



# MAŁOPOLSKA

Wooden Architecture Route



# MAŁOPOLSKA WOODEN ARCHITECTURE ROUTE

**Capital of the region:** Kraków

**Major cities:** Tarnów, Nowy Sącz, Oświęcim

**Surface area:** 15,190 km<sup>2</sup> (about 5% of the surface area of Poland)

**Population:** 3.35 mil. (about 8% of the population of Poland)

**Landscape:**

- the tallest peak – Rysy: 2499 m asl
- mountains – Tatras, Beskids, Pieniny, Gorce
- foothills – Carpathian Foothills
- uplands – Kraków-Częstochowa Upland
- lowlands – Vistula valley
- main rivers – Vistula, Dunajec, Poprad, Raba, Skawa, Biała
- water reservoirs – Czorsztynski, Rożnowski, Czchowski, Dobczycki, Klimkówka
- the highest located, cleanest lakes – Morskie Oko, Czarny Staw, the lakes of the Valley of Five Polish Lakes
- the largest and deepest cave – Wielka Śnieżna Cave: over 22 km of corridors, 824 m deep



More information on:

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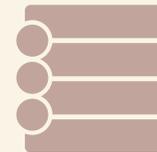
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# MAŁOPOLSKA Wooden Architecture Route



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*Charming Catholic churches, lofty Orthodox churches, magnificent manor houses, elegant villas and simple, yet beautiful cottages... all made of wood. Such unique buildings can be admired on the Wooden Architecture Route. In the Małopolska Region, the trail covers over 1,500 km and includes 253 various buildings and building complexes. The most famous among them are naturally those inscribed on the UNESCO List of World Cultural and Natural Heritage Sites: the churches in Binarowa, Dębno, Lipnica Murowana and Sękowa. Four wooden Orthodox churches were added to the World Heritage List in 2013 located in Brunary Wyżne, Kwiatów, Owczary and Powroźnik, together with four other Orthodox churches in the Podkarpackie Region, and wooden Orthodox churches in the Ukraine. These historic buildings are manifest to the uniqueness of sacred wooden architecture of region on the world scale. The originality of the buildings is not limited to the material and architectural form; the interiors boast works of art of high historic value. The buildings boast wall paintings dating from various periods, paintings, sculptures and liturgical items, while Orthodox churches feature the characteristic iconostases with many original icons. The sites inscribed on the UNESCO World Heritage List constitute only a small group of the wealth of incredibly valuable buildings located on the Małopolska Route. It must be remembered that historic wooden architecture, an inherent element of the Polish landscape, has been best preserved in Małopolska. It merges beautifully with the local landscape: green valleys, picturesque hills and soaring mountain peaks.*



Music locked in wood concert, Kraków – Mogiła, MOT photo archive

*All sites on the Wooden Architecture Route feature information boards, as well as road signs directing to them. As part of the "Open Wooden Architecture Route" Project, some churches and Orthodox churches are open to the public from May to October. It is a unique opportunity to see places that are normally inaccessible.*

[www.visitmalopolska.pl](http://www.visitmalopolska.pl)





Orthodox Church in Owczary, photo archives – Małopolska Tourism Organisation (MOT)



Nowy Sącz – a small town in Polish Galicia, fot. K. Syga

## Wooden Architecture in Małopolska

Easy to process and widely available wood was the primary material used for construction in old Poland. Lower quality wood was used for constructing cottages and farm buildings, and since country carpenters did not always apply themselves to their work, they shortened the lifespan of such buildings. The situation was different in case of churches: healthy trees of impressive sizes were chosen as material. After falling, they were diligently debarked, dried and processed. Sacred buildings were erected mainly by professional city carpenters, who were members of specialized carpentry workshops. The old churches in Małopolska to a large degree owe their glory to the work of their hands. Architecture in Małopolska was dominated by **log construction** – beams were placed one on top of another, creating the so-called framework, which was then joined together at the corners using various carpentry techniques. Even in later centuries, nails were still not used for joining wooden elements. Adjacent pieces were carefully matched together. Wooden pegs were sometimes used to reinforce the construction. The buildings were frequently **decorated**, for instance with solar motifs and various carved and painted plant ornaments.

## Churches

The most spectacular wooden buildings are centuries-old Catholic and Orthodox churches. The first wooden churches in Poland did not survive until today. It is assumed that the first such constructions were small, clear span buildings. Together with the shift in liturgical needs, they later developed into medieval village churches. They were oriented and consisted of a square-shaped nave and a narrower, also square-shaped chancel, covered with separate roofs. There were no towers or annexes. The typical **Gothic model of a wooden church** developed on the territory of Małopolska in the 15<sup>th</sup> century. This model was later repeated in dozens of buildings, up until the 17<sup>th</sup> century. On the territory we are focusing on, only a few 15<sup>th</sup>-century sacred buildings have been preserved, e.g. in Kraków-Mogiła and Dębno; many more (a few dozen) churches date back to the 16<sup>th</sup> century.

What were the characteristics of a Gothic wooden church in Małopolska? In contrast with older buildings, both segments – the nave and the chancel – were covered with a common, homogeneous roof. It stabilized the construction and increased its durability. The silhouette of the roof was steep and the building slender. A carpentry detail (visible in the form of door and window frames, as well as moulded and bevelled beams) and quite a wide range of

decorative forms appeared. The perfection of the construction workers continues to amaze. Larch or fir logs were carefully matched, creating solid walls. Initially, they were not covered with any protective material. Shingle insulation came later, and was followed by boarding. Small windows were only cut out in south-facing walls, while the church could always be entered through two entrances: the main one, in the western wall of the nave, and the side one, in the middle of the nave's southern wall.

The churches still had no towers (at least no such buildings survived), while the sacred function of the building was signalled by the little spirelet on the roof. The bells were placed in free standing belfries. The first known towers adjoining to the main body of the church appeared as late as at the turn of the 16<sup>th</sup> and 17<sup>th</sup> centuries. They were characteristically shaped, with sloping walls, overhanging bell housing and pyramid-shaped domes. The churches were surrounded with the so-called soboty, i.e. arcatures. This characteristic element, which increased the appeal of the main body of the church and made it look more settled, developed from roofs and was to protect the underpinning from humidity. Around the 17<sup>th</sup> century, the arcatures took on an additional function: they became temporary shelters for people, particularly pilgrims visiting churches located in secluded areas.

The church was surrounded by a fence, while the adjacent area was used for burials. Wooden fences were soon replaced by more durable walls made from square stone, and covered with shingled roofs. There were always trees growing around the church. They protected the building from winds and thunders, while today they are also a characteristic element of sacred architecture.

The external appearance of Gothic churches, especially the main body proportions, did not change in the following centuries. Various artistic trends influenced almost exclusively the interior design. Two visible external manifestations of new styles were the onion-shaped, typical for the Baroque style tower domes and added chapels of a Baroque or Classical character.

## Lemko Orthodox Churches

The southern parts of the Nowy Sącz and Gorlice Counties are characterised by Lemko Orthodox churches that merge beautifully with the local landscape. Just like Catholic churches, they were erected in carefully selected places, mainly on small elevations, and surrounded with a circle of trees. Until the end of the 18<sup>th</sup> century, Orthodox churches were built only with wood, using the log construction technique. Coniferous trees were used for this purpose. However, it is worth noting that no Orthodox church was



Church in Gosprzydowa, photo archives – Małopolska Tourism Organisation (MOT)

entirely constructed of the most durable and noble kind of wood, i.e. larch. It was only used for the elements that had to be resistant to humidity. Originally, the buildings had only one, western entrance, while window openings, just like in case of Catholic churches, were located only on south-facing walls.

The construction of a **typical, most characteristic Lemko Orthodox church** was based on a three-part structure. It consisted of rooms similar in shape to a square: the chancel, the wider nave and the narthex. The latter, where only women convened during the service, was most often hidden under the tower. The nave and the chancel were covered by characteristic, tent-shaped, often tiered, hipped roofs (there were one, two or three vertical tiers on the surface of the roof). They were covered with shingle, later replaced with cheaper, yet more durable metal roofing. The domes of the roofs were crowned with onion-shaped helmets with lantern imitations (the top floor extension in the form of a tower, which, in contrast to an actual lantern, did not provide additional lighting). The last element was topped with a small sphere and a cross – always made of wrought iron. The element that characterised Lemko Orthodox churches was a white bell tower dominating over the entire structure. The crown of the tower usually imitated the top of the roofs. The church walls and tower were initially panelled with shingle, which was later replaced by boarding. Orthodox churches also used to be richly and colourfully painted. Apart from its aesthetic appeal, covering the external walls with paint also had a practical function: it protected from quick deterioration. Today, there is almost nothing left to remind us that Lemko Orthodox churches used to be truly colourful.

## Glossary of architectural terms

<b>arcade (podcień)</b>	open space at the bottom of a building situated along its elevation, limited by posts, pillars or columns
<b>arcature (sobota)</b>	another type of arcades
<b>arch</b>	an arch supported by two columns
<b>bay window</b>	a part of a building covered with a separate roof, protruding from the surface of the wall on a certain level above the ground
<b>boarding</b>	a surface of planks that constitutes the cover of a building wall
<b>chancel</b>	the part of a Christian church reserved for the clergy and housing the main altar
<b>dormer</b>	a residential space in the attic, with the walls protruding through the roof plane and forming an extended addition above the cornice of the building; the dormer is covered with a separate roof.
<b>eaves</b>	the lower part of the roof plane, protruding beyond the external walls of the building
<b>elevation</b>	external part of the building together with the adjacent architectonic and ornamental elements
<b>false roof lantern</b>	unlike the real roof lantern, it does not provide natural daylight into the building
<b>gable</b>	1. top of the building's elevation, often in the triangular or semi-circular shape 2. triangular wall between the planes of the pitched roof
<b>hip roof</b>	a roof consisting of a number of triangle-shaped surfaces that meet at the highest point
<b>log construction</b>	the construction of walls built from wooden beams placed one on top of another and joined at the corners using various carpentry techniques
<b>mansard roof</b>	a kind of a tiered roof, whose lower slopes are steeper than its upper slopes
<b>nave</b>	the part of a church between the chancel and the vestibule (or narthex in case of Orthodox churches) used by the congregation
<b>rood beam</b>	a horizontal, decorative beam with a crucifix and statues of the saints on its top, placed between the main nave and the chancel
<b>roof lantern</b>	a tower-like addition, crowning the roof or a dome, with many windows, in order to provide natural daylight into the space inside the building
<b>roof plane</b>	external surface covering the roof
<b>shingle</b>	flat, rectangular wooden planks used for covering roofs
<b>spirelet (flèche)</b>	a small tower situated on the church roof, featuring a small bell
<b>starling</b>	the highest, hanging tier of the tower, the bell floor
<b>tented roof</b>	roof consisting of several triangular planes meeting at the highest point of the roof
<b>three-part Orthodox church</b>	an oblong Orthodox church consisting of three parts: narthex (gallery for women), nave and chancel; in case of West Lemko Orthodox churches, the narthex is usually partially or entirely under the tower.
<b>tiered roof</b>	a roof, whose surface is divided into two or more parts, separated with a break, offset, wall or cornice

