



# MAŁOPOLSKA

## UNESCO World Heritage Trail



Małopolska  
Tourist  
Information  
System

# MAŁOPOLSKA

## UNESCO 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: **3.4 mil. (about 8% of the population of Poland)**

### Landscape

- the tallest peak – **Rysy: 2499 m a.s.l.**
- mountains – **Tatras, Beskids, Pieniny**
- foothills – **Carpathian Foothills**
- uplands – **Kraków-Częstochowa Upland**
- lowlands – **Vistula valley**
- main rivers – **Vistula, Dunajec, Poprad, Raba, Skawa, Biała**
- water reservoirs – **Czorszyński, Rożnowski, Czchowski, Dobczycki, Klimkówka, Mucharski**
- 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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Kraków Main Market Square, photo by R. Korzeniowski



## UNESCO World Heritage Trail

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. 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, Kwiatów, Owczary and Powroźnik.



Florian's Gate, photo by K. Bańkowski



*The UNESCO World Heritage List currently includes 1154 places and sites (897 inscribed as cultural heritage, 218 as natural heritage and 39 as cultural and natural heritage), located in 167 countries. In Poland, there are 30 properties inscribed as the UNESCO heritage. 14 of them are located in the Małopolskie Voivodeship (data as of 21.02.2022).*



*In November 2018, the UNESCO Representative List of the Intangible Cultural Heritage of Humanity got enriched with the tradition of building Krakow Christmas Crib which is unique in the world. The cribs can be seen every year at the December Krakow Crib Competition and the post-competition exhibition.*

## 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 14th century. At the beginning of the 19th 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 15th century, another impressive defensive structure was built: the **Barbican** (once called the 'Saucepan' by the Cracovians). It used to be indestructible, and it even

The Main Market Square, photo by K. Bańkowski



Krakow Christmas Crib Competition, photo by K. Bańkowski



Church of SS. Peter and Paul, photo by K. Syga



resisted the 19th 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.

#### Barbican and the defensive walls,

ul. Basztowa, Kraków,

+48 12 4265060,

muzeumkrakowa.pl

outside. Other magnificent examples of sacred architecture include the **Church of St. Andrew** (Grodzka 54) and the Baroque **Church of SS. Peter and Paul** (Grodzka 52a) dating from the 17th century, with characteristic figures of 12 apostles that decorate the church's front fence. Gothic and Renaissance mansions also add charm to Grodzka Street. 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.

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 11th and 12th centuries and was erected on the foundations of an older structure. Even though it was rebuilt in the 17th century in the Baroque style, it retained traces of the Romanesque style – both inside and



Altar in St Mary's Basilica, photo by M. Tepecki



*The Jagiellonian University is the oldest Polish academia. It also belongs to a noble group of the oldest universities in Eastern Europe. One of its most famous students was Nicolaus Copernicus, who studied astronomy with the famous Albert Brudzewski. Although it seems unbelievable today, the first female students did not enter the Jagiellonian University until 1897.*



*Krakow Main Market Square can also be explored 4 meters underground. The underground of the Main Market Square today houses an unusual exhibition documenting 5 years of archaeological research conducted on its eastern side. Visiting it is a unique journey into the Middle Ages, which makes you explore relics of intact structures, facilities and architectural elements, all in the surroundings of the latest generation of multimedia.*

#### Jagiellonian University Museum,

ul. Jagiellońska 15, Kraków,

+48 12 4220549,

+48 12 6631521 – ticket booking

for current day,

+ 48 12 6631521– advanced ticket

booking,

maius.uj.edu.pl

#### THE MAIN MARKET SQUARE

Was marked out in the middle of the 13th 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 13th century, but the elegant building we can admire now dates back to the 16th 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 19th-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 15th-century wooden polyptych altar made by famous sculptor Veit Stoss. Apart from visiting the church, you can

Collegium Maius, photo by K. Syga



Student Monument, photo by K. Bańkowski



The Cloth Hall, photo by K. Bańkowski

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.

Visitor Service Centre,  
plac Mariacki 7

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turystyka@mariacki.com

Opening hours of the Visitor  
Service Centre

Monday-Saturday: 11.30 am - 5.45 pm

Sunday: 2 pm - 5.45 pm

## Wawel

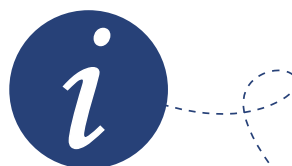
It is best to reach **Wawel Hill** from **Kanonicza Street**, one of the most picturesque streets in Kraków. Here you can admire buildings from various periods: Gothic, Renaissance, Baroque and Neoclassical. From the 14th century on, this street was the residence of cathedral canons, who built their representative houses here. The hill itself, dominated by the

cathedral and the castle, is one of 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 11th 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

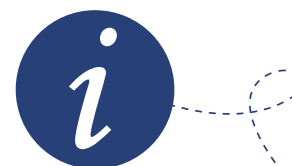


Sigismund Bell, photo by K. Syga

Kanonicza Street, photo by K. Syga



*The most beautiful gothic altar in Europe. Veit Stoss (Wit Stwosz) was creating his work for 12 years! The altar was made of 500-year-old oak wood (so today it is 1000 years old), it is 13 meters high and 11 meters wide, and it consists of 200 carved figures, some of which reach up to 3 meters in height.*



*The Royal Sigismund Bell, located in the tower of the Wawel Cathedral, was casted in 1520, weighs 12.6 tons and requires 12 ringers to be operated. It tolls only during important ceremonies, and you can hear it within a radius of 30 kilometres.*

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 13th-century coronation sword (*Szczerbiec*) or the famous 16th-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.

