



Weekend

in the Euroregion Silesia



TOURIST INFORMATION GUIDE

Texts: Leonard Fulneczek

Editing and proofreading: Piotr Cempel, Daria Kardaczyńska, Jana Novotná Galuszková, Iwona Paprotny

Photographs: The Archive of the Euroregion Silesia and its member communes, M. Kuder, Ł. Martyński, A. Gąsior, Ł. Jabłoński, P. Nieznański, T. Szczansny, L. Fulneczek, G. Nowak, W. Kamiński, P. Okulowski, naszraciborz.pl

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CROSSING BORDERS

Weekend

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TOURIST INFORMATION GUIDE

"ARE YOU PLANNING A FEW DAYS AWAY, AND LOOKING FOR A FUN PLACE FOR THE WEEKEND, OR MAYBE YOU ARE ORGANIZING AN ATTRACTIVE ROUTE FOR A DAILY TRIP? TECHNICAL MONUMENTS, CHURCHES, CASTLES AND PALACES, BEAUTIFUL LANDSCAPES, PLACES DESIGNED FOR ACTIVE RECREATION, SCENIC BICYCLE ROUTES AS WELL AS DISTINCTIVE AND UNIQUE CYCLICAL EVENTS... THESE ATTRACTIONS TEMPT AND INVITE YOU TO EUROREGION SILESIA"

The weekend is a time we all look forward to because it's a time to relax, a time to rest and take a break from the treadmill of everyday life and thoughts of work. What makes each of us unique is the way in which we spend our free time off - each of us has our own recipe for a successful weekend. What makes us all similar, is the desire to put this time into good use, turning it into memories of special moments spent together with family, friends or even on your own, away from the everyday life of worries and problems.

Created especially for weekends of rest, which can be more or less active, we have prepared a package of attractions compiled into 8 thematic sections, in which everyone will find something special for themselves. In addition to some of the leading tourist attractions of our Euroregion, most attractions presented in this publication are still waiting to be discovered - unusual, intriguing, captivating and often surprising.

Here you will find a whole range of historical peculiarities of the Euroregion Silesia from: castles and stately palaces through to mansions and mysterious ruins, ending with sacred monuments and ancient landscapes. Enthusiasts of industrial architecture will be fascinated with the plethora of monuments of technology - fascinating monuments of the former economic activity and valuable evidence of an industrial heritage of our region. For passionate lovers of history (and not only contemporary), through the vast collection of museums and Memory Chambers, will find a lot of interesting and intriguing historical facts from the Euroregion's past. Those seeking contact with nature will discover its 'still underestimated' natural beauty - charming, picturesque, and unique on the European scale of tourist places, which allows for the escaping from the noise of civilization and finding a moment for peace and rest. Enthusiasts of active leisure will also not be disappointed. The large number of sports and recreational facilities lets amateurs of all sports pursue their passions here, especially golf enthusiasts and very popular and ever expanding cycling and canoeing routes within our Euroregion. Another reason to be proud of is our offer of seasonal events - fairs, concerts, festivals, sporting events, folklore events, shows, exhibitions, meetings with culture, art and regional products - we may say that our Euroregional cultural and entertainment bustles with vibrancy throughout the whole year.

Euroregion Silesia is constantly changing its face. Every year it becomes more beautiful, grows character and expands its tourist and leisure offers. It's just not the same as it used to be: industrialized, gray and polluted regions (still wrongly and unfortunately identified with). The best way to check it out is to find it out in person, by traveling through the area with our guide. We hope that it will become a kind of compass for you defining the most interesting weekend travel options and will schedule your holiday leisure with the best possible rejuvenation.

The project: "Weekend in the Euroregion Silesia"

A "Weekend in the Euroregion Silesia" is a project aimed at popularizing and highlighting tourism values of the Euroregion Silesia. The motivation to write and implement this project was for us because of the widespread, mistaken idea of the Euroregion Silesia, as the gray, industrial and unattractive area from the view point of tourism. With the help of this publication-guide within the project, we want to demonstrate that contrary to stereotyping, Euroregion Silesia is a region of great touristic potential through being tourist friendly and having much to offer by numerous historical, natural and cultural values, as well as a wide range of sports and recreational facilities.

It should be mentioned that the offer of attractions, which you have the opportunity to learn about from our publications, is mainly a result of cooperation with the Communes of the Euroregion Silesia. These communes appointed the most interesting structures and places worth visiting while waiting for that interest from tourists. Communes are also the owners of most of the photos published in the guide. The information about the attractions in the guide descriptions often came from communal websites or was received through personal consultation. At this point we would like to thank the concerned communes for their support, assistance and patient cooperation.

It is also worth noting that this informative guide does not fully explore all of the threads of the variety of tourist assets of Euroregion Silesia. It is not possible for a 100 page publication to describe every attraction reflecting the character and the unique atmosphere of our Polish and Czech border. So, Dear Readers, please approach our publication as a small but highly representative image of the Euroregion Silesia in terms of its richness and variety of tourist and cultural qualities.

Within the "Weekend in the Euroregion Silesia" project we have also prepared a promotional video entitled: "Destination: Euroregion Silesia". It was a complementary action, which aim - similar to the guide - was to present the most interesting directions of weekend tourism in the area of Silesia Euroregion. The film is available in 3 languages - Polish-Czech, English and German. To view it, you only need to find our channel on YouTube - you can do that by typing the phrase "Euroregion Silesia" into a search engine. The film presents many attractions that are also mentioned in the booklet, so it is worth - if you are familiar with its contents - to see Euroregion in a different, but more dynamic and effective, audiovisual setting.

We encourage you to read the guide and watch the video. We believe that with these two information guides which are the results of our project, Euroregion Silesia will reveal a lot of hidden attractions and magical sites, and will also intrigue and encourage you to start exploring the region, perhaps as early as this coming weekend!





Public monuments, castles and palaces



The Piastowski Castle in Racibórz

RACIBÓRZ

Renovated with the support of European funds, The Piastowski Castle in Racibórz has become one of the most visited historic buildings in the Upper Silesia area in recent years. In the 11th century the castle was the seat of the Castellan and in the second half of the 12th century was hosted by High Duke of Poland, Mieszko Laskonogi. In the first half of the 13th century, the first sections of the brick-constructed castle were built. At around 1290, Prince Przemysł commissioned the building of a Gothic Chapel, the chapel Patron was St. Thomas Becket of Canterbury, the English martyr. The chapel, relatively well-preserved, is currently the most valuable of its kind in Poland. It is called the Gothic pearl of Upper Silesian or – because of the similarity to the fa-

mous Paris church – the Silesian Saint Chapel.

The castle, like the town of Racibórz, experienced an interesting but turbulent history through the ages. The building itself has had next to no luck with its frequently changing owners. Its history throughout the centuries is one of slow but consistent demise. In the first half of the 19th century it was taken over by the Dukes von Ratibor and was in their possession until 1945. After the war, it was nationalized and fell into further disrepair. In modern times from the nineties onwards the management of this monument began to change and the first preservation and organizing works were made. In 2009, at the initiative of the Racibórz District authorities and with support from the Europe-



an Union, the castle renovations began and continued until 2012. The district is still currently working in different areas of the castle-chapel site so as to bring it back to its full splendor!

From the courtyard of the Piastows-

ki Castle, visitors will quickly notice the brewery located directly next to the castle, which has the oldest brewing traditions in Upper Silesia. The castle is open to the public and there is also a Tourist Information Point on site.

Address: ul. Zamkowa 2, 47-400 Racibórz / tel.: +48 32 414 02 33 / www.zamekpiastowski.pl / GPS: 50°5'45.23" N, 18°13'14.40" E

The Post-Cistercian Monastery and Palace Complex and Basilica in Rudy

KUŹNIA RACIBORSKA COMMUNE



One of the biggest attractions of the Racibórz area is the Post-Cistercian Monastery and Palace Complex in Rudy, part of the local Landscape

Park. It consists of a Gothic 14th century church with a Baroque facade, and also old monastic buildings, recently reconstructed. At

first, a temporary church was built by the Cistercians in the middle of the 13th century. Its successor (consecrated in 1303), still stands today and is one of the most valuable monuments of architecture in the Diocese of Gliwice. In the 17th century, the church was considerably renovated. A new chapel was built in 1723 to 1726 in the church's Southern arm, and the miraculous image of Our Lady of Humility was housed there. Since 2009, the church of Assumption of the Holy Virgin Mary has held the status of a minor basilica.

In 1810, as a result of seculariza-

tion, the monastery in Rudy. From 1820 it became the seat of the dukes of Racibórz and it remained that way until World War II. After the war, former monastery buildings were destroyed by the fire. Today, the owner of the complex is the Diocese of Gliwice, and the building is regaining its former glory. It houses the Centre for Formation and Education of the Diocese of Gliwice. Former monastery buildings are available to the public. Visitors can also spend a very pleasant time in the neat and well-maintained park areas around the buildings of the former abbey.

Address: ul. Cysterska 4, 47-430 Rudy / tel.: +48 32 410 33 11 / www.rudy-opactwo.pl / GPS: 50°11'38.7" N, 18°26'52.9" E

The Palace in Krzyżanowice

KRZYŻANOWICE COMMUNE

The current appearance of the Palace in Krzyżanowice is a result of a major refurbishment of an existing building from the 17th century, which was led by Carl von Lichnowsky in 1850 to 1860. Known not only in Silesia the Lichnowsky family have run the palace since 1775 up until 1930, when the seventh Duke – Wilhelm von Lichnowsky sold the property to the newly formed Congregation of the Franciscan Sisters, which still owns the palace. The construction is an eclectic

mixture of styles with a predominance of neo-Gothic decoration. Three octagonal towers are located in each of the three corners of the Palace; in the wing (housing the chapel – formerly knight's hall) stands a four-sided tower, changing to the octagon. Franciszek Liszt, a friend of the then owner of the palace – the Prince Feliks Lichnowsky, stayed there in 1843-1846 and did some of his creative work. Forty years earlier, Ludwig van Beethoven was also visiting

the Palace. The plaques on the walls of the palace inform us of these facts. In May, concerts are held there and are dedicated to the memory of Beethoven and Liszt.

The property is surrounded by a park with an historic gatehouse. Due to the current function of this historical building (the General House of the Congregation of the Franciscan Sisters and the Nursing Home) the possibilities of exploring it are limited. However, visitors can walk



through the park surrounding the palace and enter the chapel.

Address: ul. Kolejowa 4, 47-450 Krzyżanowice / tel.: +48 32 419 40 90 / www.franciszanki.com.pl / GPS: 49°58'59.68" N, 18°16'14.51" E

PUBLIC MONUMENTS, CASTLES AND PALACES

The Palace in Wojnowice

KRZANOWICE COMMUNE

In 1828, a young, 24-year-old doctor Johann Carl Christian Kuh, coming from a rich Wrocław family purchased, in Wojnowice 425 hectares of land. In the center of the park he established a new palace on the site of an earlier building. In 1836 Dr Johann Kuh founded, the still existing Centre for the Deaf and Dumb in Racibórz. He was also known for performing surgery of the eye (pioneering in that time). In the second half of the 19th century, the next owners, the family von Banck extended the building and transformed it into a neo-Baroque

style with classical elements. After World War II, the Palace served in different functions. In 2003, it was purchased by a private owner – Zbigniew Woźniak, who is trying to restore the mansion to its former glory. Currently, the facility houses a restaurant and a Museum of the Former Village, as well as the recently added 'Museum of Horror'. There is an option of overnight accommodation. Fully available to visitors is the park which is filled with natural attractions including visits to parts of the palace.



Address: ul. Pałacowa 1, 47-475 Wojnowice / tel.: +48 32 419 15 97 / www.palacwojnowice.pl / GPS: 50°3'39.61" N, 18°9'10.27" E

The Palace and Park in Kokoszyce

WODZIŚLAW ŚLĄSKI



The Baroque and Classicist palace, located on the outskirts of the park, was built in 1822 by Wilhelm Franz von Zawadzki. In 1893 it was enlarged by the new owners – the von Ruffer family who sold it to the newly erected Diocesan Curia in Katowice. Initially the palace was meant to become the Theological Seminary. Finally from 1928 the building became a holiday residence for priests and a diocesan retreat house. The palace consists of three clear, architecturally separated parts, which represent the

three phases of its construction. The palace interiors are extremely well preserved and a pleasure to view. In the direct neighborhood stands a building of the former villa and the adjacent chapel from the beginning of 20th century. Surrounding the structure a 30-hectare park comprises of numerous protected species of trees and interesting botanical specimens. Currently the palace operates as Retreat House of Katowice Archdiocese in Kokoszyce.

Address: ul. Pałacowa 53, 44-373 Wodzisław Śląski / tel.: +48 32 456 14 97 / www.kokoszyce.archidiecezja.katowice.pl / GPS: 50°0'35.76" N, 18°24'55.56" E

The Palace and Park Complex in Gorzyce

GORZYCE COMMUNE

The palace and park complex consists of a Count Arco palace of the 19th century (called the 'upper palace'), a hunting lodge from the beginning of 20th century (lower palace) and a spacious landscape park in an English style setting with a rich, lush forest and numerous ponds. The upper palace was built in 1886 by Aleksander von Arco. The owners changed twice and in 1922 it became a Children's Care Home. Currently it operates as a Provincial Drug Rehabilitation Centre as well as a Care and Treatment Centre. On the front wall there is a large tympanum with the Katowice coat of arms. To the back of this building are three flights of stairs leading to the

garden. Inside the palace there is a hall which on the first floor is encircled by a gallery. In the right corner of the hall there is a beautifully crafted fireplace. Positioned on its hood there are hunting motives and a relief of Diana with a deer. This is the only element that remains from the former palace décor. The lower palace is built using a horseshoe design with a one-level tower in the middle, closed with neo-Baroque cupola. It was built at the beginning of 20th century by carbon magnate of those times F. von Friedländer-Fuld. Today it stands abandoned and ruined after an incompletely built superstructure in the late 20th century.



Address: ul. Zamkowa 8, 44-350 Gorzyce / tel.: +48 32 451 11 72 / GPS: 49°57'28.00" N, 18°22'54.85" E

The Palace in Chałupki

KRZYŻANOWICE COMMUNE

The palace in Chałupki (often called a castle) is located on the nearby the border bridge on the river Odra. Mentioned in 1373 it served as a riverside fortified castle. It has had a few different owners and up until 1742 belonged to Bohumin – today Czech Republic. From the mid 19th century the castle was owned by the world-famous bankers' the Rothschilds family. The building has been reconstructed several times; the last reconstruction took place in 1907. Currently the palace presents the Baroque style with

preserved, earlier elements. There are preserved defensive construction sections too, especially that of the moat surrounding the castle, and the remains of the old bastion fortifications. Above the main entrance visitors will find a cast iron plate with the Rothschilds coat of arms. The small but beautiful park founded in the 19th century and stretches around the palace. It contains 30 species and varieties of trees and shrubs. Currently the palace houses a hotel and a restaurant.



Address: ul. Bogumińska 30, 47-460 Chałupki / tel.: +48 32 419 69 44 / www.hotel-zamek.pl / GPS: 49°55'14.97" N, 18°19'25.16" E

The Palace in Modzurów

RUDNIK COMMUNE

The palace was built in an English neo-Gothic style by the family von König, owners of the local mansion in 1864 (some sources mention a later period). The two storey building is flanked by a few eight-sided towers which gives the building its distinctive features. Inside, attention is drawn to a large stained glass window of plant motifs and is located on the hall ceiling. The palace is enclosed in a 19th century Landscape Park with the surface of 4 hectares, and a hornbeam alley and exotic species of trees. In



the park there is a ruined late Classicist mausoleum and also the ruins of a neo-Gothic chapel. The interesting feature is the stone tracery from around 1300, built into the wall of the ruined chapel, the materials for this come from the local church which was dismantled in 1898.

The palace is the location of the head office of the Plant Breeding Station "Modzurów" Ltd. The well maintained building can be viewed only from the outside. The interior can be entered only upon the agreement of the building owner.

Address: ul. Słowackiego 9, 47-411 Modzurów / tel.: +48 32 410 65 22 / GPS: 50°9'28.20" N, 18°7'55.20" E

The Palace in Pogrzebień

KORNOWAC COMMUNE

The palace in its current form is due to the major restoration works done in 1885-86 initiated by Aleksander Adam Baildon from the well known Silesia industrialists' family. The complex has a neo-Renaissance character but one of more interesting elements of the interior is the precious, marble staircase. Up until today, the palace has been kept in a very good condition. The building has a very interesting past. Before 1882 the palace – a one-storey Manor House belonged to the Larisch family. In 1815, one of the members of this family, Luiza, married Joseph von Eichendorff, a famous German poet of the Romanticism period. We can assume that this poet was a regular visitor to the palace at that time. In 1930 the complex was bought by the Salesian Society and they converted it into a Small Seminary. During the Second World War the palace was a temporary shelter for a variety of groups in the area. In 1946 the palace was taken over by the Salesian Sisters, who still manage it today. For the last few years of her life; Servant of God sister Laura Meozi (1873–1951) lived at the palace. Her "memorabilia room" was displayed in the monastery. The building can be viewed from the outside and the interior can be visited upon the agreement of the owners.



Address: ul. Klasztorna 8, 44-285 Pogrzebień / tel.: +48 32 430 17 40 / GPS: 50°4'1.50" N, 18°17'40.48" E

The Palace of Dietrichsteins

WODZISŁAW ŚLĄSKI

The palace of Dietrichsteins is located in the South-Eastern corner of Wodzislaw central square. Its name comes from the former owners who probably originally built the palace although at first it was actually a castle and after a huge fire in 1882 it was rebuilt as a palace in French the Baroque Classicist style. Above the entrance to the palace is a pediment in the form of a triangle with a cartouche with two shields – coats of arms of the Dietrichstein and coat of arms of the Henckel von Donnersmarck families. The large entrance gate leads to the inside of the building; the stairway is filled with mirrored stairs with platforms. Cross vault ceilings decorate most of the rooms. Around the castle there is a small, but lovingly attended landscape park. The palace has



belonged to the Wodzisław Śląski town since 1926 and still remains in their hands.

The building also houses the location of the the Town Museum and the Registry Office. It is open during

working hours. There is also a Tourist Information Point operating within the museum.

Address: ul. ks. plk. Wilhelma Kubsza 2, 44-300 Wodzisław Śląski / tel.: +48 32 455 25 74 / GPS: 50°0'8.47" N, 18°27'54.12" E

The Manor House and Park in Dzimierz

LYSKI COMMUNE

The palace (or manor house) in Dzimierz has its roots from the end of 19th century. A Masonry building, it is of a two storey construction and is built on a rectangle design, covered with a hipped roof with four faces covered with tiles. The porch – a typical architectonical part of construction of this type of buildings is to be found on the side of the building. The former "palace" is enclosed with a small landscape park of only 2 hectares. Near the entrance to the complex, there are former services quarters (buildings used by man-

or house maids and administration) and amongst the farm buildings there are preserved granary and cowsheds which come from the end of the 19th century. At the beginning of the 19th century the manor in Dzimierz belonged to Aleksander Mendelssohn, the uncle of Feliks Mendelssohn-Bartholdy (1809–47). The famous composer allegedly visited Dzimierz palace in 1823. The Manor House in Dzimierz is currently in private hands, the building can be viewed from the outside from behind the fence.



Address: ul. Dworcowa, 44-295 Dzimierz / GPS: 50°6'16.03" N, 18°21'10.74" E

The Palace in Nasiedle

KIETRZ COMMUNE

This palace was built in 1730 by Antoni Józef Siednicki. It was restored around 1930 by Urban Ibron, the last property owner before the war. The building – in Baroque style and built on a rectangle plan has its elevation facing North. In the large room on the coved ceilings there are some remains of the ornamental stucco decoration. An 18th century park surrounds the palace with an irregular layout. The post-war history of this structure was a tragic one – many owners' changes slowly turned the building into ruin. Amongst others, the palace was the location of a farm

school, shop, chapel, office and primary school. The final disaster for this splendid building was when the palace was rented out to a local farmer, who in 1966-88 completely devastated the building and destroyed the garden. Fortunately, in 1988 the Białas family repurchased the Palace from the Treasury and is currently is restoring it to its former glory. The property is fenced out, but the palace can be viewed from outside. Having a bit of luck the visitors could be also allowed in and shown around inside the palace by the owner.