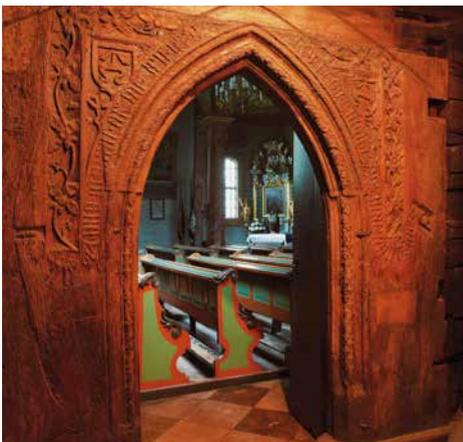
## Kraków and its Surroundings



Wooden architecture in Lanckorona, photo. J. Gawron

In the area around Kraków, the Wooden Architecture Trail includes over 50 historic buildings. They are above all charming, small-town wooden churches, located in such places as Barwałd Dolny, Kraków-Mogła, Łapanów, Mętków, Osiek, Paczółtów, Polanka Wielka, Raclawice, Więclawice Stare, Wola Radziszowska and Woźniki. From May to October, some of these normally closed buildings, are open to visitors (more details on [www.drewniana.malopolska.pl](http://www.drewniana.malopolska.pl)). While exploring the region, you can also visit two interesting heritage parks: the Nadwiślański Ethnographic Park in Wygierzów and the Folk Architecture Heritage Park (Skansen Budownictwa Ludowego) in Dobczyce. A few towns are famous for their well-preserved wooden building complexes. The real gem is obviously Lanckorona with its 19<sup>th</sup>-century small-town architecture, while Ojców is home to some charming spa buildings. You can see some beautiful wooden manor houses in the towns of Miechów, Glanów and Wola Zręczyska. Kraków itself also boasts some fascinating buildings.

[www.visitmalopolska.pl](http://www.visitmalopolska.pl)



Church of St. Bartholomew in Kraków-Mogiła, photo by P. Drożdżik



Church of the Visitation of the Blessed Virgin Mary in Paczółtowice, photo by K. Sygik

## Churches

### Kraków-Mogiła, Church of St. Bartholomew

The church in Kraków-Mogiła dates back to 1466, which makes it one of the oldest surviving churches in Małopolska. Even the name of its creator survives. He was the royal carpenter by the name of Maciej Mączka (according to the inscription carved on the southern portal of the church). The slender building is towerless, while the 18<sup>th</sup>-century wooden belfry standing right next to it has a dome-shaped helmet. The church premises are entered through the belfry. In the 18<sup>th</sup> century, side chapels and a multi-storey sacristy were added to the church, which altered somewhat the austere medieval form of the building. The interior of the church is interesting. It features three naves, a rarity among the known Gothic wooden churches in Małopolska. Although the furnishings and the wall paintings date from the 18<sup>th</sup> century, the ogival arcades between the naves and the carved portal date back to the time when the church was originally built.

**i Church of St. Bartholomew**, ul. Klasztorna 11, Kraków, ☎+48 12 6442331, +48 12 6446992, ▲www.drewniana.malopolska.pl or www.mogila.cystersi.pl

#### OTHER LOCAL ATTRACTIONS

*Cistercian Abbey in Kraków-Mogiła, one of Kraków's oldest sacred complexes dating back to 1225. Renaissance Granary adjacent to the manor in Branice, featuring an exhibition of the Archaeological Museum in Kraków devoted to prehistoric pottery.*

### Paczółtowice, Church of the Visitation of the Blessed Virgin Mary

The charming, fir church in Paczółtowice was built in 1510. Its characteristic, massive tower dates from 1528, but was significantly altered in the 18<sup>th</sup> century, which is indicated by its onion-shaped Baroque helmet. The interior is decorated with polychromy, dating mainly from the 19<sup>th</sup> century, with only the northern wall of the chancel and nave featuring fragments of the 17<sup>th</sup>-century wall paintings. The main altar (1604) of high artistic value boasts the locally venerated Gothic painting of Our Lady of Paczółtowice. The historic furnishings include a bronze crucifix and baptismal font, as well as a large paschal candle holder, which was made of black Dębnik marble, along with a few epitaphs built in the church wall.

**i Church of the Visitation of the Blessed Virgin Mary**, Paczółtowice 14, ☎+48 12 2829091, ▲www.drewniana.malopolska.pl

#### OTHER LOCAL ATTRACTIONS

*The Kraków Valleys are an ideal place for strolling. The Monastery of the Carmelites in Czerna, erected in the 17<sup>th</sup> century also featuring the ruins of the so-called Devil's Bridge. Church in Raclawice dating from the 16<sup>th</sup> century, located on the Wooden Architecture Trail.*



Chapel On the Water in Ojców, photo by M. Zaręba

### Ojców, Chapel On the Water

The Chapel of St. Joseph the Craftsman, which is the official name of the Chapel On the Water, was created in 1901 from converted spa baths (at the turn of the 19<sup>th</sup> and 20<sup>th</sup> centuries Ojców used to be a famous health and holiday resort). Although Tsar Nicholas II issued an order forbidding the construction of sacred buildings in the Ojców area, it was cleverly circumvented by placing the building "on the water". At least, this is how tradition explains the unusual location of the chapel. The well-shaped building, constructed on a cross-shaped plan and boarded with bright planks, is supported by stilts rooted in the bed of a stream. The chapel's roof is decorated with a lofty, openwork tower crowned with a cross. Particularly charming in the modest, bright interior of the chapel are the altars, whose shape resembles the roofs of mountain cottages.

**i Chapel On the Water**, ul. Kościelna 2, Ojców, ☎+48 12 3891035, +48 12 3890190, ▲www.drewniana.malopolska.pl

#### OTHER LOCAL ATTRACTIONS

*King Łokietek Cave, which you can reach by following the black tourist trail from Ojców, and the nearby Dark Cave (both open to the public). The Mace of Hercules is the famous, uniquely shaped limestone outlier. Ojców with its historic spa architecture and the ruins of the medieval stronghold. The Castle in Pieskowa Skała, a Renaissance castle palace residence from the 16<sup>th</sup> century, also known as "the Pearl of Jura." Churches of the Wooden Architecture Trail, in Wolbrom, Dłużec and Rodaki.*



Church of St. Andrew in Osiek, photo by M. Zaręba

### Osiek, Church of St. Andrew

The slender, harmonious body of the cemetery church in Osiek, surrounded by 500-year-old oak trees (monuments of nature) make unique impression. The church dates back to the 16<sup>th</sup> century and was probably built in the years 1538–49. The tower was added later (in the 17<sup>th</sup> century), while the arcatures were constructed in the 18<sup>th</sup> century. It is worth having a peek inside the church to see the preserved fragments of paintings on the ceiling and walls dating back to the 16<sup>th</sup>, 17<sup>th</sup> and 18<sup>th</sup> centuries. The Rococo pulpit shaped as Peter's boat stands out among the furnishings of high historical value.

**i Church of St. Andrew**, Osiek, ☎+48 33 8458217, +48 33 8458451, ▲www.drewniana.malopolska.pl

#### OTHER LOCAL ATTRACTIONS

*Churches on the Wooden Architecture Trail, located e.g. in Polanka Wielka, Jawiszowice, Głębowice and Nidek. Lanckorona with its wooden buildings and a unique market square. Ethnographic Park in Wygieźzów, where you can admire historic wooden buildings, such as the small-town buildings, village architecture and sacred buildings.*



Heritage Park in Dobczyce, photo by A. Brożonowicz



Ethnographic Park in Wygiełzów, photo by A. Brożonowicz

## Heritage Parks

### Dobczyce, Folk Architecture Heritage Park

The heritage park in Dobczyce, although not very large, is extremely interesting. A number of historic 19<sup>th</sup> century wooden buildings are home to interesting exhibitions presenting local customs and tradition. Inside the funeral home, you can see various objects connected with old funeral rituals. The tavern houses an exhibition devoted to the region's ethnography (customs, clothes, and appliances), while the guild room presents local crafts (including furriery, shoemaking, and pottery). Visit the poultry house to see a collection of farming tools. The coach house is particularly interesting, as it features not only various types of coaches, but also different sleighs and farming tools. After exploring the heritage park, which is situated on the green Castle Hill, you can go to the ruins of the Dobczyce Castle. It is open to the public and admission is included in the same ticket.

**i Folk Architecture Heritage Park**, ul. Podgórska 1, Dobczyce, ☎ +48 12 2711176 or +48 518825830, ▲ www.zamek.dobczyce.pl, 📄 see website for prices.

### Wygiełzów, Nadwiślański Ethnographic Park and Lipowiec Castle

The buildings that make up the heritage park present the tradition and culture of Western Cracovians who once lived here. Apart from interesting, beautifully restored examples of rural and small-town architecture, you can also admire the wonderful 17<sup>th</sup>-century church from Ryczów (still used for services), as well as the magnificent 18<sup>th</sup>-century manor from Droginia. The heritage park features a total of 25 buildings and outbuildings (not including landscape architecture) of high historic value located in green surroundings. The peasant homesteads with original furnishings are encircled by orchards and flower gardens, while the small-town complex creates an enclave, whose character refers to old market squares. An excellent tavern situated in one of the historic buildings offers delicious regional dishes. The heritage park hosts different events aimed at promoting local traditions. Another asset is the park's location at the foot of Lipowiec Hill, where you can visit the beautiful ruins of a medieval castle.

