



# MAŁOPOLSKA

UNESCO World Heritage Trail



Krakow  
**WYD**  
9000

**ms**  **IT**

# MAŁOPOLSKA UNESCO MALOPOLSKA WORLD HERITAGE TRAIL

**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 – Czorsztyński, 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

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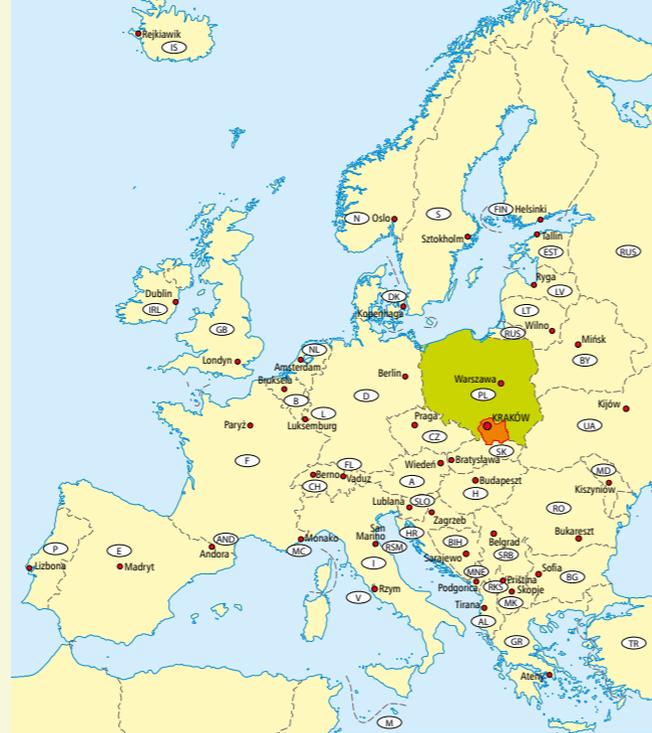
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More information on:

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

[www.muzea.malopolska.pl](http://www.muzea.malopolska.pl)

# MAŁOPOLSKA UNESCO World Heritage Trail



Kraków Main Market Square, photo by R. Korzeniowski



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

The UNESCO World Cultural and Natural Heritage List was created in 1972. As the name suggests, its aim has been to protect the world's historic sites and regions of outstanding value, significant not only from the historical, but also from the cultural and environmental point of view. It is not easy to be included on the prestigious UNESCO World Heritage List. Nominated sites must comply with a number of criteria, and the final decision on the inscription is made by a special committee. The necessary though not the only condition is the exceptional and universal value of the proposed site, as well as its authenticity. Apart from properties of natural and of cultural heritage, a combination of cultural and natural heritage, called cultural landscape, has been recognized since 1992 as a reflection of significant interactions between people and the natural environment. An example of such a site in Poland is the Architectural and Landscape Park Complex in Kalwaria Zebrzydowska.

Presently, the UNESCO World Heritage List features 981 sites and properties from 160 countries, (759 listed as cultural heritage, 193 as natural heritage and 29 as cultural landscape). Twenty-eight sites in Poland have been included on the UNESCO World Heritage List. Fourteen of them are located in the Małopolska Region. The unique status of the Małopolska cultural heritage is manifest in the diversity of the sites inscribed on the UNESCO World Heritage List and located in the region. They range from the Kraków historic Old Town, Nazi German Auschwitz-Birkenau extermination camp, the Salt Mine in Wieliczka, the Wieliczka Saltworks Castle, the Salt Mine in Bochnia, Architectural and park landscape complex in Kalwaria Zebrzydowska, four wooden churches: in Dębno, Sękowa, Binarowa and Lipnica Murowana, to four wooden Orthodox churches (Tserkvas): in Brunary Wyżne, Kwiaton, Owczary and Powroźnik.

# KRAKÓW

## OLD TOWN AND KAZIMIERZ



### Old Town in Kraków

The Old Town is a magical place. For many centuries kings and their important guests used to come to Kraków through St. Florian's Gate, passed through the Main Market Square and continued along Grodzka and Kanonicza streets to the Wawel Castle. Today the Royal Route is vibrant with life and crowded with tourists – even though a lot has changed, the place has retained its splendour typical of a royal residence. In 1978 the perfectly preserved medieval architectural arrangement, one of the most magnificent in this part of Europe, as well as the unique complex of historic sites from different periods, became the basis for the inscription of the former capital of Poland on the UNESCO World Heritage List. Tenements in various styles, beautiful residences, centuries-old churches, majestic university buildings, as well as the unforgettable Wawel, make you forget about the modernity.

The Old Town, which comprises the town from the time when Kraków received town charter (1257), was encircled with a ring of defensive walls as early as in the 14<sup>th</sup> century. At the beginning of the 19<sup>th</sup> century, the walls had 47 towers and 7 main gates. The fragment of the preserved fortifications with the aforementioned **St. Florian's Gate** and the three adjoining towers manifest to how mighty the fortifications were. In the late 15<sup>th</sup> century, another impressive defensive structure was built: the **Barbican** (once called the 'Saucepan' by the Cracovians). It used to be indestructible, and it even resisted the 19<sup>th</sup> century city cleaning campaign, during which the city fortifications were torn down. The **Planty** City Park, a green ribbon now encircling the historic town centre, was created on the site of the city walls.

**i** **Barbican and the defensive walls**, ul. Basztowa, Kraków, ☎ +48 12 4211361, 12 4229877, ▲ [www.mhk.pl](http://www.mhk.pl), 📄 see website for prices.

The Old Town is also famous for a large (considering its size) number of historic churches (nearly 30). On the Main Market Square stands the Romanesque **Church of St. Adalbert**. It is one of the oldest churches in Kraków and dates back to the turn of the 11<sup>th</sup> and 12<sup>th</sup> centuries and was erected on the foundations of an older structure. Even though it was rebuilt in the 17<sup>th</sup> century in the Baroque style, it retained traces of the Romanesque style – both inside and outside. Other magnificent examples of sacred architecture include the **Church of St. Andrew** (Grodzka 56) and the Baroque **Church of SS. Peter and Paul** (Grodzka 54) dating from the 17<sup>th</sup> century, with characteristic figures of 12 apostles that decorate the church's front fence. Gothic and Renaissance mansions also add charm to Grodzka Street.

- 📍 The Barbican, photo by A. Brożonowicz
- 📍 Church of SS. Peter and Paul, photo by K. Syga
- 📍 View from the Basilica tower, photo by M. Zaręba
- 📍 The Main Market Square, photo by R. Korzeniowski

# KRAKÓW

OLD TOWN AND KAZIMIERZ



One of the Old Town quarters is occupied by the Jagiellonian University, the inheritor of the Kraków Academy founded in 1364 by King Casimir the Great. The university library, which boasts the largest book collection in Poland, is the university's treasure. Originally, it was located in **Collegium Maius**, one of Europe's few preserved medieval university buildings. Today, the building houses a **museum** with interesting collections of high historical value, featuring e.g. one of the world's oldest globes with the name "America" on it.

**i** **Jagiellonian University Museum**, ul. Jagiellońska 15, Kraków, ☎ +48 12 4220549, same day ticket reservation +48 12 6631307; advanced ticket reservation +48 12 6651307, ▲ [www.maius.uj.edu.pl](http://www.maius.uj.edu.pl), 📄 see website for prices.

**The Main Market Square** was marked out in the middle of the 13<sup>th</sup> century. It was one of the largest squares in Europe and functioned as the commercial, administrative and judicial centre. The enormous square (200 x 200 m) was designed in such a way that it would meet the needs of merchants travelling along trade routes. The taverns and inns, once surrounding the square, are now replaced by restaurants and coffee shops. Colourful umbrellas, cabs awaiting guests, as well as pigeons, which perch on the historic buildings, lend the place a unique artistic and ludic atmosphere.