Address: ul. Szkolna 21, 48-130 Nasiedle / GPS: 50°2'58.70" N, 17°53'39.80" E

The Ruins of Tworków Castle

KRZYŻANOWICE COMMUNE

The history of the castle in Tworków dates back to the middle ages. The former seat of Tworkowscy and Reiszewitz families was purchased in 1860 by the family von Saurma-Jeltsch. Several years later (in 1872) the residence went under major refurbishment which was organized by a well known architect, Carl Heydenreich. His plans included an enlargement to the building and to change the castles character into a fully neo-Renaissance style with numerous turrets, bay windows and attics. A four-sided clock tower was also built on the

site at that time. A fire that broke out in January 1931 laid end to the splendor of the castle. The fire destroyed the entire building including the tower. In 1945, during the war, the castle was burned down for a second time. Today its ruins are the only evidence of its former glory.

In 2003 the building was taken over by Krzyżanowice Commune, and protected it from further damage. There are works currently being conducted to the site to protect the ruins and to provide appropriate exposure so that the ruins of the castle can be visited.



Address: ul. Parkowa 1, 47-451 Tworków / tel.: +48 32 419 61 28 / GPS: 50°00'40.5" N, 18°14'12.3" E

The Ruins of Eichendorff's Palace in Łubowice

RUDNIK COMMUNE

The ruins of the Eichendorffs' palace tower over the left bank of the river Odra. The original structure was built in a Baroque style at the end of the 18th century by Karl Wenzel von Kloch. Rebuilding of the site was started in 1858 by the new owner – Wiktor I von Hohenlohe-Waldenburg-Schillingfurst, prince of Racibórz, and in the process of refurbishment, the palace was given neo-Gothic shapes. During the Second World War the palace was severely damaged and then completely destroyed. The remaining ruins used to belong to the side part of the palace. On the 10th March 1788 the well-known poet of German Romanti-

cism – Joseph von Eichendorff, grandson of the builder of the palace was born in this palace. Eichendorff's literary output comprises, amongst others: short stories, plays, poems and essays. Before World War II the large hall of the palace housed the chamber of memory dedicated to the poet. Currently, the chamber of memory is located in the former school building that belongs to the Upper Silesian Centre of Culture and Meetings of Eichendorff in Łubowice. The ruins of the palace adjoin directly to the park that has been immortalized in the poet's literature.

The property is open to the public.



Address: ul. Zamkowa 1-3, 47-417 Łubowice / GPS: 50°9'36.68" N, 18°14'3.56" E

The Palace Ruins in Sławików

RUDNIK COMMUNE



In 1795-1831 Sławików belonged to the Eichendorff's family from nearby Łubowice. Before them the property was owned by the Praschma and Oppersdorff families. Financial problems forced the Eichendorffs to sell their possessions. In 1831 the property in Sławików was bought from them by Baron Ernst von Eickstedt. This family held the property until 1945. Up until the middle of 19th century the Palace in Sławików was a one-storey building. Baron Ernst von Eickstedt, started its reconstruction. Then, amongst other development plans, the second floor was added, the front elevation gained four pillars supporting the balcony of the first floor, and the coat of arms was placed on the tympanum. The whole palace gained an eclectic design, referring to the ancient practice effect.

During the war the palace was partially destroyed, and then – owned by state units – fell into disrepair, and its things was looted. Currently the property is owned by the Rudnik Commune, it can be viewed only from the outside, because its technical condition poses a risk to the public.

Address: ul. Parkowa, 47-417 Sławików / GPS: 50°11'11.31" N, 18°13'1.44" E

The Tower, the old defensive walls and Mary's Column in Racibórz

RACIBÓRZ

The first Racibórz defensive walls were constructed in the 13th century. They consist of a number of defensive towers and three gates. In front of the walls a deep moat was dug, and surrounded by this moat, the fortification repeatedly and effectively repelled the invaders, Tatars amongst others. The walls were strengthened in 1663 due to an anticipated Turkish invasion. Since the 18th century, the walls were gradually being dismantled and between 1764 and 1771 the moat was filled in. The best-preserved section of the wall is currently at: Basztowa, Batory (by the marketplace), Podwale, Drzymaly (the longest section), Browarna and Główna Roads. By the Basztowa Road a renaissance tow-



er is being preserved, called the prison tower. It's the only example (along with the walls), that shows a permanent element of the preservation of the town fortifications.



The Tower provided a much needed shelter for defenders, as well as being a prison tower. This 16th-century building has been a symbol of Racibórz for many years. In 2007,

along with a ribbon stylized as the Odra River in the background, the tower was stamped on the reverse of two-złoty coins issued by the Polish National Bank.

Not far from the tower, in Racibórz market square, rises Mary's Column – a unique class monument sculpted by the eminent Baroque artist, Johann Melchior Österreich. The Column was established in 1727 as a votive offering for saving the town from an epidemic of cholera. It contains heraldic cartouches with cherubs and statues of St Florian, St Sebastian and St Marcel – the patron of the town. There is an extraordinary prophecy related to the market square column, stating that Racibórz will be flooded if anyone violates the monument.

Address (The tower): ul. Basztowa 4, 47-400 Racibórz / GPS: 50°05'21.6" N, 18°13'12.4" E

Address (Mary's Column): Rynek, 47-400 Racibórz / GPS: 50°05'31.3" N, 18°13'11.4" E

The Old Town Square in Wodzisław Śląski

WODZISŁAW ŚLĄSKI

When it was plotted out, Wodzisław's main square (since the establishment of the town in the 13th century) is the most important square in the town and one of the largest urban projects of its type in the Silesia province. The market has the perfect shape of a square with dimensions of 96 × 96m. Currently, in the square's southern part (a pedestrian zone) has been opened whereas in the northern part of the square sits a small park with benches, shrubs and trees positioned around a fountain. The contemporary market square architecture consists of the towns housing mainly from the 19th cen-

tury and rebuilt after the great fire in Wodzisław in 1822. The oldest house in Wodzisław market date from the 18th century (address: Rynek 1) and deserves special attention from visiting tourists. After the war, in 1945 the building was rebuilt due to damage. Other buildings worth paying attention to are numbers 2, 3, 7 and 8 – those houses are dated from the 19th century and have preserved their original appearance up until today. The historic church of Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary, originally built during the town establishment towers above the main square.



Address: Rynek, 44-300 Wodzisław Śląski / GPS: 50°0'9.53" N, 18°27'46.63" E

The Town Hall in Głubczyce

GŁUBCZYCE

The Głubczyce Town Hall is located in the middle of the original – quarter circle shaped market square in Głubczyce. The first written record of the Town Hall found in this town dates back to 1383. It was built on the site of the former merchant house and has preserved elements of the previous building. In the 16th century the Town Hall was rebuilt in the Renaissance style and at that time it gained an impressive tower with a 24 -hour clock piece. Over the next

few centuries it was refurbished several times both internally and externally. In the mid-19th century, the old Renaissance town hall was demolished and a new one was erected in its place. This new neo-Gothic town hall was decorated with reliefs of Głubczyce coats of arms. In 1945, as a result of hostilities the Głubczyce town hall was completely destroyed. The burned ruins of the Town Hall building were gradually dismantled not long

after the war, until only the base of the tower and the ground floor masonry remained. It took until 2006 for the town authorities to carry out reconstruction of the tower structure and the opening ceremony of this new "monument" took place in 2008. Currently the Town Hall serves as a location for the library and museum, and the tower operates as an excellent vantage point for sightseers. In the basement of the Town Hall the original vaults are still well preserved.



Address: Rynek 1, 48-100 Głubczyce / GPS: 50°12'0" N, 17°49'48" E

Defensive Wall with Towers in Głubczyce

GŁUBCZYCE

Głubczyce is one of the oldest towns in Silesia. Towards the end of the 13th century the town was surrounded by defensive walls. The town walls circle contained 22 towers, three gate towers and a moat. Today, nine towers and fragments of the walls have been preserved (in varying states). The best preserved sections of the town wall, partially re-modeled in the 19th century, are located near the post office. One of them is a tower – topped with a 16th century dome; the second place is the Franciscans garden's gate, which jambs contain human faces and a skull carved in stone. Most of the towers are semi-circular in plan, except for two – the tower with shingled roof by the blocks of flats on Ratuszowa Street and the tower in the garden by Staszica Street. The 'defense walls system' of Głubczyce town along with its preserved elements of the towers are unique in the whole of the country.



Address: ul. Pocztowa, 48-100 Głubczyce / GPS: 50°11'52.159" N, 17°49'41.171" E

The neo-Gothic Knights' Tower in Wodzisław Śląski

WODZISŁAW ŚLĄSKI

The tower, also known as the Romance Tower is approximately 20-meter high and was built in 1867 in the suburbs forest of – historic Grodzisk. In the thirties of the 20th century, it became very popular by being run as a restaurant and viewing place. After the war the building was unused and began to fall into disrepair. In 1991 the tower was restored with the efforts of the Society of Friends of the Wodzisławska Land. For several years it served as

a viewing point for a second time and in June of 2004, the historic tower was destroyed by fire and is currently falling into disrepair once again.

Despite its current state, the romantic knight's tower is a magical place shrouded in many legends and it is for this reason that it's worth a visit. The tower is open to public. It is not possible to visit its interior as the building threatens collapse.



Address: ul. Grodzisko, 44-300 Wodzisław Śląski / GPS: 50°00'22.55" N, 18°29'03.88" E



The Observation Tower in Włodzienin

BRANICE COMMUNE

One of the more recent tourist attractions of Silesia Euroregion is a lookout tower in Włodzienin. From its apex it offers scenic views of Głubczyce's geographical surroundings. At a glance you can see Głubczyce church towers, Czech Jeseníky and their highest peak, Praděd. The tower rises from the walls of the old Gothic church. This

church, the church of St. Nicholas was built in the 15th century in a Gothic style, and was originally a defensive building. After the reconstruction the church operated as a castle's chapel and was used mainly by the owners of the castle, castle service personnel and visitors. In 1945, during the war, the church was totally destroyed; the

only remnants were walls and the church tower.

Recently, the ruins of the church have been secured, and adapted for tourism purposes. The property as a secure ruin is open to the public; the mentioned church tower now serves as a viewing platform. The entire area is a part of the Włodzienin Historical Park.

Address: GPS: 50°6'48.73" N, 17°50'32.92" E / tel.: +48 77 485 73 61 / www.wlodzienin.srh-silesia.pl

PUBLIC MONUMENTS, CASTLES AND PALACES

The Mill in Brzeźnica

RUDNIK COMMUNE

The ceremonial launch of the restored mill in Brzeźnica took place on 27th of August 2006. Visitors can also see the old mill's machinery and equipment collected and organized into an exposition available to the public eye. Originally on the site of today's building there was a water mill built of wood and stone dating back to the 18th century. In the twenties of the 20th century, it was demolished and in its place the current brick structure was established. The mill was operating until 1946 and then as a result of nationalization it was closed. In the 90s, the building was tak-

en over by the Eichendorff's Upper Silesian 'Centre of Culture and Meetings' in Lubowice, which resulted in the mill's restoration. The history of the mill is quite closely related to poet Joseph von Eichendorff, who was born and raised in nearby Lubowice and often visited Brzeźnica mill. Apparently, the poet liked sitting in the shadows of the building, relaxing and creating his written works of poetry.

Visiting the mill needs to be agreed with its caretaker relegated by the Eichendorff's Upper Silesian Centre of Culture and Meetings in Lubowice.



Address: ul. Leśna, 47-411 Rudnik (Brzeźnica) / tel.: +48 32 414 92 07 / GPS: 50°9'1.06" N, 18°12'21.57" E

The Hradec nad Moravicí Castle

HRADEC NAD MORAVICÍ

One of the most attractive complexes of palaces and parks in the Czech Republic is located near Opava in Hradec on the picturesque hill on Moravici. The castle was established in the 11th century in place of a Slavic settlement of the Golensizi tribe from the 8th century, and in the 13th century the castle was expanded by Czech King Ottokar II into the representative residence. From 1778 to 1945 the Lichnowsky family owned the castle, and gave the castle its present appearance. In the second half of the 19th century the Red Palace, a copy from an old-German medieval castle was added. Finally, in 1884-1891 a neo-Gothic tower, called "the White tower" was built. A large gatehouse built in an English Gothic style leads onto the palace and park premises.



The palace has a very rich history. Among some of the more noted visiting guests were: Ludwig van Beethoven, Franciszek Liszt, Niccolò Paganini, and Josef Mánes.

After World War II, the Lichnowsky property was nationalized. The castle interior was converted into a Museum that still operates today where the visitors can see a rich collection of works of art as well as learning about the history of the palace and families living within it. In the Red Castle visitors will find a hotel and gourmet restaurant. A well-kept English style park surrounds the palace with an area of approximately 130 hectares. In the summer Hradec Palace attracts droves of music lovers through the traditional festival of "Beethoven's Hradec".

Address: Městečko čp. 2, 747 41 Hradec nad Moravicí / tel.: +420 553 783 915 / www.zamek-hradec.cz / GPS: 49°51'55.00" N, 17°52'28.65" E

The Palace in Fulnek

FULNEK

Visible from a distance and the most important landmark of the town of Fulnek is a palace seated high on a cliff. Built on the site of its predecessor (a Gothic style castle from the 13th century), the Palace was finally completed in the early 19th century after a great fire destroyed the castle and the town in 1801. The palace complex consists of two structures – Upper Palace and much newer Lower Palace. The palace complex has a rich history, and many owners, one of them being the Belgian King Leopold, who



purchased the property in 1855. During the interwar period the palace was owned by Jaromír Špaček, a lawyer from Ostrava. Later it was confiscated by the Germans, and was used for administrative purposes in the newly created Sudetenland. During the war, the castle wasn't damaged, although the town itself suffered a lot.

Today the property, as one of the few in the Czech Republic, is restored and is in private hands and is not open to the public.

Address: Náměstí Komenského 12, 742 45 Fulnek / tel.: +420 556 713 713 / GPS: 49°42'44.55" N, 17°54'26.20" E

The Palace and the Museum in Kravaře

KRAVAŘE

The palace in Kravaře gained its present image, after a major refurbishment of the former castle, which took place in 1721-1728. The current baroque mansion consists of a four-winged building around an inner courtyard. All wings and courtyard are designed on a rectangular plan. One of the wings is dominated by the Chapel of St. Michael the Archangel, luckily undamaged in the fire that destroyed the palace in 1937. The chapel's dome is decorated with magnificent frescoes, designed by a well known Silesia baroque artist, Franz G. Eckstein (made

in 1727-1730), and sculptures by Johann G. Lehnert. Also involved in this work was – Michal Sedziwoj, known throughout Europe as an alchemist, and was connected to the castle in Kravaře, and also Jakub Eichendorff, the ancestor of the famous poet Joseph von Eichendorff.

The palace is surrounded by a large park (partially converted into a golf course). The park is open to public access for walking and exploring and the Palace itself can be visited, as there is a museum and a restaurant located inside it.



Address: Náměstí 43, 747 21 Kravaře / tel.: +420 553 671 201 / GPS: 49°55'44.14" N, 17°59'57.39" E

The Palace and the Museum in Nový Jičín

NOVÝ JIČÍN

This small, Renaissance chateau was built in the middle of the 16th century by the Žerotíns family (Nový Jičín owners at that time) on the site of a public, Gothic castle. When the palace owners and builders left the town, the palace became the seat of the town hall. In 1621 the building was damaged by fire and during the Thirty Years' War it was plundered by the Swedes, and then used as a granary. Until the suppression of the Order in 1772, the Jesuits managed the site,

bringing it to a working condition. Throughout the 19th and 20th centuries many alterations, modifications and minor repairs were performed. The palace is the location of the Regional Museum presenting the history of the town and surrounding areas. One of the museum attractions is a very interesting exhibition on the development of hat-making. Exhibitions are held in the historic halls of the castle and are organized by the museum.



Address: 28. října 12, 741 11 Nový Jičín / tel.: +420 556 701 156 / www.muzeumnj.cz/zerotinsky-zamek-v-novem-jicine / GPS: 49°35'36.78" N, 18°0'37.23" E

The Palace in Šilheřovice

ŠILHEŘOVICE

The palace dates back to the beginning of the 18th century, when the new owners of the Šilheřovice – Eichendorffs' family commissioned the construction of the palace in the site of the former, Renaissance building. From 1844 to 1945, the property remained in the hands of the Rothschild, family of bankers. In the eighties of the 19th century, the mansion was rebuilt in a neo-Baroque style by Albert von Rothschild. After 1945 the palace was used as a youth home, mining school, and later as a training center. The property has been privately owned since 2008. The palace is surrounded by a large English style park, with rare species of trees from all around



the world. It also houses one of the largest 18-hole golf courses in the Czech Republic. There is also a hunting lodge in the park, which

currently doubles as a restaurant. The impressive looking palace can be viewed from the outside although the interior is partially

open to visitors during commercial events, banquets, weddings, parties, balls, etc.

Address: K Zámku, 747 15 Šilheřovice / tel.: +420 599 500 100 / www.zameksilheřovice.cz / GPS: 49°55'33.66" N, 18°10'29.52" E

The Castle and the Museum in Hlučín

Hlučín

The castle is one of the oldest Hlučín buildings, although its beginnings is almost unknown. Most likely a late-Gothic fortress, it was built at the turn of the 14th and 15th centuries. The castle, being part of the town walls primarily served a defensive role. In 1525 it was rebuilt by the owners of that time – the Zwolski family. At the end of the 16th century, the castle was rebuilt into a three-wing Renaissance chateau with arcades and a courtyard. In the 19th century the tower and part of the south wing were demol-

ished. Remodeling and renovations destroyed the distinctive features of the earlier styles of the building. The palace housed, among others amenities, an orphanage, a school and a court.

Today it is a two-storey unit composing of three unequal sections in a U-shape designed. After the recent renovation it houses a library, museum, tourist information center and a small restaurant.

The castle is available to the public during the museum and the library opening hours.



Address: Zámecká 4, Hlučín / tel.: + 420 595 041 337 / GPS: 49°53'46.99" N, 18°11'7.79" E

The Silesian Ostrava Castle in Ostrava

Ostrava



The Silesian Ostrava Castle in Ostrava (sometimes called 'the Castle in the Silesian Ostrava') is an example of a historical building,

which today is connected to history purely through its location. It was reopened after reconstruction works in 2004, and still re-

minds residents and visitors about the rich and complicated history of Ostrava. The origins of the castle situated on Ostravici is dated back to the second half of the 13th century, when the town was built to protect the trade routes from Opava through Cieszyn to Krakow, while also acting as a fortress on the border of Silesia and Moravia. In the next few centuries the castle changed owners several times. Significant, Renaissance redevelopments of the castle was made in the sixteenth century. In 1714 the imperial province governor and diplomat, Count Henry Wilczek of goods Dobrá Zemice, became the owner of the mansion. In 1872 the building burnt down, and

was rebuilt. The cause of its final downfall later on was coal mining directly under the castle (castle sank by 16 m).

In the 1930s the building was completely abandoned and not fit for use and World War II further devastated the building. After the war the castle still had no luck in respects of its managers, and as a result, whatever remained (and had some historical value) was destroyed throughout that time. In 2001, the city of Ostrava bought the site and started intensive reconstruction. Today, the castle has a historical exhibition and holds many cultural and social events.

Address: Hradní 1, 710 00 Ostrava-Slezská Ostrava / www.cerna-louka.cz/slezskoostravskyhrad / GPS: 49°49'49.807" N, 18°17'59.757" E

The Palace in Velké Hoštice

Velké Hoštice

The first mansion in Velké Hoštice was founded at the turn of the 15th and 16th centuries. The current palace, probably on the site of an earlier building, was founded in 1754, by the owner of the mansion Ignacy Dominik Chorynský. Built in the Baroque style the palace became an important center of cultural and social life. One of the frequent visitors of the palace was, the famous 18th century composer Karl Ditters von Dittersdorf. In 1840, the building, at that time in possession of the family Sprinzenstein, was partly rebuilt in a neo-Classicism style. The palace exterior is currently in a

very good condition. It comprises of two wings – the main three-storey wing, and a two-storey rear wing. The impression makes (amongst others) richly decorated Rococo elevations.

The palace is owned by the Commune. It houses a library and Retirement Club. The palace also holds an exhibition of local archaeological exhibits and a presentation of the recent history of the village. The building is currently trading as a restaurant and wine-bar. The residence is surrounded by well-maintained 19th Žerotín Landscape Park with an area of almost 3 hectares.