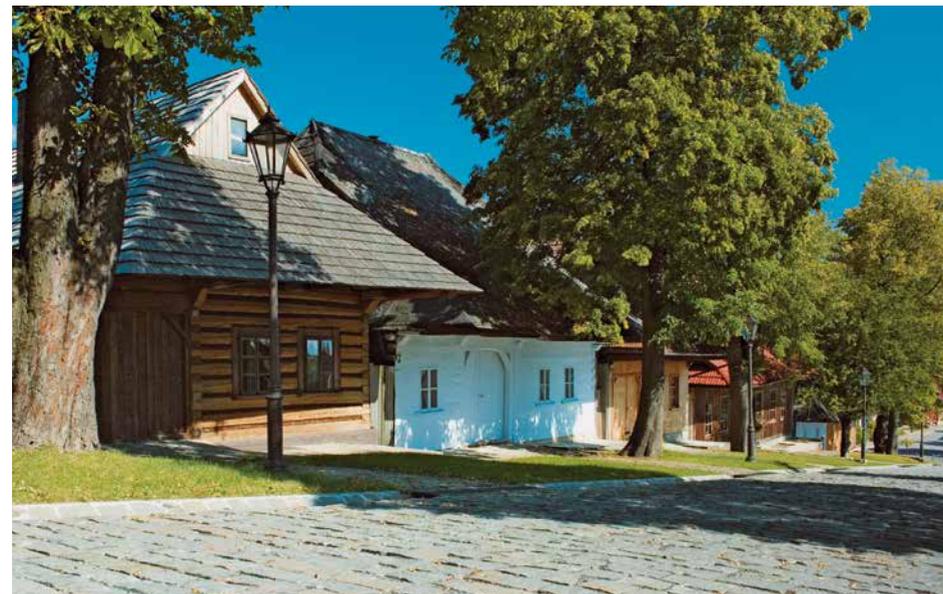
**i Nadwiślański Ethnographic Park and Lipowiec Castle**, ul. Podzamcze 1, Wygiełzów, ☎ +48 32 6134062, ▲ www.mnpe.pl, 📄 see website for prices.

#### OTHER LOCAL ATTRACTIONS

*Bobrek with the palace complex surrounded by a vast park and a pretty wooden farmstead granary.*  
*Church in Mętków, located on the Wooden Architecture Trail, with beautiful late-Baroque furnishings.*

#### OTHER LOCAL ATTRACTIONS

*Churches in Gruszów, Łapanów, Krzesławice and Raciechowice, located on the Wooden Architecture Trail.*



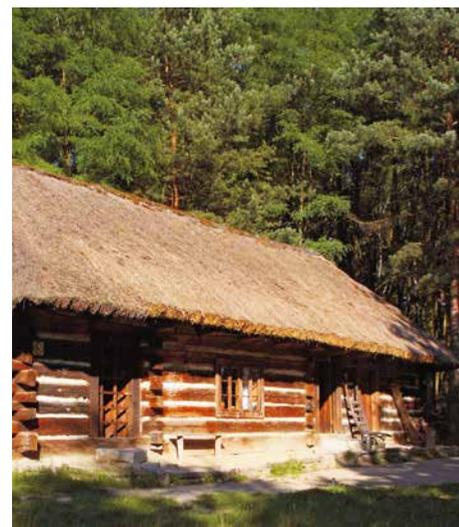
Market square in Lanckorona, photo by P. Dębski  
 Nadwiślański Ethnographic Park and Lipowiec Castle, photo by P. Fabijarski UMWM archive  
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## Wooden Buildings

### Lanckorona, Market Square

Lanckorona with its preserved 19<sup>th</sup>-century small-town architecture is an unforgettable place. Wooden one-storey houses surround the vast, sloping Market Square – the centre of the town, since the time it received town charter (14<sup>th</sup> century) – and ornament the adjacent streets. Most of the buildings were erected after the fire of 1869, which consumed almost the entire town. The gables face the market square or the streets, while their characteristic

sloping roofs have wide, protruding eaves that, looking from the front, create an impression of picturesque arcade-like structures. The eaves also cover narrow passages between the buildings, called *miedzuchy*. One of the market square houses, which by a strange twist of fate survived the fire, houses the Regional Chamber presenting exhibits connected with everyday lives of the region's old inhabitants.



**i Professor A. Krajewski Regional Chamber**, Rynek 133, Lanckorona, ☎ +48 33 8763567, ▲ www.lanckorona.pl, 📄 see website for prices.

#### OTHER LOCAL ATTRACTIONS

*Manor House in Stryków housing a museum with an exhibition of the interior décor of a 19<sup>th</sup>-century gentry house.*  
*Ruins of the Gothic Castle on Lanckorońska Mountain surrounded by several hiking routes.*  
*Sanctuary in Kalwaria Zebrzydowska, inscribed on the UNESCO World Heritage List.*



Church of the Most Holy Trinity on Terlikówka in Tarnów, photo by D. Zaród

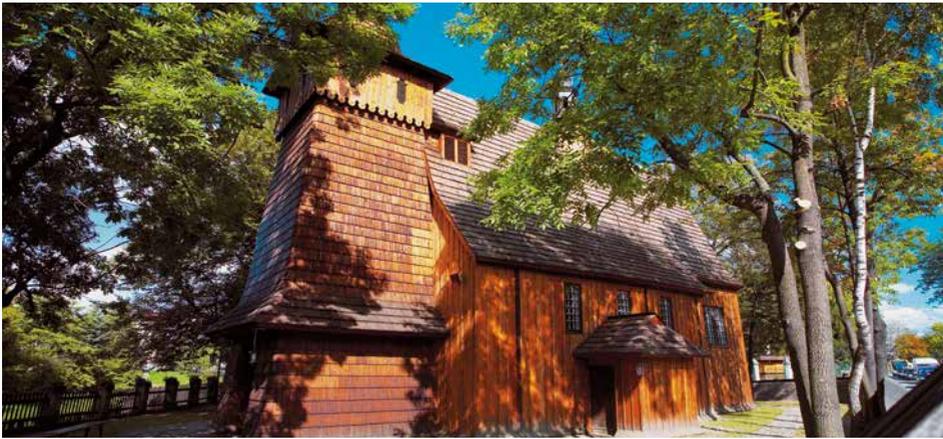
## Tarnów and its Surroundings



The interior of St. Leonard's Church in Lipnica Murowana, photo by S. Gacek

The Tarnów area boasts almost 40 interesting historic buildings that are part of the Wooden Architecture Route. Undoubtedly, one of the most interesting and famous churches is St. Leonard's Church in Lipnica Murowana, inscribed on the UNESCO World Heritage List. Many more charming churches have survived between the Raba and Wisłoka Rivers, e.g. small churches in the villages of Chronów, Gosprzydowa, Iwkowa, Rajbrot, Skrzyszów, Sobolów, Tymowa and Zawada. Some are especially worth recommending, as they are open to visitors on particular days between May and October (see information on [www.drewniana.malopolska.pl](http://www.drewniana.malopolska.pl)). In Tarnów, the region's capital, you can also admire two beautiful sacred buildings. The region also boasts historic manor houses transformed into museums, (for instance in Dołęga), as well as wooden building complexes. An excellent example of the latter is the so-called Painted Village of Zalipie.

[www.visitmalopolska.pl](http://www.visitmalopolska.pl)



Church of the Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary, photo by K. Bańkowski  
Town Hall on the Market Square in Tarnów, photo by A. Brożonowicz

## Churches

### Tarnów, Church of the Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary on Burek Square

One of the oldest wooden churches in Małopolska, the church was built in 1458, while the massive, square-shaped tower was added much later (at the beginning of the 20<sup>th</sup> century). The interior of this shapely, Gothic building is decorated with a delightful polychrome. The vault is covered with paintings from the Interwar period, but the northern wall of the chancel still has fragments of the earlier, 16<sup>th</sup>- and 17<sup>th</sup>-century polychromes with plant motifs. The main altar features the 16<sup>th</sup>-century painting of the Virgin Mary with Infant Jesus, also known as Our Lady of the Scapular, which is famous among the local population for its miraculous powers.

**i Church on Burek**, ul. Najświętszej Panny Marii 1, Tarnów, ☎ +48 14 6213175, ▲ www.drewniana.malopolska.pl

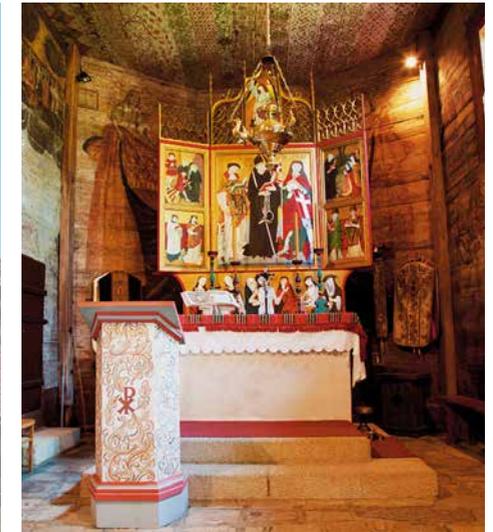
#### OTHER LOCAL ATTRACTIONS

*Tarnów, also known as the "Pearl of Renaissance," with a particularly beautiful Old Town boasting the Gothic-Renaissance Town Hall, Renaissance tenement buildings and a 15<sup>th</sup>-century cathedral with a tombstone complex of extremely high historic value. Church in Skrzyszów dating from 1517, located on the Wooden Architecture Trail, features log construction and rich furnishings from the period between the 15<sup>th</sup> and 19<sup>th</sup> centuries. Dębno Castle Museum, a fortified residence from the 15<sup>th</sup> century.*

### Tarnów, Church of the Most Holy Trinity on Terlikówka

The exact date of construction of the church on Terlikówka is unknown, but it is known that the church was built in the second half of the 16<sup>th</sup> century. In the 19<sup>th</sup> century, the church came close to being torn down, as it was in danger of collapsing. Luckily, it was saved, as recalled by the inscription on the rood beam: *Król cum plebe pia labentes corrogit aedes* ("Król the then provost of the Tarnów Cathedral and the people of God lift the collapsing church"). Today, the shingle covered and boarded church looks stunning. The Baroque tower, crowned with an onion-shaped dome, adds to its charm. Also beautiful is the modest, whitewashed interior with a flat ceiling decorated with a 20<sup>th</sup>-century blue polychrome.

