fax 41 267 41 03, www.mosir.ostrowiec.pl

Hiking Tourism

More than 40 hiking trails of the total length of 1,300 km help hikers to criss-cross and enjoy the beautiful Świętokrzyski Region. Trails of different level of difficulty lead tourists through relatively easy to explore ranges of the Świętokrzyskie Mountains. Other tourist trails run across such regions as Sandomierz, Ziemia Konecka, and Ponidzie. Hikers' efforts are amply compensated by the attractiveness of countryside, historical monuments and the omnipresent silence and quietness.

The following are the most attractive trails with color markings:

- Main red trail: Gołoszyce – Święty Krzyż – Święta Katarzyna – Masłów – Tumlin – Miedziana Góra – Kuźniaki
- Red trail: Gołoszyce – Ujazd- Klimontów – Koprzywnica – Sandomierz – Dwikozy – Zawichost
- Blue trail: Kuźniaki – Sielcia Wielka – Końskie – Stara Kuźnica – „Skałki Piekło pod Nieklaniem” nature reserve – Pogorzałe near Skarżysko-Kamienna
- Green trail: Grochowiska – Szaniec – Szczaworyż – Stopnica – Solec-Zdrój – Nowy Korczyn -Wiślica
- Red trail: Chęciny – Jaskinia Raj – Kielce Karczówka.

For more information go to page 32, PTTK Branch Offices.



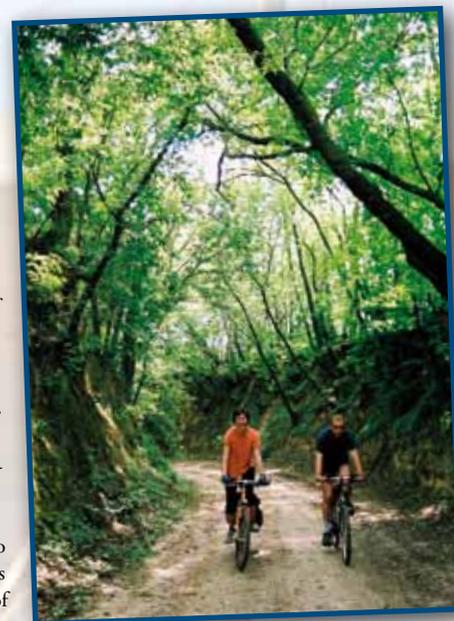
Biking Tourism

The Świętokrzyski Region welcomes bikers to its 3,000 km of sign-posted trails running through the most attractive parts of the countryside, near historical monuments and memorial sites, and close to various monuments of natural history.

The following are the most popular trails:

- Blue trail: *Industrial Heritage Sites in the Kamienna River Valley*;
- Trails in the Opatów environs;
- Red trail: *Environs of Stara-chowice*;
- Trails criss-crossing the Sandomierz region;
- Trails in the environs of Końskie.
- Red trail: *Forested Environs of Włoszczowa*;
- Red trail: *Across the Świętokrzyskie Mountains*;
- Black trail: *Trail of Defensive Architecture*;
- Yellow pilgrimage trail: *Spiritual Energy Sites*;
- Biking lanes in Kielce.

Those fans of biking tours who need more demanding trails should try mountainous parts of the Świętokrzyski Region, participate in biking rallies, and take part in a repeated event known as the *Świętokrzyskia Cycling League*. For more information go to page 32.



Horse Riding



riding can take part in racing contests, or improve their skill in obstacle jumping.

Equestrian Center - Park Stadion

ul. Kusocińskiego 61a, 25-045 Kielce, tel. 41 361 40 81
www.centrumjezdzieckie.kielce.pl

„Amazonka”

Borków 68, 26-021 Daleszyce, tel. 41 317 19 92
www.amazonkaborkow.oit.pl, e-mail: amazonkaborkow@oit.pl

Świętokrzyskie Rehabilitation Center

(hippotherapy – only for persons with medical recommendation and documents)

Czarniecka Góra 43, 26-220 Stąporków, tel. 41 374 11 63
www.rehabilitacjascr.pl

Sandomierz Cavalry Center

Rzeczyca Mokra 110, 27-600 Sandomierz
 Barbara Redzińska, tel. 0 691 488 346

Rollercoaster in Bałtów



It's quite a new offer of entertainment in Bałtów. Perfectly designed roller coaster (400 meters) meets all European safety standards. The rolling speed is controlled individually. If you are after adrenaline, try all those curves, rolls down (382 m) and climbs (135 m) at the maximum speed of approximately 40 km per hour.

JuraPark Bałtów

27-423 Bałtów 8a
 tel. 41 264 14 20 (21)
 e-mail: rezerwacja.baltow@jurapark.pl

White Madness

Winter offer of the Świętokrzyski Region is as attractive as its offer for other seasons. The mountain slopes are not located as high as in the Alps, but their length and inclination are much appreciated by both beginners and experienced skiers. In Kielce and its environs there are about 20 ski-lifts servicing slopes with snow canons, electric lightening, catering facilities, sports gear rental and ski-schools.

www.narty-swietokrzyskie.pl

Mt Telegraf and Mt Pierścienica in Kielce

tel. 41 368 74 26, www.rekreacja.kielce.pl,

SABAT Skiing Center in Krajno-Zagórze

tel. 41 312 77 11, 0 602 391 081, 0 602 217 920
www.sabatkrajno.pl
 Open: 9am-10pm

Mt Wykińska in Tumlin

tel. 41 303 49 82
www.tumlin-ski.prv.pl

Mt Bałt in Bałtów

tel. 41 264 14 20; www.szwajcariabaltowska.pl

Baba Jaga Ski Station on Mt Góra Miejska in Bodzentyn

tel. 0 607 771 209, www.narty-bodzentyn.republika.pl
 Open: 10am-10pm

Mt Otrocz in Niestachów – Skiing Center in Niestachów

tel. 41 302 18 48, 664 978 173
www.niestachow.pl



Rural Tourism

Very rich and diversified is the hospitality offer of stays on farms in the Świętokrzyskie voivodeship. Located in the most scenic parts of the region, the agrotourist farms provide not only comfortable accommodations but also tasty dishes of regional cuisine as well as many additional attractions. The hosts ensure high standard rooms, participation in farm activities, and help organize tours in the countryside. Whether you choose a short stay or a longer one, you are sure to get familiar with still live folk culture, customs and traditions of the local village life.