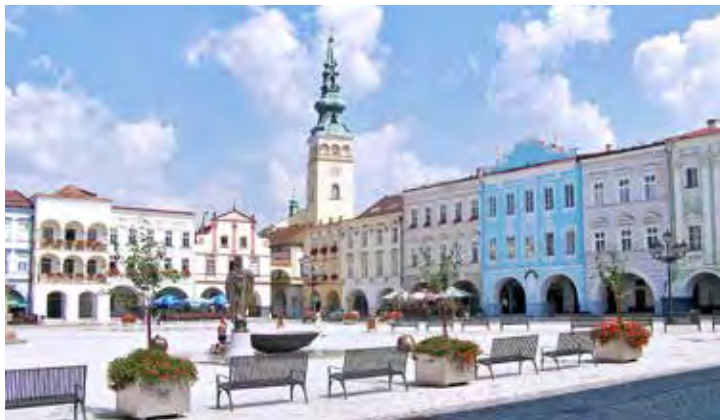


Address: Zámecká 195, 747 31 Velké Hoštice / tel.: + 420 553 764 062 / GPS: 49°55'59.89" N, 17°58'20.30" E

The Old Town in Nový Jičín

NOVÝ JIČÍN

It is believed, that the Nový Jičín market is one of the most beautiful on the north side of the Alps. Around the square-shaped market, and also in neighboring streets there are about 50 historical town houses, dated around the late Gothic or Renaissance period. As part of the construction, many of them have arcades, that way the architecture of the various houses combines many centuries. A unique monument, called 'an Old Post Office', (a house with the one-storey arched covered balcony), was built by unknown Italian builders in the spirit of the Tuscan Renaissance. Attention should also be drawn to the White Angel House with its facade decorated in the Rococo style. Baroque Mary's column (from 1710) and a fountain decorated with dancers dressed in German



costumes of the 1930s era can be found in the market place.

The city center is encircled by remnants of the town's wall of the 14th

and 15th centuries, which also has a hexagonal bastion tower of the 17th century. The magnificent Baroque church of the Assumption of the Vir-

gin Mary, dated 1729-1732, is also worth mentioning. Nearby is the renaissance palace which is also an interesting location to visit.

Address: Masarykovo náměstí, 741 01 Nový Jičín / www.novyjicin.cz / GPS: 49°35'41.44" N, 18°0'38.18" E

The Town Hall and the Tower "Hláška" in Opava

OPAVA

The large, neo-Renaissance Town Hall built in the early 20th century is located on the Upper Opava market. Its central part consists of a four-sided and three-storey tower topped with a cupola and an open lantern with three bells. It is the famous Tower "Hláška" in Opava. The structure was built in 1614-1618, in the Renaissance style, on the site of an earlier wooden version, and

for centuries it was the merchandising center of the town. From the tower cloisters chiming bells would warn of fires and other hazards, as well as announcing the beginning of fairs and other major events. Underneath the building there was a weigh house and some warehouses. During times of wooden buildings, the tower was the seat of the town council and the court. What is

also interesting is that from 1763 to 1805 the theater would perform on the first floor of the tower. In 1803-1888, after extending the building it became the location of the Town Archives and Museum.

Currently, the entire building is the seat of the town authorities of Opava, and the tower is open to enjoy panoramic views of the city.



Address: Horní náměstí 69, 746 01 Opava / tel.: +420 553 756 143 / GPS: 49°56'19.968" N, 17°54'9.248" E

The Viewing Tower of Ostrava Town Hall

OSTRAVA

Ostrava Town Hall is a unique building – it is the biggest town hall in the country, with the highest town hall tower (85.6 m). From the observation deck at 73 meters one can watch Beskids and Jeseníky mountains, the Opava Region, Moravian Gate and the border areas in Poland (weather permitting). Above all, there is a beautiful view from the tower full of lush green areas of Ostrava. The building was officially opened on 28th October 1930 on the national holiday of the Republic of Czechoslovakia. The Town Hall building is located on Jan Prokeš Place. The dominating part of the

square is a fountain, with a monumental, seven tones and 3.5 m high sculpture of Icarus. This fountain a symbol of the "highs and lows" of Ostrava, the monument is the third largest bronze figure in the Czech Republic. The viewing tower is open to the public throughout the year and it is one of the main tourist attractions in Ostrava. The building is also accessible for people with disabilities.



Address: Prokešovo náměstí 1803/8, 702 00 Ostrava / tel.: +420 599 443 096 / GPS: 49°50'29.8" N, 18°17'28.9" E

Church monuments



The Basilica of the Birth of the Virgin Mary and Calvary in Pszów

Pszów



One of the most well known pilgrimage churches in Silesia is The Basilica of the Birth of Virgin Mary in Pszów. The church was built in 1743-47, to replace the smaller, dilapidated church. The reason for the building of the new church could be related to the ever expanding 'cult visitors' of painting of Our Lady of

Pszów at that time. The history of the painting is an intriguing one. A local artist from the nearby town of Wodzisław significantly repainted the copy of the painting of Our Lady from Częstochowa that was brought over from a pilgrimage to Częstochowa in 1722. The painter removed features typical for Our

Lady from Częstochowa from Saint Mary's figure in the picture and has been given a pleasant, serene look on her face. As time passed – the painting received a new name – Our Smiling Lady, which is still in use today. The painting started to gain a reputation for God's graces and pilgrims from different and distant parts of Silesia steadily started flowing in to the church. In 1732 the painting was crowned. In 1847-50 the church's exterior towers were heightened to slightly reflect the style of great pilgrimage churches in Austrian Silesia.

Inside the sanctuary special attention should be given to the main altar constructed in 1904. It is shaped as a miniature sanctuary with semicircular positioned columns supporting the canopy. This altar was modeled on the older altar from 1791 which was placed in the chancel to be a "throne" for the miraculous painting.

In 1997 Pope John Paul II gave this Parish Church the title of 'Minor Basilica' along with all privileges and obligations attached to the status.

The organizing of the Calvary was initiated at the beginning of 20th century, at a distance of 3 km from the church. In the beginning the Calvary was formed of oak posts with painted pictures of the Passion of Christ on the metal plate sheets. Over time brick shrines were also added. The process of the construction of the Calvary lasted until 1929, when The Calvary in Pszów was consecrated. Calvary ceremonies are held the night before the Celebration of Indulgence in Basilica in Pszów, which is the last Saturday in June. That is associated with the Celebrations of Saints Peter and Paul also on the Saturday after 7th September.

The Basilica and the Calvary are open to visitors and pilgrims throughout the whole year.

Address: ul. Bohaterów Westerplatte 1, 44-370 Pszów / tel.: +48 32 455 77 82 / www.nmp-pszow.katowice.opoka.org.pl/ / Basilica – GPS: 50°2'28.08" N, 18°23'36.81" E / Calvary – GPS: 50°3'17.60" N, 18°23'52.34" E

The Sanctuary of Our Lady of Fatima in Turza Śląska

GORZYCE COMMUNE

The process of the building of the present church in Turza Śląska was initiated by Rev. Ewald Kasperczyk after the end of World War II. He also suggested the Patron for the church and also initiated the cult of Our Lady of Fatima. The church was consecrated by Bishop Stanisław Adamski from Katowice in 1948. Pilgrimages from different areas began arriving to the Parish calling the place "Silesian Fatima". On 29th August 1959 an original statue was brought over from Fatima

which started the ceremony of visiting (it was sent to local parishes to promote the 'Our Lady of Fatima' cult) many parishes in the province and outside of it.

In 2004, the image of Our Lady of Fatima in Turza Śląska was given a crown from the Pope through Archbishop Józef Kowalczyk. Nowadays, in addition to the Our Lady of Fatima image painted by F. Worek, visitors can also see the frescoes by J. Kołodziejczyk of 1971 on the church's walls, displaying the story



of the apparitions in Fatima. Around the church is The Calvary with Stations of the Cross of 1959, twenty Rosary chapels and the Paradise Square with the well. The Sanctuary is known for celebrating 'The Days of the Sick' and for the Indulgences taking place on Sundays after the 13th of the month from May to October. During the night from 29th to 30th each month at 8.00pm there is a Mass service celebration, which begins an all-night service, called the Night of Penance.

Address: ul. Tysiąclecia 15, 44-351 Turza Śląska / tel.: +48 32 45 11 660 / www.sanktuarium.turza.pl/ / GPS: 49°58'11.1" N, 18°26'47.9" E

The Church and Convent of the Franciscans in Głubczyce

GŁUBCZYCE

This existing monastery complex was built between the years 1753 to 1770. This complex contains the Baroque church of Ss. Giles and Bernardine and distinctive four-wing monastery in the form of a typical square shape with patio in the middle. The single-nave church has a superb Baroque and Rococo decor. Franciscan Order coat of arms: crossed arms of Christ and St. Francis of Assisi has been placed above the church portal. The Franciscan church and monas-

tery was built in 1448 from the funds of the last Duke of Opava and Głubczyce of Przemyslid dynasty – Jan Pobożny. However, in 1476, the wooden constructions were burned. The monastery complex was rebuilt, this time in stone. During the Reformation, Protestants took over the complex. In the seventeenth century the Franciscans returned and started the renovation of the monastery buildings, completed with a thorough reconstruction of the building in 1770.



Address: ul. Zakonna 6, 48-100 Głubczyce / tel.: +48 77 485 24 82 / GPS: 50°11'58.999" N, 17°50'1" E

The Church of the Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary in Racibórz

RACIBÓRZ

Racibórz parish is one of the oldest parishes in the Upper-Silesia and the only one that retained the attributes of early Silesian Gothic. According to tradition, it was founded in 1205 and situated in the southern corner of the Market Square. Despite multiple reconstructions the church kept the original Gothic shape with a distinctive stellar vault. In the chancel attention is attracted to the main Baroque altar made in 1656-1660 with valuable paintings of the coronation of the Virgin Mary

(17th century) and the Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary (1890). In the altar crowning there is a figure of St. Marcel, the Racibórz patron, whom according to the legend had saved the town from an invasion of the Scythians. The slender, distinctive tower has its origins from 1887. The important part of the church is the Polish Chapel dated for the 15th-century, located by the main churches entrance.

The church is a witness of former disputes between the Polish and

German-speaking community in Racibórz. Both the chapel and the church were severely damaged in 1945. Also at that time reliquary of Ofka (Euphemia) that was kept in the chapel disappeared. Ofka was worshiped in Racibórz, the saintly daughter of Przemyśl of the Piast dynasty, whose canonization is still processing. The place of her burial is commemorated by the marble plaque and numerous votive offerings as thanking gifts for graces received through her intercession.



Address: ul. Mickiewicza 8, 47-400 Racibórz / tel.: +48 32 4154908 / www.farny.com.pl / GPS: 50°5'28.18" N, 18°13'13.96" E

The Church of St Margaret and the Community Help Centre in Łyski

ŁYSKI COMMUNE



The Parish and church in Łyski existed at the beginning of the 16th century. Up to the end of 19th century the structures were made of wood.

As the village was expanding it needed a bigger church. The new neo-Gothic church was built in 1904-1906. In this 3-nave building with hemispherical shaped ceilings the side aisles are lower than the nave. Transferred from the old church were: the painting of St Margaret which was placed on the main altar and the corps of the crucified Christ on the cross which is in a crypt of the church. Also worth seeing is the neo-Gothic building of the St. Joseph Com-

munity Help Centre in Łyski. It was established in 1847-48 from the initiative of the Secretary of the Patrimonial Court in the prince's domain in Rudy. Secretary Joseph Benedict Polednik, the owner of Łyski – Nowa Wieś, to honor the death of his son Edward, established in 1846, the foundation of "St. Joseph Poor House". As part of the foundation he built a distinctive neo-Gothic building that became the Educational and Care Institution for Girls, run by nuns which were transferred to Łyski from Vienna.

Facilities are open to the public throughout the whole year after prior appointment with the administrators.

Address (Church): ul. Rybnicka 4, 44-295 Łyski / tel.: +48 32 430 00 11 / www.parafialyski.home.pl / GPS: 50°7'5.93" N, 18°23'16.49" E

Address (Community Help Centre): ul. Rybnicka 7, 44-295 Łyski / tel.: +48 32 430 00 06 / GPS: 50°07'07.6" N, 18°23'15.4" E

The Church of the Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary in Wodzisław Śląski

WODZISŁAW ŚLĄSKI

The church is one of the architectural symbols of Wodzisław built in 1909-1911 to replace the dismantled 16th century church which had also replaced an earlier parish church from 13th century. The designer, Ludwik Schneider, was an author of many Silesian churches. Parish of Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary in Wodzisław Śląski along with the church was

recognized with the town establishment in 1257. However the first records of the church are even earlier than that.

The church was built in a neo-Gothic style, on a cruciform design. The striking central tower was restored from the war damages after 2001. The church amenities include many paintings and an 18th century sculpture which comes largely from the old

church as well as other paintings and 18th century sculptures. It is also worth paying attention to the marble and wooden altar, with a superbly decorated tabernacle placed on it. The church is open to public.



Address: ul. Kościelna 1, 44-300 Wodzisław Śląski / tel.: +48 32 455 35 71 / www.wnmp.pl / GPS: 50°0'14.22" N, 18°27'44.66" E

The Post Dominican Church of St. Jacob's The Elder in Racibórz

RACIBÓRZ

The origins of the Dominican convent in Racibórz date back to the thirties of the 13th century. The church certainly existed earlier (1258).

Among the local Dominicans was Vincent from Kielcza, the author of "Gaude Mater Polonia" anthem and the lost chronicle, which – contains the first Polish sentence, exclamation: "calamity happened to us" recorded perhaps in Racibórz. A fire from 1300 destroyed the

church first and then the monastery buildings. After reconstruction the church gained a much larger chancel and a tower. Renaissance vaults were introduced during the reconstruction after the fire of 1574, but the original shape of the building remained unchanged. In later periods, the interior was enriched with Baroque elements. In 1823-1829 the monastery was demolished and in 1874 the church was rebuilt in a pseudo –Romanesque style pre-

serving many elements of its Gothic looks.

Despite its destruction in 1945 in the churches interior is surprisingly well preserved. Something very interesting for example is the decoration of the ceiling inside the Saint Cross Chapel, oratory of von Gaschin's family, benefactors of the monastery. The church is open (for religious purposes) during Sunday services.



Address: Plac Dominikański, 47-400 Racibórz / tel.: +48 32 415 49 08 / www.farny.com.pl / GPS: 50°5'32.68" N, 18°13'14.66" E

The Church of the Birth of Virgin Mary in Głubczyce

GŁUBCZYCE



The Gothic parish church of the Birth of Virgin Mary dates back to the 13th century, throughout the next century it was extended. From 1279 it was under the patronage of the Order of St John. Another expansion in the neo-Gothic style – took place between the years 1903-07. The church's interior decoration comes from the late 19th and early 20th century. Inside the church are the remains of authentic Gothic portals and a group of tombstones from 16th and 17th century. It is also worth noting the 3-naval, an early-Gothic church's body with a porch entrance and carved stone plant decorations in the church aisles as well as wall buttresses with cubic capitals in the porch beneath the tower of the chancel. There is also an old 60-rank organ which is over 100 years in the church made by "Gebrüder Rieger" – an organ factory from nearby Krnov.

Address: ul. Jana Pawła II 7, 48-100 Głubczyce / tel.: +48 77 485 25 25 / www.parafia.glubczyce.pl / GPS: 50°12'6.944" N, 17°49'43.259" E

The Church of Ss. Peter and Paul Apostles in Tworków and the Country Church of Saint Urban

KRZYŻANOWICE COMMUNE

The Church was built between 1691 and 1694 and replaced the previous, old wooden church. It is one of the most valuable pieces of Baroque architecture in the Racibórz area! The single-nave church, oriented, has a rich collection lot of items and artifacts mainly from the 17th and 18th century. There is a preserved polychromy from 1749, box balcony pew ("Lords cupboard"), and the pulpit and side Baroque altars. Particularly impressive is the high altar, with a wealthy amount of wooden carved decorations. At the end of the last century, during a major renovation of the church, under the church floor 11 intricately decorated coffins of the seventeenth century were discovered. Sarcophagi made

of copper metal sheet, and richly decorated with polychrome and gilded with gold, along with inscriptions from the Bible and information about the deceased have been reconstructed and placed in the side chapel of the church. As well as the unique clothing taken from the coffins, the whole collection evidently stands out comparing to the similar ones that can be seen at Wawel, Vienna and Munich.

Nearby the village, next to the forest, there is another church: country church of Saint Urban from 1779. It operates today as a pilgrimage centre. The services take place a few times a year. The place itself: "Urbanek" is quite often a popular destination for residents and cyclists.



The Parish church is open to public every day after the Mass service or after a prior reservation. There is

also an option of a guided tour. The Church on Urbanek is open only during services.

Address: ul. Główna 19, 47-451 Tworków / tel.: +48 32 419 62 26 / GPS: 50°0' 30.74" N, 18°14' 7.11" E

The Parish Church of Ss. Simone and Jude Apostles in Raszczyce

LYSKI COMMUNE

Parish Church of Ss. Simone and Jude Apostles was consecrated on 29th October 1911. It was erected to replace the previous, wooden church from the 12th century. The new, church in the style of neo-Romanesque was designed by a great Silesian architect Ludwik Schneider. He was also an author of the projects of the church of the Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary in Wodzisław Śląski, Basilica of St. Anthony and the church in nearby Pstrężna.

Raszczyce church is an aisle-less building with transept. A relatively low, four-sided tower is crowned with a four sided tented roof. In the church interior there is some preserved artifacts and fittings from the previous church, including the painting of the Virgin Mary with Child called Raszczyce Madonna placed on the high altar.

After severe war damage in 1945 the church was rebuilt and nowadays "attracts the eye" with its originality and interesting silhouette shape.



Address: ul. Raciborska 10, 47-435 Raszczyce / tel.: +48 32 430 00 85 / GPS: 50°7'15.68" N, 18°18' 8.80" E

The Church of St. Wenceslas in Krzanowice

KRZANOWICE COMMUNE

The church of St. Wenceslas (the king of Czech) in Krzanowice was first mentioned in 1228. Throughout the centuries the parish church was damaged several times. After another fire at the beginning of the 20th century, the decision was made to build a new, bigger church; which was built within one and an half years and consecrated on 13th November 1915. The present church has a neo-Baroque appearance. It

is built on a Greek-cruciform design with a tower on the west side and a semi-circular chancel on the east. The church is enclosed by an old, brick wall with a small gate from the 18th century and the preserved remains of defensive bastion of the 16th century era.

This tremendous church has a 48 m length, the nave is 27m wide but together with its chapels it measures 35 m. The ceiling is 17m high and

with the cupola together it measures 20 m. The tower is 56m high. Antique pieces from the previous, old church decorate the spacious interior. Inside, there are 18th century altars, pulpit, statues and paintings of saints. Your attention is also attracted to the polychromies dating from 1915 made by Munich artists.



Address: ul. Kościelna 5, 47-470 Krzanowice / tel.: +48 32 410 80 94 / www.krzanowice.opole.opoka.org.pl / GPS: 50°1'3.80" N, 18°7'11.51" E

St. George Church in Mszana

MSZANA COMMUNE

The church in Mszana was first mentioned in 1447. This first church remained until 1709 when the new, (also wooden) church was built and operated up until the end of the 19th century. On the 24th April 1898 the new church was consecrated. It was built in neo-Gothic style de-

signed by Josef Ebers. This architect worked mainly in Wrocław, although he also designed the church of Ss. Peter and Paul Apostles in Katowice. The building works were managed by brothers Fuchs Company from Rybnik. During the 2nd War the church, like most of the

local churches was severely damaged. These damages were relatively quick to repair. The Parish graveyard from early the 16th century encloses the church.

The church is open to public during services and after prior to a phone arrangement with the Vicar.



Address: ul. Mickiewicza 88, 44-325 Mszana / tel.: +48 32 472 00 93 / GPS: 49°57'59.00" N, 18°31'44.81" E

The Church of St. Nicholas in Pstrązna and the Monument of the Silesian Insurgents

LYSKI COMMUNE



Church of St. Nicholas in Pstrązna is the Neo-Romanesque pearl of Rybnik area. It was dedicated on 10th December 1905 and interestingly enough was consecrated 75 years later (7th December 1980). The church replaced the previous, wooden one (from 1684) which was too small to hold all services participants and was dismantled in 1903. The church in Pstrązna is a 3-nave, hall church with a transept. Attention is directed to the Neo-Baroque altars and statues of the Virgin Mary with Child and St. John the Evangelist from the previous, old church. There is also a polychromed stone baptismal font from 18th century and a stoup from 17th century. The distinctive church element is the four sided tower with three levels closed with tented roof.