The **Sukiennice Cloth Hall**, dominating in the middle of the square, serves as the reminder of the commercial function of the Main Market Square. The market stalls stood here as early as in the 13<sup>th</sup> century, but the elegant building we can admire now dates back to the 16<sup>th</sup> century (the earlier Gothic building burnt down, and what remains, among other things, are the pointed-arch arcades).

The Sukiennice Cloth Hall, the "Pearl of the Polish Renaissance," still fulfils its original function: it features stalls with various souvenirs, works of art and jewellery. The first floor houses the Gallery of 19<sup>th</sup>-Century Polish Art, a branch of the National Museum.

The building of highest historic and artistic value on the Main Market Square is undoubtedly the Gothic **St. Mary's Basilica**, which boasts a unique historic monument: the 15<sup>th</sup>-century wooden polyptych altar made by famous sculptor Veit Stoss. Apart from visiting the church, you can also climb one of its towers, where you can delight in the beautiful view of the city and see the trumpeter play the bugle call every hour.

**i** **St. Mary's Basilica**, Rynek Główny, Kraków, ☎ +48 12 4220521 ext. 21, ▲ [www.mariacki.com](http://www.mariacki.com)

- 👤 Droszky driver, photo by M. Zaręba
- 👤 St. Mary's Basilica, photo K. Syga
- 👤 Collegium Maius, photo by K. Syga
- 👤 Paintings in St. Mary's Basilica, photo by photo M. Zaręba

# KRAKÓW

OLDTOWN AND KAZIMIERZ



## Wawel

It is best to reach **Wawel Hill** from **Kanonicza Street**, one of the most picturesque streets in Kraków. Here you can admire buildings from various periods: Gothic, Renaissance, Baroque and Neoclassical. From the 14<sup>th</sup> century on, this street was the residence of cathedral canons, who built their representative houses here. The hill itself, dominated by the cathedral and the castle, is one the most frequently visited hills in Poland. Like no other place in Poland, the site has witnessed the development of the Polish state and culture. Nearly all Polish kings were crowned and buried here (alongside many eminent Poles). Wawel also houses an extremely extensive museum collection. The majestic **Cathedral** dates back to the 11<sup>th</sup> century. Today, it features traces of various styles and is surrounded by 18 **chapels**. The most magnificent is **Sigismund's Chapel**, covered with a gilded dome, which became the mausoleum of the last kings of the Jagiellon dynasty. It is considered to be the most remarkable example of the Italian Renaissance in Poland. The Sigismund Bell, rung only during the most important state ceremonies or events significant to the Polish nation, is also worth seeing.

The **Castle** that has been preserved until today as a magnificent Renaissance residence, houses extremely valuable museum collections, featuring e.g. a collection of militaria, as well as some priceless items, such as the 13<sup>th</sup>-century coronation sword (*Szczerbiec*) or the famous 16<sup>th</sup>-century Flemish tapestries. The chambers and the arcaded courtyard with three-storey galleries make an unforgettable impression. While on Wawel, you must visit the **Dragon's Den**, that is, a cave under the castle hill. Even though the dragon lives there no more, the charm of the famous legend remains.

**i** **Wawel Royal Castle**, Wawel 5, Kraków, information: ☎ +48 12 4225155 ext. 219, 🌐 [www.wawel.krakow.pl](http://www.wawel.krakow.pl), 📄 see website for prices. **Cathedral**, ☎ +48 12 4293327, 🌐 [www.wawel.katedra-wawelska.pl](http://www.wawel.katedra-wawelska.pl), 📄 see website for prices.

- 📍 The Sigismund Bell, photo by K. Syga
- 📍 The Wawel Cathedral, photo by R. Korzeniowski
- 📍 Wawel Royal Chambers, photo by M. Zaręba
- 📍 Wawel Hill, photo by M. Zaręba

# KRAKÓW

## OLD TOWN AND KAZIMIERZ



### Kazimierz in Kraków

The alluring town of Kazimierz was founded in 1335. Its founder, King Casimir the Great (hence the name of the former town) dreamt about setting up an alternative centre that would be a competition to Kraków. Today Kazimierz is inseparably associated with the Kraków Jewry, who settled here in the late 15<sup>th</sup> century and created an extraordinarily thriving community. Until the Second World War, it had been one of the largest Jewish cultural centres in Poland. In 1978, Kazimierz (the medieval part of Kazimierz and the Stradom suburb), together with Wawel and the Old Town, were inscribed on the UNESCO World Heritage List, in order to commemorate the centuries-long tolerant coexistence of Jews and Christians.

The heart of Kazimierz is Szeroka Street, which is actually a huge square, on which four synagogues used to stand. It also featured several prayer houses, the office of *kahal* (the community administration), the *mikveh*, the ritual baths and two cemeteries. Some of the buildings date back to the 16<sup>th</sup> and 17<sup>th</sup> centuries. The **Old Synagogue**, Poland's oldest preserved synagogue and the first to be built in Kazimierz, is of highest historic value. It dates back to the early 15<sup>th</sup> century, as manifest by the inscription on the preserved moneybox with the date 1407. Today, after remodelling in the years 1904–13, the building has a Neo-Renaissance style. It houses a branch of the Historical Museum of the City of Kraków and the exhibition is devoted to the traditions and history of the Kraków Jewry.

#### OTHER LOCAL ATTRACTIONS

*Tyniec and its famous Benedictine Abbey dating from the 11<sup>th</sup> century*

*Ojców National Park well-known for its limestone outliers of fanciful shapes.*

*The Trail of Eagles' Nest linking castles erected on rocky peaks, called "Eagles' Nest" due to their location.*

*Golf Course in Paczółtowice, a mecca of Małopolska fans of this aristocratic game.*

*Romanesque churches in Wysocice and Dziekanowice manifesting Małopolska's rich history and delighting with the beauty of old architecture.*

**Old Synagogue**, ul. Szeroka 24, Kraków, ☎ +48 12 4220962, ▲ [www.mhk.pl](http://www.mhk.pl), 📄 see website for prices.

The **Remuh Synagogue** is located at 40 Szeroka Street. It was founded in the 16<sup>th</sup> century, but the building's present appearance is a result of the 19<sup>th</sup>-century remodelling. Currently, it is one of the three synagogues in Kraków that are used for services. The Renaissance *aron ha-kodesh*, the stone Torah ark placed in the eastern wall, has remained from the original furnishing, among others. Through a gate in the wall you can enter the **Remuh Cemetery**. It is the oldest preserved Jewish necropolis in Kraków and one of the oldest in Poland. Apart from sarcophagus tombstones, there are numerous free standing *matzevot* dating from 16<sup>th</sup> to 18<sup>th</sup> century.

**Remuh Synagogue and Cemetery**, ul. Szeroka 40, Kraków, ☎ +48 12 4295735, ▲ [www.krakow.jewish.org.pl](http://www.krakow.jewish.org.pl)

The Jewish district also includes **Nowy Square**, commonly known as the Jewish Square. The middle of the square features the distinctive round building of a former poultry slaughterhouse, the so-called *okraglak*, which was erected in 1900. The tenements surrounding the square house numerous eateries, pubs and cafés. In the evenings the place is vibrant with life and this centuries-old district reveals its new character – one of an artistic and social mecca. Kazimierz also boasts splendid Christian monuments, primarily beautiful churches. The impressive **Corpus Christi Church** in the corner of Wolnica Square, part of the former Kazimierz Market Square, was founded in the 14<sup>th</sup> century, but the construction work was not completed until the second half of the following century. The soaring tower with the unique Mannerist dome dates from the 17<sup>th</sup> century. The majestic interior is an extraordinarily successful combination of Gothic and Baroque styles. One of the most magnificent Gothic churches in Kraków, the **Church of SS. Catherine and Margaret**, founded by King Casimir the Great, is located at 7 Augustiańska Street. Adjacent to it is the Monastery of the Augustinians, also built in the 14<sup>th</sup> century, with beautiful Gothic cloisters decorated with polychromes. Skaleczna Street, running just next to the church, leads to the famous **Na Skalce Pauline Church**. It was erected in the 18<sup>th</sup> century on the site of the former church and sumptuously furnished. The church crypt serves as the National Pantheon. Distinguished personalities buried here include playwright Stanisław Wyspiański, painter Jacek Malczewski, as well as the Nobel Prize winner, Czesław Miłosz.