Wawel Royal Castle, Wawel 5,  
information:

+48 12 4225155 ext. 219,

wawel.krakow.pl

Cathedral, Wawel 3,

+48 12 4299516,

katedra-wawelska.pl

## 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 15th 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,

Wawel Hill, photo by K. Bańkowski



Wawel Hill, photo by K. Bańkowski



Wawel Royal Chambers, photo by A. Stankiewicz (Royal Wawel Castle archives)



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 16th and 17th 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 15th 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.

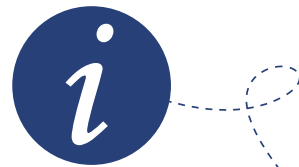
**Old Synagogue**, ul. Szeroka 24,  
Kraków, ☎ +48 12 4220962,  
🌐 muzeumkrakowa.pl

The **Remuh Synagogue** is located at 40 Szeroka Street. It was founded in the 16th century, but the building's present appearance is a result of the 19th-century remodelling. At present, the synagogue is the main prayer location of the Jewish community in Krakow. 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 16th to 18th century.

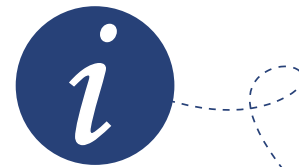
**Remuh Synagogue and Cemetery**,  
ul. Szeroka 40, Kraków,  
☎ +48 12 4295735,  
🌐 gwzkrakow.pl



Szeroka Street, photo by K. Syga



*An interesting fact about Kazimierz is that this district – so clearly associated with the Jewish culture – is also on the route of the Kraków Technology Trail. In the 19th century, this area belonged to the most industrialised parts of the city. At ul. św. Wawrzyńca the former halls of the tram depot house the Museum of Municipal Engineering.*



*The Galicia Jewish Museum was established to commemorate the victims of the Holocaust and show the history and culture of Jews from a new perspective. The museum is located in the Kazimierz quarter, in the heart of the city's former Jewish district at ul. Dajwór 18.*

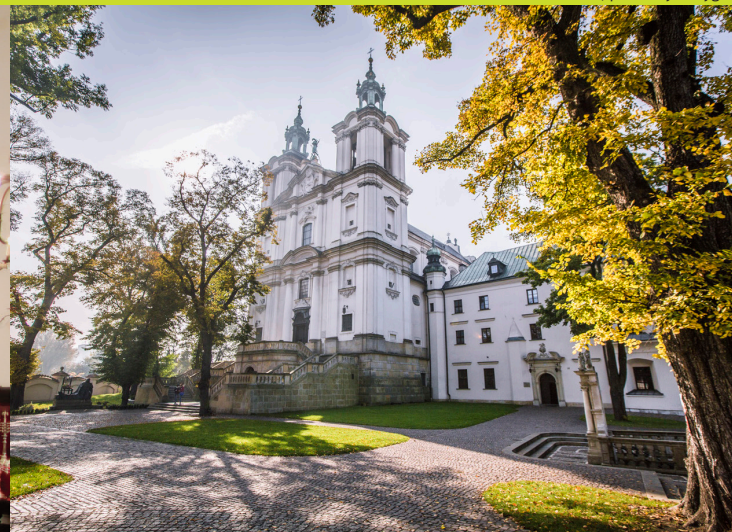
The Jewish district also includes **Nowy Square**, commonly known as the Jewish Square. The middle of the square features the distinctive round building of a former poultry slaughterhouse, the so-called *okraglak*, which was erected in 1900. The tenements surrounding the square house numerous eateries, 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 14th 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 17th 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 14th century, with beautiful Gothic cloisters decorated with polychromes. Skateczna Street, running just next to the church, leads to the famous **Na Skatce Pauline Church**. It was erected in the 18th 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.

Old Synagogue on Szeroka Street, photo by M. Zareba



Na Skatce Pauline Church, photo by K. Syga



Corpus Christi Church,  
photo by UMWM Archives



## Wieliczka

### ■ WIELICZKA SALT MINE

The mines located near Kraków are linked to the legend about Princess Kinga (the later saint), the wife of Prince Bolesław V the Chaste. Upon departure from her native Hungary, the princess is said to have dropped her ring into one of the local salt mines. The ring was later found in a block of salt near Kraków, exactly where one of our saltworks was then established. The start of "Wieliczka", one of the most famous mines in the world, dates back to the Middle Ages, when it bore the proud name of Magnum Sal - Great Salt. The oldest document that sheds light on the history of the mine is a privilege issued by King Casimir I in 1044, naming Wieliczka "magnum sal alias Wieliczka". Tourists can visit two routes in the mine: Tourist and

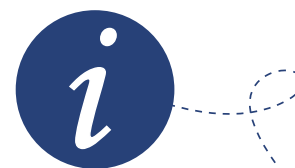
Miners'. The Tourist Route begins in the Daniłowicz Shaft and is nearly 3 km long. It leads through more than 20 mining workings carved in of salt, located at depths from 64 to 135 m (including the most beautiful St Kinga's Chapel). Visitors can admire the majestic carpentry structures, saline lakes and unique salt sculptures. The route includes about 1000 steps, 380 of which are at the very start. The tour always takes place accompanied by a guide and in a group of up to 40 people. The temperature in the mine ranges from 14° to 16° C. In the underground Cracow Saltworks Museum, visitors can see historic machinery, tools and mining clothes. Average time spent on the Tourist Route, including touring the Saltworks Museum, is about 3 hours. The Miners' Route tour