**i Church on Terlikówka**, ul. Tuchowska 5, Tarnów, ☎ +48 14 6268885, ▲ www.drewniana.malopolska.pl



Lipnica Murowana, St. Leonard's Church, MOT photo archive, photo by M. Rauer  
Lipnica palms, photo by A. Brożonowicz

### Lipnica Murowana, St. Leonard's Church

The Lipnica church is one of the most famous historic buildings in Małopolska. One of the oldest and best-preserved wooden sacred buildings in the region, it was inscribed on the UNESCO World Heritage List in 2003. The church was erected in the late 15<sup>th</sup> century, although according to local tradition, it came into being in 1141, when a wooden church was allegedly built on the site of a pagan temple. Today, the small, compact edifice merges with the beautiful surroundings, guarded by mighty trees, surrounded by old cemetery graves. The church has survived in an almost unchanged form, except that, it was surrounded by arcatures in the 17<sup>th</sup> century, and a western portal was added in the 19<sup>th</sup> century. The interior is breathtaking on account of an ornament and figural polychrome from different periods that occupies the entire wall. The oldest decoration (that of the chancel vault from the end of the 15<sup>th</sup> century, and the nave vault from the 16<sup>th</sup> century) was made with the use of special stencils, known as patrons. Chancel wall paintings date back to the

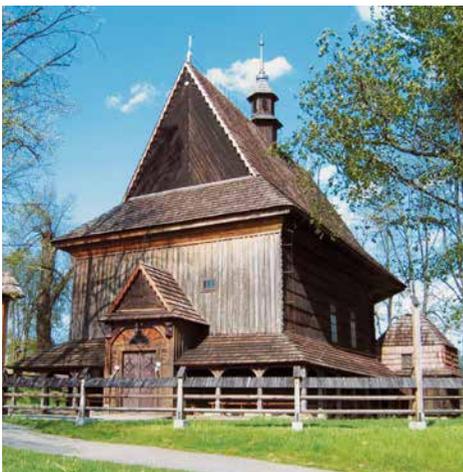
17<sup>th</sup> century, while those in the nave come from the 18<sup>th</sup> century. Until recently, the interior was graced with three Gothic altars of extremely high historic value (from the 15<sup>th</sup> and 16<sup>th</sup> centuries), which were unfortunately stolen. When they were retrieved, they were moved to the Diocesan Museum in Tarnów, while the church received their copies. A rarity is the 17<sup>th</sup>-century instrument – positive organ (a chest organ instrument), which is used during summer concerts.

**i St. Leonard's Church**, Lipnica Murowana 39, ☎ +48 14 6852601, +48 698641445, ▲ www.parlipnicam.tarnow.opoka.org.pl, 📄 see website for prices.

#### Lipnica Easter Palms

Each year on the Palm Sunday the market square in Lipnica hosts a **competition for the tallest and most beautiful palm**. Local women adorn fir wood poles wrapped in wicker with colourful ribbons, crêpe paper flowers and catkins. Blessed palm trees, which sometimes as tall as 30 metres, are believed to protect sickness and guarantee good harvest. After the competition, the elaborate palm compositions are placed on the market square and continue to grace it for another couple of weeks.





Gosprzydowa, St. Ursula's Church, UMW photo archive

### Gosprzydowa, St. Ursula's Church

The larch log church in Gosprzydowa is undoubtedly full of charm. Dating from the late 17<sup>th</sup> century, it is one of the few examples of wooden Baroque churches. It is covered by a high, shingle roof. It is worth stepping inside to see the 19<sup>th</sup>-century polychrome (and a 20<sup>th</sup>-century wall paintings in the chapel). The mainly Baroque furnishings include the Gothic, stone baptismal font (15<sup>th</sup> century), while the main altar features a marvellous image of the Virgin Mary with Infant Jesus, locally known as the Comforter of the Dying.

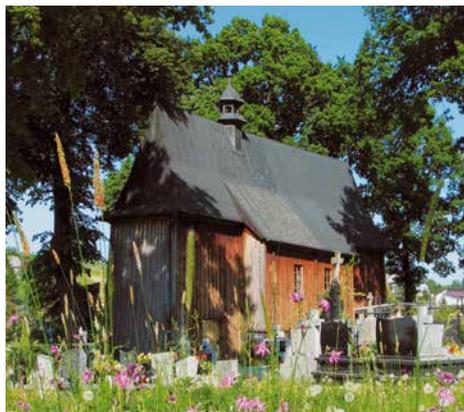
**i** **St. Ursula's Church**, Gosprzydowa 45, Gnojnik,  
☎ +48 14 6849164,  
▲ [www.drewniana.malopolska.pl](http://www.drewniana.malopolska.pl)

#### OTHER LOCAL ATTRACTIONS

**Church in Chronów**, dating from 1685, located on the Wooden Architecture Trail, has interior decorated with a beautiful 1930 polychrome.

**Church in Biesiadki**, dating from 1661, located on the Wooden Architecture Trail, and wooden buildings in the village from the Interwar period.

**The Nowy Wiśnicz Castle** – belonging to the Kmita and Lubomirski magnate families, built as a palazzo in fortezza, and the **Koryznówka Manor House** with the biographical Jan Matejko Museum.



Iwkowa, church of the Visitation of the Blessed Virgin Mary, UMW photo archive

### Iwkowa, Church of Visitation of the Blessed Virgin Mary

The simple, small cemetery church in Iwkowa is one of the oldest wooden buildings in Małopolska. It was built at the end of the 15<sup>th</sup> century (the exact date is unknown) and looks very enchanting, surrounded with gravestones and immersed in deep shadows of trees. The small edifice hides a delightful interior: the walls are decorated with late Renaissance figural polychrome (1619), the chancel has a stained-glass window (a copy, as the 15<sup>th</sup>-century original was transferred to the Diocesan Museum in Tarnów), while the nave still features two uniquely beautiful 15<sup>th</sup>-century portals crowned with arches adorned with three-leaf motifs. On the rood beam, you can see sculptures of the Crucifixion group from the 14<sup>th</sup> and 15<sup>th</sup> centuries.

**i** **Church of Visitation of the Blessed Virgin Mary**, Iwkowa 12, ☎ +48 14 684 4327,  
▲ [www.drewniana.malopolska.pl](http://www.drewniana.malopolska.pl)

#### OTHER LOCAL ATTRACTIONS

When visiting **Iwkowa**, it is worth tasting local prune dishes – the region is famous for growing and drying this fruit. You can also walk along the local Prune Trail.

**Czchów**, with a Gothic church, the remains of a 13<sup>th</sup> century castle and historic architecture in the market square.

**Church in Tymowa** dating from 1764, located on the Wooden Architecture Trail, and featuring 18<sup>th</sup>-century, late Baroque furnishings.

**Tropsztyn Castle in Wytrzyszczka** – a knights' stronghold from the 14<sup>th</sup> century, situated on a beautiful hill by Czchowski Lake.



Manor house in Dołęga, photo by D. Zaręba

## Wooden Buildings

### Dołęga, Manor House

The old manor house in Dołęga will take you back to the 19<sup>th</sup> century life of landed gentry. On the outside, white-washed walls contrast beautifully with brown shingle, while the furniture and equipment inside remind you about the historic occupants of the residence and their times (items inside include mementoes connected with the 1863 January Uprising). The larch wood manor house was erected in 1845. At the turn of the 19<sup>th</sup> and 20<sup>th</sup> centuries, it was visited by Stanisław Wyspiański and Adam Asnyk, among others. Some paintings by Wyspiański are displayed inside the manor house.

**i** **Manor House in Dołęga**, Dołęga 10, Zaborów  
☎ +48 14 671 5414, ▲ [www.muzeum.tarnow.pl](http://www.muzeum.tarnow.pl),  
📄 see website for prices.



Koryznówka, Nowy Wiśnicz, photo by M. Zaręba

### Nowy Wiśnicz, Koryznówka

A small manor house, known as Koryznówka was erected in the middle of the 19<sup>th</sup> century, above the Nowy Wiśnicz Castle. It houses the biographical museum of Jan Matejko. Leonard Serafiński, the former owner of the house, was a close friend and brother-in-law of the painter. Many of Matejko's drawings were created in Wiśnicz and they can be seen in the museum. The manor house itself managed to survive in an almost intact condition.

**i** **Jan Matejko Museum**, Stary Wiśnicz 278  
▲ [www.muzeum.tarnow.pl/oddzialy.php?id=8](http://www.muzeum.tarnow.pl/oddzialy.php?id=8)  
📄 see website for prices.

#### OTHER LOCAL ATTRACTIONS

**The Nowy Wiśnicz Castle** – a castle of the Kmita and Lubomirski magnate families, built as a palazzo in fortezza, restored and open to the public.



Zalipie, photo by K. Syga  
Zalipie design, photo by D. Zaród

### Zalipie, Painted Cottages

Zalipie, also known as the Painted Village, is famous for its unusual decoration of wooden houses. Local housewives-artists paint the walls of the houses and outbuildings, wells, fences and even dog kennels with fabulous, colourful flower motifs and ornaments. The custom of cottage decoration has been cultivated in Zalipie since the end of the 19<sup>th</sup> century. The village features over a dozen painted cottages, each painted in its own style, which guarantees to leave you impressed. The most famous local artist was Felicja Curyłowa, whose cottage remains an extraordinary, wonderful example of Zalipie decoration style. Today, her house is a museum-like space open to the public. Each year during the first weekend following Corpus Christi, Zalipie holds the Painted Cottage Competition, during which the most beautifully decorated cottage is selected.

**i Cottage of Felicja Curyłowa**, Zalipie 135, Olesno  
☎ +48 14 6411912, ▲ [www.muzeum.tarnow.pl](http://www.muzeum.tarnow.pl),  
📄 see website for prices.

### OTHER LOCAL ATTRACTIONS

*Church in Dąbrowa Tarnowska*, dating from 1771, located on the Wooden Architecture Trail, with beautiful furnishings from the late 17<sup>th</sup> century, and a synagogue housing the Judaic Museum. *Road Architecture Museum* in Szczucin, the only exhibition of this kind in Poland, devoted to the road and bridge construction techniques.

### Wierchosławice, Wincenty Witos Museum

The museum comprises two elements: the house where Witos was born and spent his childhood, and the farmhouse that he built for himself at the beginning of the 20<sup>th</sup> century. The family house, known as the “old house,” was built in 1814. It has a thatched roof, and clay-covered walls. It features old items and farming tools. The so-called “new farmstead,” houses the original study of the leader of the peasant movement, a photography exhibition presenting his life and work, as well as an exhibition of historic Peasant Movement banners, among others.

**i Wincenty Witos Museum**, Wierchosławice 698,  
☎ +48 14 6797040, ▲ [www.muzeum.tarnow.pl](http://www.muzeum.tarnow.pl),  
📄 see website for prices.

### OTHER LOCAL ATTRACTIONS

*Wojnicz* with the *Dąbbski Family Palace* from the 19<sup>th</sup> century, and the *church* from the 16<sup>th</sup> century located on the Wooden Architecture Trail. The main altar features a fragment of a triptych dating from around 1560.