↳ Szeroka Street, photo by K. Syga

↳ Old Synagogue on Szeroka Street, photo M. Zaręba

# WIELICZKA

SALT MINE



## Wieliczka Salt Mine

Thanks to its Salt Mine, Wieliczka is known all over the world. The salt from the surface mines was manufactured here 3,500 years BCE, whereas the beginnings of the excavation of rock salt date back to the 13<sup>th</sup> century, as the oldest shaft discovered on the courtyard of the Saltworks Castle dates back to this period. Initially, the salt mine was the property of princes and kings. Money obtained from the sales of salt was used for remuneration to the professors of the Kraków Academy, for construction and renovation of Kraków churches and tenements, as well as for the expansion of the Renaissance Wawel Castle. A few centuries later, in 1978, the Salt Mine was inscribed on the UNESCO World Heritage List in appreciation of its uniqueness on the world scale. It is



the only mining facility functioning continually from the 13<sup>th</sup> century in the world. The original excavation sites reflect all stages of the development of mining techniques.

Across centuries, 26 shafts were dug. On nine levels, at the depths between 57 and 327 m, over 2,000 chambers and almost 300 km of galleries were bored. Thanks to the high stability of the excavations, even the chambers mined towards the end of the Middle Ages have been preserved. The historic zone includes levels 1–5 (218 chambers and 190 galleries), and visitors can expect real marvels made of salt: chapels decorated with salt sculptures, salty lakes, old excavations with original wooden elements, and old mining tools...

The two-kilometre tourist route (levels 1-3) enables you to visit 22 chambers. There are 16 more waiting for tourists in the underground branch of the Kraków Saltworks Museum (level 3). The most famous stops on the route include the Baroque Chapel of St. Anthony (17<sup>th</sup> century, the oldest chapel in the mine) and St. Kinga's Chapel (bored in the 18<sup>th</sup> century, has functioned as an underground sanctuary since the 19<sup>th</sup> century). The credit for the delightful décor of St. Kinga's Chapel goes to the miners, especially to self-taught sculptors: Józef and Tomasz Markowski, and Antoni Wyrodek. The picturesque underground lakes are located in the Weimar, Erazm Baracz and Józef Piłsudski Chambers. In the latter, ceremonial ferry crossings to the sounds of the orchestra were held. During the war the Germans attempted to adapt the Staszic Chamber, the highest (36 m) on the route, for an aircraft parts assembly room. The Warszawa, Wisła, and Budryka Chambers currently house an entertainment-sport-food centre.

Particularly interesting is also the underground exhibition of the Kraków Saltworks Museum (admission after completing the tourist route is included in the same ticket). The museum showcases exhibits presenting the development of the mining technology. A true treasure is the Horn of the Brotherhood of Wieliczka Miners dating from 1534, most likely made in the goldsmith's workshop of Hans Dürer, the brother of the famous Albrecht from Nuremberg. The daring can also visit the recently opened special Miners' Route. It runs far away from the frequented tourist route, through the oldest mining shaft, called Regis. Carrying the genuine mining equipment, the visitors can measure the levels of the concentration of methane, search for salt, and explore unknown chambers.

### OTHER LOCAL ATTRACTIONS

*The wooden church of St. Sebastian, the oldest church in Wieliczka.*

*Wooden Folk Architecture Heritage Park and fragments of the medieval Castle in the nearby Dobczyce.*

📍 In the salt mine, photo by A. Brożonowicz

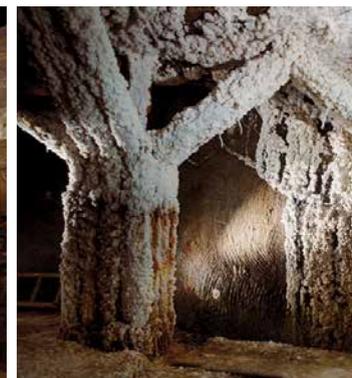
📷 Salt crystals, UMWM photo archive

🖼️ The Chapel of St. Kinga in Wieliczka Salt Mine, photo archives of "Wieliczka" Salt Mine

**i** **Wieliczka Salt Mine**, ul. Daniłowicza 10, Wieliczka, Tourist Route: ☎ +48 12 2787302, 12 2787366, Miners' Route 12 2787570, 🌐 [www.kopalnia.pl](http://www.kopalnia.pl), 📄 see website for prices. The temperature underground is constant and equals 14°C.

# WIELICZKA

## SALTWORKS CASTLE



### OTHER LOCAL ATTRACTIONS ▾

**Convent Complex of the Benedictine Nuns in Staniątki, operating incessantly since 1228, with the early Gothic church of high historic value.**

**A slender Gothic Church of Ten Thousand Martyrs in Niepolomice founded in the 14<sup>th</sup> century by King Casimir the Great, and the beautiful Renaissance Royal Castle, or the hunting residence of Polish Kings, who often went hunting in the nearby Niepolomice Forest.**

### The Saltworks Castle in Wieliczka

The Saltworks Castle, located in the very centre of Wieliczka, was erected in the 13<sup>th</sup> century, and was significantly expanded and incorporated in the system of town fortifications in the subsequent century. It housed the administration offices of the entire Kraków Saltworks – the mines and saltworks not only of Wieliczka but also of Bochnia – from the late 13<sup>th</sup> century until 1945. The castle is the only building of the type in Poland and one of the very few such entities in the world. As an example of architecture dating from various time periods, associated with the development of salt mining, the castle was inscribed on the UNESCO World Heritage List in 2013, as an extension to the Polish Wieliczka Salt Mine under the name “Wieliczka and Bochnia Royal Salt Mines.” The oldest part of the castle, the Middle Castle, also known as the “House among the Saltworks,” was erected in the 13<sup>th</sup> century. Made of stone and brick, it was nearly completely destroyed in 1945, but was carefully reconstructed after the war. Among the reconstructed parts is e.g. the beautiful Gothic Hall with the vault supported on one, central pillar.

“The Saltworks House,” the present North Castle, was built in the 14<sup>th</sup> century. It used to house the chapel, the living quarters of the administrative officers’ and utility rooms, whereas the South Castle, erected in the 19<sup>th</sup> century, houses the fire station, the superintendent’s house and storage rooms.

Inside the castle premises stands a massive square stone tower covered with a steep roof. The 14<sup>th</sup>-century tower is the only one remaining out of 19 medieval towers that were erected as part of the Wieliczka defensive wall system. The town, at the time one of the largest towns in Małopolska, was fortified at the order of King Casimir the Great. The courtyard features the foundations of the saltworks kitchen, erected in the 15<sup>th</sup> century, where the saltworks workers, both administrative officers and miners, would receive free meals.

At present, the castle houses part of the exhibition of the Saltworks Museum, encompassing such branches as archaeology, town history, and a great exhibition of salt shakers made of various materials and dating from various time periods, (including such rarities as salt shakers made of mother of pearl, quartz, or bones). Nowadays, the exhibition comprises about 600 salt shakers. The oldest ones date from the 17<sup>th</sup> century, while the collection boasts salt shakers from such exotic countries as Niger, Honduras or Jamaica. The Gothic Hall houses the collection of the 19<sup>th</sup>-century Polish Art, with paintings by Józef Mehoffer or Leon Wyczółkowski. The museum also boasts the oldest shift in Wieliczka, discovered by the archaeologists, and dating from the 13<sup>th</sup> century. Surrounded by a wooden casing, it most likely did not reach to salt deposits.