The Chapel of St. Kinga in Wieliczka Salt Mine, photo by K. Bańkowski



*In 2019, over 1.8 million people visited the historic Salt Mine in Wieliczka, which is open all year round regardless of the weather. Tourists can choose guided tour in Polish, English, German, French, Spanish, Italian or Russian.*



*Treatment of respiratory diseases and allergies using the unique values of the underground microclimate of the salt mine is known as subterraneanotherapy.*

begins in the Regis shaft and takes about 3 hours. Tourists receive protective suits and mining equipment: a lamp, an absorber and a helmet. The guide assigns them a number of tasks, thanks to which they can learn about the specifics of a miner's work, such as measuring the level of methane, as well as methods of extracting and transporting salt. The Miners' Route is an unforgettable adventure, a fascinating meeting with

mining traditions and rituals, as well as an idea for actively spending time. The lift descends to the Route to level I (57 m). It comes back to the surface from lower level II (101 m). The total length of the Miners' Route is 2 km. The Miners' Route is available to visitors 10 years or older. The „Wieliczka” Salt Mine includes a health resort that treats upper and lower respiratory tract illnesses in the unique microclimate of the underground salt chambers. The resort complex includes three chambers located 135 metres underground. The „Wieliczka” Salt Mine was included on the first UNESCO World Heritage List in 1978.

#### Wieliczka Salt Mine,

ul. Daniłowicza 10, Wieliczka,

☎ +48 12 2787302, ☎ +48 12 2787366

🌐 [kopalnia.pl](http://kopalnia.pl)

*The temperature underground is between 14 and 16°C.*

Wieliczka Salt Mine, photo by K. Syga



Wieliczka Salt Mine, photo by K. Bańkowski



Wieliczka Salt Mine, photo by K. Bańkowski



## ■ THE SALTWORKS CASTLE IN WIELICZKA

The Saltworks Castle, located in the very centre of Wieliczka, was erected in the 13th 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 13th 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 13th 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 14th century. It used to house the chapel, the living quarters of the administrative officers’ and utility rooms, whereas the South Castle, erected in the 19th 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 14th-century tower is the only one remaining out of 19 medieval towers that were erected as part of



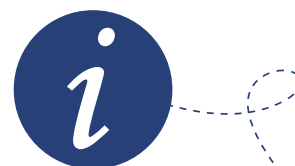
The Saltworks Museum, photo by K. Syga



The Saltworks Museum, photo by K. Syga



*The castle garden founded in 1564 is an ideal place for a walk and a moment of rest. Originally, it was to separate castle buildings from bourgeois houses and protect them against fires, which were frequent at that time. It also served as a decorative garden, and this role began to prevail in the 18th century, because it was then, that an Italian-style garden was arranged here.*



*At the Krakow Saltworks Museum, you can admire the only collection of treadmills – former hoisting machines moved by horses – in Europe, the oldest of which date back to the 17th century.*

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 15th century, where the saltworks workers, both administrative officers and miners, would receive free meals. Today the Castle houses part of the Krakow Saltworks Museum exhibition, including, e.g. archaeological

department and art and ethnography department with an impressive collection of salt cellars from various periods and materials (among which, the most unique are mother-of-pearl, quartz or bones). Nowadays, the exhibition comprises about 1000 salt shakers. The oldest ones date from the 16th century, while the collection boasts salt shakers from such exotic countries as Niger, Honduras or Jamaica. The museum also boasts the oldest shift in Wieliczka, discovered by the archaeologists, and dating from the 13th century. Surrounded by a wooden casing, it most likely did not reach to salt deposits.

**The Saltworks Castle in Wieliczka,**  
ul. Zamkowa 8,  
Visitor Service Office 6 Kinga Park  
☎ +48 12 2785849,  
🌐 [muzeum.wieliczka.pl](http://muzeum.wieliczka.pl)

The Saltworks Castle, photo by K. Bańkowski



The Gothic Hall, photo by K. Bańkowski



The Saltworks Museum, photo by K. Syga





## Bochnia

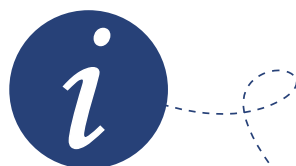
### BOCHNIA SALT MINE

Bochnia Salt Mine is the oldest rock salt mine in Poland. According to historical sources, the beginning of its operations dates back to 1248. Salt was extracted here much earlier – since about 3,500 B.C.E. – by evaporating water from brine, extracted from specially drilled wells. Such wells were the seed of, among others, the Sutoris Shaft, which exists to this Day and is actually the shaft associated with the legend of Saint Kinga and her ring. When the professional mine was established here, managed from the Wieliczka Saltworks Castle, Bochnia quickly began to bring huge profits to the royal treasury. Another shafts were added to the existing Sutoris and Gazaris ones, namely Regis, Bochners and Campi Until 1772, when it was seized by Austria as a result

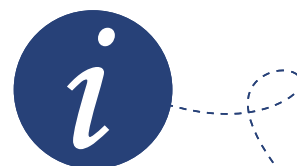
of the First Partition of Poland, the company operated according to the statute issued in 1368 by King Casimir the Great. Thanks to the salt deposits, the town of Bochnia became one of the most important economic centres of the medieval Małopolska region. With centuries passing by, the Salt Mine marked a clear impact on the history of the town, its urban development, but also on the history of entrepreneurship, industry and society. Bochnia Salt Mine used to introduce technical solutions which were quite innovative at that time. These included treadmills serving as hoisting machines and a steam machine, produced in 1909 at the Laura Steelworks in Chorzów, installed in the mine in 1930. Today, the Mine is a unique tourist destination. The complex offers