## Nowy Sącz and Gorlice Surroundings



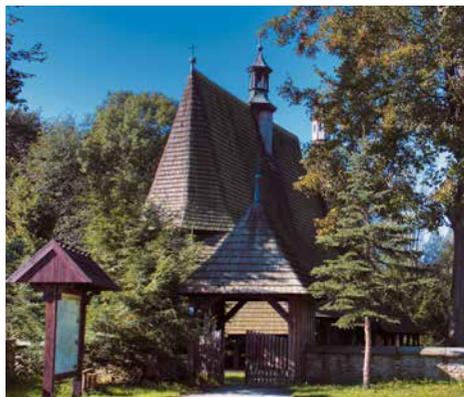
Nowy Sącz – a small town in Polish Galicia, photo by K. Syga

The surroundings of Nowy Sącz and Gorlice are a truly picturesque area that will delight you with its historic-cultural monuments. Over 100 buildings in the area listed on the Wooden Architecture Route. Out of all the old churches, two churches in Binarowa and Sękowa, as well as four Orthodox churches in Brunary Wyżne, Kwiatów, Owczary and Powroźnik are world-famous and have been inscribed on the UNESCO World Heritage List. The Lemko Orthodox churches (today often used by the Roman Catholic Church) are a specific feature of the region. Apart from the buildings inscribed on the UNESCO World Heritage List, it is worth visiting the Orthodox churches in Bartne, Bielanka, Binczarowa, Czarna, Łosie, Nowica, Skwirtne, Szczawnik, Uście Gorlickie, Wojkowa, Wysowa-Zdrój i Muszyna-Złockie. Some of these usually closed buildings are open to the public from May to October (see more information on [www.drewniana.malopolska.pl](http://www.drewniana.malopolska.pl)). Heritage parks are another attraction of the region, particularly the magnificent Sąddecki Ethnographic Park, but also other interesting parks in Stróże and Szymbark. Krynica-Zdrój boasts a unique atmosphere and beautiful 19<sup>th</sup>-century spa villas.

[www.visitmalopolska.pl](http://www.visitmalopolska.pl)



Binarowa, church of St. Michael the Archangel, photo by K. Syga



Sękowa, church of SS. Philip and Jacob the Apostles, photo by J. Mysiński

## Churches

### Binarowa, Church of St. Michael the Archangel



The church in Binarowa, with walls and roofs covered with shingle, was erected ca. 1500. Its massive tower, narrowing toward its top, was added a hundred years later, as were the arcatures. The interior of the church, all covered with paintings, makes a long-lasting impression. The polychrome on the vault dates back to the beginning of the 16<sup>th</sup> century, while wall paintings date from the 17<sup>th</sup>. The most precious furnishings are the Gothic sculptures and low reliefs in the altars, as well as the stone baptismal font. Also stunning are the door fittings that remember the times when the building was constructed. In 2003, in appreciation of the church's uniqueness, it was inscribed on the UNESCO World Heritage List.



**Church of St. Michael the Archangel**, Binarowa 409, ☎+48 13 4476396, guide: 692 385244, ▲www.drewniana.malopolska.pl

#### OTHER LOCAL ATTRACTIONS

*Biecz*, known as "Small Kraków", with a medieval defence wall complex, a town hall with a beautiful Renaissance tower, and a monumental Parish Church of Corpus Christi dating back to the late Gothic period.

*Ciężkowice* with the wooden architecture in the market square and an extraordinary Petrified City Nature Reserve.

### Sękowa, Church of SS. Philip and Jacob the Apostles



It is impossible not to be delighted by the church in Sękowa. The extremely tall, shingle-covered roof and wide arcatures, together with the square-shaped tower with a domed helmet, create a picturesque postcard view. It is one of the most beautiful churches in Małopolska, whose basic body was created around 1520, and although the building was extensively damaged during World War I, it was rescued, and eventually it was inscribed on the UNESCO World Heritage List in 2003. The characteristically simple interior is very peaceful. The only element with rich ornamentation is the late Renaissance main altar. On the southern wall of the chancel, you can still see fragments of 19<sup>th</sup>-century polychrome.



**Church of SS. Philip and Jacob the Apostles**, Sękowa 13, ☎+48 18 3518169, ▲www.drewniana.malopolska.pl

#### OTHER LOCAL ATTRACTIONS

*Lemko Orthodox churches* in the Low Beskid Mountains. *World War I cemeteries* on the elevations around Sękowa.



Brunary Wyżne, the pulpit in the Greek Catholic Church of St. Michael the Archangel, photo by R. Korzeniowski

## Lemko Orthodox churches

### Brunary Wyżne, Parish Greek Catholic Church of St. Michael the Archangel



The Greek Catholic church in Brunary, currently used as Catholic Parish Church of the Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary, was erected in 1797 and despite many transformations, it has retained the most important features of the Western Lemko Orthodox churches. The church is situated on a small elevation at the Biała River and is encircled by a small stone wall with gates. The chancel features the main altar with a canopy, while side altars dating from the second half of the 18<sup>th</sup> century are located in the nave. The church boasts many icons of high artistic value, dating from the 18<sup>th</sup> and 19<sup>th</sup> centuries. The Orthodox church was inscribed on the UNESCO World Heritage List in 2013.



**Greek Catholic Church of St. Michael the Archangel**, Brunary Wyżne 45, Uście Gorlickie, ☎+48 18 3516776, ▲www.drewniana.malopolska.pl

#### OTHER LOCAL ATTRACTIONS

*Orthodox churches* featured on *Wooden Architecture Trail in Czarna, Śnietnica and Banica*.

*Locally famous beekeeping centre* in Kamianna.



Bartne, Greek Catholic and Orthodox Churches of SS. Cosmas and Damian, photo by J. Mysiński

### Bartne, Greek Catholic and Orthodox Churches of SS. Cosmas and Damian

It is worth visiting the village of Bartne, as it is still inhabited mostly by Lemkos. There are two Orthodox churches here, both dedicated to the same saints. The Greek Catholic church, built in 1842, with shingled roofs and walls, houses a museum of Lemko church and folk art. The church beautifully merges with the landscape and is truly magnificent. The interior is dominated by the 18<sup>th</sup>-century iconostasis. The newer, still operating Orthodox Church was built in the years 1928–29 and represents a different style. It is towerless with walls boarded and roof covered with metal. The furnishings include the 200-year-old iconostasis, transferred here from a demolished Orthodox church in the Lublin region.



**Greek Catholic Church**, ul. Wróblewskiego 10a, Gorlice, ☎+48 18 3518454, ▲www.gorlice.art.pl, **Orthodox Church**, Bartne 23, ☎+48 18 3518454, ▲www.drewniana.malopolska.pl

#### OTHER LOCAL ATTRACTIONS

*Bartne* with well-preserved wooden Lemko cottages, and a 19<sup>th</sup>-century stone granary with a stonework exhibition. *Bartne* is a good starting base for hiking trips in the vicinity and the nearby mountains.

*Orthodox Church in Ropica Górna* with its delightful architecture.



Orthodox church in Hańczowa, photo by K. Syga

### Hańczowa, Parish Greek Catholic Church of Protection of Mother of God

The magnificent Greek Catholic Church in Hańczowa, with a classical shape and shingled walls, was erected in the first half of the 19<sup>th</sup> century. In 1956 it was saved from demolition and later renovated. The restored interior features a magnificent iconostasis dating from the late 19<sup>th</sup> century, as well as an ornament and figural polychrome. The church premises are surrounded by a wooden fence with integrated characteristic gates (from 1811 and 1871). The tower is decorated with painted clock faces. The church is currently used by the Hańczowa parish.

**i** **Greek Catholic Church of Protection of the Mother of God**, Hańczowa 56, Wysowa, ☎ +48 18 3532124, ▲ [www.drewniana.malopolska.pl](http://www.drewniana.malopolska.pl)

#### OTHER LOCAL ATTRACTIONS

*Main Beskid Trail*, passing through Hańczowa is ideal for short and long hikes.

*Wysowa-Zdrój*, a health resort with a beautiful Orthodox church.



Orthodox church in Kwiatów, UMWM photo archive

### Kwiatów, Parish Greek Catholic Greek Catholic Church of St. Parascheva

It is one of the most beautiful Orthodox churches in Poland (presently a Greek Catholic church) and a quintessential example of the Lemko style (see p. 3). Its construction is estimated to date back to the second half of the 17<sup>th</sup> century, while the tower was added later in the 18<sup>th</sup> century. The body consists of 3 distinctive elements and rises up gradually: from the lowest chancel, through the higher nave up to the dominating, lofty tower. Each element is covered by a roof with a characteristic onion-shaped dome. The roofs and walls are shingled. The interior still holds rich furnishings from the 19<sup>th</sup> and 20<sup>th</sup> centuries. The polychrome and wall paintings imitating marble columns and cornices add charm to the interior. The Greek Catholic church was inscribed on the UNESCO World Heritage List in 2013.

**i** **Greek Catholic Church of St. Parascheva**, Uście Gorlickie 88, ☎ +48 18 3530720, ▲ [www.drewniana.malopolska.pl](http://www.drewniana.malopolska.pl)

#### OTHER LOCAL ATTRACTIONS

*Orthodox Church in Skwirne* dating from 1837, located on the Wooden Architecture Trail, is one of the most beautiful Western Lemko Orthodox churches.



Owczary, Greek Catholic Church of the Protection of the Mother of God, photo R. Korzeniowski

### Owczary, Greek Catholic Church of the Protection of the Mother of God

The Orthodox church in Owczary (presently used by the Roman Catholic and Greek Catholic parishes) is one of the oldest of Lemko churches, and one of the four Orthodox churches in the region inscribed on the UNESCO World Heritage List. It was erected in 1653, which is noted by the date carved in the western portal of the nave. The body of the building is profoundly beautiful. The polygonal roofs crowned with onion-shaped helmets with false lanterns are visible from afar. The church also boasts furnishings of high artistic value, particularly the 18<sup>th</sup> century iconostasis. The church premise is encircled by a stone wall with a stone gate belfry.

**i** **Orthodox Church of the Protection of the Mother of God**, Owczary, ☎ Sękowa Parish (Sękowa 13) +48 18 3518169, ▲ [www.drewniana.malopolska.pl](http://www.drewniana.malopolska.pl)

#### OTHER LOCAL ATTRACTIONS

*Orthodox Church in Bielanka* dating from ca. 1773, located on the Wooden Architecture Trail, features a very beautiful iconostasis (1783).

*Mountain Chalet Hostel on Magura Małastowska*, which can be reached by taking a walk from Owczary.