△ Wieliczka Salt Mine, photo by R. Korzeniowski

▽ Wieliczka Salt Mine, photo by R. Korzeniowski

◀ Wieliczka Salt Mine, photo by R. Korzeniowski

◁ The Saltworks Castle, photo by R. Korzeniowski

**The Wieliczka Saltworks Museum, the Saltworks Castle, ul. Zamkowa 8, ☎ +48 12 2785849, ▲ www.muzeum.wieliczka.pl, 📍 see website for prices (free admission with the ticket from the Wieliczka Salt Mine).**

# BOCHNIA

SALT MINE



## Bochnia Salt Mine

Bochnia features a salt mine that is slightly lesser known than the Salt Mine in Wieliczka, also open to public. It is worth knowing that the Bochnia Salt Mine is older than the Wieliczka Salt Mine, as the excavation began in the first half of the 13<sup>th</sup> century, several decades earlier than in Wieliczka. Much earlier, just like in Wieliczka – for about 3,500 years BCE – salt was obtained by the evaporation of water from the saline solution, obtained from the specially bored wells. Such wells were the origin of e.g. the Sutoris Shaft existing until today. When the real mine, the Bochnia saltworks, developed here and managed from the Wieliczka Saltworks Castle, it soon began yielding enormous profits to the royal treasure. The mine operated according to the Statute issued by King Casimir the Great in 1368 until 1772, when it was annexed by Austria, as a result of the First Partition of Poland. In 2013 the inscription on the UNESCO World Heritage List, previously comprising only the Wieliczka Salt Mine, was extended to include the Salt Mine in Bochnia and the Saltworks Castle in Wieliczka.

The tourist route in the salt mine is an extraordinary journey through the most beautiful and most interesting excavations on level 4 (August, 176 m deep), and level 6 (Sienkiewicz, 223 m deep). The salt mine boasts numerous unique chambers of a characteristic shape and geological layout, austere underground chapels with beautiful sculptures and paintings, as well as mining tools and equipment from centuries before. Among the most interesting underground chambers are: the 17<sup>th</sup>-century Mysiur Chamber, which functioned as the stable for the horses working underground, St. Kinga's Chapel dating from 1754. The newest attraction featured there is the Underground Multimedia Exhibition, the only such exhibition in the world. It offers a "journey in time." The guide is accompanied by various people associated with the history of the salt mine, both historical and legendary, such as Polish kings, Genua miners, and even a ghost of the Cistercian monk, as the origins of the local salt mine are associated with the Cistercian Order. The visit in the salt mine ends in the Wazyń Chamber on level 6, which is 250 m deep. The chamber is so large (ca. 255 m long, 14.5 m wide, and 7.2 m high) that it encompasses a sports field and the underground Wazynek Restaurant, as well as a souvenir shop and a mini playground for the youngest visitors. Another interesting attraction offered there is an underground boat cruise in the flooded part of the salt mine.

### OTHER LOCAL ATTRACTIONS ▼

*The Bochnia Old Town with a nice Market Square, the late Gothic Basilica of St. Nicholas, and the "Settlement of Six Ploughmen" Archaeological Park, located near the Campi Shaft of the Bochnia Salt Mine.*

*One of the largest castles in the Małopolska Region – the Castle in Nowy Wiśnicz.*

*Church of St. Leonard in Lipnica Murowana, inscribed on the UNESCO World Heritage List (see p. 27)*

▲ Salt from Bochnia, photo archives, Marshal Office of the Małopolska Region

▼ Salt Mine in Bochnia, photo archives, Bochnia Salt Mine Spa and Health Centre

◀ Bochnia Salt Mine, photo by J. Gawron

**i** **Bochnia Salt Mine Health Resort**, ul. Campi 15, Bochnia, ☎ +48 14 6152460, 14 6152462, ▲ [www.kopalnia-bochnia.pl](http://www.kopalnia-bochnia.pl), 📄 see website for prices.

# KALWARIA ZEBRZYDOWSKA

ARCHITECTURAL PARK LANDSCAPE COMPLEX



## Architectural and park landscape complex in Kalwaria Zebrzydowska

Kalwaria Zebrzydowska forms an exceptional cultural landscape, a place in which the natural and spiritual values are harmoniously combined. The Architectural and Park Landscape Complex includes the Sanctuary and the Calvary, beautifully set against the surroundings. The buildings, together with the skilfully laid out network of paths, harmoniously blend into the landscape and create natural scenery of sacred character. This perfect combination of the natural landscape and the work of human hands (churches, chapels, figures and bridges) became the basis for the inscription of the Mannerist Architectural and Park Landscape Complex and Pilgrimage Park on the UNESCO World Heritage List in 1999. Today, the Kalwaria Zebrzydowska complex is the largest (apart from Częstochowa) destination for pilgrims in Poland. The Sanctuary and the Calvary owe its existence to Mikołaj Zebrzydowski, Kraków voivode, who in 1600 founded the Chapel of the Crucifixion of Jesus, brought the Bernardine (Franciscan) Monks to look after it (they built the church and the monastery), and generously supported the construction of the Stations of the Cross, which were modelled on the stations in Jerusalem. The Calvary was set up on the hills, and the site was supposed to resemble the location of the Holy City of Jerusalem. Even the adequate distances, proportionally bigger than the ones in Jerusalem, were preserved while designating the sites for the chapels. Most of the 40 buildings constituting the Calvary were built in the first half of the 17<sup>th</sup> century. The Holy Stairs covered with a semi-circular roof were also constructed at that time. The relics from the Holy Land were placed in 28 steps. During church fairs and holidays, processions march along the Calvary (the Paths of Jesus or Mother of God). Participation in the **Passion of Christ** enactments during the Holy Week is an unforgettable spiritual experience. The most important church in Kalwaria Zebrzydowska is the Basilica of St. Mary of the Angels (in the monastery complex). It features the image of St. Mary of Calvary, famous for its graces, for which a magnificent Baroque chapel was built (to the left of the main altar). The painting found its way to the monastery in 1641, when its owner noticed bloody tears on the face of the Madonna. The church commission was deeply mistrustful of the phenomenon, forbade the public display of the image and ordered to place it in the treasury. Under pressure from the Bernardines, the decision was changed and the miraculous painting quickly won the hearts of the faithful. Kalwaria Zebrzydowska became an important centre of Marian worship.

### OTHER LOCAL ATTRACTIONS

**Church of the Tomb of the Blessed Virgin Mary in Brody, part of the Calvary sacred buildings.**

**Lanckorona with its perfectly preserved 19th-century wooden architecture.**

**Wadowice – the hometown of Karol Wojtyła, the later Pope John Paul II, who was born and raised there.**

📍 The sanctuary interior, photo by A. Brożonowicz

📍 The Passion of Christ, Kalwaria Zebrzydowska, photo by D. Zaród

📍 Kalwaria Zebrzydowska, UMWM photo archive

📍 Kalwaria Zebrzydowska, UMWM photo archive

**i** **Passion–Marian Sanctuary – Monastery of the Bernardines**, ul. Bernardyńska 46 (access from the town centre along 3 Maja and Bernardyńska Streets), Kalwaria Zebrzydowska, the monastery gate ☎ +48 33 8766304, 🌐 [www.kalwaria.eu](http://www.kalwaria.eu), pilgrims and tourists coming to the sanctuary in organised groups (15 persons and up) can ask for a guide, who will present the history of the sanctuary or conduct prayers on the paths (booking ☎ +48 33 8766304); free admission to the landscape and pilgrimage park.