Bochnia Salt Mine, the Chapel of St. Kinga, photo by A. Brzoza



*The Bochnia Salt Mine is not only the oldest salt mine in Poland, but also the oldest workplace in Europe, operating continuously since the 13th century. Interestingly, Bochnia was granted city rights four years earlier than Krakow.*



*The underground railway network at the Bochnia Salt Mine consists of transport roads that are divided into routes. In the underground of the Bochnia mine there are as many as three passenger stations, where tourists get in and out.*

three routes for visitors, which differ in form and degree of difficulty. Tourists can easily get acquainted with the history of the mine as part of the Multimedia Underground Exhibition, which is an extraordinary expedition through the most beautiful and most interesting workings with unique chambers and underground chapels, experience an extreme adventure during the Historic “Expedition into the Old Mountains” or move to the extraordinary land of the Treasurer – the guardian of the salt underground during a family visit or see the fluorescent salt crystals. A major attraction of the mine is the underground mining train carrying tourists on a tourist route. The wooden boats used in the saline chamber are registered in the Polish Register of Shipping, like any other ships sailing at the sea. The Ważyn Chamber, located in

the Bochnia Mine, is the largest chamber made available to tourists. It houses a sports pitch, a restaurant and a mini-playground for children. The offer of the complex is enriched by recreational stays in the Ważyn Chamber, in which one of the recesses is arranged as a relaxation and leisure zone. The mine offers night stays for organised groups and individual guests. A night in the specific salt scenery and its unique microclimate offers the guests a completely new meaning of the concept of „healthy sleep”. The natural beauty and the raw, authentic character of the mine has been honoured with an entry on the UNESCO World Heritage List. The mine is also a historical monument.

#### Bochnia Salt Mine Health Resort,

ul. Campi 15, Bochnia,

☎ +48 14 6926752, ☎ +48 14 6926754

🌐 [kopalnia-bochnia.pl](http://kopalnia-bochnia.pl)

Bochnia Salt Mine, photo by R. Tatomin



Skarbnik – mine ghost, photo by Archives of Bochnia Salt Mine



Bochnia Salt Mine, photo by R. Tatomin



## Kalwaria Zebrzydowska

### ■ 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

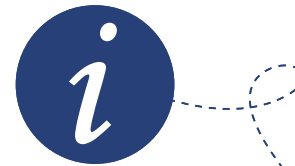
Heritage List in 1999. Today, the Kalwaria Zebrzydowska complex is the largest (apart from Częstochowa) destination for pilgrims in Poland. The Sanctuary and the Calvary owe its existence to Mikołaj Zebrzydowski, Kraków voivode, who in 1600 founded the Chapel of the Crucifixion of Jesus, brought the 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 45 objects



Kalwaria Zebrzydowska, photo by MOT Archives



*"Kalwaria has something that makes people get into it. How does it work? Maybe it is the natural beauty of the landscape that spreads from here, at the foot of the Polish Beskid mountains..."* – these are the words of Pope John Paul II about Kalwaria said during the pilgrimage to Poland in 1979. He had loved this place much earlier, and he often walked the Calvary's paths as a little boy, and later as a bishop and metropolitan of Krakow. As a pope, he was here in 1979 and 2002. He has been an honorary citizen of Kalwaria Zebrzydowska since 1998.



*While in Kalwaria Zebrzydowska, you can stay at the Pilgrim House, located in the heart of the Mannerist architectural and landscape complex and the pilgrim park.*

the Calvary is composed of were erected in the first half of the 17th century. At that time on the steep slope next to the Pilat Palace the Holy Stairs (Gradusy) covered with a semicircular roof were erected. In their 28 steps relics from the Holy Land were placed. 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 Our Lady 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.

**Passion–Marian Sanctuary – Monastery of the Bernardines,** ul. Bernardyńska 46 (access from the town centre along 3 Maja and Bernardyńska Streets), Kalwaria Zebrzydowska, ☎ +48 33 8766304, 🌐 [kalwaria.eu.pilgrims](http://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.

Kalwaria Zebrzydowska, photo by K. Bańkowski



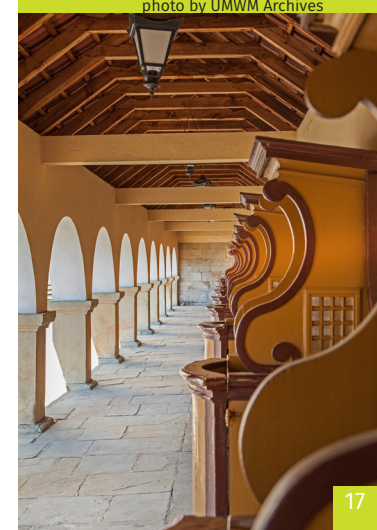
Interior of the Basilica of Our Lady of Angels, photo by K. Syga



Mystery of the Passion, photo J. Gawron



Kalwaria Zebrzydowska, photo by UMMW Archives



## Oświęcim

### MEMORIAL AND MUSEUM AUSCHWITZ-BIRKENAU. FORMER GERMAN NAZI CONCENTRATION AND EXTERMINATION CAMP

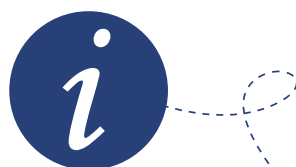
Auschwitz has become a world symbol of war, terror, genocide and the Holocaust. The Auschwitz concentration camp was established by the Nazi Germans on the territory of the occupied Oświęcim as a camp for Polish political prisoners. The first transportation of Polish prisoners was brought here from a prison in Tarnów on 14 June 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 extermination camp. The Museum is a research and educational organization: it collects, analyses, preserves, and gives access to documents and objects from the camp. The Memorial Site and the Museum comprises the area of two preserved parts of the camp: Auschwitz I and Auschwitz II-Birkenau.