Powroźnik, inside the Greek Catholic Church of St. James the Less, photo by K. Syga

### Powroźnik, Greek Catholic Church of St. James the Less

Stunning with its beauty, the former Greek Catholic Church in Powroźnik (currently a Roman Catholic church) is the oldest Lemko Orthodox church in the Polish Carpathians, erected around 1600. Renovated numerous times, it was transferred to its present location in 1814 after the flood. Three onion-shaped domes crown the tented roofs rising above the three-part interior. The rich furnishings include the incomplete iconostasis dating from the years 1743-44, a Baroque side altar from the 18<sup>th</sup> century, and many icons of high artistic value, such as *Last Judgement* from 1623. The sacristy features the 1607 figure polychrome of high historic value. The church is one of the four wooden Orthodox churches in Małopolska inscribed on the UNESCO World Heritage List.

**i** **Church of St. James the Less**, Powroźnik 50, Muszyna, ☎ +48 18 4711644, ▲ [www.drewniana.malopolska.pl](http://www.drewniana.malopolska.pl)

#### OTHER LOCAL ATTRACTIONS

*Wooden Orthodox churches in Wojkowa and Jastrzębik*, located on the Wooden Architecture Trail.

*Muszyna* – an old town with picturesque architecture, situated in the deep valley at the confluence of the Poprad and Muszynka Rivers, at the foot of the hill with medieval castle ruins.



Stróże, fot. K. Syga

Śądecki Ethnographic Park, photo by A. Brożonowicz

## Heritage parks

### Szymbark, Folk Architecture Heritage Park

The Szymbark Heritage Park has a lot to offer, despite its small size. It presents the little-known folk culture of the Gorlice Pogorzans, and the idyllic landscape underlines the assets of the historic monuments. The collected buildings include cottages, cowsheds, a barn, a smithy, grain mills, an oil mill, a hand weaver's cottage and a pottery furnace. Most of the structures date back to the 19<sup>th</sup> and 20<sup>th</sup> centuries and contain original furnishing. The park also holds presentations of the work of craftsmen cultivating old traditions. The heritage park features the brick, 16<sup>th</sup> century Fortified Manor of the Gładysz Family, as well as a bourgeois manor house transferred from Gorlice. The village of Szymbark features one more historic monument located on the Wooden Architecture Route: the small **Church of St. Adalbert**, dating from 1782, with its shingled walls and roofs (the nave and the chancel have a separate roofing), and the brick sacristy. The church is towerless, but the ornamented gable of the façade is noteworthy. The furnishing dates from the 18<sup>th</sup> and 19<sup>th</sup> centuries.

**i** **Professor Roman Reinfuss Folk Architecture Heritage Park**, Szymbark, ☎+48 18 351 1018, ▲www.muzeum.gorlice.pl, 📄 see website for prices.  
**The Church of St. Adalbert the Bishop**, Szymbark 315, ☎+48 18 351 3013, ▲www.drewniana.malopolska.pl

### Stróże, Beekeeping Museum

This small heritage park is a wonderful source of knowledge about beekeeping. Apart from the interesting, extensive collection of hives (over 100) of various types (log, figural, frame, straw, including even hives from Africa), you can also see beekeeping tools and accessories, while the museum guide will keep you interested with the history of beekeeping and the application of individual items. Children can use the "Bee village" playground and a mini zoo (featuring such animals as sheep, goats, donkeys, ponies, Carpathian horses, and various bird species). Also noteworthy is the Bartna Chata tavern and a shop selling local bee products. You can find accommodation at "Grandma Mary's" with an interesting old interior.

**i** **Beekeeping Museum**, Stróże 235, ☎+48 18 414 0579, ▲www.drewniana.malopolska.pl



Witoldówka Villa in Krynica-Zdrój, photo by K. Syga

## Wooden Architecture

### Krynica-Zdrój, Wooden Architecture

Known as "the Pearl of Polish health resorts", Krynica lies in the eastern part of Beskid Sądecki, in the Krynicyzanka Stream Valley. It is one of Poland's most famous health resorts, which, apart from its location, owes its unique character to its delightful wooden architecture and mineral waters. 23 mineral water intakes with the most popular "Krynicyzanka" are the local natural treasure, available in many stylish pump rooms.

The resort development after 1856 was connected with the activity of Józef Dietl – a professor of the Jagiellonian University, known as the father of Polish balneology. This period saw the construction of facilities such as the Old Mineral Baths, the Spa House and the beautiful, wooden Main Pump Room with a promenade. Krynica's most beautiful **wooden houses**, featuring elaborate wood carving, were built in the second half of the 19<sup>th</sup> century, as a result of a large influx of patients. Magnificent villas with references to the architecture of Alpine health resorts usually had spacious front porches supported by pillars and one or two levels of balconies. The elevations were enriched with various bay windows, turrets and verandas. Many interesting buildings still stand by the Dietla Boulevard, i.e. Biała Róża (after 1855), Biały Orzeł (ca. 1857), Kosynier (1880), Romanówka (around mid 19<sup>th</sup> century), Węgierska Korona (ca. 1880), Wiśła (the second half of the 19<sup>th</sup> century), and Witoldówka (1888). The beautiful Romanówka Villa houses the **Nikifor Museum**, where you can admire the works of the ingenious primitivist painter, Epifaniusz Drowniak (1895–1968), known as Nikifor Krynicki. In the Słotwiński Park, you can also see the oldest spa facility of the resort – the wooden Słotwinka Pump Room.

Krynica is an extraordinary town: apart from its wonderful microclimate, mineral waters, and beautiful wooden architecture, alluding to the so-called Swiss style, it also offers cultural events, such as the annual Jan Kiepura Festival, held in August, attended by guests from all over the world.

The town is also an ideal starting point for hiking trips, for instance along the Jaworzyna Krynicka Range trails, as well as a wonderful winter ski resort. The town features the Jaworzyna Krynicka cable car and numerous ski slopes.

### Nowy Sącz, Śądecki Ethnographic Park

The park in Nowy Sącz is one of the most beautiful heritage parks in Poland. This is to a large extent thanks to its thematic variety. The area showcases both sacred buildings (a magnificent 17<sup>th</sup>-century Lemko Orthodox church or the 16<sup>th</sup>-century Catholic church from Łososina Dolna), and examples of diverse rural architecture (including a 17<sup>th</sup>-century gentry manor house, cottages, and farm buildings). There are also buildings recalling the heritage of other ethnic groups from the multi-cultural Nowy Sącz region: Germans, Jews and the Carpathian Roma. The restored German settlement is one of the park's largest attractions. Adjacent to the part is the Galician Small Town with typical Galician architecture.

**i** **Śądecki Ethnographic Park** – Branch of the District Museum in Nowy Sącz, entrances from ul. Lwowska 226, Nowy Sącz, ☎+48 18 4443570 or 18 4414412 ext. 106, ▲www.muzeum.sacz.pl, 📄 see website for prices.

### OTHER LOCAL ATTRACTIONS

*Wooden Orthodox Churches in Tylicz and Muszynka, located on the Wooden Architecture Trail. Muszynka is a health resort with delightful, wooden small-town architecture located on the Wooden Architecture Trail, as well as fragments of medieval castle walls that constitute an excellent vantage point.*



Zakopane, Jaszczurówka, photo by J. Gorfach

## Podhale, Orava, Spisz and the Pieniny Mountains



Zakopane, Koliba Villa, photo by A. Brożonowicz

The picturesque landscapes of Orava, Podhale, Spisz and Pieniny hide numerous pearls of architecture, while the Wooden Architecture Route allows you to see almost 50 most interesting of the buildings. Local sacred cultural heritage of the region looks particularly interesting, as the silhouettes of shingled churches beautifully harmonise with the mountain landscape. The best-known wooden church in the region is the one in Dębno, inscribed on the UNESCO World Heritage List, although other churches are no less sophisticated in terms of woodwork. Some of the churches are open the public from May to October, for instance, the churches in Bukowina Tatrzańska, Grywałd, Jurgów, Lachowice, Łopuszna, and Nowy Targ (for more information go to [www.drewniana.malopolska.pl](http://www.drewniana.malopolska.pl)). The mountain region also boasts some interesting, locally diverse examples of rural architecture. Some beautiful Podhale region cottages can be seen in the village of Chochołów, while the heritage park in Zubrzyca Górna has some characteristic Orava style buildings. One uniquely charming town is Szczawnica, with its characteristic spa villas in the Swiss-Tyrolean, while in Zakopane, visitors can admire houses built in the style created by Stanisław Witkiewicz.

[www.visitmalopolska.pl](http://www.visitmalopolska.pl)



Dębno, church of St. Michael the Archangel, photo by K. Syga



Grywałd, church of St. Martin, photo by J. Gorlach

## Churches

### Dębno, Parish Church of St. Michael the Archangel



Encircled by old trees, the wooden church in Dębno, known as the Pearl of Podhale, dates back to the 15<sup>th</sup> century. The exact date of construction is unknown, but it is assumed to be 1490. The tower, crowned with a pyramid-shaped dome, was added in 1601. The stylish, harmonious body of the church hides magnificent, unique polychromes from the turn of the 15<sup>th</sup> and 16<sup>th</sup> centuries. Colourful decorative paintings featuring different motifs cover all ceilings and walls (except for the whitewashed fragments of nave walls), and even the choir platform, the pulpit and the benches. The polychrome was created with the use of stencils, while the width of the strip corresponds with the wall logs and ceiling planks. The church has furnishings of high value. Particularly noteworthy is the Gothic main altar – a painted triptych from the 16<sup>th</sup> century, and the 14<sup>th</sup>-century tabernacle, and crucifix on the rood beam. In appreciation of the unique nature of the church, it was inscribed it on the UNESCO World Heritage List in 2003.



**Church of St. Michael the Archangel**, ul. Kościelna 42, Dębno, ☎+48 18 275 1797, ▲www.drewniana.malopolska.pl

#### OTHER LOCAL ATTRACTIONS

*Białka Gorge Nature Reserve offering a wonderful hiking area surrounded by great nature.*

### Grywałd, Auxiliary Church of St. Martin

The small church in Grywałd is yet another wooden building of high historic value in the Podhale region. It dates back to the second half of the 15<sup>th</sup> century, and despite numerous reconstructions, it has retained its Gothic form and character. A massive tower with a wide base, bringing some military character to the building, was added to the modestly sized main body of the church. The shingled church blends beautifully with the landscape – it occupies a small hill, standing at a certain distance from the village buildings. Its charm is intensified by the surrounding field-stone wall. The interior is decorated with wall paintings dating back to the beginning of the 17<sup>th</sup> century, while the late Gothic triptych from the beginning of the 16<sup>th</sup> century is the furnishing element of highest value.