# OŚWIĘCIM

AUSCHWITZ-BIRKENAU

NAZI GERMAN CONCENTRATION AND EXTERMINATION CAMP

(1940-1945)



## OTHER LOCAL ATTRACTIONS ▾

***Oświęcim**, a picturesque town located at the Soła River with the Castle of the Piast dynasty, renovated synagogue, beautiful churches, and the market square with 19<sup>th</sup>-century tenement houses.*

***Ethnographic Park in Wygietzów** with numerous examples of the regional wooden architecture.*

***Lipowiec Castle in Babice** with a tall tower offering a magnificent panorama of the vicinity.*

↔ Auschwitz-Birkenau Museum, photo by M. Zaręba

▷ Auschwitz-Birkenau Museum, photo by M. Zaręba

◁ Auschwitz-Birkenau Museum, photo by A. Brożonowicz

## Auschwitz-Birkenau Nazi German Concentration And Extermination Camp

Auschwitz has become a world symbol of war, terror, genocide and the Holocaust. The Auschwitz concentration camp was established by the Nazi Germans on the territory of the occupied Oświęcim as a camp for Polish political prisoners. The first transportation of Polish prisoners was brought here from a prison in Tarnów on June 14, 1940. Since 1942, Auschwitz-Birkenau had also become one of the centres of the Holocaust – mass extermination of European Jews.

The Nazi Germans exterminated at least 1.1 million people, mostly Jews, but also Poles, Roma, Russian prisoners of war and prisoners of other nationalities. As of 1947 State Museum has operated on the grounds of the former Nazi German concentration and death camp. The Memorial Site comprises the area of two preserved parts of the camp: Auschwitz I and Auschwitz II-Birkenau. The museum encompasses post-camp buildings and ruins, including the ruins of gas chambers and crematories. The Museum is a research and educational organization: it collects, analyses, preserves, and gives access to documents and objects from the camp. In recent years, over one million people from all over the world visit the museum every year. In 1979 the area of the former Auschwitz-Birkenau concentration camp was inscribed on the UNESCO World Heritage List. United Nations designated January 27, the day of the liberation of the camp, as the International Holocaust Remembrance Day.

**i** **Museum and Memorial Site Auschwitz-Birkenau**, ul. Więźniów Oświęcimia 20, Oświęcim, group reservation ☎ +48 33 8448100, 33 8448099, ▲ [www.auschwitz.org](http://www.auschwitz.org), 📄 see website for prices. Admission without the guide is possible before 10am and after 3pm. The area of the Auschwitz II-Birkenau camp is also accessible without the guide. Please allow at least 3.5 hours to visit both camps. Admission to the Auschwitz Museum is by ticket only. Reservations: ▲ [www.visit.auschwitz.org](http://www.visit.auschwitz.org)

# DĘBNO

## CHURCH OF ST. MICHAEL THE ARCHANGEL



### Church of St. Michael the Archangel in Dębno

The origins of the small church in Dębno, surrounded by a circle of old trees, date back to the 15<sup>th</sup> century. The exact date of its construction is unknown, but it is assumed to be 1490. According to the colourful legend, the church was erected by brigands after St. Michael appeared to them on an oak tree. It appears from the preserved church documents and the inscription on the lintel that the tower crowned with a pointed-arch dome was added in 1601. Throughout its long history, the church did not undergo any major changes, and the renovations did not leave a mark on its stylish Gothic shape. In 2003, in appreciation of the artistry of the small church and its furnishings of high artistic value, the church was inscribed on the UNESCO World Heritage List.

**The church was made of fir and larch wood without the use of nails**, combining individual elements by crossing wooden logs. The building is oriented toward the east (i.e. the chancel is directed east, which was typical of medieval churches), has one nave and the shingled steep roof.

The harmonious exterior hides a magnificent interior. The unique, perfectly preserved polychrome from the turn of the 15<sup>th</sup> and 16<sup>th</sup> centuries makes the strongest impression. The paintings resembling fabric cover all ceilings and walls (except the whitewashed fragments of nave walls), and even the choir platform, the pulpit and benches. Among the uniquely colourful decorations, as many as 77 motifs occurring in 12 arrangements and 33 colour variants were distinguished. Apart from plant and geometric ornaments, the most frequent patterns include Gothic architectural forms: arches, spires and traceries. The paintings were made with the use of templates called stencils, and the width of the strap corresponds to the wall logs and ceiling planks. The walls also feature painted consecration crosses, the so-called zacchauses.

While admiring the paintings, it is worth noting the church furnishings of high artistic value. The Crucifixion group located on the decorative rood beam beautifully harmonises with the painted décor. The featured crucifix is the oldest work of art preserved in the church and it dates back to the late 14<sup>th</sup> century. Also noteworthy is the main altar: a painted triptych from the turn of the 15<sup>th</sup> and 16<sup>th</sup> centuries. It is considered a splendid example of the Gothic art. Its beauty is emphasised by the golden background with the play of the reflections of the light. The atmosphere of the interior is also influenced by the modest, but centuries-old furnishings: the low pulpit and patron's pew, as well as the portals with the Gothic-style forms.

#### OTHER LOCAL ATTRACTIONS ↗

*Manor in Łopuszna, the former gentry residence currently housing the Interior Museum.*

*The Castles in Czorsztyn and Niedzica, picturesquely located above the waters of Czorsztyńskie Lake.*

*Go rafting down the Dunajec River Gorge, during which sitting on the mountain raft, you can admire magnificent landscapes created by the water cutting through the rocky walls.*

↖ The church in Dębno, UMWM photo archive

↘ The church in Dębno, photo by K. Syga

↙ The church in Dębno, photo by K. Syga

**i** Church of St. Michael the Archangel, ul. Kościelna 42, 34-434 Dębno, ☎ +48 18 2751797, ▲ [www.dębno.diecezja.pl](http://www.dębno.diecezja.pl), [www.drewniana.malopolska.pl](http://www.drewniana.malopolska.pl)

# SEKOWA

CHURCH OF SS. PHILIP AND JACOB THE APOSTLES



## OTHER LOCAL ATTRACTIONS ▾

**Wooden Orthodox churches in Owczary**, (designated as a UNESCO World Heritage Site, see page no 33).

**Łosie and Bielanka**, picturesquely merged with the landscape and delighting with its original architecture.

**Wooden churches on the Wooden Architecture Trail in Binarowa** (designated as a UNESCO World Heritage Site, see page no 25), and **Szalowa**.

**First World War cemeteries on the elevations in the vicinity of Sękowa.**

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

The small church in Sękowa is one of Malopolska's most picturesque churches, and for a long time it used to enrapture artists, who gladly immortalised its soaring silhouette. Stanisław Wyspiański, Józef Mehoffer, Włodzimierz Tetmajer and others made paintings of the church. The extremely tall roof and wide-open arcatures that encircle the church contribute to its beauty. The building, stunningly blended into the green landscape of the Low Beskids, makes a long-lasting impression. The church's exceptional aesthetic qualities were recognised on the international arena and in 2003 it was inscribed on the UNESCO World Heritage List.

The basic body of the church was erected ca. 1520. The square-shaped tower with a domed helmet, which appears stubby compared to the rest of the church body dates from the 18<sup>th</sup> century, similarly to the distinctive arcatures. Interestingly, the tower is open on the ground floor, which allows you to see the construction. The church is oriented east and based on log construction made of larch wood and manually hewn logs. It is almost entirely shingled, which adds to its unique character. The church was extensively damaged during World War I: a line of Austrian trenches ran in the vicinity. The soldiers used the materials from the walls, the tower and the roof to build the trenches; they also devastated the interior and damaged most of the furnishings.

The renovation of the church started already in 1918, but conservation work, with intervals, carried on until the end of the 20<sup>th</sup> century. Some of the furnishings were saved, for example, the Gothic baptismal font from 1522. The Gothic ornamented portals and a fragment of the 19<sup>th</sup>- century polychrome on the southern wall of the chancel have been preserved. Today, the simple interior exudes peace and reverie. The only element with rich ornamentation is the reconstructed late Renaissance main altar dating from the 17<sup>th</sup> century. The side altars come from the end of the last century. In 1994 the Europa Nostra Organisation (that propagates and protects natural and cultural heritage in Europe) awarded the church a medal, hanging inside the church, for model conservation. The restoration works, carried out with particular care to retain the authenticity, contributed to the decision to inscribe the church on the UNESCO World Heritage List.