To get to know the place properly it is necessary to visit both parts, which are located about 3.5 km away from each other. This distance can be covered by a free shuttle bus or on foot, passing through the area by the camp, where during the occupation period there were German industrial plants and workshops, warehouses, offices and technical facilities of



Memorial and Museum Auschwitz-Birkenau, photo by K. Syga



*Every year, on the Day of Remembrance of the Victims of the Holocaust (Yom Ha-Shoa) the March of the Living takes place. Thousands of Jews, but also people of other nationalities, walk a distance of 3 kilometres from the "Arbeit macht frei" gate in the former German Auschwitz I camp to the former Auschwitz II-Birkenau camp. The main ceremony takes place by the monument to the victims of the camp, located near the ruins of gas chambers and crematoria II and III. 20,000 people participated in the most numerous march, including delegations from 50 countries with presidents, prime ministers, Nobel Laureates and Iergymen of various denominations.*

KL Auschwitz-Birkenau, photo by A. Brożonowicz



***I wouldn't be in Poland if I wasn't in Oświęcim.***

*St. John Paul II during his first pilgrimage to Poland in 1979.*



the camp – places of work and death of prisoners. The remains of several railway sidings and ramps, to which trains with people deported to the camp were brought and where SS men made selections, have been preserved here. Visiting Auschwitz requires about 1.5 hour, same as in the case of Birkenau. On nearly 200 hectares, within the boundaries of the Museum, the ruins of gas chambers and places filled with human ashes, primitive prisoner barracks, and kilometres of camp fences and roads have been preserved. In the cinema hall located in the building for the reception of visitors within the former Auschwitz I camp, you can see a fifteen-minute documentary film showing the first moments after the liberation of 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 27 January, the day of the liberation of the camp, as the International Holocaust Remembrance Day.

### Memorial and Museum Auschwitz-Birkenau, ul. Więźniów Oświęcimia

20, Oświęcim (entrance to the museum and visitor parking lot is located at ul. Stanisławy Leszczyńskiej 11),

+48 33 844 80 99,

[auschwitz.org](http://auschwitz.org)

Admission to the Auschwitz Museum is by ticket only.

Reservations:

[visit.auschwitz.org](http://visit.auschwitz.org)

KL Auschwitz-Birkenau, photo by Archiwum UMWM



Memorial and Museum Auschwitz-Birkenau, photo by K. Syga



## Dębno

### ■ 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 15th 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 15th and 16th 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



The church in Dębno, photo by K. Bańkowski



*One of the unique facilities of historic value in the church in Dębno is the regal from the turn of the 17th and 18th centuries. It is a small portable organ that can be placed in different places. The regal from Dębno is one of the most valuable relics of Polish construction of musical instruments of the early Baroque era.*



*The church in Dębno was the scenery of one of the episodes of the iconic Polish TV series "Janosik". It was here that the marriage ceremony of Juraj Jánošík, the Slovak Robin Hood, with his beloved Maryna took place.*

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 zacchaeuses. 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 14th century. Also noteworthy is the main altar: a painted triptych from the turn of the 15th and 16th 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.

#### Church of St. Michael the

Archangel, ul. Kościelna 42,

34-434 Dębno, ☎ +48 18 2751797,

🌐 [debno.jdm.host](http://debno.jdm.host),

🌐 [drewniana.malopolska.pl](http://drewniana.malopolska.pl)

The church in Dębno, photo by K. Bańkowski



The church in Dębno, photo by K. Bańkowski



The church in Dębno, photo by K. Bańkowski



## Sękowa

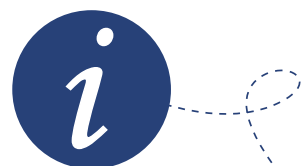
### ■ CHURCH OF SS. PHILIP AND JACOB THE APOSTLES IN SĘKOWA

The small church in Sękowa is one of Małopolska'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 18th 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



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



*The unusual shape of the church in Sękowa is dominated by a very steep roof with a disproportionately large surface. The ratio of the roof surface to the horizontal projection surface is as much as 10:1! For comparison, even in the most towering highlander's huts, this ratio does not exceed 3:1.*



*On the internal beams of the roof truss of the church in Sękowa, chalk signs of old carpentry masters from the 16th century have been preserved. It is not known how the signs, that would seem so impermanent, have survived for hundreds of years. This is undoubtedly another proof of the uniqueness of the temple.*

already in 1918, but conservation work, with intervals, carried on until the end of the 20th century. Some of the furnishings were saved, for example, the Gothic baptismal font from 1522. The Gothic ornamented portals and a fragment of the 19th-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 17th 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.

**Church of SS. Philip and Jacob the Apostles, Sękowa, on the border between the villages of Sękowa and Siary, at the bend of the Sękówka Brook, ☎ +48 609 546 389, ☎ +48 507 400 954 – guide, 🌐 [sekowa.rzeszow.opoka.org.pl](http://sekowa.rzeszow.opoka.org.pl), 🌐 [drewniana.malopolska.pl](http://drewniana.malopolska.pl)**

The church in Sękowa, photo by K. Bańkowski



The church in Sękowa, photo by K. Bańkowski



The church in Sękowa, photo by K. Syga

The church in Sękowa, photo by K. Syga



## Binarowa

### ■ 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 17th 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

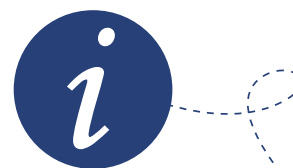
an enormous impression on visitors. **The walls and the ceiling of this beautiful church are entirely covered in paintings:** the vault features the polychrome of the vault features the polychrome from the early 16th century, created with plant ornament templates, whereas the walls present the 17th-century 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 (14th- and 15th-century) sculptures and low reliefs in the altars (the only well-preserved collection in southern