Regional Associations of Polish Hospitable Farms:

„Ziemia Świętokrzyska” - Świętokrzyski Region Federation for Rural Tourism

Headquarters at the seat of the Świętokrzyski Chamber of Agriculture

Ul. Chopina 15/3, 25-356 Kielce, tel. 41 832 01 17
www.agroturystyka-swietokrzyskie.pl

„Cis” - Agrotourist Association of Hospitable and Ecological Farms in Morawica

tel. 41 353 83 91
www.agrowakacje.pl/cis

„Borowiec” - Agrotourist Association of Fish Breeders - Śladków Mały

tel. 41 354 39 29,
www.wakacje.agro.pl/borowiec
www.borowiec.agrowczasy.com

„Relax” - Agrotourist Association in Busko-Zdrój

tel. 41 378 47 68, 0608 496 163
www.umig.busko.pl

„Dolina Czarnej” - Agrotourist Association in Raków

tel. 0 607 305 393
www.dolinaczarnej.agrowakacje.pl

„Żeremie” - Agrotourist Association in Daleszyce Commune

tel. 41 317 14 15, 0 503 861 078

„Źródło Zdrowia” - Agrotourist Association in Solec-Zdrój Commune

tel. 41 377 61 59

„Wierna Rzeka” - Agrotourist Association in Piekoszów

tel. 41 30 61 081
www.piekoszow.pl

Wisła-San Agrotourist Association

tel. 15 832 34 00

„Wypoczynek” - Association of Hospitable Farms

ul. 1-go Maja 37, 29-120 Kluczewsko
tel. 044 781 42 79, www.kluczewsko.gmina.pl

„Nad Zalewem Chańcza” - Association of Hospitable Farms

tel. 41 354 51 65
www.wakacje.agro.pl/korytnica
www.chancza.agrowczasy.com

Association for the Development of Łagów Commune

www.lagow.agrowakacje.pl

„Ponidzie” - Agrotourist & Tourist Association

tel. 41 356 42 26, 0 602 640 563
www.wakacje.agro.pl/ponidzie
www.ponidzie.agrowczasy.com

„W krainie latających czarownic” - Rural Tourism Association

www.czarownice.com.pl

„Dolina Sanicy” - Agrotourist & Tourist Association

Śladków Mały, tel. 41 354 27 78

www.wakacje.agro.pl/dolinasanicy
www.sladkow.agrowczasy.com

„Łysogóry” - Świętokrzyski Region Agrotourist Association

Trzcianka near Nowa Słupia

tel. 41 317 81 85

www.agrolysogory.pl



Regional Cuisine

The Świętokrzyski Region is a real paradise for those who enjoy dishes of regional cuisine and care for healthy, ecological diet. More and more popular are the regional fruits such as Szydłów plums, Damacha plums from the Ponidzie region, Sandomierz apple, sour-cherry from Nadbrzeźna Słupia, or strawberry from Bieliny. Well-known are dishes made of Korczyn beans served, among other places, in the Derśław Castle in Busko-Zdrój, goose meat from the agrotourist farm of Grażyna Korepta from Siesławice, or the Bodzentyn bread baked by the old bakery located in the market square of Bodzentyn. The Świętokrzyski Region is also known for its *zalewajka* often found on the menu of local restaurants. Those who visit Raków will certainly enjoy its traditional dish *dzionie* made from matzot and pork collar.

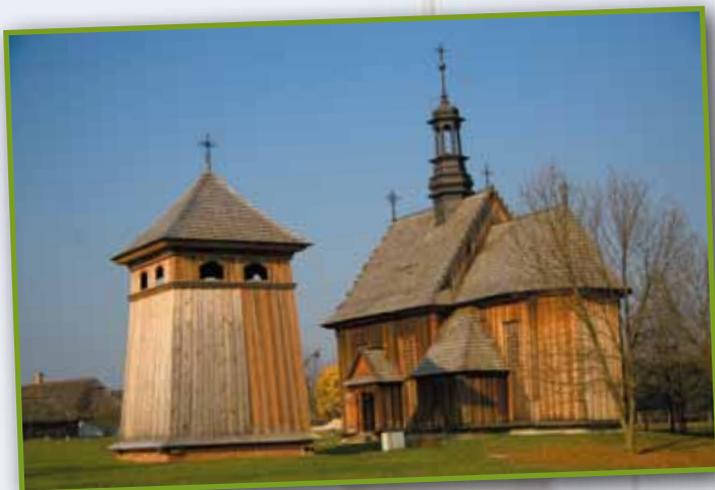
It's good to top one's meal with a glass of *ćmaga*, a herbal wine taken as digestif and produced in the agrotourist farm Orzechówka near Bodzentyn.

Agricultural Consulting Center in Modliszewice

ul. Piotrkowska 30, 26-200 Końskie
tel. 41 372 22 84-86,
fax 41 372 34 86, www.sodr.pl



Museum of the Kielce Village – Ethnographic Park in Tokarnia



The Ethnographic Park constitutes the main part of the exhibition featured by the Open-Air Museum of the Kielce Village in Tokarnia. It's conveniently situated near the E7 road leading from Kielce to Kraków. On the area of 160 acres picturesquely nestled in the bend of the Czarna Nida River many buildings representing the regional timber architecture (18th-19th cc.) were gathered. They were brought here from the Świętokrzyskie Mountains, Kraków-Częstochowa Upland, Sandomierz Upland, and the Nidzica River Basin. The structures include farmsteads, little town buildings, manors, farm outbuildings, rural workshops, and sacral constructions. The most interesting is the manor (1856) from Suchedniów, granary (1719) from Złota, and the Baroque church (1761) of Our Lady of Consolation from Rogów upon the Vistula. The 19th century interiors of rural houses and workshops, pharmacy, shop and tailor's atelier, and school from the inter-war period are displayed. Particularly interesting is the exhibition dedicated to local woodcarver Jan Bernasiewicz as well as many other temporary displays. The museum staff organizes repeated folklore events such as the Fire-Brigade Picnic (May), Lead Melting, Festival of Bread and Agrotourist Fair (June), Youth, Talent and Tradition (September), Gifts of Autumn, Feast of St Hubertus (October), and Christmas Holiday Fair (December).

Open-Air Museum of the Kielce Village

ul. Jana Pawła II 6, 25-025 Kielce
tel. 41 344 92 97, fax 41 344 50 08

Ethnographic Park in Tokarnia - Museum of the Kielce Village

Tokarnia 303 near Chęciny
tel. 41 315 41 71

Opening hours: Nov-March, on weekdays 9am-2pm;
April, Tue-Sun 9am-4pm; May-June, Mon-Sun 10am-6pm;
July-Aug, Tue-Sun 10am-6pm; Sept, Mon-Fri 9am-5pm,
Sat-Sun 10am-6pm; Oct, Mon-Fri 9am-5pm, Sat-Sun 10am-5pm.
www.mwk.com.pl
e-mail poczta@mwk.com.pl

Center of Traditional Pottery

Until the end of the 20th century the little village of Chałupki near Morawica delivered various clay vessels to the whole countryside. The Center of Traditional Pottery was started here in 1998 and continues to function in an old workshop belonging to one of the local potters. His son, Józef Głuszek, manages the center and gives tours. The workshop is equipped with all necessary and authentic tools for initial clay preparation and mixing, throwing pots on wheel, drying, glazing and decorating. In the workshop central part stands an old, two-chamber oven ready for baking operations. Touring the center and its exhibition visitors can admire many items manufactured by old masters of the trade. There are workshops and training courses available for enthusiasts of potter's skills.



Center of Traditional Pottery

Chałupki, ul. Ceramiczna 2, 26-026 Morawica
tel. 0 41 311 87 02; 0 606 109 980

Opening hours: daily except Mondays from 10am till 4pm.

Kuźnia - the Agrotourist Farm

The *Kuźnia* hospitality farm stands in the middle of the Cisowsko-Orłowski Landscape Park. Surrounded by hills and valleys, it's located far away from other farms and busy roads.