**Auxiliary Church of St. Martin**, ul. Kościelna 1, Grywałd, ☎+48 18 262 3827, ▲www.drewniana.malopolska.pl

#### OTHER LOCAL ATTRACTIONS

*Pieniny National Park offers numerous hiking and cycling routes, as well as its main attraction – rafting trips down the Dunajec River.*

*Castle in Czorsztyn and the Castle in Niedzica, situated on the opposite sides of Czorsztyńskie Lake.*



Nowy Targ, cemetery Church of St. Anne, photo by J. Gorlach

### Nowy Targ, Cemetery Church of St. Anne

The beginnings of the Nowy Targ Church of St. Anne are quite mysterious and unknown. Folk legends claim it was built at the beginning of the 13<sup>th</sup> century (the inscription above the chancel says 1219, but there is no evidence that this is the year of the construction), but the second half of the 15<sup>th</sup> century seems much more realistic. The church, rising on a small, yet steep hill, has undergone several alterations, but managed to maintain the harmony of its body. It looks very enchanting, on account of its tall, shingled roof and a younger, most probably 18<sup>th</sup>-century tower crowned with an onion-shaped dome. The interior is decorated with paintings from 1880, while furnishings include items from different periods. The late Baroque main altar features paintings of high artistic value, dating from the turn of the 15<sup>th</sup> and 16<sup>th</sup> centuries.



**St. Anna's Church**, ul. św. Anny (cemetery premises), Niwa District, Nowy Targ, ☎Parish (ul. Kościelna 1): +48 18 266 67 50, ▲www.drewniana.malopolska.pl

#### OTHER LOCAL ATTRACTIONS

*Nowy Targ, St. Catherine's Church dating from 1346 is the oldest existing church in Podhale, Market Square surrounded by historic tenement buildings, and the 19<sup>th</sup>-century Town Hall. Nowy Targ is a good starting point for hiking, cycling, skiing and canoeing. Sanctuary of Our Lady the Queen of Podhale in Ludźmierz, with a wonderful figure of the Our Lady of Ludźmierz from the 15<sup>th</sup> century and a beautiful rosary garden.*



Church of the Most Sacred Heart of Jesus in Bukowina Tatrzańska, photo arch MOT

### Bukowina Tatrzańska, Church of the Most Sacred Heart of Jesus

The Church in Bukowina might not date back to the Middle Ages (it was erected in the years 1887–1900) but it is still worth visiting. The style of the building draws on the traditional wooden church architecture: it has a single nave and a tower crowned with a pyramid-shaped dome. Its body is firmly set on the ground and built partially from bricks, while the white plastered nave and chancel contrast beautifully with the remaining, boarded elements of the building and the shingled roof. The interior features a 20<sup>th</sup>-century figural polychrome, while noteworthy items inside include the 1907 wooden altars.



**Church of the Most Sacred Heart of Jesus**, ul. Kościuszki 1, Bukowina Tatrzańska, ☎+48 18 2077261, ▲www.drewniana.malopolska.pl

#### OTHER LOCAL ATTRACTIONS

*Church in Białka Tatrzańska and Church and Shepherds' Shelters in Jurgów, located on the Wooden Architecture Trail. Korkosz Farmstead in Czarna Góra, housing a museum which presents the old rich farm from the Spis region.*



Church of St. Sebastian and Our Lady of the Rosary in Jurgów, photo by J. Gorlach

### Jurgów, Church of St. Sebastian and Our Lady of the Rosary

This small church was erected in the second half of the 17<sup>th</sup> century, most likely in 1675. The brick sacristy and chapel are the result of the 20<sup>th</sup>-century extension. The oblong building is covered with a shingled roof. Shingle also covers all the church walls, including the brick ones. As opposed to the previously described buildings, the church has no tower, while the free-standing belfry, dating from the late 19<sup>th</sup> century, is different in character from the main church building. Another distinctive feature of the church in Jurgów is the opulent Rococo interior, which is quite surprising, considering the modest silhouette of the church. The walls and ceilings are covered with colourful paintings from 1813, while the lavishly gilded altars and sculptures lend the entire interior its unmistakable appearance.

**i Church of St. Sebastian and Our Lady of the Rosary**, Jurgów, ☎+48 18 2077942, ▲www.drewniana.malopolska.pl

#### OTHER LOCAL ATTRACTIONS

*Village Mayors' Farmstead in Jurgów is an example of a farm from the Spis region from the turn of the 19<sup>th</sup> and 20<sup>th</sup> centuries. Historic Shepherds' Shelter complex on the Podkólne Clearing, 2 km above Jurgów in the direction of the border.*

### Rabka-Zdrój, Church of St. Mary Magdalene – Museum

The most conspicuous element of this church (built in 1606) is its mighty tower. Added in the middle of the 18<sup>th</sup> century, it has an exceptionally large, onion-shaped dome, characteristic for this period. Despite numerous reconstructions, the church has maintained its original silhouette and is one of the churches of highest historic value on the part of the Wooden Architecture Route. Even before World War II, it featured a museum exposition. The interior is decorated with a beautiful Rococo-Classical polychrome from 1802 and still features furnishings from the 18<sup>th</sup> and 19<sup>th</sup> centuries. The museum part showcases interesting regional ethnographic collections. Particularly interesting are the items connected with pottery and smithery, which have a long-lasting tradition in Rabka, as well as a huge collection of religious items created by folk artists.

**i Władysław Orkan Museum**, ul. Orkana 8, Rabka-Zdrój, ☎+48 18 2676747, ▲www.muzeum-orkana.pl, 📄see website for prices.

#### OTHER LOCAL ATTRACTIONS

*Gorce and Island Beskids, a perfect site for hiking trips from Rabka; hikes on Luboń Wielki and Turbacz are particularly recommended. Rolling-Stock Heritage Park in Chabówka with historic locomotives and carriages.*



Museum of the Zakopane Style – Koliba Villa, photo by J. Gorlach

## Wooden Architecture

### Zakopane, Zakopane-style Villas

Wooden Tatra villas built in the Zakopane style are the gems of architecture. They owe their form to Stanisław Witkiewicz, painter, writer and architect, fascinated by highland art, who creatively transformed the elements of traditional architecture and adornment, bringing to life the style that today is admired by many. Houses erected in accordance with the aesthetic qualities devised by Witkiewicz are set on high, square stone underpinning and have steep, shingled roofs. Their distinctive features include huge verandas, attics covered with separate roofs and beautiful, opulent wood carving decorations. The first villa erected in accordance with the Zakopane style, the Koliba Villa from 1892, presently houses the Museum of the Zakopane Style. Other beautiful examples of this style include the Pod Jedlami Villa (on Koziniec), Oksza Villa (with a 20<sup>th</sup>-Century Art Gallery, ul. Zamoyskiego 25) and Witkiewiczówka Villa (Droga na Antałówkę 6).

**i Museum of the Zakopane Style** in the Koliba Villa, ul. Kościeliska 18, Zakopane, ☎+48 18 2013602, ▲www.muzeumtatrzanskie.com.pl, 📄see website for prices.

Another example of the Zakopane style is the beautiful **Chapel of the Most Sacred Heart of Jesus on Jaszczurówka**. Erected in the early 20<sup>th</sup> century, according to Witkiewicz's



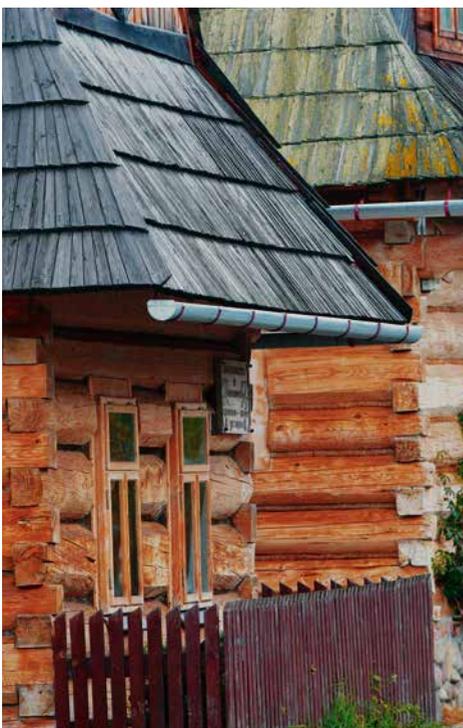
Zakopane style – detail, photo by A. Brożonowicz

design, it is marked by a high, granite underpinning and a soaring silhouette. The shingled gable roof with a characteristic, lofty tower features "rising sun" decorative motifs on the top. The unusual simplicity of the interior delights with its rich wood carving decoration. The stained-glass windows of the chancel were designed by Witkiewicz, while the wood-carved main altar is stylised to resemble the fronts of highland cottages, also in accordance with Witkiewicz's will.

**i Chapel of the Most Sacred Heart of Jesus on Jaszczurówka**, ☎+48 18 2061061 (Parish of the Divine Mercy, ul. Cyrhla 37), Zakopane, a gallery of glass paintings, information on current gallery exhibition on ▲www.cyrhla.wiara.org.pl

#### OTHER LOCAL ATTRACTIONS

*Gubałówka Mountain, which you can reach by funicular rail, is an ideal vantage point for views of Zakopane with a breathtaking panorama of the Tatras. Morskie Oko – the most beautiful mountain lake, which you can easily reach by following an asphalt road. You will also find the oldest Stanisław Staszic Polish Tourist and Sightseeing Society (PTTK) mountain chalet hostel here. Rusinowa Polana located near Jaszczurówka, with a charming wooden Chapel of Our Lady of Jaworzyna, the Queen of the Tatras.*



Chochołów, photo by P. Fabijański

### Chochołów, Folk Architecture Complex

One of the most picturesque towns of the Podhale region – Chochołów – is famous for not only its location, but also its well-preserved wooden architecture from the turn of the 18<sup>th</sup> and 19<sup>th</sup> centuries. The houses, built of flat logs in the Podhale style, are arranged closely side by side, with their tops facing the road. Each Easter, local farmers' wives scrub the houses using soapy water, which gives the logs their characteristic, bright colour. One of the most beautiful cottages in Chochołów is no. 24. Its front wall was made of a single, huge fir trunk, hence its name the single fir cottage. It is also worth visiting the Regional Chamber, which presents highland folklore.

#### OTHER LOCAL ATTRACTIONS

*Church in Witów from the 20<sup>th</sup> century, located on the Wooden Architecture Trail.*

*Wooden houses in Czarny Dunajec, dating back to the 19<sup>th</sup> century.*



Wooden spa buildings in Szczawnica, photo by J. Gorlach

### Szczawnica, Spa Architecture

This beautifully situated health resort is known not only for its therapeutic waters, but also for its historic wooden architecture. The 19<sup>th</sup>-century villas and guesthouses preserved in the spa district of the health resort bear resemblance to the Swiss style. They usually have two or three storeys, numerous verandas, porches and towers, as well as rich wood carving decoration. The area around Dietle Square with the most beautiful spa buildings is particularly atmospheric.