On the neighboring graveyard is the Monument of the Silesian Insurgents who died during World War II and were murdered in concentration camps. The monument is in the form of a three-part stele crowned with an emblem. In front of the church there is a magnificent oak, which in its circuit measures 5,5m. The tree is a natural monument in this area.

Address: ul. Wyzwolenia 28, 44-284 Pstrązna / tel.: +48 32 430 00 80 / GPS: 50°5'19.10" N, 18°21'28.21" E

Sacred Heart Chapel in Baborów

BABORÓW COMMUNE

The Neo-Gothic Chapel of the Sacred Heart was built in 1889. At that time the church belonged to the village Jaroniów, which in 1929 was incorporated into the town Baborów. From its beginnings Jaroniów was connected to the Sovereign Military Hospitaller Order

of Saint John of Jerusalem in Grobniki. Jaroniów was first mentioned in 1377. Interestingly, housed in the chapel is: the Baroque figures, remembering the Knights of Malta times, placed by the chapel entrance. Also, figures of St. John Nepomucen and St. Florian are positioned on plinths with Moravian inscriptions and have their origins in mid-18th century.

The Chapel is open after prior arrangement with the Vicar of the Birth of Virgin Mary church in Baborów.



Address: ul. Opawska 17, 48-120 Baborów / GPS: 50°9'13.18" N, 17°59'0.86" E

Połednik family Tomb-Chapel in Lyski and the old cemetery from XIVth century

LYSKI COMMUNE

The old cemetery is located in the centre of Lyski village and it comprises of some interesting memorabilia. The graveyard was probably established in the 14th century and deployed around local church. That wooden church was dismantled in 1907 due to its technical condition. Located in the cemetery there is a Neo-Gothic, Polednik (Polednik) family

ly Tomb-Chapel. It was consecrated in 1850. The chapel was funded by Józef Benedykt Polednik, owner of Lyski – Nowa Wieś and the Secretary of the Patrimonial Court in Rudy. The chapel in the cemetery contains the remains of the founder, his wife Ernestine Eve and their son, Edward. Inside the chapel there was an altar – where services were sometimes

held. During the War, in 1945 the chapel was destroyed and then restored in 1958 as a cemetery chapel. Among the many preserved, historic tombstones in the cemetery dating from 19th and 20th centuries, the interesting one is the tombstone of Franciszka Godula, who died in 1813 – the mother of Silesian "King of Zinc" Karol Godula.



Address: ul. Robotnicza, 44-295 Lyski / GPS: 50°7'1.75" N, 18°23'9.28" E

The Wooden Church of Ss. Joseph and Barbara in Baborów

BABORÓW COMMUNE

The wooden church was built in 1700-1702 under the patronage of Rev. Szymon (Piotr) Motloch, the Parish Vicar at those times. The church was built using a Greek-cross design; the transept is closed with a 3-sided wall. The church is made of hewn, larch wood on a stone foundation. The church interior is made in a Baroque style with an interesting polychrome on the ceiling and the church walls. The high altar in the chancel holds the painting of the Holy Family

and St. Barbara is richly ornamented. Four side-altars are also decorated in the Baroque style. Since 1946 the chapel has been under the custody of the Carmelites and its current function is to be a cemetery church. It is one of the most beautiful wooden spectacles in High Silesia and an example of the folk art and culture of this region.

The church can be visited after prior arrangement with the Vicar of the Birth of Virgin Mary church in Baborów.



Address: ul. Wiejska, 48-120 Baborów / GPS: 50°9'39.56" N, 17°59'4.34" E

The Pilgrimage Church of the Holy Cross in Pietrowice Wielkie

PIETROWICE WIELKIE COMMUNE

The wooden church of the Holy Cross was established by the tract from Pietrowice Wielkie to Gródczanki. The church, originally of the size of chapel was built in 1667 by the well in which, according to the legend, shepherds found the painting of the Crucified Jesus. After news circulated about the miraculous properties of the well water, the area became a popular destination for pilgrimages. In 1743 the church was enlarged and in 1783 Father Anzelm Kotterba obtained Indulgences from Pope Pius VI for the pilgrims who visit the church on celebration of The Exaltation of the Holy Cross. The décor of the church

interior is in the Baroque style: the high altar holds the painting of The Crucified Christ "Ecce Homo", two-sided altar paintings of St Anna and Our Lady of the Rosary. In addition to the indulgence ceremony which contains Mass services in three languages: Polish, Czech and German, the Church witnesses of the Horse Processions held on Easter Mondays.

In recent years the 'Well' organized a green leisure area in the church neighborhood for the reason of creating a place of rest for visitors. The Church's exterior is available to admire throughout the whole year and the interior during the services.



Address: ul. Ks. Bończyka, 47-480 Pietrowice Wielkie (Gródczanki) / tel.: +48 32 419 80 48 / GPS: 50°4'19.36" N, 18°3'51.41" E

The Chapel of the Rosary in Buków

LUBOMIA COMMUNE



The small wooden chapel from 1770 is located in the village central square. It was built on a rectangular design plan, as a log cabin structure with a three-sided closure on the east side. The roof is a dual-pitched, shingled. At the top is a six-sided tower with a tented roof. The double doors with metal fittings and a lintel are dated the same age of chapel's establishment are impressive to see. The interior presents a new box body altarpiece and polychromed figure of St. Izydor and a figure of

Our Lady of the Rosary.

To protect the chapel from regular, local Buków flooding, it was raised in 1930 by placing it on a concrete plinth imitating the stone foundation. Despite that, in "the flood of the century" in 1997, the chapel was severely damaged. The local residents came together and quickly restored it. The chapel exterior is available to visit throughout the whole year. In May and October there are 'once a week' services in the chapel.

Address: ul. Główna, 44-360 Buków / GPS: 49°59'56.7" N, 18°17'19.6" E

Holy Savior Cathedral in Ostrava

OSTRAVA

The Holy Savior Cathedral in Ostrava along with the Co-Cathedral of the Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary in Opava are the central churches in the erected Roman Catholic diocese of Ostrava-Opava in 1996. The cathedral in Ostrava was built in 1883-1889 and being the second Moravian Ostrava parish, it received the status of the parish church in 1927. The building in its form refers to the classical Roman basilica. The nave of 60m ends

with a semicircular apse. It can hold about 4000 people, and it is the second biggest church in Moravia. On the outside attention is drawn to two symmetrical, 67-meters towers. Luckily the church was not damaged during the second War. In 1999 the reliquary with the relics of St. Jadwiga of Silesia was placed on the high altar.

The church is open to the public throughout the year without a guide.



Address: Náměstí Msgr Šrámka, 702 00 Moravská Ostrava / tel.: +420 776 098 787 / www.farnostmostrava.cz/ / GPS: 49°50'9.54" N, 18°17'20.40" E

The Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary Co-Cathedral in Opava

OPAVA

One of the most interesting historical sites in Opava Silesian is the Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary Co-Cathedral in Opava. Completed in the 14th century by The Order of Brothers of the German House of Saint Mary in Jerusalem (Teutonic Knights) is the pearl of Gothic architecture. The Gothic construction was erected replacing the previous, Roman

church. It is the largest Silesian Gothic brick building today. The church has two towers, one of them crowned with a Baroque cupola and is 102m high and is the highest in the Silesia. In 1689 in the big town fire of Opava town this Gothic church was damaged. Almost all of the altars including the main altar and the Silesia organs and bells (the finest of those

times) were destroyed. Repair work lasted until June 1789 and was affected with the new, Baroque character of the church interior.

In 1996, when a new diocese of Ostrava-Opava was established, the church received the status of co-cathedral which meant it was the second after the cathedral in Ostrava centre of the diocese.



Address: Almužnická 182/2, 746 01 Opava / tel.: +420 733 307 117 / GPS: 49°56'19.73" N, 17°54'1.53" E

The Church of the Most Holy Trinity in Fulnek

FULNEK

Roman Catholic parish church of the Holy Trinity Church in Fulnek was built in 1750-1760 replacing the Gothic church of Ss. Philip and James. Building the new church was related to a growing cult of the miraculous painting of Our Lady of Perpetual Help. According to the beliefs, the painting was weeping tears and praying resulted with some miraculous healings. The church is one of the greatest and most beautiful Baroque images in North-East Moravia. The rich facade towering over the town highlights its magnificence from the far distance. In the interior there are unique frescoes, some of them form the composition of *Biblia pauperum* which is passing the religious intentions to illiterate people. The chapel of St Joseph is also worth some attention, it is seated on the former chancel of the previous, Gothic church. The church is open to the public not only during services but also each afternoon from Tuesday to Saturday.



Address: Kostelní 111, 742 45 Fulnek / tel.: +420 556 740 122 / www.farnostfulnek.cz/ / GSP: 49°42'43.10" N, 17°54'14.79" E

St. Vojtěch Church in Opava

OPAVA

St. Vojtěch church in Opava is located on the Opava Lower Main Square. Its monumental shape still makes impression on passers-by, and this was the idea, when the Counter-Reformation was succeeding in 1675-79 in Opava, Jesuits built this church. The interior still makes an impression, however, now it is only a shadow of its former glory. The church relates to the Roman church *II Jesu*. During the fights in 1945 the church was engulfed a fire which damaged almost the entire decoration and the build-



ing. The high altar burned and most frescoes were destroyed. There was an attempt to restore it to its former splendor in 1946-47. Nearby, in the Jesuits building there was boarding school.

Among the graduates of this fine school were Grzegorz Mendel, author of modern genetics fundaments, Rev. Cyprian Lelek, and Prince Feliks von Lichnowsky, politician and poet, a friend of F. Liszt. Nowadays the school building functions as the Land Archives Institution.

Address: Dolní náměstí, 746 01 Opava / tel.: +420 733 307 117 / GPS: 49°56'21.56" N, 17°54'22.01" E

St. Bartholomew Church in Kravaře

KRAVAŘE

This Neo-Gothic church of St. Bartholomew was built in 1894-96. The oldest, visible from afar, part of the construction is the white Renaissance tower from the 16th century. Contained in the tower is a stone baptismal font from the same period and two bells from the 17th century funded by Kravaře owner Jakub Eichendorff. 3 nave church was designed by local architect Josef Seyfried (1865-1923). He was an unusual character, the son of a local stonemason, (a musician at heart and who started his studies in Wrocław music conservatory); he studied architecture as an autodidact. Among others he designed churches in Krzanowice, Sudice, Ludgierzowice. After completing the church, in its direct neighborhood a new convent of the Sacred Heart Sisters was established (current Town Hall) and also the vicarage and the cemetery.



Address: Náměstí 404/41, 747 21 Kravaře / tel.: +420 731 625 813 / www.farnostkravare.cz / GPS: 49°55' 57.61" N, 18°0'15.30" E

St. John the Baptist Church in Sudice

SUDICE

The Monumental church of St. John the Baptist in Sudice was built in 1903-06 and designed by Josef Seyfried from nearby Kravaře. Built of red bricks and stone, the single-nave, Neo-Gothic construction is a smaller copy of the famous cathedral in Cologne. The church is the main part of the design project that includes: vicarage, tomb chapel and outbuildings. Stations of the Cross and other paintings are made by a well known artist from Hlučín, Jan

Bochenek. Made of white marble the high altar and a pulpit were completed later (in 1926-29). The church wasn't severely damaged during the war and today it is a pride and not only for Sudice residents.

The main doors under the tower are kept open during good weather and visitors can see the interior through the internal glass door. The interior is open during the services. And there is an option of guided tours for bigger groups.



Address: Náměstí P. Arnošta Jureczky 13, 747 25 Sudice / tel.: +420 553 761 022 / GPS: 50°2'1.27" N, 18°4'3.28" E

St. Lawrence Church in Pišť

PIŠŤ

The interesting historical structure in Polish-Czech border area is the parish church St. Lawrence Church in Pišť. Known for its 'many graces' copy of the miraculous painting of the Black Madonna of Częstochowa which is situated within the main altar. In 2001 the painting was crowned with the crowns received of the Pope and one year later the church was officially announced as the Pilgrimage Centre dedicated to prayers for peace and reconciliation between nations. In 2003 the Stations of the Cross and the Lourdes Cave in the church neighborhood were completed. The church itself comes from 1743. The interesting church elements in its interior are Baroque figures of Ss. Peter and Paul and some paintings from the end of the XVIIIth century. Above the main entrance hangs the family von Lichnowsky coat of arms, the former church patrons. The best time to visit Pišť is at the beginning of August during the Indulgences Celebrations.



Address: 747 18 Pišť / tel.: +420 595 055 114 / GPS: 49°58'42.47" N, 18°11'40.90" E

The Wooden Church of Ss. Peter and Paul in Hněvošice

HŇEVOŠICE

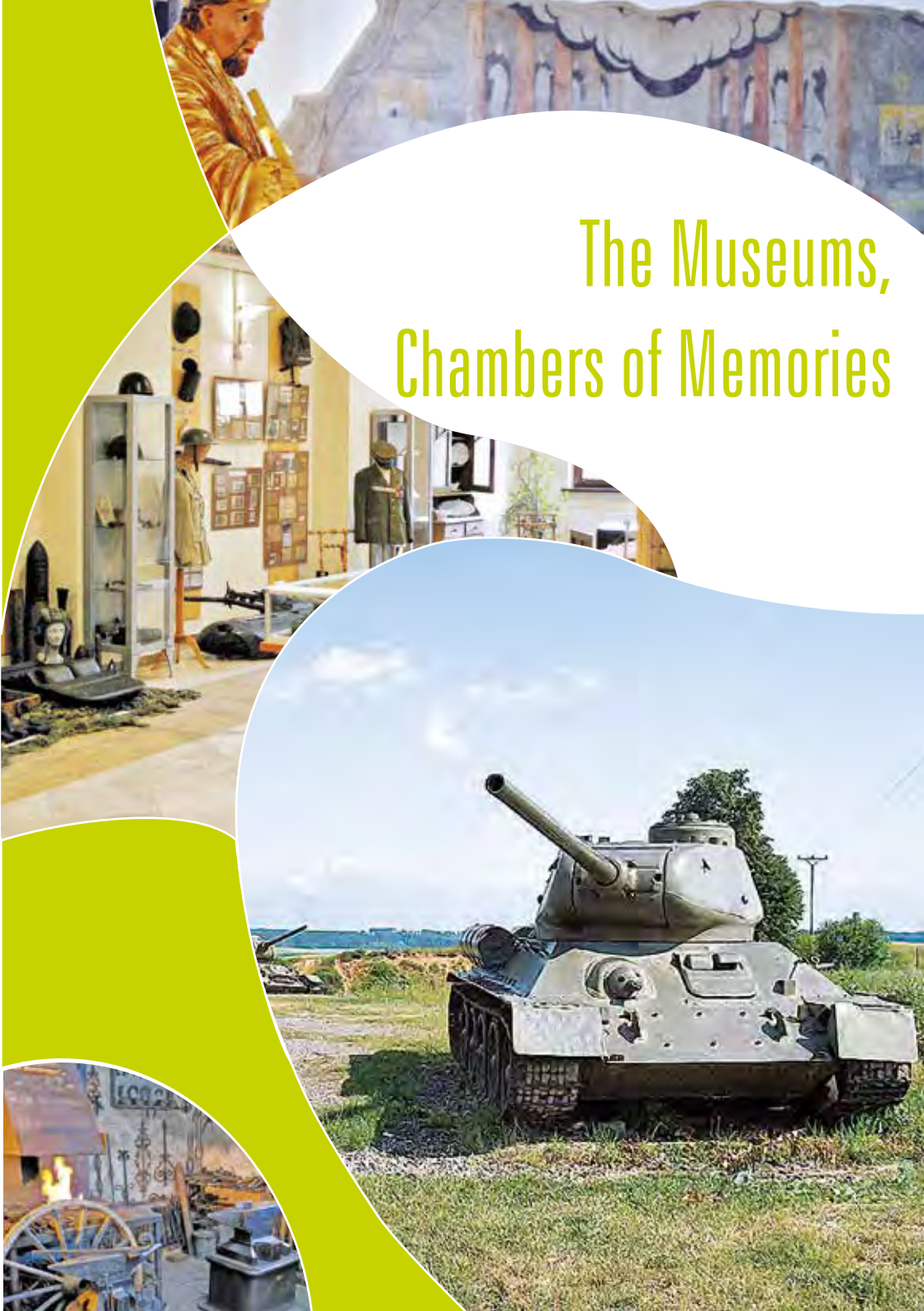
The wooden church in Hněvošice was built in 1730. Situated on the foundations of the earlier building it is a real pearl of architecture. It is the only preserved wooden church in the Opava region. In the triangular chancel of the one-nave church there one can see a richly ornamented main altar with the Holy Trinity painting and the figures of Ss. Peter and Paul from the end of the 19th century. Most of the church fittings comes from the 18th century. Awareness should be focused towards the original painting of Madonna with the Child which contains the coats of arm of former church patrons: Jan Rudolf Šarovc from Šarov and his wife Rozina from Frankenberg. Also an interesting sight are the richly ornamented side pulpits altars.

The late-Gothic bell with its original inscriptions is of a special historical element. Also worth visiting in Hněvošice is the new church of Christ the Good Shepherd. The new church was consecrated on 27 October 1996 and is a good example of an exciting, church full of architectural symbols.



Address: ul. Cihelní 92, 747 35 Hněvošice / tel.: +420 731 534 060 / GPS: 50°0'20.37" N, 18°0'36.78" E

The Museums, Chambers of Memories



The Museum in Racibórz

RACIBÓRZ



The origins of the museum collections in Racibórz date back to the 1920's and are closely associated with the establishment (in 1819)

of the Royal and Evangelical High School in this town, whose teachers began gathering materials related to ethnography, military and industrial arts in their laboratories and classrooms to be used as teaching aids. The official opening of the first museum exhibitions took place on 4th December 1927, and the exhibitions were housed in the former, 14th century church of The Holy Spirit. Later another building, located nearby, on Chopin street, was adapted for the museum. Today, Racibórz museum collections include about 30 thousand items and are presented in nine permanent exhibitions and additionally are often organized in tem-

porary exhibitions.

The most interesting, permanent exhibitions are:

"The discoveries in the church of the Dominican Sisters" – the exhibition presents archaeological discoveries "in situ" of the place of their discovery. Visitors can see (amongst many others things) a ritually broken sword (found in the tomb of the last Racibórz duke, Walentyn).

"In the Osiris House" – this display simulates the burial chamber, which includes the presence of an authentic Egyptian mummy, a woman named Dzed-Amonet-i-us-an-eh. After 2800 years from the time of death, she rests on the bed

in Racibórz museum, partially exposed from the original bandages. "Ritual year of the Upper Ode" – illustrates the ritual life of the inhabitants of Racibórz and the region. The exposition contains: effigies of Marzanna drowned in the spring, Lent knockers, hand decorated Easter eggs, and an entire set of costumes associated with caroling.

"Former dental techniques" – this is a collection of items used in dentistry and dental technology, including: old chairs, drills, columns with complete set of accessories for the teeth treatment and teeth removal as well as samples, chemicals and auxiliaries.

Address: ul. Gimnazjalna 1, 47-400 Racibórz, tel.: + 48 32 415 28 41 / ul. Chopina 12, 47-400 Racibórz, tel.: + 48 32 415 49 05 / www.muzeum.raciborz.pl / GPS: 50°5'36.39" N, 18°13'0.97" E

The District Museum of the Głubczyce Region in Głubczyce

GŁUBCZYCE

The District Museum in Głubczyce is a relatively young centre. It was established in 2001 in order to show the collections of the Chamber of the National Remembrance of the Complex of Agricultural Schools in Głubczyce and the Museum of the Głubczyce Region. The Museum is located in the restored Głubczyce Town Hall since 2008. The museum presents historical and ethnographic exhibitions. The first one presents the history of the Głubczyce Region from prehistory times until 1945. Visitors can explore information on the Polish, German, Moravian and



Jewish populations. The museum gathers, among others, exhibits related to Głubczyce brewing, some associated with the time of the pleb-

iscite and also some from the 1st and 2nd World War periods. The ethnographic exhibition presents household items, clothes, pen and field

working tools, some of which come from German farmers; the rest after the end of World War II was brought by the Polish farmers from the Eastern Borderlands.

An interesting museum item is also a copy of the famous Głubczyce Book of civic rights; the original is kept in the National Archives in Opole. "The Book of Głubczyce" is very valuable and richly illustrated, decorated with silver and gold catalog of the city rights from the 15th century, written by hand on over 200 pages of parchment.