Guests are accommodated in the wooden section of the house furnished in rural style: walls are built of rough pine logs and some mattresses are filled with straw. Meals are prepared with the use of ecological products provided by local farmers. The hostess serves nettle soup, *dziołnie* (sausage made from matzot and pork collar), and home-made liquors on request. There is a play-ground for kids equipped with see-saws, aircraft, sandbox and Flintstones wagon made of wood. Guests can admire blacksmith's skills in the local workshop or learn decoupage techniques in the specially arranged atelier.



Agrotourist Farm „Kuźnia”

Elżbieta and Henryk Kot
Nowa Huta 20, 26-035 Raków, tel. 507 553 914
www.kuznia.wczasypolsce.pl

ENACTING HISTORICAL EVENTS

*K*nighly Tournament For the Sword of Krzysztof Baldwin Ossoliński

The monumental ruin of the Krzyżtopór castle in Ujazd create a perfect setting for the knightly tournaments that have been organized here for over 10 years. Each year in May hundreds of tourists watch tournaments of knights representing different banners and brotherhoods. The tournaments are accompanied by many events showing skills of crossbowmen, swordsmen, stuntmen as well as military parades, live chess-games, bowing contests and court dances. Enactments of battles against Swedes, especially of those at night time,

are difficult to forget.

Krzyżtopór Castle in Ujazd

Ujazd 73, 27-570 Iwaniska

Commune Iwaniska, tel. 15 860 11 33

Opening hours: April-Sept, 8am-8pm, Oct-March, 8am-4pm

www.krzyztopor.org.pl

*M*eedings with Jewish Culture

The history of little towns of the Świętokrzyski Region such as Chmielnik, Pińczów, Działoszyce and Szydłów is also the history of their Jewish communities that were present there for centuries. The event entitled *Meetings with Jewish Culture* was organized in Chmielnik in order to let the local population learn more about their former neighbours. More and more popular every year, the event includes Jewish

music concerts, dances and songs, displays of photographs and paintings, and performances showing scenes from Jewish life. The Jewish religious ceremony Kabbalat Sabbath, or the receiving of Sabbath, was held in Chmielnik for the first time since sixty years in 2006.

Municipal and Communal Office in Chmielnik

Plac Kościelny 5, 26-020 Chmielnik

tel. 41 354 32 73, 354 22 78

www.chmielnik.com

Municipal and Communal Office in Pińczów

Plac Konstytucji 3 Maja 10, 28-400 Pińczów

tel. 41/357 38 71 do 75

www.pinczow.com.pl

Communal Office in Szydłów

ul. Rynek 2, 28-225 Szydłów

tel./fax: 41 354 51 25

www.szydlow.pl

Communal Office in Działoszyce

ul. Skalbmierska 5, 28-440 Działoszyce

tel. 41 352 60 05, 352 60 10

www.dzialoszyce.pl

*I*nternational Knightly Tournament For the Sword of Zawisza Czarny from Grabów

Organized every year in Sandomierz by the Knightly Banner of the Sandomierz Region, the tournament proved to be a great tourist attraction. Fireshow, fights of Polish troops against the Teutonic Knights, crossbow and bow contests as well as shows of live chess-games are only a few of many events held in the old town market square. Very popular is the parade of Polish troops returning from the Grunwald battlefield and the welcome extended to the victorious king Władysław Jagiełło. Every weekend, beginning in the end of April, the Knightly Banner of the Sandomierz Region organizes many different cultural events to please tourists coming to visit Sandomierz.



Tourist Information Center

Rynek 20, 27-600 Sandomierz

www.sandomierz.pl

Tourist Information Center

PTTK Branch Office in Sandomierz, ul. Rynek 12

27-600 Sandomierz

tel. 15 832 23 05, tel./fax 15 832 26 82,

www.pttk-sandomierz.pl

Municipal Office in Sandomierz

Plac Poniatowskiego 3, 27-600 Sandomierz

tel. 15 644 01 00

www.sandomierz.pl

*P*lum Festival

Szydłów is a picturesque town with rich history and delicious plums promoted during the Plum Festival by the local fruit growers. In addition to the presentation of a few dozen varieties of plums, the festival is a good occasion to demonstrate old ways of plum drying. The festival is accompanied by a fair during which visitors can taste plums, prunes, home-made preserves as well as the famous locally produced slivovitz (plum brandy). Other festival events include shows and performances of Polish and foreign folklore groups.

Communal Office

in Szydłów

ul. Rynek 2

28-225 Szydłów

tel./fax 41 354 51 25

www.szydlow.pl



*D*ymarki Świętokrzyskie, or Primitive Smelting Furnaces



The traditions of this unique archaeological festival go back to 1967. It takes place in Nowa Słupia each year in August. It is the only such event in Europe that shows the method of iron production in primitive smelting furnaces as it was performed 2,000 years ago. The presentation is carefully prepared by metallurgists and

blacksmiths. Visitors can see how silver and bronze casts were made with the use of old techniques. The show includes functioning of pottery and weaving workshops, as well as production of wood tar and glass beads. As of 2001 the festival is accompanied by demonstrations of arms and fighting styles of Roman soldiers and inhabitants of other parts of Europe known as Barbarians.

Communal Culture Center of Nowa Słupia in Rudki
ul. Staszica 8, 26-006 Nowa Słupia
tel. 41 317 76 04
www.dymarki.pl

Communal Office of Nowa Słupia
ul. Rynek 15, 26-006 Nowa Słupia
tel. 41 317 87 00
www.nowaslupia.pl

*K*uźnice Koneckie Festival

Many events are organized during the festival, but the most popular is the *Kuźnice Koneckie* annually held in July on the site of the former metallurgical factory in Sielpia, currently the Museum of the Old Polish Industrial Center, in Stara Kuźnica (Końskie commune), and on the premises of the old rolling mill and nail making workshop in Maleniec (Ruda Maleniecka commune). The event promotes the cultural heritage of the Old Polish Industrial Center and demonstrates new possibilities of using old industrial sites and their equipment. In addition to concerts of popular artistic groups, there are workshops and shows of old and disappearing crafts and traditions. Such skills as smithery, iron casting and forging, coopering, and wheel making are demonstrated. Visitors can tour old industrial sites and see how old machines and tools are operated.



Powiat Starosty in Końskie

ul. Staszica 2, 26-200 Końskie, tel. 41 372 41 34, www.powiat.konskie.pl

*I*ron Roots Festival

The Iron Roots festival is organized on the premises of the Museum of Natural History and Technology in Starachowice. It is devoted to the presentation of everyday life, customs and occupations of peoples inhabiting the *Barbaricum* during the Roman Empire domination in Europe. The impact and infiltration of the Roman world and its culture on other regions is described. Besides the method of iron production in a primitive smelting furnace known as

dymarka, visitors can also learn about the work of many craftsmen: blacksmith, weaver, potter, goldsmith, basket maker, and the like. Very popular is the Roman cohort that is camping during the archaeological picnic on the museum premises. Everyone wants to find out how legionaries were armed, how they lived in camps, and what tactics they used during combats. Those are demonstrated during enactment of fights against Barbarians. The picnic is accompanied by numerous contests, bow shooting and demonstrations of fencing with the use of replicas of old arms.