↗ The church in Sękowa, photo by K. Syga

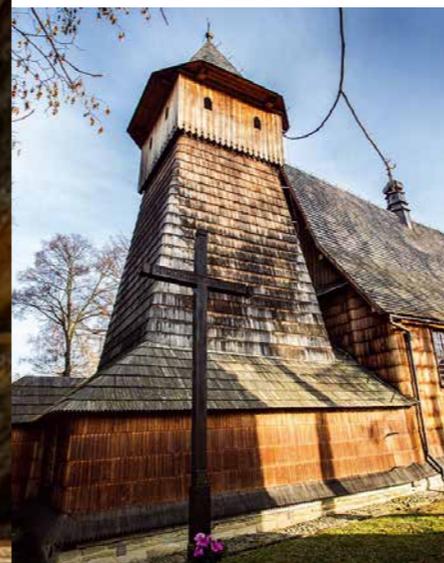
▾ The church in Sękowa, detail, photo by J. Mysiński

↖ The church in Sękowa, photo by P. Witosławski

**i** **Church of SS. Philip and Jacob the Apostles**, Sękowa 13, 38-307 Sękowa, on the border between the villages of Sękowa and Siary, at the bend of the Sękówka Brook, ☎+48 18 3518169, ▲ [www.drewniana.malopolska.pl](http://www.drewniana.malopolska.pl)

# BINAROWA

CHURCH OF ST. MICHAEL THE ARCHANGEL



## Church of St. Michael the Archangel in Binarowa

The first mention of the church in Binarowa comes from 1415. The church that we admire today is slightly younger: it was erected ca. 1500 after the first building burnt down. The late Gothic body from fir wood, with shingled roofs and walls, has a massive tower that visibly narrows toward the top and is crowned with a pyramid-shaped dome. The tower, just like the arcatures, is one century younger than the body of the church. The Chapel of the Guardian Angels, added in the 17<sup>th</sup> century, slightly distorted the typical classical character of the building.

What makes the church in Binarowa so famous that it was inscribed on the UNESCO World Heritage List in 2003 is its interior – a sheer gallery of decorative art, which makes an enormous impression on visitors. **The walls and the ceiling of this beautiful church are entirely covered in paintings:** the vault features the polychrome from the early 16<sup>th</sup> century, created with plant ornament templates, whereas the walls present the 17<sup>th</sup>-century Baroque cycles depicting scenes from the New Testament and the views of Biecz of the time. Also interesting is the décor of the church: the prettily carved benches, the confessionals and the pulpit (covered in paintings), the celebrant's throne. Also stunning are the door fittings that remember the times when the building was constructed. Standing out among the furnishings of high artistic value are the Gothic (14<sup>th</sup>- and 15<sup>th</sup>-century) sculptures and low reliefs in the altars (the only well-preserved collection in southern Poland), as well as the stone baptismal font from the 16<sup>th</sup> century with a Baroque cover. The priceless value and the high artistic qualities of the church became the reasons for its inscription on the UNESCO World Heritage List in 2003.

It is worth mentioning that the church in Binarowa is not only a beautiful example of wooden sacred architecture, but also the centre of Marian cult. The left-side altar features the painting of the Blessed Virgin with the Child, famous for its miraculous graces. The painting dates from the 17<sup>th</sup> century and it is the replica of the miraculous painting of Our Lady of Piasek from the Kraków Carmelite Church. Unfortunately, it was impossible to establish the identity of the author of the image and when the painting came to the church. However, it is known that multitudes of pilgrims arrived to the see the painting in the 18<sup>th</sup> century. The cult has survived until today, as is manifest by the novena to the Our Lady of Piasek, combined with readings of requests and thanks, taking place each Wednesday and gathering crowds of believers.

### OTHER LOCAL ATTRACTIONS ▼

*Biecz, the picturesque small town, also known as the Polish Carcassonne. Cieżkowice with charming wooden buildings on the market square and the unique Petrified City Nature Reserve, which delights with its rocks of original shapes and names.*

↪ The church in Binarowa, photo by K. Syga

↪ The church in Binarowa, photo by A. Brożonowicz

↪ The church in Binarowa, photo by K. Syga

**i** Church of St. Michael the Archangel, Binarowa 409, 38-340 Biecz, ☎+48 13 4476396; guide 692385244, ▲www.drewniana.malopolska.pl, www.binarowa.wiara.org.pl

# LIPNICA MUROWANA

ST. LEONARD'S CHURCH



## OTHER LOCAL ATTRACTIONS

**Nowy Wiśnicz** famous for its beautiful castle and manor featuring Jan Matejko Museum – Koryznówka.

**Wooden churches on the Wooden Architecture Trail** in the villages of **Gosprzydowa** and **Rajbrot**.

**Kamienie Brodzińskiego Nature Reserve** in the vicinity of the village of **Rajbrot**, offers great hiking areas among the picturesque limestone outliers.

## St. Leonard's Church in Lipnica Murowana

The small church in Lipnica is one of the most famous historic monuments in Małopolska. It 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. The evidence for these colourful legends is supposedly found in the so-called Svetovid pole, allegedly featuring the image of the Slavic god, that supports the back of the main altar. The church was inscribed on the UNESCO World Heritage List in 2003.

Today, the small towerless church body merges beautifully with the landscape, guarded by mighty trees, surrounded by old cemetery graves. The church has survived until the present day in an almost unchanged form, retaining its archaic Gothic silhouette. It was surrounded by arcatures in the 17<sup>th</sup> century and the western portal was added in the 19<sup>th</sup> century. Adding so much charm to the structure, the open arcatures were not only used for their traditional functions (protecting the underpinning from dampness and providing shelter for pilgrims) but they also served as storage for coffins, before they were laid into graves in the graveyard. Today, the old cemetery, founded in 1711, is very picturesque and features numerous gravestones of high artistic value, dating from the 19<sup>th</sup> century. The ascetic and refined interior will certainly leave you impressed. Small windows allow very little light, and the prevailing twilight creates a contemplative atmosphere. In this austere and modest interior, ornament and figural polychromes that occupy the entire walls and ceilings create a unique impression. The oldest decoration (of the chancel vault dating from the late 15<sup>th</sup> century, and the nave vault dating from the 16<sup>th</sup> century) was created with the use of special stencils: the plant ornaments feature various shades of green, brown, yellow and blue. The chancel wall polychromes date back to the 17<sup>th</sup> century, while the 18<sup>th</sup>-century wall painting in the nave depicts various scenes from religious life. Also polychromed is the choir platform, with folk paintings illustrating the Ten Commandments. Until recently, the interior was graced with three Gothic altars of extremely high historic value (dating 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. Another interesting element of the church décor is the painted Baroque pulpit with the images of the four Evangelists.

The stone plaque in the middle of the nave is the entry to the sepulchral crypt (destroyed by the flood of 1997) of Józefina and Antoni Ledóchowscy, the parents of Blessed Maria Teresa and Saint Ursula. The church also boasts the positive organ (a chest organ instrument) of high value, one of only seven instruments of this kind in Poland.