Address: ul. Rynek 1, 48-100 Głubczyce / tel.: +48 77 485 01 93 / www.glubczyce.e-bp.pl/muzeum / GPS: 50°12'0.74" N, 17°49'48.66" E

The Town Museum in Wodzisław Śląski

WODZISŁAW ŚLĄSKI

The Museum in Wodzisław Śląski is located in the Palace of von Dietrichstein. The Museum was established in 1971 on the basis of the collections of the 'Society of Lovers' of the Wodzisław Region and the effects of research carried out in the Old Town in Wodzisław Śląski, and also in the Golemsi settlement in Lubomia, where a large group of interesting archaeological exhibits come from. The Museum collects items from the areas of history, ethnography, outsider art, and also those from folk culture and the working-class culture. The collection con-

tains many examples of artifacts such as: blacksmith tools, carpentry and bakery tools, old furniture and kitchenware.

The most valuable historical collection in the museum is the collection of standards (flags & banners). Some of them are banners of Polish societies and organizations and also insurgent banners sponsored during the interwar period by the Association of Silesian Insurgents.

In the museum visitors can see the following permanent exhibitions: The Prehistory of Rybnik and Wodzisław Region, Early medieval



settlement in Lubomia, Wodzisław in the Middle Ages and later periods, Years of uprisings, The Silesian

cuisine, The history of the Silesian crafts.

Address: ul. Kułbsza 2, 44-300 Wodzisław Śląski / tel.: +48 32 455 25 74 / www.muzeum.wodzislaw.pl / GPS: 50°00'08.5" N, 18°27'54.0" E

The Forging Museum in Bińkowiec

KRZYŻANOWICE COMMUNE

The unique, family Forging Museum is located in Bińkowiec. The historical forge of the Socha family, with traditions dating back to 1702, is built on the site of the wooden one which was demolished in 1840. In the museum, that is located in the direct neighborhood to an existing, operating forge, is a collection of machines, equipment and blacksmith tools gathered and collected by the Socha family throughout nine generations. The exhibits contain (among others things) tools for shoeing horses and equipment



to shape the iron rim on wooden wheels.

A visit to the forge and the museum is also a fascinating meeting with its hosts – Jan Socha and his son Robert, who personally show visitors around the facility presenting the history of a Socha blacksmith family in an interesting way. On a special request, visitors can witness the show of traditional blacksmithing and see for example how to make a horseshoe. Visiting is possible after prior arrangement.

Address: ul. Wojnowska 5, 47-451 Bińkowiec / tel.: +48 32 419 65 29 / GPS: 50°1'30.13" N, 18°12'34.08" E

The Upper Silesian Centre of Culture and Meetings of Eichendorff in Łubowice

RUDNIK COMMUNE

The Eichendorff Upper Silesian Centre of Culture and Meetings (GCKiS – Polish abbreviation) in Łubowice was founded in 1992. The GCKiS contains the ruins of the former palace of Eichendorffs along with surrounding park complex and also the Eichendorff Meeting House and the former school building. In the latter one is housed the Memorial Chamber of Joseph von Eichendorff – the famous Romantic poet who was raised and grew up in Łubowice. In



the mentioned former school building there is also a Regional Chamber – the exhibition on the history of the parish in Łubowice and archaeological exhibition. The last one was created due to the largest Polish (and still explored) prehistoric settlement from the Late Bronze Age and Early Iron Age (IX-VII century BC) located in Łubowice. Visiting these attractions along with a guide is possible after prior booking of the date and time.

Address: ul. Zamkowa 1-3, 47-417 Łubowice / tel.: +48 32 410 66 02 / www.eichendorff.pl / GPS: 50°09'36.5" N, 18°13'53.2" E

The Silesian Land Museum in Opava

OPAVA

The Silesian Land Museum in Opava is known as a symbolic gateway to the discovery of Silesia. The variety and size of the Museum collections reflect the broad range of institutional interests: from animated and unanimated nature through prehistory, to the history of art, focusing primarily on the area of historical Silesia and North East of Moravia. The Museum in Opava is the oldest public museum in the territory of the present Czech Republic, its history dates back to 1814, and the pride of the museum is the main exposition building. The monumental building was built between 1893 and 1895; it is based on the neo-Renaissance style and was created by great Viennese architects and sculptors. The most important permanent ex-

hibition of the museum in Opava is the exposition 'Silesia', it is divided into several sections: History of Silesia, Silesian Encyclopedia, Sublime thoughts and Silesian Nature. Unlike traditional, static presentation, curators from Opava want to present visitors with the widest area of collections – in a dynamic presentation of individual exhibits or as whole thematic group and that's the result each time visitors discover new aspects of the collection.

There are other parts of the Silesian Museum in Opava that visitors can see: Arboretum in Nový Dvůr, World War II Monument in Hrabyně, Petr Bezruč Museum in Opava, Czechoslovak Fortification Complex in Hlučín-Darkovičky and Petr Bezruč Cottage in Ostravice.



Address (The main exposition building): Nádražní okruh 31, 746 01 Opava / tel.: +420 553 714 809 / www.szm.cz / GPS: 49°56'5.388" N, 17°54'17.133" E

The Town Slate Museum in Budišov nad Budišovkou

BUDIŠOV NAD BUDIŠOVKOU



The Slate Museum in Budišov was founded in 1996. Due to the subject it is a unique museum. In the museum one can learn about the history of slate mining, the variety of products made of shale, and above all, to become familiar with the methods of processing and the usage of slate, which is typical for this regions building material (mineral). Among the most interesting exhibits you can see here are: slate clocks, slate school tablets,

and also fossils of plants and animals preserved in this mineral. An interesting adventure will certainly be an attempt to chisel out a heart from a slate sheet.

The museum is housed in a former mill from the first half of the 18th century, in the direct neighborhood of the famous stone bridge on Budišovkou. A local education trail dedicated to the history of slate extraction and processing in the region also relates to the Museum.

Address: Na mlýnské strouze 230, 747 87 Budišov nad Budišovkou / tel.: +420 556 312 040 / GPS: 49°47'37.6" N, 17°37'44.7" E

The John Amos Comenius Museum in Fulnek

FULNEK

The museum is located in a building that is part of the complex of the former Unity of the Brethren congregation in Fulnek. Between 1618 and 1621 John Amos Comenius was the congregation superior. The current feature of the building is the final result of many modifications in the construction of this structure in 1484. The Museum, which is a branch of the Museum in Nový Jičín, was opened in 1954, and the exhibition presents the history of the Czech Brethren, the

life and work of Comenius as a teacher, priest, writer and cartographer.

John Amos Comenius, called "the teacher of the nations", was born in 1592 in Moravia. He devoted his life to practical educational activity, worked on the theory of pedagogical issues, concentrating especially on teaching. He was the creator and promoter of a unified system of standard education and laid the foundations for the present principles of teaching.



Address: Sborová 80, 742 45 Fulnek / tel.: +420 556 741 015 / www.muzeumnj.cz / GPS: 49°42'46.0" N, 17°54'19.1" E

The Czechoslovak Fortification Complex Hlučín-Darkovičky

HLUČÍN

A unique fortification system on a European scale is located on the grounds of the Hlučín-Darkovičky, which was built between 1935 and 1938 along the Czech border at that time, called Czech Maginot Line, which was intended to defend against the Germans. Despite the fact that in 1938 the fortifications were manned by Czechoslovak soldiers' crews, they were not – as a result of the signing of the Munich Agreement – used. Many of these bunkers were used to repel attacks of the Red Army and the Czechoslovak units participating in the April and May 1945 Ostrava – Opava Operations. The complex con-



sists of three anti-infantry bunkers called: "Alej", "Orel" and "Obora" and one of the light fortification objects is called "Řopík". Bunker "Alej" is open to the public with an exposition of the original weapons and equipment from the time of its creation. Bunker "Obora" was reconstructed and looks the way it looked as it did in 1938, the bunker "Orel" was left in the same state from 1945.

The educational trail relates to bunkers and other elements of fortifications. It should be noted that every year, in May or June, the complex holds battle performances of World War II attracting thousands of participants.

Address: Darkovičky, 748 01 Hlučín / tel.: +420 595 051 110 / www.szm.cz / GPS: 49°55'31.1" N, 18°13'20.2" E

The Mausoleum of World War II

HRABYNĚ

The World War II memorial in Hrabyně is one of the greatest monuments in the Czech Republic. It is located near the place where one of the toughest battles of World War II in the area of the former Czechoslovakia took place. The monument was officially unveiled in 1980. It was established to present the history of World War II, collect memorabilia connected to the war period and to collect information about the victims of the fascist regime persecutions.

One of the exhibitions central pieces is of a glass sarcophagus with soil from the battlefields of World



War II, concentration camps and other execution grounds. The complex also contains a symbolic cemetery, with more than 13 000 names of fallen soldiers of the Red Army and Silesia and Northern Moravia residents who died on all fronts of the last war, or were tortured in concentration camps. The new permanent exhibition "The time of fall and hope" is to present visitors of the daily life of the inhabitants of the region during the war, as well as in a period of the Protectorate, which was preceded the war. Using available multimedia increases the attractiveness of this exhibition.

Address: Hrabyně 192, 747 63 Hrabyně / tel.: +420 553 775 091 / www.szm.cz / GPS: 49°53'07.7" N, 18°03'08.9" E

The Fire-fighting Museum in Ostrava

OSTRAVA

The Ostrava Fire-Fighting Museum is located in an Art Nouveau building in Ostrava – Přívoz. Between 1905 and 1980 it housed the seat (the depot) of the local Volunteer Fire-fighting Brigade. The Fire-fighting museum was founded here in 2005, after major renovation of the building. The exhibition was divided into seven thematic sections which present, among others, models of cars and fire-fighting equipment, and also vintage and modern firefighting uniforms. The

special Museum attractions are the shows of firefighters in action dealing with situations such as: general fires, hazardous material spills or rescuing drivers after an accident. There is also a sample of a dispatch center of the integrated emergency response system. One of the interactive expositions allows visitors to personally try to handle a manual fire hose so they can experience what it was like putting out fires in the 19th century.



Address: Zákrejsova 53/3, 702 00 Ostrava-Přívoz / tel.: +420 596 136 841 / www.hzsmk.cz / GPS: 49°51'07.4" N, 18°16'24.1" E

The Miniatures World "Miniuni" in Ostrava

OSTRAVA



One of the most interesting places for children and adults is located in the heart of Ostrava, close to the exhibition areas, and is collection of miniature buildings – called "Miniature World Miniuni". Visitors can see thirty-four buildings from around the world up close and some of the highlights are: Eiffel Tower, the Leaning Tower of Pisa, The Old Town Hall in Prague, the Brandenburg Gate in Berlin, and also the Royal Castle in Warsaw, Krakow Cloth Hall and the modern building of Silesian Library in Katowice. Seeing all the 7 wonders of the world in miniature may also be an interesting and ed-

ucational experience. Models are made in 1:25 scale. The whole area is traversed by a network of railway lines with rushing trains and train stations to the scale of 1:22.5. There are also ship models on the lake, including the famous Titanic and the Polish ocean liner Stefan Batory.

Indian playgrounds are prepared for the smallest visitors of the miniature park. In summer, "Miniuni" hosts a variety of recreational events and educational programs for children and their parents. The World of Miniatures "Miniuni" is part of the Black Meadow (Černá louka) fairgrounds.

Address: Černá louka 3235, 702 00 Ostrava-Moravská Ostrava / www.cerna-louka.cz/miniunisvetminiatur/akce / GPS: 49°49'51.873" N, 18°17'34.962" E

The Open-air Museum of folk traditions and crafts in Bolatice

BOLATICE

The open-air museum of folk traditions and crafts in Bolatice was opened in 2002 in one of the few remaining traditional buildings from the late 19th and early 20th centuries. The historical farm is a well preserved example of a traditional country building in the Hlučín area from this period. The open air museum was initiated by generously contributing Bolacice residents who submitted the most museum exhibits and also the most peculiar ones. In the museum, visitors learn about the life in the countryside a few decades ago. Visitors can explore the residential part of

the house (the main room – izba, the kitchen, the servants room), as well as the laundry room, stables for horses, a cowshed, a granary etc. The last two parts: the shed and barn contain the machines and agriculture equipment and various tools used at home and on the farm which visitors can familiarize themselves with.

In addition to the hosting of tourists and visitors, the museum also organizes a variety of events and meetings, including traditional folk rituals. The open-air museum is not open every day – more information can be found on the website.



Address: Hlučinská 3, 747 23 Bolatice / tel.: +420 553 654 999 / www.bolatice.cz / GPS: 49°57'08.2" N, 18°04'53.1" E

"Ostrá hůrka"

HÁJ VE SLEZSKU



A low lying hill located near the village of Háj ve Slezsku, called "Ostrá hůrka" is an interesting place, especially from a historical point of view. The hill (which is located on the river Opava) that is also a country border became a place of rallies from 1742 of the residents of Silesia, whose aim it was (in the spirit of national revival); to unite the Silesia, Bohemia and Moravia. The first rally-camp took place on the 12th September 1869 from the initiative of Father Kazimír Tomášek from Velká Polom. It was attended by about 15 thousand participants from all over Silesia. The second camp was held in 1898 and another one, which took place in August 1918, gathered 40 thousand partic-

ipants who demanded the creation of the Czechoslovak state. By 1990, there were eight or so large meetings on "Ostrá hůrka" hill.

There is also a statue – a sculpture of man and woman on the "hill" symbolizing love, perseverance and zeal for their own country, which are the most important qualities of the Silesian people. In 2004 artifacts containing the soil from the battlefields of the 1st and 2nd World War, soil of places of massacres and concentration camps, along with documentation of that period were placed into the renewed sarcophagus of the statue. Currently, "Ostrá hůrka" is a place of meetings for local residents and the organizing of the special events.

Address: GPS: 49°53'29.51" N, 18°5'32.41" E / www.maticeslezska.cz

Monuments of Technology



The historic Narrow-Gauge Railway Station in Rudy

KUŹNIA RACIBORSKA COMMUNE

One of the attractions of the Silesian Technology Monuments Routes is the Narrow Gauge Railway in Rudy. Visiting it, can be a pleasant and interesting experience for the whole family. Seeing the historic Narrow-Gauge Railway Station in Rudy one can observe, among other things, the railway station building, a three-tracked rail yard hall, a water tower, and eight locomotives and several carriages. The biggest attraction is the opportunity to ride these historic carriages along two routes. The first route takes about 30 minutes (Rudy – Paproć – Rudy). The drive along the second route takes approximately 1 hour (Rudy – Stanica – Rudy). In addition to the railway carriage rides there is also an option of a short journey by the manually driven draineine.



Visiting the historic station a tourist can literally travel through time. Travelers receive tickets printed (on thick paper) by one of the original printing devices, and during the ride

in one of the 'glassless' open windowed, wooden carriages tourists can enjoy the sights of the beautiful, natural surroundings whilst listening to "clackerty clack" of the

wheels on the tracks. The Narrow-Gauge Railway line with a length of 51 km from Gliwice to Racibórz-Plonia was built between 1897 and 1903. This was for decades the most convenient and the most practical passenger transport on this route. The line was also used for freight transport. However, as a result of the development of the bus services and car use, the Narrow Gauge Railway transport system was suspended in 1993.

The current owner of the system is the Kuźnia Raciborska Commune which successfully manages the attraction, making it available not only for railway enthusiasts but to everyone.

Address: ul. Szkolna 1, 47-430 Rudy / tel.: +48 500 282 732 / www.kolejkarudy.pl / GPS: 50°11'32.1" N, 18°27'34.0" E

The Castle Brewery in Racibórz

RACIBÓRZ



The castle brewery in Racibórz has the oldest brewing traditions in Upper Silesia. Already in existence in the early 16th century, it brewed the beer for the local mansion. After a fire in 1858, the owners of the castle – von Ratibor family – decided to build a modern, new brewery and revive the good traditions of brewing in Racibórz. After employing the mysterious master of brewing H.

Kaufmann at the turn of the century, their plans were realized. Under H. Kaufmann's guidance the brewery started to produce the now famous Racibórz beer known throughout the Upper Silesia piłznieńskie. The real misfortune for the brewery was the flood in 1997, which caused a break in the production of beer for several years. Today, after many tribulations and set-backs, the Castle

Brewery in Racibórz is known once again for excellent quality beer. Anyone interested in the secrets of brewing, and the fascinating history of the oldest Silesian brewery can visit the Castle Brewery in Racibórz. Visiting is combined with beer tasting (obviously only for over 18's!). The Castle Brewery can be visited on Saturdays from 15.00 (in groups of min. 20 people).

Address: ul. Zamkowa 2, 47-400 Racibórz / tel.: +48 32 415 92 00 / www.browar-raciborz.pl / GPS: 50°05'48.0" N, 18°13'13.3" E

The training practice mining excavations – an adit in Wodzisław Śląski

WODZISŁAW ŚLĄSKI



The Wodzisław adit is a replica of a group of mining excavations located a few meters below the ground. In its structure and equipment it imitates the mine underground. It has over 500 meters of mining tunnels and it is the largest of its kind in Poland. The excavations are lit and fitted with various pipelines; you can also see the essential workers equipment used in the mines underground, such as the heavy-duty machinery to drill the tunnels and the extracting of the coal in longwalls. The primary purpose of this adit is that of a job placement train-

ing centre, which is run under the guidance of specialized teachers. However, in addition to its teaching purposes, this adit also operates as a model for exploring the underground excavations which are very similar to the ones in the mines. This allows visitors to learn about the look and feel of the mine underground and to understand the job of a miner.

The adit was opened in 1984 and is currently operated by the District Lifelong Education Centre in Wodzisław Śląski. It is open to visitors in organized groups only after prior appointment.

Address: ul. Galczyńskiego 1, 44-300 Wodzisław Śląski / tel.: +48 32 455 35 93 / www.wodz.pl/sztolnia / GPS: 50°00'25.6" N, 18°27'25.9" E

The Silesian Geophysical Observatory in Racibórz

RACIBÓRZ



Currently operating, and also of historical importance, the geophysical observatory is located in Racibórz, in a wooden building on the out-

skirts of the town. Founded in 1927, the observatory was part of the first European permanent seismological stations network. Known German

seismologist, Professor Carl Mainka, lecturer at the Universities of Strasbourg and Göttingen was the first that conducted studies here.

Among the available exhibits is the oldest measuring equipment, as well as pendulum clocks and galvanometers. Also interesting to see are the paper tapes used in the oldest recorders and archival seismological records from different parts of the world, including that of the Messina earthquake of 1908. The museum section has been in the process of establishment since 2004, and it also operates as an educational and historical laboratory for astronomy, technology and engineering studies.

During the tour, visitors (not just students) can learn about the causes and effects of earthquakes, types of the seismic waves and operating principles of the measuring devices. Currently Silesian Geophysical Observatory is part of the Institute of Geophysics within Polish Academy of Sciences and as one of several units that is responsible for the registration of all seismic quakes on the planet.

Address: ul. Chłopska 1, 47-400 Racibórz / tel.: +48 32 415 55 40 / www.igf.edu.pl/pl/obserwatoria/raciborz_rac / GPS: 50°04'59.4" N, 18°11'30.3" E

The building of general cargo weights in The Coal Mine Rydułtowy – Anna

RYDUŁTÓWY



The building of general cargo weights in the coal mine called "Charlotte" at that time, was built around 1906. It was built on a rectangular plan, lined with the red clinker brick characteristic, and is a representative example of industrial architecture from this period. The property was used for weighing coal allowances for miners. In 1984 it was entered into the Reg-

ister of Objects of Cultural Heritage by Provincial Heritage Conservator in Katowice. Two years later in this building, The Memorial Chamber of the Coal Mine "Rydułtowy" was established, where a lot of unique mining exhibits was collected. Interesting to view for example is the collection of old mining lamps. The historical documents, photos, maps, mining tools and other items

gathered here present the history and growth of the mine from its beginnings up to today.

The building of general cargo weights is open to a public. The Memorial Chamber of the Coal Mine "Rydułtowy" located here does not have fixed opening hours. A tour is possible after prior telephone arrangement.

Address: ul. Leona, 44-280 Rydułtowy / tel.: +48 32 729 41 13 / www.kwswa.pl / GPS: 50°04'03.3" N, 18°26'08.5" E

The watermill in Tworków

KRZYŻANOWICE COMMUNE

The first, wooden watermill in this place already existed in 1703. In 1914, at the site of the existing mill, a brick building was built. However, the mill was still powered by a wooden water wheel with a diameter of nearly 3 meters. Motor drives were introduced during the

twenties of the 20th century, but the wheel itself is still preserved and could even drive the mill equipment today! Tworków mill is one of the last mills in Poland, which produces flour on a small scale using traditional methods. For ten generations it belonged to one family which in-

credibly still manages it. The mill can be viewed from the outside. For tourists and visitors special performances of the art milling are available. The mill can be explored by up to ten people at a time.