Jan Pazdur Ecomuseum of Natural History and Technology in Starachowice
ul. Wielkopiećowa 1, 27-200 Starachowice
tel. 41 275 40 83, www.ekomuzeum.pl

*L*ead Ore Smelting

Every year in June the Lead Ore Smelting Festival is organized on the premises of the Ethnographic Park in Tokarnia. The main attractions include the lead smelting, minting of commemorative medals, wood tar distillation, and the production of charcoal. Visitors can also participate in the activities of workshops that show old and disappearing crafts and traditions such as coopering, saddlery, smithery, weaving, and pottery. There are also fairs of handicrafts and folk art, performances of folk ensembles, and horse rides and britzka tours for kids.



Ethnographic Park in Tokarnia

Tokarnia 303 near Chęciny

tel. 41 315 41 71

Opening hours: Nov-March, on weekdays 9am-2pm;

April, Tue-Sun 9am-4pm;

May-June, Mon-Sun 10am-6pm;

July-Aug, Tue-Sun 10am-6pm;

Sept, Mon-Fri 9am-5pm, Sat-Sun 10am-6pm;

Oct, Mon-Fri 9am-5pm, Sat-Sun 10am-5pm.

www.muk.com.pl

Live Museum of Porcelain

Poland's first live museum of porcelain is located in a little town of Ćmielów and is famous for its high quality figural porcelain. Conquering the world markets in the 1960s, the masterpieces of Ćmielów can be admired in the art galleries of New York, Chicago, Paris, London, Berlin, Moscow and many other European capitals. The museum was arranged on the premises of the former Porcelain Factory Świt in 2005. In addition to the exhibition of their products, the factory offers a possibility of active participation in the production process and even an opportunity

to make one's own figure. No wonder that the place is very popular with children.

Porcelain Factory AS Ćmielów, „Live Museum of Porcelain”

ul. Sandomierska 243, 27 – 440 Ćmielów

tel./fax +48 15 861 20 21, www.as.amielow.com.pl

Opening hours: May-Sept, Tue-Sun 9am-6pm; Oct-April, Tue-Sat 9am-4pm. Tours on Sundays should be booked in advance. Guided tours last approximately 30 minutes; last entry at 5pm.



Museum of Minerals and Fossils

It's one of the best private collections of minerals and fossils in Poland. The museum contains Poland's biggest mountain crystal, precious stones, petrifacts, prizewinning gallery of striped flint, stone sculptures and many other interesting exhibits. There is also a workshop for grinding precious stones and a jeweler's atelier, both open to visitors.

Museum of Minerals and Fossils

ul. Kielecka 20, Święta Katarzyna 26-010 Bodzentyn,

tel. 41 311 21 16, 0 501 282 697

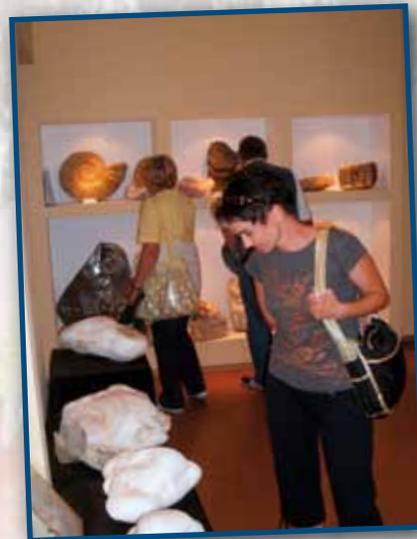
www.swkatarzyna-muzeum.pl

muzeum.mineralow@op.pl

Opening hours: daily on Mon-Sat 9am-7pm, Sun 10am-7pm

April-Oct, Tue-Sat 9am-6pm, Sun 10am-6pm

Tours in other months only after an advanced telephone reservation.



Czarnca- Stefan Czarniecki

It is the site of burial of famous Polish military commander, Hetman Stefan Czarniecki (1599-1665), who was born in the village and funded the construction of the church of the Ascension of Our Lady and St Florian. The church Baroque interior contains a baptismal font decorated with Łódzia - the Czarniecki family coat-of-arms. His body reposes in a red marble sarcophagus. A commemorative chapel was built in the 19th century. It shelters many mementos including a painting featuring the Hetman and his favorite horse, an icon from his field alter, and a church garment made of the horse-cloth belonging to the Swedish king Carolus Gustavus.

The Czarniecki family manor stood most probably opposite the church. The site is now occupied by an arboretum arranged in the 1960s.

Hetman Stefan Czarniecki Mausoleum

Szkoła Podstawowa (Elementary School)

in Czarnca

Czarnca, ul. Szkolna 16a

29-100 Włoszczowa

tel. 41 394 21 11



White Eagle Museum

Opened over 35 years ago, the White Eagle Museum in Skarżysko-Kamienna occupies the former building of the "Rejów" steelworks (19th c.) administration. Its collections of military equipment rank second in Poland after those gathered by the Polish Army Museum in Warsaw. The museum permanent displays shows items connected with WWII, including soldiers' equipment and uniforms. A large part of the exhibition was placed outdoors where visitors can admire guns, armored vehicles, helicopters, aircrafts, and tanks. The museum owns one of Poland's biggest collections of heavy armaments dating back to World War II and also manufactured during the postwar period. The highlights of the collection are undoubtedly the only one preserved cutter armed with torpedoes (ORP *Odwážny*) and a German automotive tank destroyer StuG IV. This is probably the only example of such a vehicle preserved in the whole world.



White Eagle Museum

ul. Słoneczna 90, 26-110 Skarżysko-Kamienna, tel. 41 252 02 31

www.orzelbialy.dmkhosting.com, www.orzelbialy.skarzysko.org

Opening hours: Sept-April 8am-4pm; May-Aug 8am-8pm

European Center of Fairy-Tales



Pacanów never experienced so much fame as when the writer Kornel Makuszyński created the town's countrywide known celebrity – *Koziołek Matolek* (Billy-the-Goat). *Koziołek Matolek* is the patron of the annual Festival of Children's Culture. It's organized in Pacanów in June on the occasion of the International Children's Day and attracts thousands of kids and adults as well. Performances with the participation of well-known artists are held on specially prepared stages. The festival program includes theatrical shows, contests, amusement park attractions, various fairs, and rides on a choof-choof train. A project of the *Koziołek Matolek* European Center of Fairy-Tales has already been elaborated. It's going to be a place where children's dreams shall come true.

Koziołek Matolek European Center of Fairy-Tales in Pacanów
 ul. Słupska 31, 28-133 Pacanów
 tel./fax 41 376 50 88
www.pacanow.eu

Legends of the Świętokrzyski Region



The Bieliny commune welcomes those who like encounters with witches, sorceresses, herbalists, goblins, evil-spirits, and demons always alive in tales, folk traditions and culture of the Świętokrzyskie Mountains. Only here you can meet them or compete with them on tourist trails. Entering the world of outdoor games, we place ourselves between reality and magic, combining scientific experience with amusement. People not only get integrated, but also spend time in an active, memorable and sometimes intriguing way. In captivating and mysterious surroundings and thanks to characters we meet, one can learn about the history of the Świętokrzyskie Mountains and discover Spiritual Energy Sites hidden somewhere in the land of legends.