The church in Binarowa, photo by K. Bańkowski



*In the 19th century, scientists and artists became interested in the Binarowa temple. Famous painters Stanisław Wyspiański and Józef Mehoffer participated in one of the scientific trips that came to the doorstep of this medieval temple. Wyspiański particularly liked the benches, the sides of which are carved and decorated with paintings.*



*One of the interesting elements of the Binarowa church's interior is the family confessional in the chapel of Guardian Angels. This facility is absolutely unique. The whole family used to sit in it to confess in turn. And the old Polish inscription at the confessional reminded that the confession was to be discreet.*

Poland), as well as the stone baptismal font from the 16th 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 17th century and it is the replica of the miraculous painting of Our Lady of Piaszek 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 see the painting in the 18th century. The cult has survived until today, as is manifest by the novena to the Our Lady of Piaszek, combined with readings of requests and thanks, taking place each Wednesday and gathering crowds of believers.

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

Binarowa 409, ☎ +48 13 4476396,

guide: ☎ +48 692 385 244,

🌐 parafiabinarowa.pl,

🌐 drewniana.malopolska.pl

The church in Binarowa, photo by K. Bańkowski



The church in Binarowa, photo by K. Bańkowski



The church in Binarowa, photo by K. Bańkowski



## Lipnica Murowana

### ■ 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 15th 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 Sveto-vid 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.

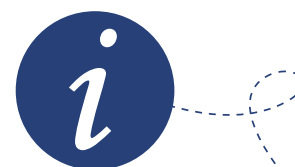
It was surrounded by arcatures in the 17th century and the western portal was added in the 19th century. Adding so much charm to the structure, the open arcatures were not only used for their traditional functions (protecting the underpinning from dampness and providing shelter for pilgrims) but they 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 19th 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



The church in Lipnica Murowana, photo by K. Bańkowski



*Lipnica Murowana gave birth to a Saint - it was here that in the first half of the 15th century St Simon - patron of the ancient city of Krakow and the academic community - was born. The town's history is also linked with the Ledóchowski sisters - St Ursula and blessed Maria Teresa - who almost 450 years later came to Lipnica with their parents who bought a local property.*



*Beautiful, shimmering with many colours and the highest in the world. Such are the Easter palms from Lipnica Murowana. Every Palm Sunday, for over 60 years, people compete here in the competition for the highest palm. The last competition in 2019 was won by a palm with a height of 38 metres, which beat the previous winner by more than a metre.*

oldest decoration (of the chancel vault dating from the late 15th century, and the nave vault dating from the 16th 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 17th century, while the 18th-century wall painting in the nave depict 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 15th and 16th 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).

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

Murowana, ☎ +48 14 6852601,

🌐 [parlipnicam.tarnow.opoka.org.pl](http://parlipnicam.tarnow.opoka.org.pl),

🌐 [drewniana.malopolska.pl](http://drewniana.malopolska.pl)

The church in Lipnica Murowana, photo by K. Bańkowski



Lipnica palms, photo by K. Bańkowski



The church in Lipnica Murowana, photo by K. Bańkowski



## Brunary Wyżne

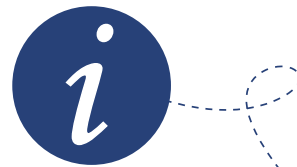
### ■ GREEK CATHOLIC CHURCH OF ST. MICHAEL THE ARCHANGEL IN BRUNARY WYŻNE

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

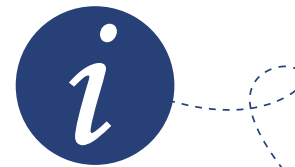
unusually long chancel is enclosed on three sides and topped with the wooden, onion-shaped dome with a false roof lantern. The crevice separating the former chancel from the original nave is visible in the walls of the vast nave, while the entire section is covered with a wide tented roof featuring a 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, startling 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,



Greek Catholic church in Brunary Wyżne, photo by K. Bańkowski



*The first orthodox church in Brunary Wyżne probably existed already before 1526, although some sources only mention the date of 1616, after the establishment of a Uniate parish. Another one was built in its place in 1653. The temple, which we can admire today, was erected as the third one in the 18th century, and owes its present shape to the expansion works from the 1830s, which made it one of the largest churches built in the Lemko style.*



*In the UNESCO temples, which are also part of the Wooden Architecture Route, you can sometimes listen to a concert played as part of the Music Enchanted by Wood festival. The festival programme is extremely diverse. In addition to early music, it also offers contemporary sounds and gives the opportunity to watch dance or passion performances.*

Baroque polychrome, dating from the time of the church's construction. The Baroque iconostasis dating from the late 18th century (repainted in 1831) was transferred to the present location during the church's reconstruction in the 19th 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 18th and 19th centuries, and the 18th-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 18th 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.