A visit in the mill has to be booked in advance by the phone.



Address: ul. Młyńska 7, 47-451 Tworków / tel.: +48 32 419 63 55 / GPS: 50°00'45.1" N, 18°13'44.6" E

The Post-urban Complex in Ostrava – Vítkovice

OSTRAVA

Former mine, coke plant and out-of-operation tall furnaces of the steel-works Vítkovice form an amazing complex called also teasingly "Ostrava's Hradčany". As a result of the revitalization of the industrial buildings from the first half of the 19th century, a special and unique new quality was created. In 2002, the Lower Area of Vítkovice was declared as a National Monument of the Czech Culture, and in 2008 the zone was entered onto the European Cultural Heritage list. The unique gas tank built in 1924 turned into a multi-purpose hall "Gong" which can accommodate up to 1,500 people. It became a centre of cultural and educational events, conferences, concerts, congresses and exhibitions.

The Blast furnace "has opened" its interior, for exploring and learn-



ing about the method of pig iron production. In addition, the panorama of Ostrava and its beautiful surroundings can be admired from its summit. In the former energy headquarters, called the U6 hall,

situates an organized Small Technology World – interactive museum of technology in the style of Jules Verne science fiction books for children and adults. The Small Technology World became a center for

specialized and innovative education of children, youth and teachers. The full offer with detailed information about the visiting tours can be found on the websites of the complex.

Address: Ruská 2887, 703 00 Ostrava-Vítkovice / tel.: +420 724 955 121 / www.dolniblastvitkovice.cz / GPS: 49°49'4.044" N, 18°16'36.551" E

The Mining Museum Landek

OSTRAVA

In the former mine, "Anselm", which was founded in the late 18th century and also the largest in the Czech Republic, was opened as an interesting Mining Museum in the early nineties of the last century. Different exhibitions at the museum present the development of mining in the Ostrava – Karvina Coal Basin, as well as the improvement of mining techniques and rescue techniques and procedures. A collection of lamps and tools, used by the miners are of special interest to visitors who will also be introduced to the classical mining



underground walkways structured with a wooden housing, as well as shearers, conveyors belts and other devices. Landek hill is also unique in

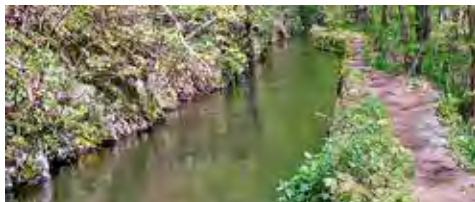
the world in geological, archaeological, historical and natural heritage terms. Here was found a sculpture called Landek Venus, 46-millimeter figure of a woman of sedimentary, red iron rock. The interesting fact is that this is the only Paleolithic figurine of a woman of slim shape found in Europe.

Part of the museum is also converted into a recreational and sports area with bowling, a bike path and a children's corner. Near Landek, the ancient settlement of mammoth hunters was also reconstructed.

Address: Pod Landekem 64, 725 29 Ostrava-Petřkovice / tel.: +420 596 131 804 / www.landekpark.cz / GPS: 49°51'59.8" N, 18°15'43.1" E

The derivative channel to the paper mill in Žimrovice

ŽIMROVICE



At the end of the 19th century, born in Rybník, the German entrepreneur Carl Weissshuhn built a paper

factory in Žimrovice near Hradec nad Moravicí. He decided to build for the factory as special channel

to provide the water from the river Moravici, and in addition to use this water for generating power. The still existing channel has a length of 3.5 km, there are two aqueducts and three tunnels along its route. The entire channel, including the tunnels, was constructed by hand. The full length was built along the hills slopes and sometimes gives the impression like it is "glued" to the steep rocks. The channel was put into operation in May 1891. After

more than 100 years, the channel remains fully functional and its water drives the turbine in an existing power plant. Channel Weissshuhn starts its route by the so-called "paper weir" on Moravici. You can find it walking down the red tourist trail from Hradec nad Moravicí to Vítkov – Podhradí (about 4 km). It is a charming place, perfect for hiking and cycling.

Guided tour available – contact us by phone +420 607 567 663.

Address: GPS: 49°49'53.6" N, 17°49'54.5" E (beginning of the channel)

The windmill in Choltice

LITULTOVICE – CHOLTICE

12 km to the West of Opava in the settlement of Choltice belonging to Litultovice there lays a very rare Euroregion Silesia structure – a wooden windmill. The mill was built in 1833 in the location near Sádok. In 1878 it was bought by Franciszek Romfeld and moved to Choltice, where it still stands. The mill is made entirely of wood, built on a stone foundation with dimensions of 5,9 m x 6,5 m. The building has a height of 12,5 meters, the diameter of windmill sails are about 17 m (it is the largest windmill wheel in the Czech Republic). The Windmill milled flour up until the end of World



War II. Then, until 1954, it was used to ground grain. After the establishment of Kolkhoz – collective farms, the mill was no longer needed and began to fall into disrepair. Fortunately in 1969, it was renovated and reopened by the efforts of the residents. In its interior there is an exhibition of various farming tools. In 1994, a few years after the Velvet Revolution, the windmill was returned to its original owners – the family Romfeld. Today visitors can enjoy a fully preserved mill interior, grinding machine and other elements of its fittings.

Address: GPS: 49°54'42.15" N, 17°45'2.57" E / tel.: +420 728 489 860

The Viewing Tower "Šance" in Jakubčovice

HRADEC NAD MORAVICÍ – JAKUBČOVICE

Between the castles in Hradec nad Moravicí and Raduň, in 2005 a new tourist attraction labeled the viewing tower "Šance" was erected. It is located on a hill on the very edge of Jakubčovice. It was brought into service on the 60th anniversary of the end of World War II. The observation tower is a wooden, roofed structure built on concrete columns 16 m high. The observation deck is located at a height of 13 m; onto which leads 61 steps. From the tower gallery visitors can enjoy magnificent views of the high-

est peaks of Jeseníky and Beskids. There are also views of the castle Cvilín, water reservoir "Slezská Harta", the town Starý Jičín, Fulnek and Ostrava. The view of Opava and the surrounding area supplies an extremely picturesque site for visitors. The name of the tower "Šance" comes from the nearby military fortifications built after the Silesian Wars in the 18th century. The tower is open to the public from April to September, and is open daily from 9:00 to 18:00.



Address: GPS: 49°51'1.625" N, 17°54'57.397" E

The Observatory and Planetarium of Johann Palisa in Ostrava

OSTRAVA



The Observatory and Planetarium of Johann Palisa belongs to the Higher School of Mines within the Technical University of Ostrava. It has been made available to the public since 1980. The planetarium room, which can accommodate about 100 people, is the third largest in the Czech Republic. Participants watch, using a special projection camera the artificial sky with around 9,000 stars, planets, comets and other space objects. The place also holds meetings and lectures on astronomy related topics and is addressed

to people of all ages and interests. While paying a visit to the observatory and planetarium, you can also see exhibitions of the Mini Gallery MIRA, including the wall-mounted encyclopedia "Glances into space". It is formed by 14 large panels bearing written texts and plenty of supporting photos and images that provide visitors with ample Space and Earth information. Finally, there is also a special section called "Kukátko" where certain topics are presented in a way that it is easily understood by children.

Address: Near the Krásnopolska street, 725 26 Ostrava – Krásné Pole / tel.: +420 596 994 950 / www.planetarium.vsb.cz / GPS: 49°50'14.39" N, 18°8'41.8" E

Nature



The Nature Reserve Łęczczok

RACIBÓRZ



The Forest and Pond Reserve extends from Racibórz-Markowice through Nędza, Babice and up to Zawada Książęca. It is 408.9 hectares and is one of the largest nature reserves in the Silesia province. More than half of the area is covered with ponds within forested areas, mostly founded in the 13th century.

The reserve was created in 1957 to protect the multi-species riparian forest and post-Cistercian fish

ponds. Birds are the biggest attraction of Łęczczok. The reserve is also a stop-over for the birds whose routes to warmer countries lead through the area. Observations of birds over the picturesque lakes provide amazing experiences not only for natural scientist. Among other species worth seeing are magnificent specimens of old trees, including a 400 -year-old oak tree from the causeway divide

(called Sobieski's Oak). The reserve is part of the Landscape Park "Cistercian Landscape Compositions of Rudy Wielkie". The best way to reach the reserve is from the DW 919 Racibórz road – Gliwice. After passing Markowice turnpike, turn left onto Rybacka Road, and behind the railway crossing, on the right hand side is the car park.

Address: GPS: 50°08'26.0" N, 18°17'17.0" E

The Odra River Border Meanders

KRZYŻANOWICE COMMUNE

Odra River Border Meanders is the name of the area encompassing part of the Odra valley on the Polish and Czech border from the Chalupki bridge to the mouth of river Olza into the river Odra. It is a naturally meandering river fragment; its riverside contains fragments of riparian forests, willow thickets, reeds and wet meadows. Due to this uniqueness on a European scale, nature habitat types, where endangered species live, the entire area of 156.6 hectares was claimed as protected by the European Commission, within the Natura 2000 network under the name "Odra Border Meander". Also running through the area is



the educational path "Meanders of the Oder River". Its length is about 3.5 km, and the walk takes about 1 hour. The nature trail converges with marked bicycle paths, so it can be used not only by students, but also tourists who come to the river. The nature trail starts from Zabelków, from the marked exit of the DK 45 road, and ends in the vicinity of the bus station in Chalupki. The best view onto the Odra Border Meanders is from the river. It is also possible to paddle along the river Odra from Starý Bohumín (Czech Republic) to Zabelków using a canoe or kayak from the newly built canoe harbor.

Address: GPS: 49°55'47.4" N, 18°19'43.3" E

The Moravian Gate Arboretum in Racibórz

RACIBÓRZ

The Arboretum is a dedicated area of nature, where in addition to scientific activities; educational tasks are also carried out there. The Moravian Gate Arboretum is located a few kilometers from the center of Racibórz, in the 163 hectare forest called "Obora". The Arboretum itself spreads across an area of 35 hectares. There are interesting specimens of flora, fauna and fungi, the origin of which is linked to their migration through the area of the neighboring Moravian Gate. There are a few well-maintained paths open in the Arboretum. The two main paths

of the area is a nature trail and a dendrological trail, both with a length of about 2.5 km. Walking, for example, along the dendrological path, visitors can identify trees and shrubs, of native and foreign origin.

The Moravian Gate Arboretum includes a Mini-Zoo, which holds approximately 100 species of animals and birds, as well as an "Enchanted Garden" created in 2011. There is also a bicycle path and a fitness trail with numerous exercise stands. Those interested in history should also look out for the burial mounds of VI-IX century.



Address: ul. Markowicka 17, 47-400 Racibórz / tel.: +48 32 415 44 05 / www.arboretum-raciborz.pl / GPS: 50°05'45.6" N, 18°15'47.7" E

The Gypsum Mountain Nature Reserve in Dzierżysław

KIETRZ COMMUNE

The Gypsum Mountain Nature Reserve is located near the town of Dzierżysław, on the hill of the same name, on its South – Western slope. It covers over an area of 1.72 hectares. The name comes from the exploitation of gypsum carried out at this point during the years 1812-1972. The reserve is one of the most valuable natural lands in the province of Opole. The purpose of protecting this reserve is to preserve it for the scientific reasons of floral accumulation of flora occurring in one of the few locations in this part of the country. Visitors can also see a number of



endangered plant species, including the xerothermic grasslands which is also a unique, natural occurrence on a national scale. Xerothermic grasslands are non-forest, thermophilic accumulations of flora that occur most often in the sites where forests were once cut down and where the animals were grazing over the years. They belong to a collection of protected habitats under the Habitats Directive of the European Union. At the edge of the protected area you will find a sheltered place for a rest, with a panoramic view of the reserve.

Address: GPS: 50°3'23,06" N, 17° 59' 34,42" E

The Cistercian Landscape Compositions in Rudy Wielkie

KUŹNIA RACIBORSKA COMMUNE

The historic, Romanesque-Gothic Cistercian abbey complex located in Rudy is part of the Landscape Park "Cistercian Landscape Compositions of Rudy Wielkie". Its area holds around 443.5 km². The purpose of which is to protect Silesian nature and also the cultural heritage of the Cistercian monastery, which has existed in Rudy for nearly 600 years. The natural attractiveness of the area is related to the preserved flora and terrain and high cultural values initiated by forestry and fishing management of the Cistercians. The Palace Park in Rudy is

located in the Western part of the 'Landscape Park'. It was created during periods of 1822-1846, and spread over an area of 95 hectares, and fashioned in an English style. Here, visitors can find the natural values as well as interesting composition links. The last ones include a forest maze, a peaceful dendrological garden and a large park saloon. Among the elements of nature are natural tree monuments, groups of trees as the main component of the garden composition and meadow patches. Visitors can also follow the educational trails in the park.



Address: GPS: 50°11'40.7" N, 18°26'52.1" E / www.rudy.info.pl

The Nature and Landscape Protected Area Wielikąt

LUBOMIA COMMUNE

The Nature and landscape protected area Wielikąt was created

in 1993. The complex, located between Lubomia, Syrynia and



Buków, contains several ponds, the surrounding fields and meadows. The area spreads over 630 hectares. This collection of ponds in their natural environment creates the unique living and breeding conditions for the aquatic birds. The area is also an important part of the wildlife corridor and has been classified as one of the most valuable reservoirs of Silesia; in 2008 it was incorporated into the special areas of the birds protection Natura 2000. The area is inhabited by 226 species of birds, including many endangered species. The Wielikąt area

also houses rare types of plants. Dikes and the access roads are overhung by old trees, often being natural monuments in their own right. In 2003, in the reserve an educational path was established, it has a length of 4 km, seven observation points and a single viewing platform located in the central part of the ponds. The trail starts at the bus stop Syrynia – Wielikąt. Organized groups wishing to visit the path should contact the State Fish Farm "Wielikąt" a few days earlier (tel.: +48 32 451 65 17). A cycling path also runs between the ponds.

Address: GPS: 50°01'44.5" N, 18°18'08.0" E

Arboretum Nový Dvůr

STĚBOŘICE



One of the most interesting botanical gardens in this part of Europe is located about 10 km to the West of Opava. In an area of over 20 hectares, visitors can see a

dendrological exhibition of specimens from five continents, as well as an exhibition of subtropical and tropical plants in a special orangery. There is over 7000

species of plants, trees and herbs with their garden varieties. You can admire the plants of heaths and dunes, Himalayan plants, trees collections from China, the

Far East and Japan, and a big collection of Eastern woody plants and herbs, and also natural specimens from both Americas. A very interesting part of the plant exposition are representatives of the enormous "mammoth trees" like sequoia, pinus aristata from Arizona, which lives in its homeland for over 4 000 years and the developmentally ancient ginkgo, semantically remembering the dinosaurs. Walking through the park, visitors can enjoy a permanent lively greenness of many species of trees and shrubs, amongst which rhododendrons and azaleas glorify arboretum and represent one of the richest collections in the Czech Republic. The most impressive plants in the orangery are cacti and palm trees. In the greenery, exotic animals and birds cared for in cages.

Address: Nový Dvůr – Stěbořice, 747 51 Stěbořice / GPS: 49°55'59.44" N, 17°46'23.18" E / tel.: +420 553 661 031 / www.szm.cz

Zoo in Ostrava

OSTRAVA

"Nature on your doorstep" – this slogan greets visitors arriving at the Zoological Garden in Ostrava. On an area of over 100 hectares live almost 360 species of animals. African hoofed animals (giraffes and zebras), predators and parrots, chimpanzees, lemurs, elephants and hippos attract many visitors. In addition, in the garden there is also a Botanical Park presented. The



designated botanical paths relate directly to the zoological exhibition. Ostrava Zoo is known for having a lot of enclosures with low barriers, and having the whole site organized to create the best conditions for rest and education, especially for children. Playgrounds and educational exhibitions that teach through play also attract attention. The exhibition "On the farm" which stim-

ulates the direct contact of children with farm animals – goats, sheep, cows, pigs and rabbits is one of the good examples.

Ostrava Zoo participates in the European security programs EEP and ESB designed to protect different species of animals, including many of those that do not live in the wild anymore or are threatened with extinction.

Address: Michálkovicská 197, 710 00 Ostrava / tel.: +420 596 241 269 / www.zoo-ostrava.cz / GPS: 49°50'44.1" N, 18°19'32.1" E

The Landscape Protected Area Moravice

HRADEC NAD MORAVICÍ

The Landscape Protected Area Moravice covers an area of 14,250 hectares and is one of the most valuable and best preserved natural regions of the Moravian-Silesian region. The Moravice river valley, at a distance from Kružberk to Hradec nad Moravicí is one of the most beautiful river valleys in the Czech Republic. In some places the river creates canyons with heights of 120 meters plus and unforgettable views.

The piedmont natural flora of the reserve is highly valuable. Throughout the whole area are seven types

of flora groups, such as riparian forests, groves of oak and hornbeam or ravines forests. In fifteen of these places, protected and endangered species can be found.

The Landscape Protected Area Moravice delights the scenes with beautiful landscapes. The hilly terrain covered with deciduous or coniferous forests and crisscrossed with sunny meadows connected with very clean air that gives permission to find rest for anyone who needs the mental respite and looks for a place to regenerate.



Address: GPS: 49°50'3" N, 18°19'17" E

The Educational Trail "Slate heritage"

Vítkov



Distinctive for the Vítkov and Budišov nad Budišovkou regions' traditions are associated with shale (their extraction and processing). Shale deposits located here have given employment to inhabitants for two hundred years, and today visitors can view

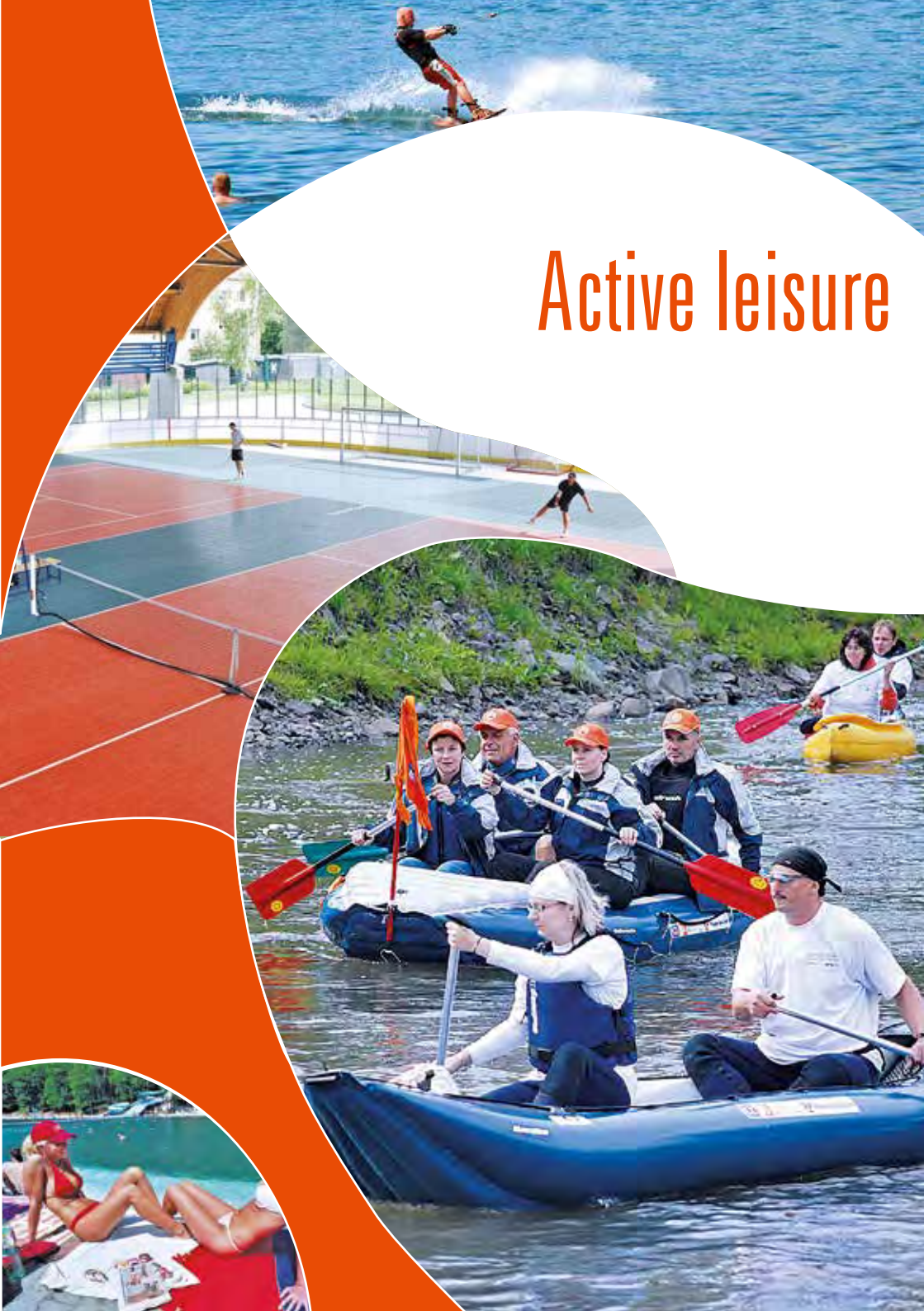
the preserved remnants of it.