#### OTHER LOCAL ATTRACTIONS

*Jaworki and Szlachtowa, villages situated in the Grajcarek River Valley, once belonged to Shlakhtov Ruthenians, who left behind beautiful brick Orthodox churches.*

*Biała Woda and Homole Gorge Nature Reserves are excellent places for walks.*



Rome Tavern, photo by P. Dębski  
Heritage Park in Zubrzyca Górna, photo by K. Syga

### Sucha Beskidzka, Rome Tavern

The tavern in Sucha Beskidzka dates back to the 18<sup>th</sup> century. Local legend has it that this is where Master Twardowski was abducted by the Devil and taken to the Moon, which was described by Adam Mickiewicz in his ballad *Mrs. Twardowska*. The magnificent, wooden building is very picturesque: based on the stone underpinning, it has a shingled hip roof with characteristic arcades on the front side. As befits a proper tavern, it ornaments the square, while regional food is served in the traditionally decorated interior.

**i Rome Tavern**, Rynek 1, Sucha Beskidzka, ☎+48 33 8742797, ▲ [www.karczma-rzym.com](http://www.karczma-rzym.com)

*Renaissance Castle in Sucha Beskidzka from the 16<sup>th</sup> century, known as "the Small Wawel".*

*Small Church in Lachowice from 1789, located on the Wooden Architecture Trail.*



## Heritage parks

### Zubrzyca Górna, Orava Ethnographic Park

The heritage park in Zubrzyca is a place with a soul. The vast area, resembling a picturesque landscape park, features a diverse collection of examples of the Orava architecture. The most characteristic buildings are cottages with an extra storey featuring an attic chamber, serving a farm function (usually used as a granary). The upper storey is surrounded with a gallery, which can be reached by stairs located outside the building. Other interesting buildings include a smithy, a lumber mill, a fulling mill and an oil mill. There is also a beautiful apiary with interesting types of hives. Most residential buildings house theme exhibitions presenting the daily life in the Orava region. The magnificent Moniak Manor from the turn of the 17<sup>th</sup> and 18<sup>th</sup> centuries houses an exhibition of 19<sup>th</sup>-century appliances, furniture and kitchenware.

**i Orava Ethnographic Park**, Zubrzyca Górna, ☎+48 18 2852709, ▲ [www.orawa.eu](http://www.orawa.eu), 📄 see website for prices.

#### OTHER LOCAL ATTRACTIONS

*Babia Mount is the highest peak of the West Beskids, which you can climb from the Krowiarki Pass.*

*The village of Orawka and its 17<sup>th</sup>-century wooden church, famous for the beautiful polychrome are worth seeing.*

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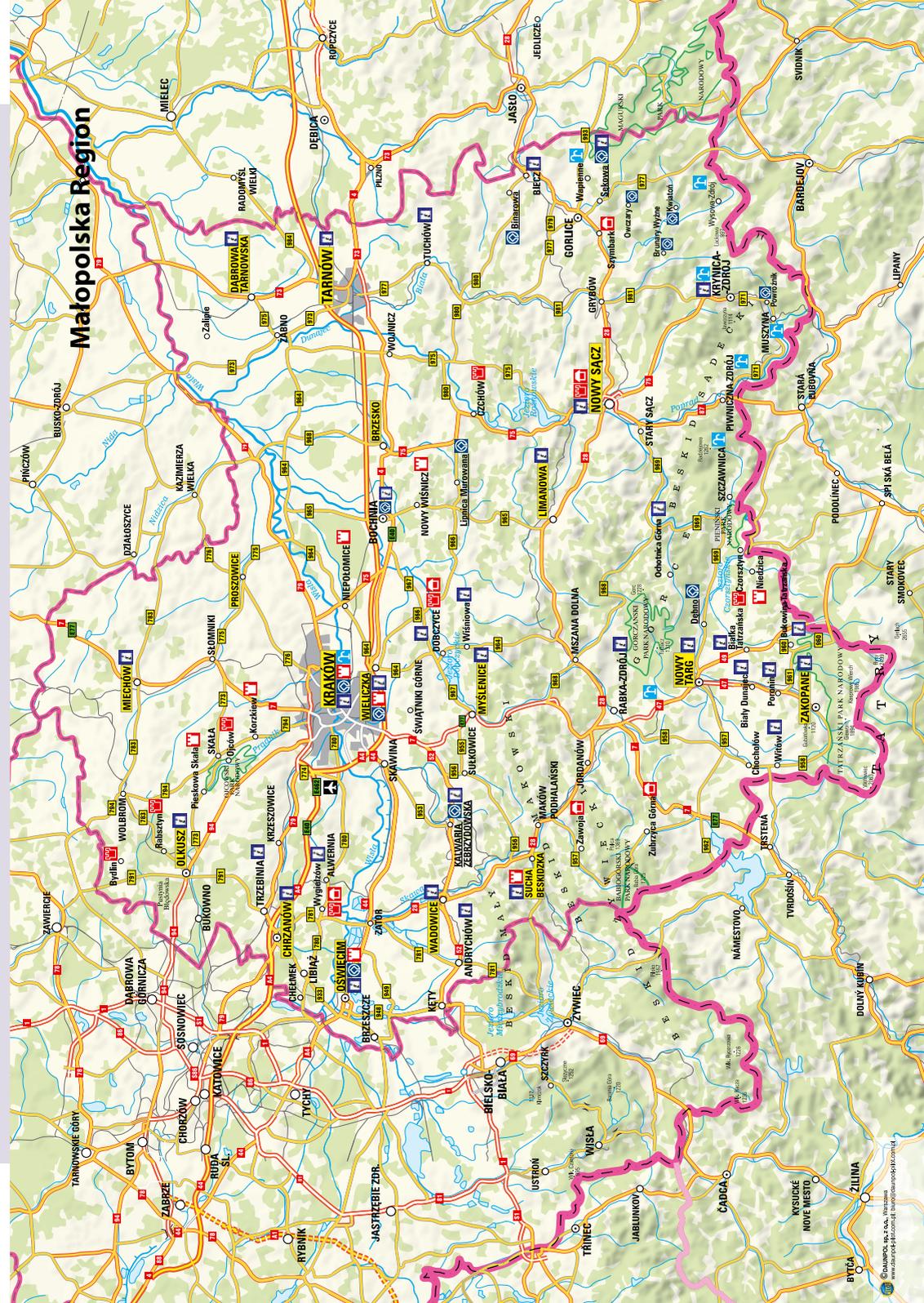
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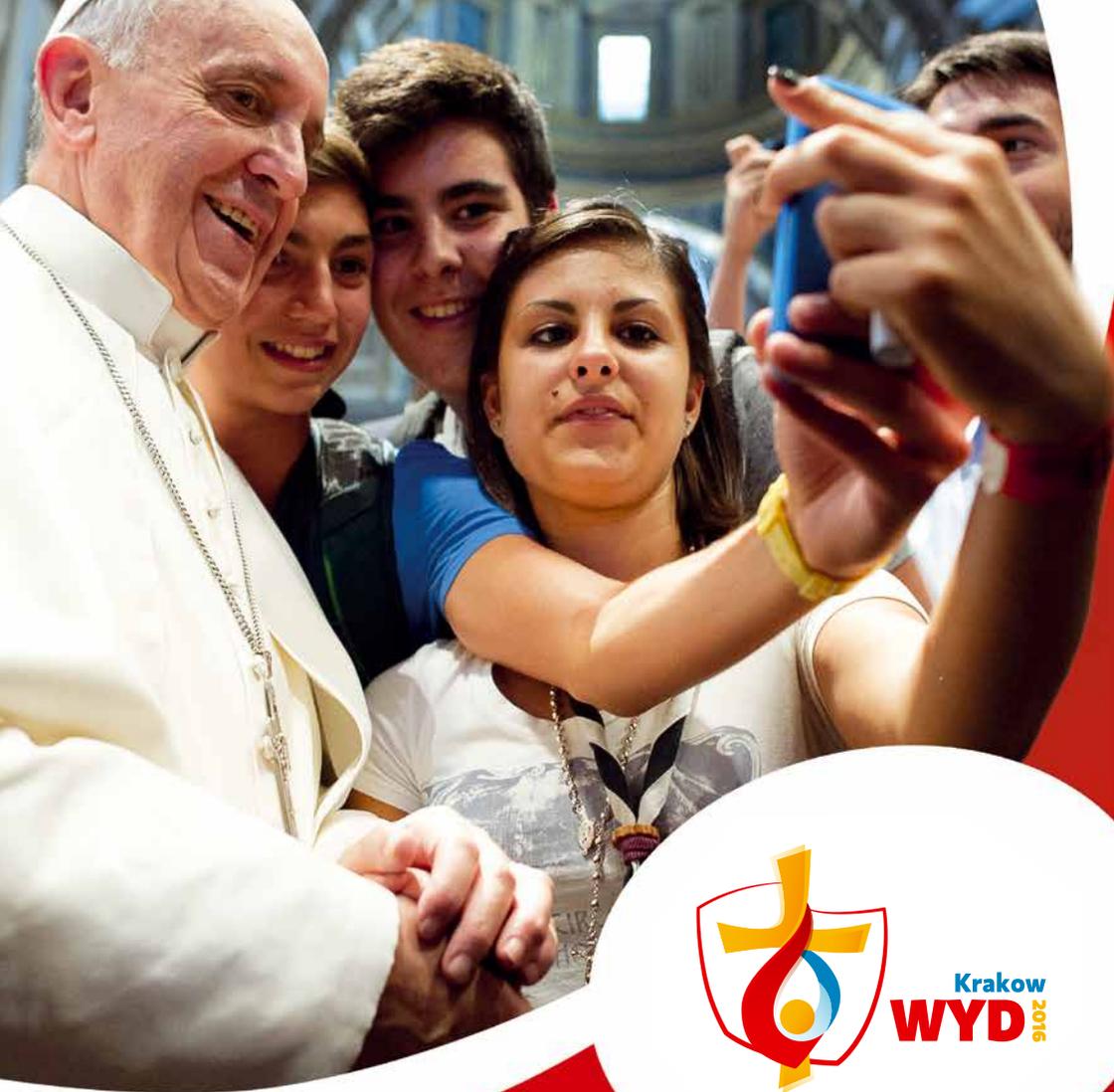
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# World Youth Day

26-31.07. 2016 Kraków

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