„Świętokrzyski Region – Land of Legends”, Outdoor Games
 LGD Association – „Wokół Łysej Góry”
 ul. Partyzantów 17, 26-004 Bieliny
 tel. 41 302 61 06
www.wokollysejgory.pl

Krystyna Jamroz Music Festival

The Krystyna Jamroz International Music Festival is held annually at the spa of Busko-Zdrój and is regarded as the most important musical event in the Świętokrzyski Region. It starts during the first days of July, lasts a week, and carries the name of the famous singer born and brought up in Busko-Zdrój. The festival attracts a great number of world-famous musicians, directors and singers from Poland and abroad. Busko-Zdrój hosted such artists as Krzysztof Penderecki, Wiesław Ochman, Teresa Żylis-Gara, Dymitr Baszkirow, Gheorghe Zamfir, Jerzy Maksymiuk, Adam Makowicz, Leszek Możdżer, and such orchestras as *Sinfonia Varsovia*, National Philharmonic Symphony Orchestra, Agnieszka Duczmal *Amadeus* Chamber Orchestra, *Poznań Nightingales* Boys' and Men's Choir, and many others.

Culture Center in Busko-Zdrój
 Al. Mickiewicza 22, 28-100 Busko-Zdrój
 tel./fax 41 378 23 19

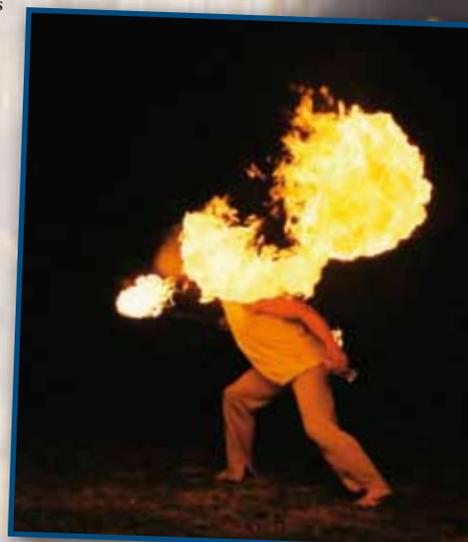


Kupala Day in the Świętokrzyski Region

Magic and *Tradition* are the leading motive of the Feast of St John the Baptist celebrated in the Świętokrzyski Region. Another slogan of the celebrations announces: Come and Welcome Summer in the Świętokrzyski Region! On June 21st, when comes the night of the Feast of St John the Baptist known in Poland as the *Kupala* Night, hundreds of events, shows, displays and fairs are organized on the territory of the voivodeship. All of them with the goal of reviving old pre-Christian cult rites.

During that shortest night of the year fires are lit on hills, maidens make and float wreaths, and some of them set off with torches into woods seeking the legendary fern flower.

Coordinator – Foundation
„Regionalis”
 tel. 41 344 38 77, 508 353 838
www.kupala.pl



Świętokrzyski National Park (Holy Cross NP)

It's Poland's second oldest national park, established in 1950 and occupying an area of 19 thousand acres. It encompasses the central part of the Świętokrzyskie Mountains and has taken under protection the highest range known as the Łysogóry with such peaks as Łysica (612m), Agata (608m) and Łysa Góra (595m) as well as an eastern part of the Klonowskie range and part of the Pokrzywiański range with Chełmowa Góra (Mt Chełmowa). Mostly covered with fir and beech forests, the park is home to 647 trees recognized as nature monuments. It also contains such special habitats as the endemic fir-tree stand and stands of the Polish larch-tree on Mt Chełmowa. There live some 260 lichen species, 190 species of bryophytes and 700 species of vascular plants. The park's flora and fauna include 82 plant and 29 animal species under protection. Very rare and valuable are such plants as Siberian iris, globe flower, ostrich fern and common buckler fern. Worth particular attention are the post-glacier *goloborza* - small, totally deforested areas covered with Cambrian quartzite boulders and completely stripped of green vegetation.

The Holy Cross Benedictine monastic complex (early 12th c.) on Święty Krzyż is the most noteworthy historical monument situated in the Świętokrzyski NP area. It was there that the Holy Cross Sermons were written, most probably the oldest of Polish written records.

Head Office of the Świętokrzyski National Park

ul. Suchedniowska 4, 26-010 Bodzentyn, tel./fax 41 311 51 06,
tel. 41 311 50 25, www.swietokrzyskipn.org.pl



Landscape Parks

There are many protected natural areas in the Świętokrzyskie voivodship. Besides the Świętokrzyski National Park, there are eight landscape parks (LP). The Suchedniowski-Oblegorski LP encloses such reserves as the Świętokrzyska Primeval Forest (Świnia Góra), outstanding examples of Polish larch trees in the Dalejów reserve, and the famous nature monument oak *Bartek*. The park also encompasses some industrial heritage sites belonging to the former Old Polish Industrial Center.

The Sieradowicki LP is known to have witnessed many important historical events. Its woods were a refuge for the January Insurrection (1863) fighters and the partisan groups during World War II. Major Jan Piwnik – Ponury, commander of the Home Army (AK) largest partisan groupings in the Kielce region chose those woods for their camping grounds.

The greatest attraction of the Cisowsko-Orłowski LP is nature; especially its habitats of peatland vegetation protected in such nature reserves as the *Białe Ługi* and *Słopiec*.

The Jeleniowski LP of mountainous character is best-known for its unusual piles of broken quartzite rocks known as *goloborza*.

The outdoor geological museum is the name given to the Chęcińsko-Kielecki LP. In the southern part of the voivodship three parks form a Complex of the Ponidziańskie Landscape Parks. The Nadnidziański LP was delimited in order to protect rare large gypsum crystals as well as the Nida River valley with many meanders and old riverbeds – home to marshy and aquatic avifauna. Material heritage is represented by many historical sites as in this area originated the first tribal state of the Vistulans (9th c.) with its major stronghold of Wiślica. The Szaniecki LP protects many original and picturesque hills built of limestone and gypsum as well as habitats of xerothermic, peatbog and halophilous vegetation. The greatest attraction of the Szaniecki LP inanimate nature are the outcrops of the large crystal gypsum. The Kozubowski LP features varied and attractive relief with vast wood expanses and interesting xerothermic plant life.

Complex of the Świętokrzyskich and Nadnidziańskich Landscape Parks

ul. Łódzka 244, 25-655 Kielce, tel. 41 34 558 80; 34 551 91
www.pk.kielce.pl



Białe Ługi Nature Reserve



This largest in the Świętokrzyski Region peatbog reserve of unique wetland vegetation is located in the Daleszycie woods. Its name is derived from white flowers of the marsh cotton-grass. In the local lingo, the name *Białe Ługi* means white meadows. The 3-meter-deep peatbog areas are overgrown with dwarf Siberian pine and birch, as well as with cranberry, bog rosemary, common sundew, and other plant species. Wildlife also flourishes here, represented by the rare black stork. River Czarna Staszowska, one of the purest rivers in the region, is born in the Białe Ługi nature reserve.