One of the elements presenting the history of slates is an educational path "Heritage slate" organised by the town of Vítkov. The total path has a distance of about 5 km. It begins and ends at the recreation center RS Bílá Holubi-

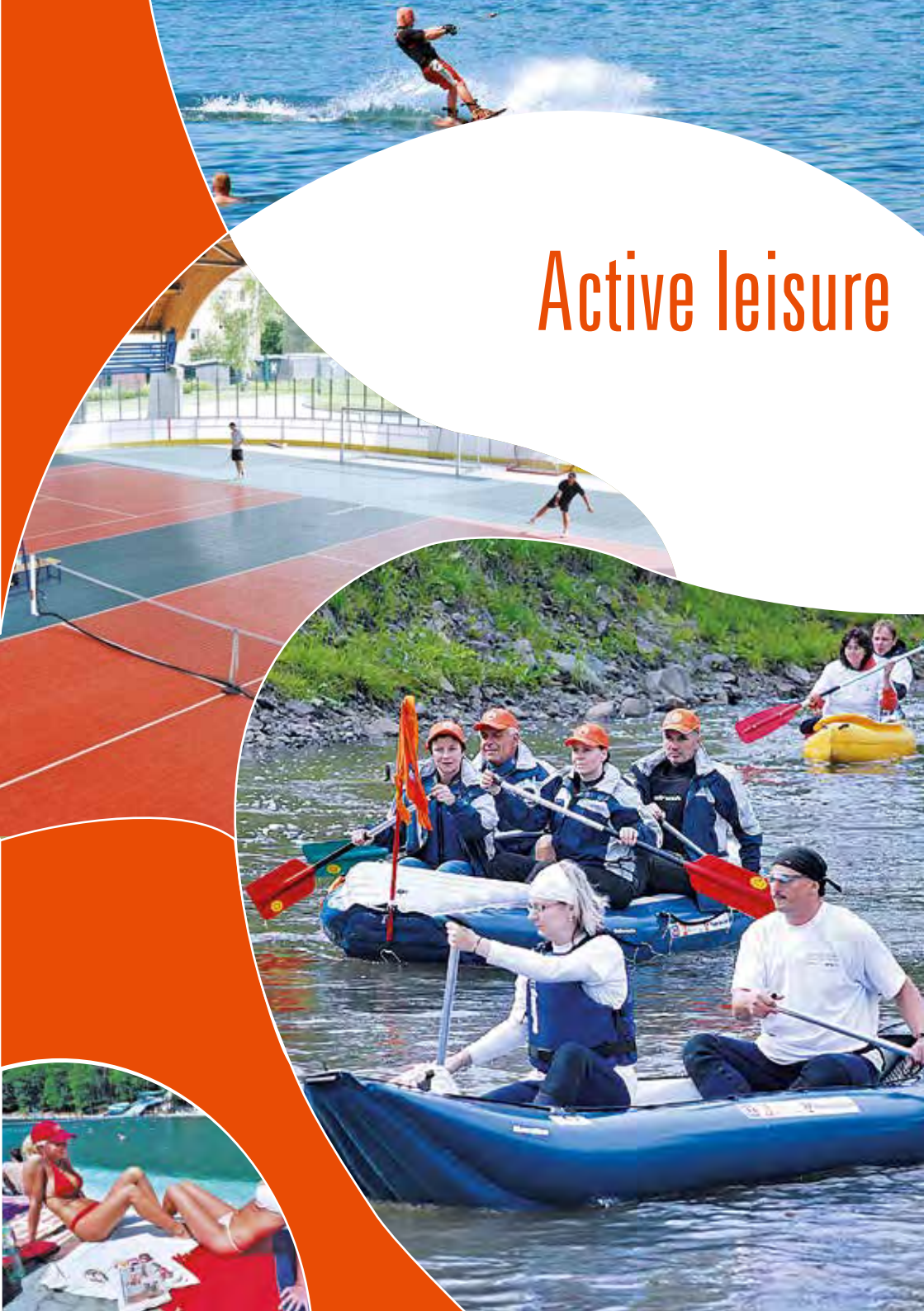
ce. On the route of the path, there are 16 thematic stops with a total of 22 information panels with information in Polish and Czech languages. There are also 3 additional places prepared for stops. Each information board contains a map with an appointed mark of

the current location. The nature trail is primarily directed through the field and forest roads, with only small portions merging with regular roads. The route is suitable for families with children.

Address: Zálužné č. 64, 749 01 Vítkov / tel.: +420 722 085 248 / www.os-zaluzne.webnode.cz



Active leisure



The Leisure Center "Olza" in Olza

GORZYCE COMMUNE

The Leisure Center "Olza" was established on post-gravel excavations remaining after the aggregate extraction. The centre, formed in the shape of the peninsula, attracts tourists with its clean water, supervised swimming pool and its beautiful sandy beach for people to relax. There is also a picturesque setting within the open green spaces. The resort, in addition to the swimming pool, also has camping and caravanning fields, a rental equipment store (kayaks, pedal boats, etc) and a beach volleyball court. It also offers two catering facilities with a delicious food for holiday makers. Slides, swings, roundabouts and automatic toys on the resort playground which tempt children have plenty of holiday fun.

In addition, the resort offers accommodation in the form of 8-person cabins BRDA type or in the campsite. The resort also organizes disco parties, campfires and a few other attractions in designated areas. The Leisure Center "Olza" also organizes festivals and outdoor events as well as accepting school groups, day camps or other types of organized groups.



Address: ul. Kolejowa, 44-350 Olza / tel.: +48 503 166 136 / www.olza.com.pl / GPS: 49°57'33.3" N, 18°19'55.6" E

The campsite in Pietrowice

GLUBCZYCE



The campsite in Pietrowice is located about 12km from Glubczyce and 2 km from the border of the Czech Republic. The brick constructed complex of holiday cabins and a hotel building – offers more than 100 beds in 2 – or 3- person rooms. In addition, there is a campsite field adapted to fit about 200 people and 18 lots for private caravan trailers.

The resorts' attraction is the swimming pool with a jumping tower and a water slide with a height of 11m and a length of 25m. It is also possible to use the resort catering facility, as well as participate in dancing parties and discos organized for the guests. In addition, the resort offers barbecues, fire places, bowling, a playground as well as volleyball and basketball courts. The Leisure and Holiday Centre is managed by the Board of Education, Culture and Sport in Glubczyce. It is open seasonally from 1 April to 31 October.

Address: Pietrowice, 48-155 Mokra Kolonia / tel.: +48 77 485 7681 / GPS: 50°08'13.6" N, 17°41'19.7" E

The camping and campsite "CAMPING EUROPA OLZA" in Olza

GORZYCE COMMUNE

"Camping Europe Olza" is located on the grounds of the old marsh on the river Olza, in the vicinity of the protected landscape area "Boarder Meander of the River Odra". The resort offers football and volleyball courts, a well-stocked catering facility (serving home-cooked foods), and full sanitary facilities. The place also has a small bicycle rental store, billiards table and a farm with Shetland ponies for the younger tourists. The biggest attraction of the camp is the water reservoir with a picturesque beach called "Macarena". The water area is under lifeguard supervision and has regular epidemiological tests. There are holiday cabins of the Lux type and cabins of the Holender type prepared for all tourists who wish to spend a few days at camp Europe. Special electrical lines are prepared for the caravanning site users. An additional attraction of the resort is the access to a fishing reservoir. Camping and the campsite are open during the summer.



Address: ul. Wiejska, 44-353 Olza / tel.: +48 324 511 788 / www.campingeuropa.pl / GPS: 49°56'50" N, 18°21'37" E

The multi-purpose sports center with an artificial ice rink in Pszów

Pszów



The first artificial ice rink in Pszów was founded in the early seventies of the 20th century, thanks to the Coal Mine "Anna". In 1973 the hockey section was set up, which operated until 1977. In the early 90s, the mine ceased using the rink. In 2001 a new rink was opened, and managed by the town Pszów. In 2004, an effective roof was constructed for the rink. For the next stage, new, accompanying facilities

were built due to the rinks use for recreational and sporting purposes throughout the whole year. Outside of the winter season a skating-park zone is available for use on the pitch's ground, as well as tennis facilities. The gym is another attraction of the premises. The most popular attraction however is the rink, which during the winter season is very popular with enthusiasts of skating from all over the region.

Address: ul. Sportowa 1, 44-370 Pszów / tel.: +48 32 454 22 09 / www.lodowisko.pszow.pl / GPS: 50°02'29.0" N, 18°24'19.2" E

The "Tropical Island" in Marklowice

MARKLOWICE COMMUNE

The Recreation Centre "Tropical Island" was established in Marklowice under the revitalization of the 'industrial areas' program on the rail side of the former mine. There is a spacious playground for children, climbing walls, a skate park, chess tables and an outside gym. Water Fountains, an artificial waterfall, a mini-pond with an island, seating benches surrounded by greenery and flowers compliment the grounds. Also, during winter times an ice rink with skate rentals can all also to be found here.

The whole area is covered with a network of alleyways and passageways, as well as paths for roller-skating. The cultural events organized here are held on a specially prepared square with a roofed stage. Those in need of refreshments can eat at the pizzeria and a large parking area is prepared for travelers.

Admission fees to the Tropical Island from May to the end of September is payable at the weekends, whilst children under 16 can enter free of charge!



Address: ul. Wyzwolenia 71b, 44-321 Marklowice / tel.: +48 32 455 02 92 / GPS: 50°01'01.2" N, 18°30'57.9" E

The Playing Centre "Rafa" in Rydułtowy

RYDUŁTOWY

A playing centre with an original name – Fikołkownia "Rafa" (meaning "Flips house" Rafa), was founded a few years ago in Rydułtowy, on the site of a post-brickyard excavation. The site is designed primarily for children and young people. It occupies an area of about 2 hectares and allows the young visitors to expel all of their energy. Younger children will discover slides, swings, dinosaur excavations, a sandpit and cottages. There is also a dry pool with balls. Older children will find interesting: laced blocks, a climbing wall, a BMX track and a skate-park. For fans of chess, chess sets are also provided. Also, houses provide suitable catering facilities. The whole complex is fenced, and all the attractions are connected through walking paths and pergolas with plenty of well maintained greenery.



Address: ul. Mickiewicza 33, 44-280 Rydułtowy / tel.: +48 32 457 68 92 / GPS: 50°04'24.2" N, 18°25'06.9" E

The Family Leisure Park "Three Hills" in Wodzisław Śląski

WODZISŁAW ŚLĄSKI

The center of leisure and recreation "Three Hills" in Wodzisław Śląski is in the process of construction. The project involves developing on the area of nearly 25 hectares the style of recreation and relaxation site where everyone can find something for themselves to do. Attractions for

the youngest visitors will support the motor skills of babies, toddlers and juniors. Slightly older guests can use (among others things) a skating-park, a double leveled pool, the peninsula and 6 trails on the Rope Park with a minimum of 65 obstacles. In addition to that, at the

visitors disposal will be an arena for hide and seek game playing, a rope net in the form of one pole-tower, a track to play caps, a boules aisle, Russian bowling, mazes, pleasure gardens, tracks for remotely operated vehicles, BMX cycling tracks, a sledging bank, courts for various

games, bike and hiking trails, a fitness path, and an arena for the amphitheater stage. The planned time-frame for opening the park – autumn 2014.

Address: GPS: 50°00'31.6" N, 18°27'12.5" E

The Rural Leisure and Recreation Centre in Chałupki

KRZYŻANOWICE COMMUNE

The main reason of the creating of the Rural Leisure and Recreation Centre in Chałupki was to provide children, youth, adult residents of Chałupki and the neighboring towns the opportunity of spending active family time in an adapted place. In the first stage multipurpose roofing and a volleyball court were established. Then, a children's playground, a skate-park and a recreational and rehabilitation park for adults were created. Currently, almost everyone will find something

of interest for themselves in the Centre. The youngest children, under their parents' supervision, can play in the playground. Young skating and roller enthusiasts can test out their skills on the skating park. Seniors and health lovers should try to 'workout' in the outdoor gym organized as an outdoor fitness park. The Centre admittance is free of charge throughout the whole year depending on the weather condition. It is managed by the Chałupki administrative unit.



Address: ul. Fabryczna, 47-460 Chałupki / GPS: 49°55'39.3" N, 18°18'43.1" E

The Sensory Relaxing Centre in Rydułtowy ROSA

RYDUŁTOWY

The sensorial park called The Sensory Relaxing Centre ROSA was created in 2013 in Rydułtowy. You can explore quite a big range of attractions by using the five senses: sight, taste, hearing, smell and touch, which is all connected to this mysterious name. According to the concept, the park was divided into five smaller thematic squares. Each square has elements of street furniture and plantings adapted to the different senses. In the 'eyes' square you can rest and relax on the stone benches – boulders, within the colorful plantings that are known for attracting butterflies. In the square of 'taste' you are encouraged to sample the taste of the edible plants: herbs, vegetables and fruits grown there. The 'hearing' sense is used in the garden whilst listening to the calming noise of the fountain, wind in the branches, singing of the birds and the rustling of autumn leaves and tall grasses. The square of 'touch' is encompassed by plants of varied textures that encourage the impulse of touching them. In addition to the mentioned fea-



tures, installed in the park is the playground equipment, stimulating

the children's development with interactive devices for all ages. The

whole area is accessible for people with disabilities.

Address: ul. Ofiar Terroru, 44-280 Rydułtowy / GPS: 50°03'47.0" N, 18°25'12.1" E

The Waterpark "H₂Ostróg" in Racibórz

RACIBÓRZ

H₂Ostróg is the name of a new indoor swimming pool in Racibórz – This multipurpose Sports Center is located on Zamkowa Road. Racibórz Aquapark offers, amongst other things: an 8 lane swimming pool with a length of 25 m, a pool for swimming lessons with dimensions of 15.0 x 7.5 m and a recreational pool with an area of 93.9 m² which also has additional attractions such as: underwater couches with massaging, water jets and water umbrellas. Two slides, one of them with a length of almost 100

meters are a big attraction not only for the younger visitors. There is also a fast-flowing river and baths with hydro-massages. Children will be very happy to spend time in the pool experiencing the many thrills. For those who are interested, the first floor of the complex boasts a 'wellness' center which houses several saunas, a salt grotto and a solarium. Additionally, a small gym with suitable facilities and a conference room can also be found here. The leisure centre also has catering facilities.



Address: ul. Zamkowa 4, 47-400 Racibórz / tel.: +48 32 415 37 17 / www.osir-raciborz.pl / GPS: 50°05'53.5" N, 18°13'14.3" E

The Tourism, Sports and Recreation Community Centre "Nautica" in Gorzyce

GORZYCE COMMUNE

"Nautica" is the name of the water park located in Gorzyce. Conveniently located by the number 78 main road, it has a large car park, lots of surprises in the pool hall, and also shops and other different services – all these factors help everyone to easily find something to do. The Tourism, Sport and Recreation Community Centre "Nautica" was opened in December 2007. From its beginnings, it attracts many customers not only from the Gorzyce commune, but also from further afield. Its landmark is the leaning viewing tower. This centre offers two swimming pools, water massages and jets, geysers, Jacuzzi with brines and a slide. There is also a wellness centre with a sauna and solarium. The swimming pool "Nautica" was the reason that in 2009, the county won a prestigious award – The Sport Oscar Gminy in the category of "Communal investor in sport and tourism".



Address: ul. Bogumińska 31, 44-350 Gorzyce / tel.: +48 32 451 46 34 / www.nautica-gorzyce.pl / GPS: 49°57'17.8" N, 18°22'32.0" E

The Indoor swimming pool in Kietrz

KIETRZ COMMUNE



The indoor swimming pool in Kietrz was opened in March 2011. The external architecture of the building as well as its internal look is integral in terms of decorations and functionality. The building contains two swimming pools. The larger of the two has dimensions of 25 by 12.5 m, and its depth ranges from 1.2 to

1.8 m. The leisure pool has dimensions of 4.88 x 8 meters and serves as a paddling pool for children. Also located in the swimming pools complex is a jacuzzi and a sauna. The centre has a spectator's gallery with 75 seats which is also adapted for disabled people.

Address: ul. Kościuszki 14 A, 48-130 Kietrz / tel.: +48 77 485 04 51 / www.hydrokankietrz.pl / GPS: 50°04'36.4" N, 18°00'00.7" E

The public swimming pool in Głubczyce

GŁUBCZYCE



This public swimming pool was built between the years 1978-1989 on the site of an earlier one dating back to 1936 which was demolished. The building contains 5 swimming pools; a sports one (Olympic size) with dimensions of 50m x 25m (depth 2 m), a medium sized one – 69 m x 24 m (depth 0.6 m – 1.7 m), two shallow pools with dimensions of 69 m x 12

m and a children's pool with dimensions of 54 m x 14 m. The total area of water is 60 ares, and its volume is an impressive 7130 m³. Lifeguards supervise all of the pools.

In addition, the centre also includes a volleyball court, a children's playground situated next to the children's pool, a slide, a fountain, commercial stores, and buffet area.

Address: ul. Powstańców 1, 48-100 Głubczyce / tel.: +48 77 485 29 93 / GPS: 50°11'56.116" N, 17°48'46.868" E

The Sports and Recreational Centre in Racibórz

RACIBÓRZ



The main objective of this public sports and recreation centre is to conduct and organize leisure and sporting activities in and around the surrounding communities of Racibórz. The center facilities allow for these objectives to be carried out and its facilities are:

- Sports amenities at no. 4 Zamkowa road, including a football stadium with an athletics track, a skating rink, a bowling alley, tennis courts, a mini golf, a skate park and a fitness square,
- The Recreation Complex "Obora" at no.1 Markowicka road, contains: a swimming pool, courts for beach volleyball and streetball, and a mini golf course; the compound also has several bungalows for rent,
- The full-size sports hall at no. 31 Łąkowa road, where a lot of sporting events of the highest rankings take place. The hall has a variety of

sports facilities, including a sauna and a gym.

The most popular destination in summer is the open-air swimming pool "Obora". It is the only outdoor pool in Racibórz. Recently a small water-slide was installed which, as well as the existing children's pool – gives a lot of enjoyment to children. Lifeguards supervise the safety of the guests. On site, you can play volleyball on the court and there are also catering facilities available on the grounds. For the tennis fans the site at Zamkowa road offers a tennis court. In the summer, there are several sports fields available and throughout the whole year an indoor sports hall is open from early morning to the late evening. During the winter season in the vicinity of the stadium at Zamkowa road they open up a skating rink for the public.

Address (The Sports and Recreational Centre): ul. Zamkowa 4, 47-400 Racibórz / tel.: +48 32 415 37 17 / www.osir-raciborz.pl / GPS: 50°05'50.3" N, 18°13'15.2" E / Swimming pool "Obora" – GPS: 50°05'40.7" N, 18°15'43.9" E / Sports hall – GPS: 50°04'39.6" N, 18°13'05.1" E

The Public Sports and Recreation Complex "Center" in Wodzisław Śląski

WODZISŁAW ŚLĄSKI



The sports and leisure activities in Wodzisław Śląski is initiated and organized by the Public Sports and Recreation Complex "Center" (MO-SiR "Centrum" – Polish abbrevi-

ation). In addition to conducting several sporting sections for youths and organizing sports competitions and tournaments in the town, the resort manages and administers the

sports and leisure facilities.