↪ The church in Lipnica Murowana, photo by M. Rauer

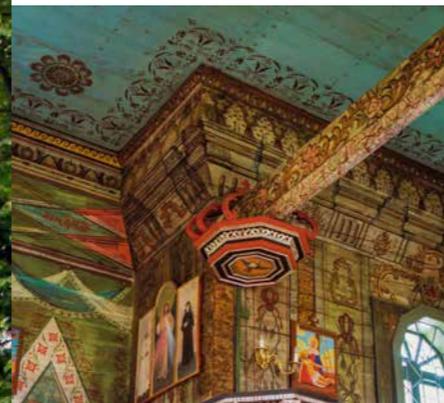
↪ The church in Lipnica Murowana, photo by S. Gacek

↪ The church in Lipnica Murowana, photo by M. Rauer

**i** **St. Leonard's Church**, Lipnica Murowana 39, 32-724 Lipnica Murowana, ☎ +48 14 6852601, +48 698641445, ▲ [www.drewniana.malopolska.pl](http://www.drewniana.malopolska.pl)

# BRUNARY WYŻNE

GREEK CATHOLIC CHURCH  
OF ST. MICHAEL THE ARCHANGEL



## OTHER LOCAL ATTRACTIONS ▾

*Orthodox churches on the  
Wooden Architecture Trail in Berest,  
Polany, Czarna, Snietnica and Banica.  
Locally famous beekeeping centre  
in Kamianna.  
The unusual wooden church in Ropa  
on the Wooden Architecture Trail,  
featuring the additional brick towers.*

- ↖ Greek Catholic church in Brunary Wyżne,  
photo by R. Korzeniowski
- ↗ Greek Catholic church in Brunary Wyżne,  
photo by R. Korzeniowski
- ↙ Greek Catholic church in Brunary Wyżne,  
photo by R. Korzeniowski

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

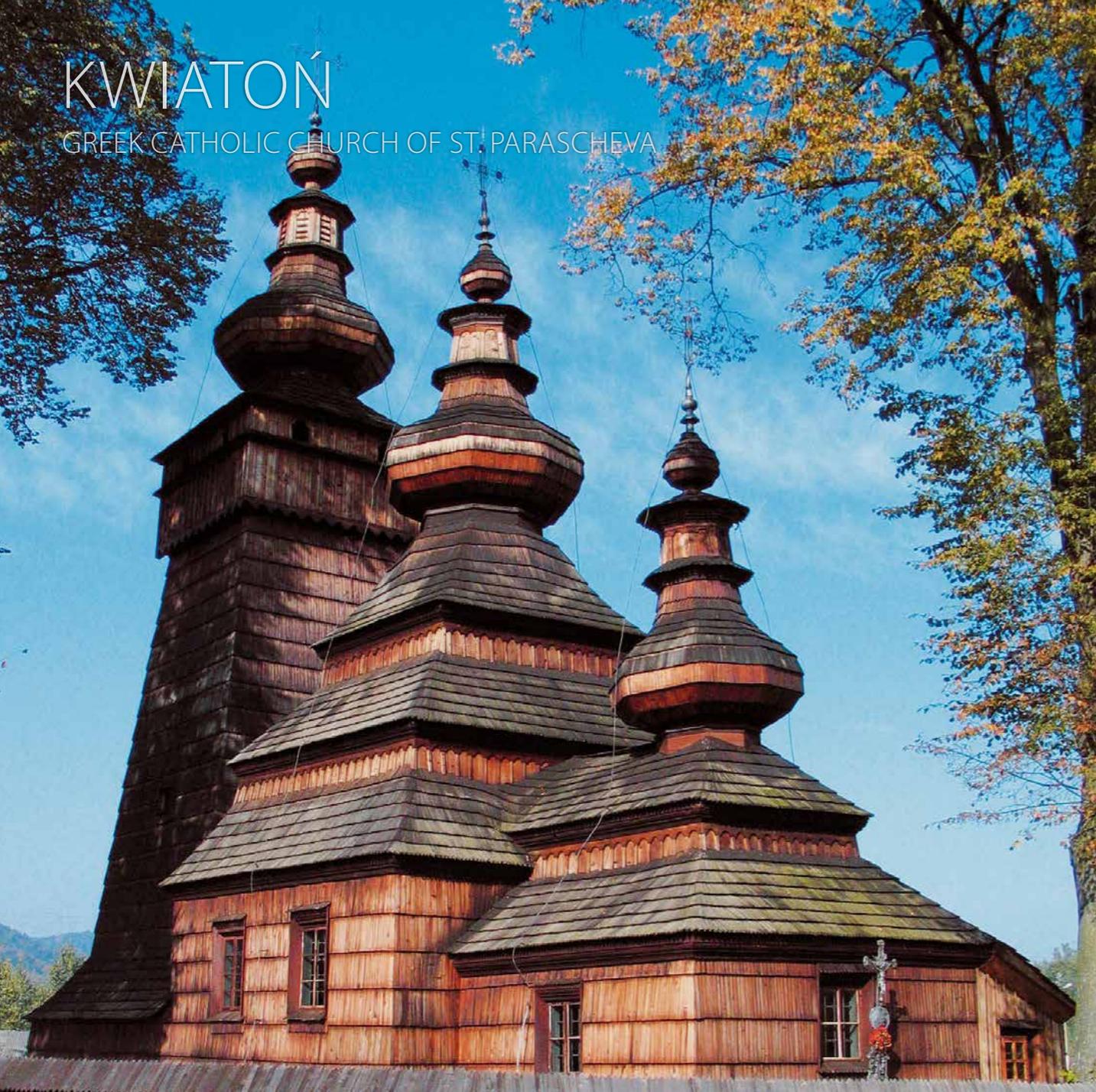
The Greek Catholic church in **Brunary Wyżne**, currently used as Catholic Parish Church of the Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary, was erected in 1797 and has retained the characteristic regional features of the Lemko Orthodox churches. Situated on a small hill at the Biała River, it is encircled by a small stone wall with brick gates. During the reconstruction in the years 1830-1831, it was expanded by the incorporation of the former chancel and the construction of the new chancel, which significantly extended the body of the church. The church features log construction. The roofs of the nave and chancel are shingled, while the walls are panelled with battened vertical boards. The unusually long chancel is enclosed on three sides and topped with the wooden, onion-shaped dome with a false roof lantern. The crevice separating the former chancel from the original nave is visible in the walls of the vast nave, while the entire section is covered with a wide tented roof featuring a protruding eave over the narrower part of the building. The nave is also crowned with the onion-shaped shingled dome with a false roof lantern. The tower features post-frame construction, sloping shingled walls, starling panelled with vertically battened boards, and the helmet covered with metal.

The three-part interior with flat vaults is ornamented by the wall paintings with Rococo-Neoclassical motifs, made by Antoni and Józef Bogdański. The nave boasts fragments of older, Baroque polychrome, dating from the time of the church's construction. The Baroque iconostasis dating from the late 18<sup>th</sup> century (repainted in 1831) was transferred to the present location during the church's reconstruction in the 19<sup>th</sup> century. The original location of the iconostasis, between the chancel and the nave, now features the rood beam with the crucifix and the figures of Virgin Mary and St. John. In addition, the church boasts two late-Baroque altars with icons of high artistic value dating from the second half of the 18<sup>th</sup> and 19<sup>th</sup> centuries, and the 18<sup>th</sup>-century Rococo altar with the painting of Madonna and the Child, while the main Baroque altar with a canopy is located in the chancel. Also noteworthy are the interestingly painted pulpit dating from the 18<sup>th</sup> century, the Rococo bench with painted ornaments, and the music choir supported by two ornamented pillars. The Orthodox church was inscribed on the UNESCO World Heritage List in 2013.

**i** **Greek Catholic Church of St. Michael the Archangel**, Brunary Wyżne 45, 38-315 Uście Gorlickie, ☎ +48 18 3516776, ▲ [www.drewniana.malopolska.pl](http://www.drewniana.malopolska.pl)

# KWIATOŃ

GREEK CATHOLIC CHURCH OF ST. PARASCHEVA



## OTHER LOCAL ATTRACTIONS ▾

**Orthodox churches in Skwirtne** (dating from 1837) and in **Hańczowa** (dating from the first half of the 19<sup>th</sup> century) are considered among the most beautiful Western Lemko Orthodox churches. A small **spa in Wysowa-Zdrój**, famous for its mineral waters, interesting wooden spa architecture, and the old Lemko Orthodox church, also made of wood. An unusual **First World War military cemetery on the top of Rotunda Mountain** above the village of Regietów Wyzny.