Local Action Group "Białe Ługi"

Plac Staszica 6
26-021 Daleszycie
tel. 41 307 26 44
fax: 41 307 26 44
www.bialelugi.pl

Ponidzie, or the Świętokrzyski Region Steppe

Located in the central part of the Nidzica River Basin, the Ponidzie Region has a special microclimate – it's one of Poland's most sun-heated territories. That's the reason why we shall find here the vegetation characteristic for Pontian steppes and xerothermic grasslands (*Grabowiec* nature reserve), halophyte vegetation (*Owczary* nature reserve), as well as splendid riverside and alder forests. The picturesquely meandering Nida River is undoubtedly the backbone of the region; it's very popular with enthusiasts of kayaking rallies. Karst inselbergs, rock domes and gypsum outcrops (*Prześlin* nature reserve) greatly enrich the Ponidzie Region landscape. Its diversified and lush nature became safe habitat for many protected species of birds and animals. Anglers are attracted here by a great variety of fish that teem in warm waters of the local streams and rivers.



www.muzeumitpinczow.eu

Tourist Information Center
Regional Museum, ul.
Piłsudskiego 2a, 28-400
Pińczów
tel. 41 357 24 72
muzeumitpinczow.eu

Górna Krasna Floral and Ornithological Nature Reserve

The wild River Krasna thanks to its exceptional natural characteristics was included into the European ecological network of protected areas Natura 2000. Unchanged for millenia, its riverbed encompasses such different habitats as large marshes and wood peatbog as well as areas of mountain character. The floral and ornithological nature reserve established here in 2004 is the habitat of rare animal and plant species. It is home of the beautiful and rare Polish orchid (*hel-leborine*) and of seventeen other protected plant species including the carnivorous great sundew. In this paradise for ornithologists one can often observe hazel grouse, black grouse, northern hobby, lesser spotted eagle, Montagu's and marsh harriers, colorful kingfisher, black stork, penduline tit, and six species of bats. The beautiful and remote Krasna River valley can be toured on foot (yellow trail, 38.5 km) or by bike (green trail, 56 km).



Association for Research and Protection of Nature

ul. Sienkiewicza 68, 25-501 Kielce
tel. 41 344 43 25, www.tbop.org.pl

Tourist Information Center

26-200 Końskie, ul. Partyzantów 1
tel./fax +48 41 372 90 88
e-mail: informacja@konskie.travel
Opening hours:
Mon-Fri 8am - 4pm

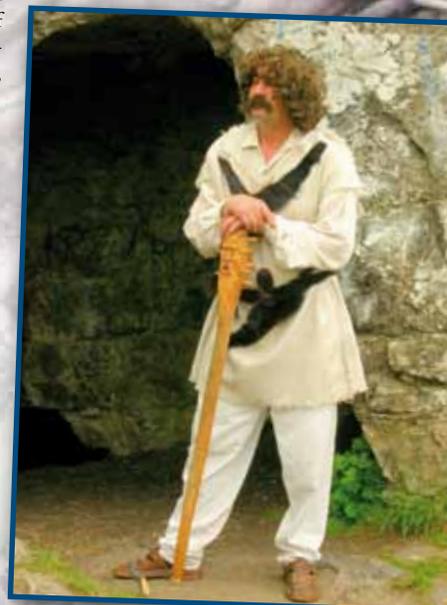


Robbers' Cave

The Jurassic Robbers' Cave in Łagów is one of the longest and largest caves of the region. It's built of Devonian limestone and dates back to the Pliocene period. Its form belongs to holokarst developed along absondering fissures. The Dripstone Room is the most interesting part of the cave; it features stalactites, stalagmites, pillars, curtains with rice fields, and other dripstone formations. Wild boar bones and pots from the 11th or 12th centuries were found in the cave bottom layers.

Here lived the legendary Madej the Robber to whom Lucifer promised punishment on the so-called Madej's Bed for all evil deeds he committed during his robber's life.

Communal Office in Łagów
ul. Iwańska 11, 26-025 Łagów
tel. 41 307 40 33, 307 41 21
www.lagow-gmina.pl



Busko-Zdrój Health Resort

Busko-Zdrój, one of Poland's most famous spas, is known for its sulphide and iodide-bromide water springs. For the last two centuries Busko-Zdrój functioned as an important therapeutic center for people suffering from circulatory and locomotor system disorders as well as from gynecological problems and skin diseases. The first health resort facility - now the *Marconi* sanatorium - was put into operation on 1 June 1836, and started the development of the spa. The baths designed by Henryk Marconi were built in the neoclassical style and surrounded by a parkland. Basic therapy in Busko-Zdrój consists of sulphide baths and medicinal water drinking cures. Tradition hydrotherapy is backed up by various physiotherapeutic treatments with the use of modern medical facilities for hydromassage, vacuum jet, vibration platform, or ensuring excellent results sessions in cryotherapy chamber in temperature minus 120° C. Answering to the growing demand for Wellness and Spa services, Busko-Zdrój health resort extended its scope of therapies offering various modern beauty and body improving treatments including massages, baths, dead sea mud body wraps, airbrush tanning, musicotherapy, and relaxation in salt-iodine grotto.

There are many dress-up occasions because music recitals are held almost daily in the concert hall of the *Marconi* sanatorium. Major artistic events are organized in Busko-Zdrój every year: Krystyna Jamroz International Music Festival, Busko-Zdrój Meetings with Folklore, or Summer with Fryderyk Chopin.

„Uzdrowisko Busko – Zdrój”

ul. F. Rzewuskiego 1, 28-100 Busko-Zdrój
tel. 41 370 32 00, tel./fax 41 378 41 54, www.ubz.pl
e-mail: dyrekcja@ubz.pl

Sanatorium „Włókniarz”

ul. Rokosza 1, 28-100 Busko-Zdrój
Reservation: tel. 41 378 10 16, 41 378 30 41, fax 41 378 10 18
www.wlokniaz.pl, e-mail: sekretariat@wlokniaz.pl

Sanatorium „Willa Zielona”

ul. 1-go Maja 39, 28-100 Busko-Zdrój, tel. 41 370 32 73

21 Wojskowy Szpital Uzdrowiskowo-Rehabilitacyjny

(21 Spa and Rehabilitation Military Hospital)
ul. F. Rzewuskiego 8, 28-100 Busko-Zdrój
Reservation: tel. 41 378 03 85; Centrala: tel. 41 378 24 17
Reception: tel. 41 378 09 00
www.21wszur.pl
e-mail: rezerwacja@21wszur.pl

Sanatorium „Nida-Zdrój”

ul. Rzewuskiego 9, 28-100 Busko-Zdrój
tel. 41 378 24 91-3, tel./fax 41 378 37 72
www.sanatoria.com.pl
e-mail: nida@sanatoria.com.pl

Solec-Zdrój Health Resort

New possibilities of rest and medical cures attract more and more tourists and bathers to Solec-Zdrój health resort. Medicinal waters such as sulphide brines containing sulphide and polysulphide ions are the greatest treasure of the Solec-Zdrój spa. The sulphide brine, especially the one provided by the recently discovered *Malina* spring with the sulphide ions content is believed to be one of the strongest and most beneficial in Europe. Solec-Zdrój health resort offers very effective therapy for those who suffer from locomotor system problems, orthopedic, rheumatic and post-traumatic conditions, gynecological problems, heavy metal intoxication, and peripheral nervous system disorders.

A new hotel and sanatorium establishment *Malinowy Zdrój* was developed on the basis of the recently discovered *Malina* spring. A great variety of Spa and Wellness treatments offered by this new facility include bubble baths, Spa Capsule, massage therapy, hydromassages, aromatherapy, color therapy, sea salt and algae therapy, facial and body sculpting, and relaxation in Finnish, Turkish or herbal sauna.