**Greek Catholic Church of St. Michael the Archangel, Brunary Wyżne 45,**  
 ☎ +48 18 3516776,  
 ☎ +48 536 723 418 – guide,  
 🌐 [parafia.brunary.pl](http://parafia.brunary.pl),  
 🌐 [drewniana.malopolska.pl](http://drewniana.malopolska.pl)

Greek Catholic church in Brunary Wyżne, photo by K. Bańkowski



Greek Catholic church in Brunary Wyżne, photo by R. Korzeniowski



Greek Catholic church in Brunary Wyżne, photo by K. Bańkowski



## Kwiaton

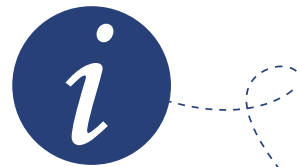
### ■ GREEK CATHOLIC CHURCH OF ST. PARASCHEVA IN KWIATON

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 17th century, featuring log construction, it boasts the highest tower in the Lemko Region, added in the 18th-century and featuring

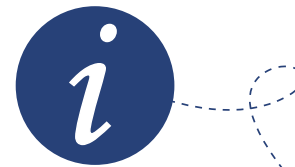
post-frame construction tower. The church underwent several renovations in the 19th and 20th centuries. The visibly three-part body gradually rises up: from the lowest chancel, through the higher and wider nave, to the dominating lofty tower, which houses the gallery for women. The nave and the chancel 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. On the other hand, the tower has sloping shingled walls and vertically panelled starling, decorated at the bottom with a decorative frill cut in formwork panels, while the top is crowned with a bulbous cupola with an mock lantern with a cross and onion-shaped top, consistent with the



Greek Catholic church in Kwiaton, photo by K. Bańkowski



*In the presbytery of the orthodox church in Kwiaton, there is a particularly interesting epitaphios (icon) from the 19th century. It shows the dead Christ depicted on canvas, which during the Easter symbolizes the Tomb of the Lord. It is set in the middle of the temple and surrounded by lots of fresh flowers that the faithful bring to the church. After the Good Friday evening service, symbolising the laying of the body of Christ into the grave, the clergymen carry out the epitaphios from the church and encircle the temple with the icon in a solemn procession.*



*During conservation work carried out on the temple's choir loft, fragments of the first iconostasis from the period of the temple's creation were discovered. It depicts Christ Pantocrator, accompanied by the Virgin Mary and St John the Baptist. The rest of the painting shows five apostles.*

proportions of nave and chancel crowning. 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 19th and 20th 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 19th 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 of St.

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Greek Catholic church in Kwiaton, photo by K. Bańkowski



Greek Catholic church in Kwiaton, photo by K. Bańkowski



Greek Catholic church in Kwiaton, photo by K. Bańkowski



## Owczary

### ■ GREEK CATHOLIC 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 18th-century iconostasis with icons dating from



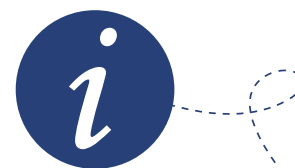
Orthodox church in Owczary, photo by K. Bańkowski



Orthodox church in Owczary, photo by K. Bańkowski



*The church in Owczary is a living proof of ecumenism. Both Catholics and Greek Catholics, and sometimes also Orthodox, all pray there. This is an amazing place not only because of its history, architecture and rich interior, but also the idea of a harmonious life of people of different faiths.*



*The orthodox church in Owczary is characterised by a monumental, brick-built gate bell tower with a passage in the barrel-vaulted basement, with several stairs and a double-wing gate made of iron rods with a crucifix.*

1712 by Jan Medycki of Muszyna and from 1756 by unknown artist. The nave also features two Baroque side altars dating from the early 18th century. The icon in the left-side altar depicts Madonna and the Child (17th century), while the right-side altar boasts the painting of St. Nicholas (early 18th 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 area is surrounded by a stone fence with gatehouse brick bell tower and lower gate - both are covered with tent-shaped roofs with small, bulbous cupolas with crosses.

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According to an old story, „There was once an orthodox church in Rieczki, but it sank underground, so it was decided to build a new one. Apparently, during the renovation of the church, it was found that the joists of its floor do not rest on stones, but on huge fir trunks.”

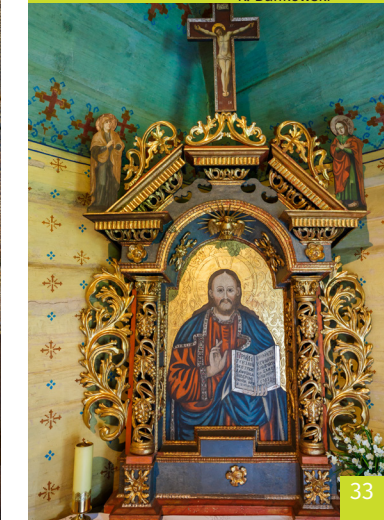
Orthodox church in Owczary, photo by K. Bańkowski



Orthodox church in Owczary, photo by K. Bańkowski



Orthodox church in Owczary, photo by K. Bańkowski



## Powroźnik

### ■ GREEK CATHOLIC 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.

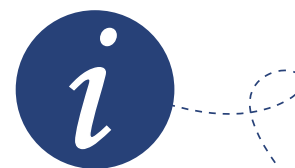


Greek Catholic church in Powroźnik, photo by K. Bańkowski

Greek Catholic church in Powroźnik, photo by K. Bańkowski



*The oldest wooden Lemko orthodox church in the Polish part of the Carpathian Mountains was moved due to flood risk by about 150 meters – to the higher area. In the years 1945–1947 the Lemkos inhabiting the village were displaced, and in 1951 a Roman Catholic parish was established by the former orthodox church.*



*In the tower of the church in Powroźnik, there is a historic bell cast in 1615, which is one of the oldest and most valuable elements of the temple's interior.*

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 17th-century iconostasis. Also noteworthy is the Baroque side altar from the 18th century, and many icons of high artistic value, such as the Last Judgement from 1623 by Pawłenty Radymny, and

the Pieta from 1646, as well as other icons dating from the 17th and 18th 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. In the year 2019, the complete roof shingle of the temple was replaced. The church is one of the four wooden Orthodox churches in Małopolska inscribed on the UNESCO World Heritage List in 2013.