## Greek Catholic Church of St. Parascheva in Kwiaton

The church in **Kwiaton** is considered one of the most beautiful Greek Catholic churches in Poland, thanks to its unusually harmonious proportions. It is a quintessential example of the Lemko style and in 2013 it was inscribed on the UNESCO World Heritage List. It is currently used as the auxiliary Roman Catholic church, part of the Uście Gorlickie Parish. Situated on the flat bottom of the small brook valley, in a small mountain village, it splendidly merges into the background of the mountain slopes of the Low Beskids. Erected in the second half of the 17<sup>th</sup> century, featuring log construction, it boasts the highest tower in the Lemko Region, added in the 18<sup>th</sup>-century and featuring post-frame construction tower. The church underwent several renovations in the 19<sup>th</sup> and 20<sup>th</sup> centuries. The visibly three-part body gradually rises up: from the lowest chancel, through the higher and wider nave, to the dominating lofty tower, which houses the gallery for women. The nave and the chancel are covered with the high mansard tented roofs with the characteristic onion-shaped domes with false roof lanterns and additional little dome crowned with a cross. The roofs and walls are shingled. The tower features slanted shingled walls and the staling with vertical boards, ornamented at the bottom with a frill cut out in the boards of the formwork, while at the top crowned with an onion-shaped dome with a false roof lantern and a small dome, proportionate to the top of the nave and the chancel. The entrance to the church leads through the gallery for women located at the ground floor of the tower, covered with the flat vault, featuring the image of the Protection of the Mother of God. It also features a stone holy water font dating from 1750. Whereas the nave and chancel feature mansard tented domes. The interior still holds rich furnishings from the 19<sup>th</sup> and 20<sup>th</sup> centuries, including the complete iconostasis from 1904 by Michał Bogdański. Large icons of St. Olga and St. Vladimir the Great are located on both sides of the iconostasis on the nave walls. The side altars include icons of Madonna and the Child and the Descent from the Cross. The main altar dating from the 19<sup>th</sup> century with a beautiful canopy is located behind the iconostasis in the chancel. The 1811 figural polychrome and the wall paintings imitating marble columns and cornices enhance the charm of the interior. The nave dome features the painted scene of the Transfiguration of Jesus, and the symbolic representation of the four Evangelists.

↪ Greek Catholic church in Kwiaton, photo by J. Mysiński

↪ Greek Catholic church in Kwiaton, photo by J. Mysiński

↪ Greek Catholic church in Kwiaton, UMMW photo archive



**Greek Catholic Church of St. Parascheva**, Uście Gorlickie 88, 38-315 Uście Gorlickie, ☎ +48 18 3530720, to the Greek Catholic parish, ☎ 18 3532247, ▲ [www.drewniana.malopolska.pl](http://www.drewniana.malopolska.pl)

# OWCZARY

ORTHODOX CHURCH  
OF THE PROTECTION OF THE MOTHER OF GOD



## Orthodox Church of the Protection of the Mother of God in Owczary

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 the upper part of the village and the Siara Brook Valley, encircled by the forested slopes of the Low Beskid Mountains. The construction date (1653) was carved in the western portal of the nave with an interesting shape of lintel (in the so-called donkey's back); however, only the nave has remained from the original building. The chancel was added in 1710 and the present tower – in 1783. The last alteration was made in 1870: the gallery for women located on the tower's ground floor was extended to the width of the nave, which is much wider than the tower. The last overhaul renovation took place in the 1980s and the entirety of the preservation efforts was appreciated in 1994 by the international award granted by the Europa Nostra Organization. The body of the building is profoundly beautiful. The picturesque tented mansard roofs crowned with onion-shaped helmets with false roof lanterns and small domes topped with crosses are visible from afar. The walls and roofs are shingled, while the helmets are covered with metal plates. The church also boasts complete furnishings of high artistic value: particularly noteworthy is the 18<sup>th</sup>-century iconostasis with icons dating from 1712 by Jan Medycki of Muszyna and from 1756 by unknown artist. The nave also features two Baroque side altars dating from the early 18<sup>th</sup> century. The icon in the left-side altar depicts Madonna and the Child (17<sup>th</sup> century), while the right-side altar boasts the painting of St. Nicholas (early 18<sup>th</sup> century). A small altar with the icon of Christ Teaching in the Temple is located behind the iconostasis in the chancel. The polychrome with figural ornaments, decorating e.g. the tented dome of the nave, dates from 1938. The church premises are encircled by a stone wall with a stone gate belfry, and a lower gate. Both are covered with tented metal-plated roofs topped with small onion-shaped domes with crosses.

### OTHER LOCAL ATTRACTIONS ▾

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

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

**Gorlice** with the late-Gothic **Manor of the Karwacjan Family**, reconstructed after the destruction during the First World War. Renaissance **Fortified Manor in Szymbark**, and the nearby small **Wooden Architecture Heritage Park**.

↪ Orthodox church in Owczary, photo by R. Korzeniowski

▾ Orthodox church in Owczary, photo by K. Syga

↩ Orthodox church in Owczary, photo by R. Korzeniowski

**i** **Orthodox Church of the Protection of the Mother of God, Owczary, 38-307 Sękowa,** ↪ to the Greek Catholic parish: +48 183521046, ▲ [www.drewniana.malopolska.pl](http://www.drewniana.malopolska.pl)

# POWROŹNIK

CHURCH OF ST. JAMES THE LESS



## Church of St. James the Less in Powroźnik

Stunning with its beauty, the former Greek Catholic Church in **Powroźnik** (currently a Roman Catholic church) is located in the small village of Powroźnik, situated between Krynica-Zdrój and Muszyna. This is the oldest Lemko Orthodox church in the Polish Carpathians, erected around 1600 and featuring log construction. Renovated and reconstructed numerous times, it was transferred to its present location in 1814 after the flood. The roofs and walls are shingled on the outside. The nave covered with the tented mansard roof and the tower are crowned with similar onion-shaped domes with false roof lanterns and small onion-shaped domes topped with crosses, while the chancel roof is crowned only with a small dome topped with a cross. The tower has a typical starling, with the bottom encircled by a frill cut out in the workform boards, and an additional frill located halfway to the top in the transversal board. The entrance to the church leads through the gallery for women located on the ground floor of the tower and topped with a flat vault. The nave is covered with a tented dome, while the chancel has a flat vault.

The rich furnishings include the incomplete iconostasis dating from the years 1743-44, of which only a fragment remains: the icons of the Deisis tier as well as the images of prophets and the icon depicting the Coronation of the Virgin Mary located in the rubric traditionally designated for Christ Pantokrator. The remaining parts of the iconostasis currently form the background to the Baroque main altar located further down in the chancel. The main altar features e.g. the icon of Madonna and the Child and the Mandylion (Image of Edessa) from the former 17<sup>th</sup>-century iconostasis. Also noteworthy is the Baroque side altar from the 18<sup>th</sup> century, and many icons of high artistic value, such as the Last Judgement from 1623 by Pawłenty Radymny, and the Pietà from 1646, as well as other icons dating from the 17<sup>th</sup> and 18<sup>th</sup> centuries. The sacristy, covered with false barrel vault, features the 1607 figure polychrome. It demonstrates that the small separate room enclosed on three sides had once functioned as the chancel, before the present chancel was added during one of the numerous renovations of the church. The church is one of the four wooden Orthodox churches in Małopolska inscribed on the UNESCO World Heritage List in 2013.

### OTHER LOCAL ATTRACTIONS

**Wooden Orthodox churches in Wojkowa, Szczawnik, Złockie 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.

**Spa architecture of Krynica-Zdrój**, the most famous health resort of the Polish Carpathians.

- ▲ Greek Catholic church in Powroźnik, photo by K. Syga
- ▼ Greek Catholic church in Powroźnik, photo by K. Syga
- ↻ Greek Catholic church in Powroźnik, photo by R. Korzeniowski
- ▲ Greek Catholic church in Powroźnik, photo by R. Korzeniowski

**i** Church of St. James the Less, Powroźnik 50, 33-370 Muszyna, ☎ +48 18 471 1644, ▲ [www.drewniana.malopolska.pl](http://www.drewniana.malopolska.pl)

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26-31.07. 2016 Kraków

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