Hotel Medical SPA „Malinowy Zdrój”****

ul. Leśna 7, 28-131 Solec-Zdrój
tel. 41 370 40 00, 370 40 03
www.malinowyzdroj.pl
e-mail: recepca@malinowyzdroj.pl

Solec-Zdrój Health Resort

ul. 1-go Maja 1, 28-131 Solec-Zdrój
tel. 41 377 60 17
www.uzdrowiskosolec.pl
e-mail: info@uzdrowiskosolec.pl



Kielce Trade Fairs (TK)

The Kielce Trade Fairs company has been operating on the exhibition market for a dozen or so years. It ranks second on the Polish fair market and owns Poland's second largest fair grounds. Following is the list of the TK major fair events: PLASTPOL International Fair of Plastics Processing, AUTOSTRADA-POLSKA International Fair of Road Construction Industry, MSPO International Defense Industry Exhibition, METAL International Fair of Technologies for Foundry, SACROEXPO International Exhibition of Church Construction, Church Fittings and Furnishings and Religious Art, AGROTECH International Fair of Agricultural Techniques, TRANSEXPO International Fair of Local Public Transport.

The Kielce Trade Fairs company has been honored with numerous awards and distinctions for its achievements on the fair market as well as on the market of national economy. It was granted the award of the Foreign Ministry for the promotion of Poland worldwide, organization of top standard international fairs and business exhibitions.

The most prestigious distinctions obtained by the KT were the Polish Business Leader Award and the Diamond to the Golden Statuette of the Polish Business Leader received from the Business Center Club.

Three exhibitions METAL, PLASTPOL, and MSPO are members of the Global Association of the Exhibition Industry (UFI) seated in Paris. The Kielce Trade Fairs company is Poland's second exhibition centre to have met the strict requirements and conditions for membership of this international organization.

Five fair events organized by the KT have been awarded with a European Medal for Services, which is granted by the Office of the Committee for European Integration and the Business Center Club. In 2009, the KT was one of the prizewinners granted the Cheetah of Business Award by the Cooperative Banking Institute. The KT has expanded its activity beyond the territory of Poland, organizing East European versions of some of its fairs in Ukraine.

Kielce Trade Fairs Co. Ltd
ul. Zakładowa 1, 25-672 Kielce
tel. 41 365 12 22, www.targikielce.pl



Świętokrzyskie Conference Centers

The Świętokrzyskie Conference Centers ensure high-quality professional services and their conference rooms are equipped with the most modern facilities. Besides, they guarantee top-class accommodations. There are outlets which offer additional attractions in addition to regular conference facilities designated for business meetings. The *Pod Cizemką* Hotel is an attraction in itself as it occupies an old burgher house located in the Sandomierz old town market square. The *Pod Różą* Hotel in Kielce as well as the *Zamek Derśława* Hotel in Busko-Zdrój were arranged in period buildings combining modernity with tradition. Sophisticated Wellness and SPA services are offered by the *Włókniarz* sanatorium in Busko-Zdrój. Not only the SPA center but also the popular *Patio* restaurant are waiting for guests in the *Kongresowy* Hotel in Kielce, which has well-equipped conference facilities as well. It often hosts both business and artistic events. Picturesquely located is the *Goloborze* Center in Rudki near Nowa Słupia, *Przedwiośnie* Hotel in Mąchocice, and the Educational Center in Wólka Milanowska. Those who are fond of trekking and long biking trips will be happy to stay in the *Afor* center in Borków. Very comprehensive services are ensured by the *Europa* Hotel in Starachowice. Its conference rooms derive their names from different European capitals. There is a wellness center as well as a modern *Amsterdam* club on its premises.

Centers of Business Meetings and Conferences

Hotel Kongresowy ***

Al. Solidarności 34, 25-323 Kielce

tel. 41 332 63 93, 332 63 60

fax 41 332 64 40, www.hotelkongresowy.pl

Hotel Konferencyjno-Eventowy Łysogóry***

ul. Sienkiewicza 78, 25-501 Kielce

tel. 41 365 50 00, fax 41 365 50 01

www.lysogory.com.pl

Hotel Uroczysko***

Cedzyna, 25-900 Kielce

tel./fax 41 368 11 16, 302 19 26

www.hotel-uroczysko.com.pl

Educational Center

Wólka Milanowska 18a, 26-006 Nowa Słupia

tel. 41 31 77 064, <http://centrum.uom.kielce.pl>

„Goloborze” - Center of Rest, Training, Promotion, Culture and Sports

ul. Górnicza 3, 26-007 Rudki, gm. Nowa Słupia

tel. 41 317 74 83, 331 06 25, 331 06 25

www.goloborze.wczasywypolsce.pl

Hotel „Gromada” **

ul. Waryńskiego 10, 28-100 Busko-Zdrój

tel./fax 41 378 30 01 to 4

www.hotelgromada.busko.com.pl

Hotel „Europa” ****

ul. Radomska 76a, 27-200 Starachowice

tel. 41 276 78 00, fax 0 41 276 78 01

www.europa-hotel.pl

Hotel „Senator” ***

ul. Krywki 18, 27-200 Starachowice

tel./fax 41 274 03 90

www.hotel-senator.com.pl

Hotel „Basztowy” ***

pl. Ks. J. Poniatowskiego 2, 27-600 Sandomierz

tel. 15 833 34 50, fax 15 833 34 70

www.hotelbasztowy.pl

Hotel „Sarmata” ***

ul. Zawichojska 2, 27-600 Sandomierz

tel. 15 833 47 00

www.hotelsarmata.pl

Hotel „Afor”

Borków 64, 26-021 Daleszyce

www.afor.pl

Regional Tourist Information Center in Kielce

ul. Sienkiewicza 29
25-007 Kielce
tel./fax 41 348 00 60
www.swietokrzyskie.travel
e-mail: informacja@swietokrzyskie.travel

Tourist Information Center in Jędrzejów

Pl. T. Kościuszki 7/8
28-300 Jędrzejów
tel. 41 386 54 89
www.muzeum.jedrzejow.pl

Tourist Information Center in Busko-Zdrój

al. Mickiewicza 22
28-100 Busko – Zdrój
tel. 41 370 10 22
www.busko.travel
informacja@busko.travel

Tourist Information Center in Bałtów

„Bałtek” Club
Bałtów 55, 27-423 Bałtów,
tel. 41 264 12 93
www.baltow.info
www.juraparkbaltow.pl

Tourist Information Center in Kurozwęki

ul. Zamkowa 3, 28 -200 Staszów
tel. 15 866 74 07
www.bizony.com

Tourist Information Center in Sandomierz

Rynek 20, 27-600 Sandomierz
tel. 15 832 29 64, 15 644 01 33
www.sandomierz.pl

Tourist Information Center in Sandomierz

PTTK Branch in Sandomierz,
ul. Rynek 12, 27-600 Sandomierz,
tel. 15 832 23 05,
tel./fax 15 832 26 82,
www.pttk-sandomierz.pl

Tourist Information Center in Końskie

ul. Partyzantów 1
26-200 Końskie
tel. 41 372 90 88
www.konskie.travel
e-mail: informacja@konskie.travel

Tourist Information Center in Pińczów

ul. Piłsudskiego 2a, 28-400 Pińczów
tel./fax. 41 357 24 72
www.muzeumitpinczow.eu
e-mail: mrpinczow@wp.pl