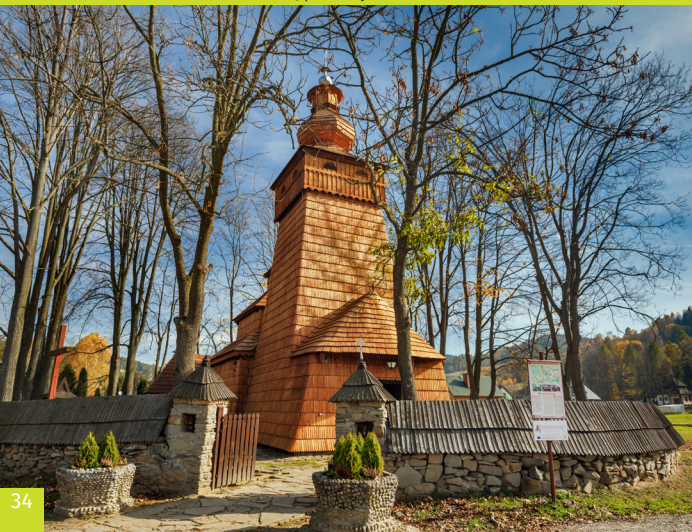
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☎ +48 508866402,

🌐 [parafiapowroznik.pl](http://parafiapowroznik.pl),

🌐 [drewniana.malopolska.pl](http://drewniana.malopolska.pl)

Greek Catholic church in Powroźnik, photo by K. Bańkowski



Greek Catholic church in Powroźnik, photo by K. Bańkowski



Greek Catholic church in Powroźnik, photo by K. Bańkowski

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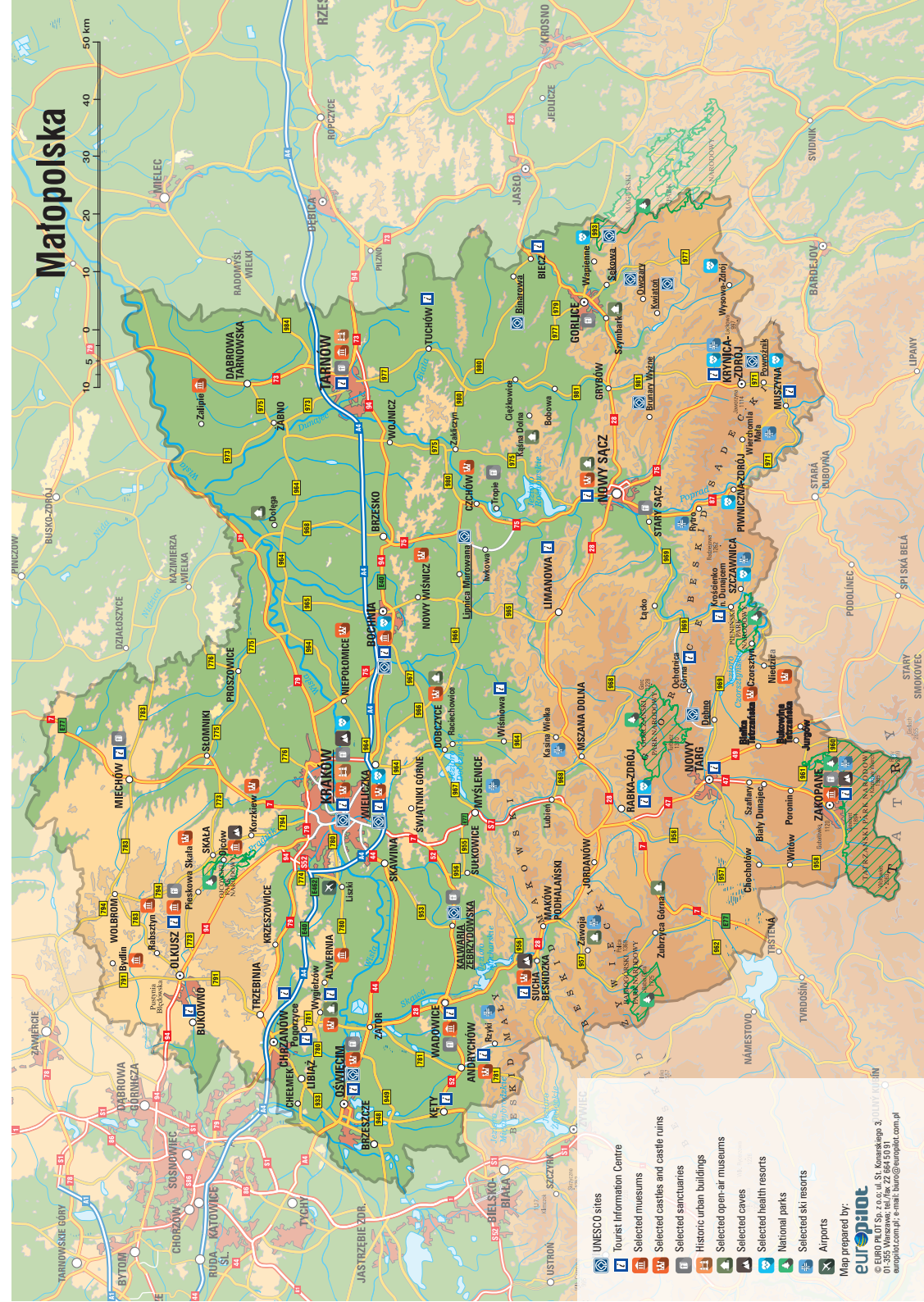
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