Tourist Information Center in Włoszczowa

ul. Koniecpolska 42, 29-100 Włoszczowa
tel. 41 394 35 90
www.pckr.nazwa.pl

Tourist Information Center in Bieliny

ul. Partyzantów 17, 26-004 Bieliny
tel. 41 302 61 06
www.bieliny.pl
www.wokollysejgory.pl

Tourist Information Center in Miedziana Góra

ul. Urzędnicza 8, 26-085 Miedziana Góra
tel. 41 303 11 01
www.miedziana-gora.pl

Tourist Information Center in Sitkówka - Nowiny

26-052 Sitkówka - Nowiny
tel. 41 346 52 60/
41 345 96 50 ext. 35
www.perla.maximum.pl

Tourist Information Center in Nagłowice

ul. Kacpra Walewskiego 7,
28-362 Nagłowice
tel. 41 381 45 70
www.naglowice.glt.pl

Tourist Information Center in Nowa Słupia

ul. Świętokrzyska 18, 26 - 006 Nowa Słupia
tel. 41 317 76 26
www.nowaslupia.pl

Tourist Information Center in Strawczyn

ul. Żeromskiego 16, 26-067 Strawczyn
tel. 41 303 86 35
www.strawczyn.pl

Tourist Information Center in Chmielnik

ul. 13 stycznia 17, 26-020 Chmielnik
tel. 41 354 47 26
www.chmielnik.com

Tourist Information Center in Ostrowiec Świętokrzyski

ul. Siennieńska 54, 27-400 Ostrowiec Św.
tel. 41 247 65 80
www.um.ostrowiec.pl

Tourist Information Center in Daleszyce

Plac Staszica 9, 26-021 Daleszyce,
tel. 41 307 26 44
www.bialelugi.pl

Tourist Information Center in Opatów

PTTK Branch Office in Opatów
Pl. Obrońców Pokoju 18, 27-500 Opatów
tel. 15 868 13 01,
15 868 13 13
www.opatow.pl

Tourist Information Center in Klimontów

ul. Kościelna 5, 27-640 Klimontów
tel. 601 760 948
www.klimontow.pl

Tourist Information Center in Szydłów

ul. Targowa 3, 28-225 Szydłów
tel. 41 354 53 13
www.szydlow.pl

Tourist Information Center in Ujazd

Ujazd 73, 27-570 Iwaniska
tel. 15 860 11 33
www.krzyztopor.org.pl

Tourist Information Center in Łagów

ul. Rynek 62, 26-025 Łagów
tel. 41 307 40 70
www.lagow-gmina.pl

Tourist Information Center in Chrobrz

Chrobrz 268, 28-425 Złota
tel. 519 145 533
www.palac.chrobrz.info

Tourist Information Center in Chęciny

ul. Staszica 3, 26-067 Chęciny
www.checiny.pl

Tourist Information Center in Starachowice

PTTK Branch Office
Gymnasium No 1 in Starachowice
ul. Kielecka 3, 27-200 Starachowice
tel. 693 779 899
www.starachowice.travel
e-mail: informacja@starachowice.travel

Tourist Information Center in Solec-Zdrój

ul. Partyzantów 8A, 28-131 Solec-Zdrój
tel. 41 377 60 59
www.solec-zdroj.pl

Branch Offices of the Polish Tourist Organisation Abroad

AUSTRIA

*Polnisches Fremdenverkehrsamt
Lerchenfelder Strasse 2, A-1080 Wien
tel. (0 043 1) 524 71 91 12, fax 524 71 91 20
e-mail: wien@pot.gov.pl
www.poland.travel*

BELGIUM

*Pools Informatiebureau voor Toerisme
Avenue de la Renaissance 20, 1000 Brussel
tel. (0 032 2) 740 06 20, 740 06 24(21), fax 742 37 35
e-mail: bruxelles@pot.gov.pl
www.poland.travel*

FRANCE

*Office National Polonais de Tourisme
9, rue de la Paix, 75002 Paris
tel. (0 033 1) 42 44 29 92, 42 44 29 91, dyr. 42 44 29 91
fax 42 97 52 25, e-mail: paris@pot.gov.pl
www.poland.travel*

GERMANY

*Polnisches Fremdenverkehrsamt
Kurfürstendamm 71, 10709 Berlin
tel. (0 049 30) 21 00 92 0, dyr. 21 00 92 11,
fax 21 00 92 14, e-mail: berlin@pot.gov.pl
www.poland.travel*

GREAT BRITAIN

*Polish National Tourist Office
Westgate House, London W5 1YY
tel. (0 044 8700) 67 50 12, fax 67 50 11
e-mail: london@pot.gov.pl
www.poland.travel*

HOLLAND

*Pools Informatiebureau voor Toerisme
Leidsestraat 64, 1017 PD Amsterdam
tel. (0 031 20) 625 35 70, fax 623 09 29
e-mail: amsterdam@pot.gov.pl
www.poland.travel*

HUNGARY

*Lengyel Nemzeti Idegenforgalmi Kepviselet
Károlyi krt. 11, 1075 Budapest
tel. (0 036 1) 269 78 09, fax 269 78 10
e-mail: budapest@pot.gov.pl
www.poland.travel*

ITALY

*Ufficio Turistico Polacco
Via Barberini 50, 00187 Roma
tel. (0 039 06) 482 70 60, fax 481 75 69
e-mail: turismo@polonia.it
www.poland.travel*

JAPAN

*Polish National Tourist Office
Keio Nishi Shinjuku Minami Bldg. 7F
3-4-5 Nishi Shinjuku, Shinjuku-ku, Tokio 160-0023,
Japonia 160-8308, tel. (0 81 3) 59 08 38 08
fax 59 08 38 09, e-mail: tokio@pot.gov.pl
www.poland.travel*

RUSSIA

*Представительство Польской Туристической Организации
ul. Zemlanoj Wal 66/20
Art. Building, 109004 Moscow
tel. (0 07 495) 510 62 10, fax 510 62 11
e-mail: moskva@pot.gov.pl
www.poland.travel*

SWEDEN

*Polska Statens Turistbyrå
Villagatan 2, S-114 32 Stockholm
tel. (0 046 8) 20 56 05, dyr. 21 81 45, fax 21 04 65
e-mail: info.scan@polen.travel
www.poland.travel*

UKRAINE

*Польський Осередок Туристичної Інформації,
01001 Kyiv, Khreshchatyk 25, lok 98
tel. (0 0380 44) 278 67 28, fax 278 66 70
e-mail: kyiv@pot.gov.pl*

USA

*Polish National Tourist Office
5 Marine View Plaza, Hoboken, NJ 07030
tel. (0 01 201) 420 99 10, fax 584 91 53
e-mail: info.na@poland.travel
www.poland.travel*

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25-033 Kielce, (Bldg of the Voivodeship Culture Center, Room 36)
tel. 41 361 80 57
e-mail: rot@swietokrzyskie.travel, www.swietokrzyskie.travel

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*...for the development
of the Świętokrzyskie voivodeship...*



REGIONAL PROGRAMME
NATIONAL COHESION STRATEGY



THE ŚWIĘTOKRZYSKIE VOIVODESHIP

EUROPEAN UNION
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