One of the most popular leisure activities in Wodzisław Śląski is The Water Centre "Balaton" in Grodzisk. There is a large, (over 3 hectares) reservoir surrounded by a beautiful forest. Safety of the waterside is supervised by lifeguards. One of the edges of the reservoir is not forested, so it is ideal for camping. There is also a small, sandy beach along with a beach volleyball court. There is also an option of renting water equipment such as kayaks and pedalos. In addition, a new Rope Course was recently added to the resort. For fans seeking 'thrilling experiences' two rope-routes have been prepared: one easy with a length of 185 m, the second more difficult with a length of over 550 m.

Another separate attraction of the park is a zip-line (also called the Tyrolean traverse) above the water. It is a 250 m line of speed and excitement and is one of the longest rope-slides of its kind in Silesia.

There are four tennis courts (two doubles courts) available for tennis enthusiasts, located at no. 8 Bogumińska road (adjacent to the football stadium). There is also an indoor swimming pool by the MO-SiR Complex (1 Maja estate no 16a), where throughout the whole year swimming fans can brush up on their swimming skills. During the winter season the skating rink operates in the resort. This "white orlik" is located at the Primary School No. 5, 25 Tysiąclecia road.

Address (The Public Sports and Recreation Complex "Center"): ul. Bogumińska 8, 44-300 Wodzisław Śląski / tel.: +48 32 455 15 19 / www.mosir-centrum.pl / www.parklinowymbalaton.pl / The Water Centre "Balaton" – GPS: 50°00'03.5" N, 18°29'40.0" E / Indoor swimming pool – GPS: 49°58'40.5" N, 18°29'47.7" E / The skating rink – GPS: 50°00'34.2" N, 18°28'04.1" E / Tennis courts – GPS: 49°59'57.1" N, 18°27'30.6" E

Kayak harbors in Zabelków and Krzyżanowice

KRZYŻANOWICE COMMUNE



In 2010-2011 the Krzyżanowice commune and the town Bohumín carried out a joint project whose aim was to enable access to Olza and Odra- (the two Border Rivers) to water sports enthusiasts. The result

was, among others, establishing 5 canoe harbors – four on the river Odra (in Pudlov, in Starý Bohumín, in Zabelków and Krzyżanowice) and one on the river Olza (in Věřňovice). Next to each harbor there is an in-

formation board detailing the section of the river, where the harbor is placed. Water routes are clearly marked. The most popular of these routes are the two canoe trails on the Polish and Czech border. Route Dětmoravice – Zabelków, it is approximately a 12 km long trail on the Olza to its confluence with the river Odra. The second route leads through Bohumín Vrbice – Zabelków. The nearly 10 km trail begins at the so-called Antoszowicka footbridge, and leading behind the old bridge in Bohumín the most interesting part of the trail begins: the strongly meandering river flows through a protected landscaped

area called the “Odra River Border Meander”.

To go paddling along both rivers you can use boats, canoes and pontoons. For those who do not have their own equipment it is possible to hire your chosen means of transport from the rental points in Bohumín (run by firefighters from a volunteering unit in Starý Bohumín) or at the Canoe Club “Meander” from Chalupki (www.facebook.com/kajakimeander). Canoeing can be organized at a selected flow of water on Saturdays and Sundays and also on bank holidays from 29 June to 29 September.

Address: Harbor in Zabelków: – GPS: 49°57'09.4" N, 18°19'43.0" E / Harbor in Starý Bohumín: – GPS: 49°55'17.1" N, 18°19'42.4" E

HElpark in Tošovice

ODRY – TOŠOVICE

This ‘open all the year-round’ sports center in Tošovice offers its guests an active style leisure, entertainment and relaxation to get the adrenaline pumping if visitors want. In winter, the resort offers three skiing routes each with their own T-bar lifts and two of the routes are designed for children with its own special aerial tram. In addition to all this, it also offers a snow park (artificial ski jumping ramps and obstacles), and snow tubing (riding on special tire through the snow-covered tunnel). The main winter attraction of the park however is the Big Air Bag – an inflatable jumping bag of air. Throughout the whole year, a summer bobsleigh Alpine Coaster track with a length of 1,264 m (lift 300



m, 964 m route) operates for the enjoyment of visitors. The 12 meter slides were prepared for adult and children alike! In the summer months, HElpark presents an open-air swimming pool and a special pool just for children. Visitors can also enjoy the bungee trampoline, a rope park, archery activities or even try to “tame” the rodeo bull. Children have access to trampolines and slides, and everyone can try their hand at a game of golf. Finally, also available to guests is a multi-purpose field with artificial turf, catering facilities and free car park which is an additional advantage of the resort HElpark.

Address: Tošovice 72, 742 35 Odry / tel.: +420 597 070 400 / www.heipark.cz / GPS: 49°41'37.828" N, 17°50'21.555" E

The sports and recreation complex “Buly Aréna” with the Waterpark in Kravaře

KRAVAŘE

The Sports Complex in Kravaře is one location that offers everything which is needed for an active sports and recreational getaway. There is: an ice rink (with the option of ‘evenings on skates’ discos), a sports hall, a gym, a multifunctional court and a football field with AstroTurf. There are also badminton courts and tennis courts (indoor and outdoor). Bowling fans will be delighted to know that the centre also has two bowling lanes. One of the major attractions of the complex is

the Waterpark. Its main part, the swimming pool is primarily intended for leisure and is equipped with water spouts, water cannons and massage beds. It also has 2 dedicated swimming lanes. A shallow pool with a water mushroom is designed for children.

The great attraction here for visitors to the pool is the wild river and the water slide (twisty slide) with a total length of 65 meters. A modern wellness center completes the picture. Another of the newest attractions of the complex Buly Aré-



na, is a playground for youngsters which has a lot of attractions for

children – modern mazes, swings, slides, trampolines, etc.

Address: Kostelní 2075/28B, 747 21 Kravaře / tel.: +420 553 777 591 / www.bulyarena.cz / www.aquapark-kravare.cz / GPS: 49°56'05.3" N, 18°01'18.6" E

The Public Sports and Leisure Centre in Ostrava

Ostrava

Ostrava (as the capital of the Moravian and Silesian Region) has a very wide offer for active recreational pursuers. Practically everyone can find something in this city for themselves. A special institution SAREZA, s.r.o. (Sportovní a Rekreační zařízení města Ostrava, s.r.o.) was established to dedicate and manage the sports and recreational environment for children and adults, amateur or professional athletes, seniors and people with disabilities. Below can be found the chosen sports and leisure facilities in Ostrava:

The swimming pool in the dis-

trict Poruba

It is the largest of this type of pools in the Central Europe. The reservoir of more than 4 hectares of surface resembles a small lake. The greatest attractions of the pool are slides, jumps and slides for children.

The indoor swimming pool in the district Poruba

The resort has a 50-meter swimming pool with a newly open slide, a children's pool with a swimming school for children, a solarium, two comfortable saunas, an option of massages, carbonic-acid baths and a spacious gym. In the summer time, the summer swimming pool

is available.

The SAREZA Water World

It is located in the center of Ostrava, near the New Town Hall. The summer swimming pool is divided into leisure and swimming sections. The local attractions, among others, are: a rock with a waterfall, hydro massages, air couches, showers, a climbing net and a water swing. In addition to the pool, the centre also offers wellness services. There is also a solarium, a brand new water cave and a river with an artificial stream and outer/inner slide with a length of about 100 m.

The Sports Complex Poruba

The most specific feature of the complex is the set of tennis courts – seven external and two in the inflatable halls. There is also a football pitch with an athletics track. The resort also offers a bowling alley with four lanes. Catering facilities are also available in the complex.

The Ice rink Ostrava-Poruba

The building encompasses two ice rinks for skaters and a multi-functional sports hall for 5000 people. In summer, the hall transforms into a 14-court badminton square. The complex also has a dozen beds, massage rooms, a sauna and a gym.



Detailed information is available at www.sareza.cz

The swimming pool in the district Poruba: Rekreační 74/236, 708 00 Ostrava-Poruba / tel.: +420 736 755 999 / GPS: 49°49'35.7" N, 18°08'20.6" E
The indoor swimming pool in the district Poruba: Generála Sochora 1378, 708 00 Ostrava-Poruba / tel.: +420 736 755 999 / GPS: 49°49'59.5" N, 18°11'00.7" E

The SAREZA Water World: Sokolská 44/2590, 702 00 Ostrava-Moravská Ostrava / tel.: +420 736 755 999 / GPS: 49°50'42.4" N, 18°17'22.1" E

The Sports Complex Poruba: Skautská 11/6093, 708 00 Ostrava-Poruba / tel.: +420 736 755 999 / GPS: 49°49'25.9" N, 18°10'41.1" E

The Ice rink Ostrava-Poruba: Čkalovova 20/6144, 708 00 Ostrava-Poruba / tel.: +420 736 755 999 / GPS: 49°49'50.2" N, 18°10'30.0" E

The golf course in Kravaře

KRAVAŘE

The beautifully situated golf course is located in the park surrounding the historic palace in Kravaře. This field is perfectly integrated within the century-old trees, flower beds and numerous water areas created by streams and lakes. The golf course was founded in 1997 as a 9-hole Golf Course. After the development and renovation in the recent years, today it is now full 18-hole course with a "medium" diffi-



culty rating. The Castle Golf Club from Kravaře is very popular due to having a friendly, family atmosphere. Before a tournament, in addition to eating a communal breakfast with your golf competitors, you can also listen to poetry and a good music onsite. Players will find everything a modern golfing resort can offer. There is also an accommodation option and a spacious studio wellness facility.

Address: Mlýnská 23a, 747 21 Kravaře / tel.: +420 553 673 202 / www.golfkravare.cz / GPS: 49°55'46.98" N, 17°59'59.78" E

The golf course in Šilheřovice

ŠILHEŘOVICE

The course in Šilheřovice is one of the oldest 18-hole golf courses. It is situated in a 19th-century English-style park, dominated by an impressive castle – which in 1844-1945 was the property of the Rothschild family. The presence of the century-old trees, the distinctive feature of the green, create on one hand, a unique atmosphere, and on the other hand a demand from players of a higher skill- set and is one of the reasons that the course is considered to be



relatively technically difficult.

In the park there are different options of spending time pleasantly in the club hotel, restaurant and summer gardens. There is an equipment rental store as well as a specialized shop to purchase the equipment. The season lasts generally from April to November, but when the weather is good, the facilities are available in March and December. The golf course in Šilheřovice belongs to the Park Golf Club Ostrava.

Address: Dolní 412, 747 15 Šilheřovice / tel.: +420 595 054 144 / www.golf-ostrava.cz / GPS: 49°55'34.59" N, 18°16'28.909" E

Hlučínské lake

HLUČÍN

In the immediate vicinity of the town Hlučín, there is an artificial water lake with an area of over 130 hectares. Together with existing surroundings and amenities it creates a large sports and leisure center, attractive especially for water sports enthusiasts. For the swimming fans, in addition to the natural lake, there are two swimming pools and also a paddling pool. On the lake everyone can try their hand at water sports, like water skiing, windsurfing and sailing. There is an on-site water sports equipment renting store. There are also beach volleyball and football pitches, and tennis courts. You can try your hand at a game of mini golf, table tennis or Russian skittles. Right on the banks of the lake there is a camping and caravanning field. For visitors in need



of refreshments there is a large range of catering facilities avail-

able. Near the complex you can find the "Children's Ranch", which

offers hippotherapy and vaulting. You can also go horse riding there.

Address: Celní 12a, Hlučín / tel.: +420 595 043 677 / www.sra-hlucin.cz / GPS: 49°53'32.6" N, 18°10'39.5" E / www.detskyranc.info

The swimming pool "Silver Lake" in Opava

OPAVA

The Natural swimming pool "Silver Lake", also known as "Sádrák" is located on the Northern outskirts of the district of Opava- Kateřinky. It was established on the site of a former quarry, where for over a hundred years gypsum was mined. The length of the lake is nearly 600 m, and the maximum width is about 200 m. The surface area of the lake measures 6.6 ha and has a maximum depth of about 15 m. Its name "Silver Lake" relates to glossy min-



erals of gypsum crystals that an observant hiker can still see on the shores of the basin. Currently, the lake serves not only for swimming and sunbathing purposes – anglers will also find something for themselves. Recently, a new disc-golf course is available here.

The reservoir can be reached by a public transport. The complex contains sport courts, toilets, buffets and also parking for cars.

Address: U Dráhy, 747 05 Opava-Kateřinky / tel.: +420 553 756 143 / GPS: 49°57'17.3" N, 17°53'28.8" E

The water trail on Moravici

HRADEC NAD MORAVICÍ



One of the biggest attractions for boating enthusiasts of the Polish and Czech side of the Silesia Euroregion is a water trail on Moravici. The beautiful valley of the river Moravici can be explored by bicycle or walking, but the views from a boat or kayak are genuinely spectacular. Paddling down the water trail on Moravici has been for many years a traditional event in the Czech Republic, which brings together hundreds of keen boat fans. The attraction of this route are numerous artificial and natural thresholds, which when traversing enthralls the participants with lots of emotions and sensations. Especially for the event, the water level in the river is increased by a wider opening of the dam at the reservoir in Kružberk. The length of the trail is 45 km.

"Paddling down the water trail on Moravici" events last from April to September in specific and pre-scheduled sessions.

Detailed information is available at www.svcampanula.cz

Address: The start of the rafting event at the dam in Kružberk – GPS: 49°49'24.3" N, 17°39'50.5" E / www.vkaskady.cz / www.svcampanula.cz

Public Parks in Opava

OPAVA

Opava has always been famous for its beautiful parks and green, open spaces. The first public park was created in the late 18th century on the pastures and military exercise fields of that time. The area was planted with trees and shrub and decorated with sculptures. In the past during summer local festivities and other celebrations were held

here. Particularly popular were the annual shooting competition held on the Holy Trinity celebration. Today, located in the North- Western town outskirts, it is still the most important park in the town. In addition to the Public Park, the grass lands and squares, Opava has also other beautiful parks. Among them are Dvořák Park, Janáček Park

and Smetana Park. Parks and gardens in Opava are frequented not only by the locals. They also serve as a place to organize many of the town events and celebrations. They are a favorite place for jogging, rollerblading and cycling enthusiasts. It is worth mentioning that a marked educational trail leads through Opava parks and gardens.



Address: 746 01 Opava / GPS: 49°57'2.4" N, 17°53'17.4" E / GPS: 49°56'6.7" N, 17°54'12.76" E



Cycle routes



CYCLING IS BECOMING MORE AND MORE POPULAR EVERY YEAR. FOR THIS REASON, TOWNS, COMMUNES AND DISTRICTS ARE PAYING CLOSER ATTENTION TO THE DEVELOPMENT OF MARKED CYCLE AND HIKING PATHS, WHICH PROVIDE ACCESS TO NATURAL ATTRACTIONS AND ALLOW SIGHTSEEING, RECREATION AND SPORTS. A LARGE NUMBER OF CYCLING PATHS, BOTH FOR BEGINNERS AND ADVANCED CYCLISTS, CAN BE FOUND THROUGHOUT THE WHOLE EUROREGION SILESIA. MORE AND MORE BIKE TRAILS ARE BEING BUILT AS SEPARATE ENTITIES FROM THE ROADS FOR VEHICLES. BELOW THERE ARE SOME SELECTED, MARKED CYCLING PATHS ON BOTH SIDES OF THE POLISH AND CZECH BORDERS.

KRZYŻANOWICE COMMUNE

Throughout some of the most interesting and beautiful areas of the Krzyżanowice Community runs a collection of marked bike routes numbered: R4, 9, 24, 39, 341, 347, 348 and 355, with a total length of nearly 100 km. They stretch as far as possible alongside the quieter roads with a little car traffic, forested areas and through fields. Only when necessary they run along the main and national roads. The cycling routes were mapped out in such a way that cyclists would travel past interesting buildings, monuments, natural and leisure attractions, railway stations, accommodation stops as well as catering businesses such as pubs, restaurants and cafes.

Route No. 9

Route colour: blue

The distance of the commune: 18.7 km (an option with a loop onto route no. 355 – about 30 km)

The course of the route: Bieńkowice – path Hroza – Tworków – Krzyżanowice – polder Buków – Roszków – Zabelków Nowy Dwór – car park close to the bridge, Zabelków – Olza

Route No. 9, a smaller part of the larger route "Odra Trail" measuring 1094 km, starts in Racibórz and runs through the picturesque areas of the Krzyżanowice Commune. The route contains numerous attractions, for example, in Bieńkowice, travellers can visit the live historic Forgery (see page 32) and the historic parish



church of the early 18th century. Next, the route runs onto a track called "Hroza". This old, wooden dike, perfectly adapted to cycling takes us on to Tworków. While passing Tworków you can visit the ruins of a mighty castle (see page 9) and visit the Baroque parish church of Ss. Peter and Paul, where you can see, among others a collection of sarcophagi from the 16th century (see page 21). While passing Krzyżanowice it is worth going to the centre and visiting the palace of Lichnowsky with its surrounding park that remembers the composers – Franciszek Liszt and Ludwig van Beethoven (see page 5). You can also

visit the historic Neo-Baroque parish church from 1793. Another attraction of the route is the reservoir of Buków – interesting in terms of its natural floodplains. In the village of Zabelków it is worth taking route No. 355 led along a newly built road through the protected landscape area "The Odra River Border Meander" (see page 45). Along the way, visitors need to keep a watchful eye in the immediate vicinity of the border for the castle in Chalupki (see page 7). In Zabelków, route No. 9 is combined with international routes R4 and 24, crossing among others, the area of Gorzyce Commune.

LYSKI COMMUNE

The network of bicycle routes in the commune of Lyski was opened in 2008. They were designed and built as part of a project called: "Through Lyski on two wheels", financed by the Lyski Commune and Micro-projects Fund of the Euroregion Silesia.

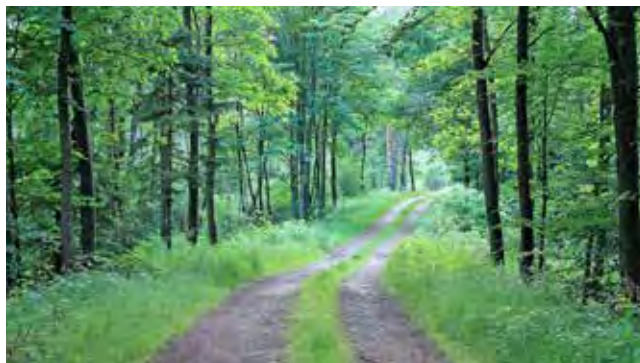
Route No. 330

Route colour: green

The distance of this route within the commune is about 27.5 kilometers (travel time: approximately 3 hours, 15 min)

The course of the route: Rudy – Zwonowice – Sumina – Lyski – Podlesie – edge of Czernica – Pstrązna – The Życzyński forest – Adamowice – Pila

The route starts in the center of Rudy, where it is worth visiting the Post-Cistercian Monastery and Palace Complex, along with the Basilica (see page 5). From Rudy, the route takes us to Zwonowice, where on the Winna Hill sits a hunting lodge. Next, the trail leads us in the vicinity of the road from Zwonowice to Sumina and Górki Śląskie. After that, it doesn't take long to reach the shores of the pictur-



CYCLE ROUTES

esque, mid-forest breeding pond. This is one of the most charming places along the route. After passing Sumina we head towards Lyski. In this village, there is a St. Joseph Nursing Home (see page 20) and the parish church of St. Margaret is also worth visiting (see page 20). The next attraction is the old cemetery with the burial chapel of the family Polednik (see

page 23). After leaving Lyski, the route continues on to the dike of the large lake Żelazowiec; this is another attractive viewing point. After that, we arrive at the buildings of the Podlesie hamlet and then on to Czernica. The next village on the route is Pszczyna. It is worth detouring off the trail a little to see the architecturally absorbing parish church of St. Nicholas

(see page 23). After that, the trail heads to the village of Łańce, and then continues on to the village Żytka. Leaving Żytka, the trail crosses the cycle route Lyski – Raszczycze – Nędza in the direction of Adamowice. From here it is not too far until the last stop on green route No. 330 – which is Szymocice Recreation Centre in the colony Pila.

KORNOWAC COMMUNE

A network of marked bicycle routes, very often connected with neighboring communities and towns runs through the Kornowac commune. An example of this type of trail is the relatively short route No. 317 from Racibórz-Brzezcie to Pszów. This is a route full of vast, panoramic views, and also physically quite difficult to traverse due to numerous steep paths.

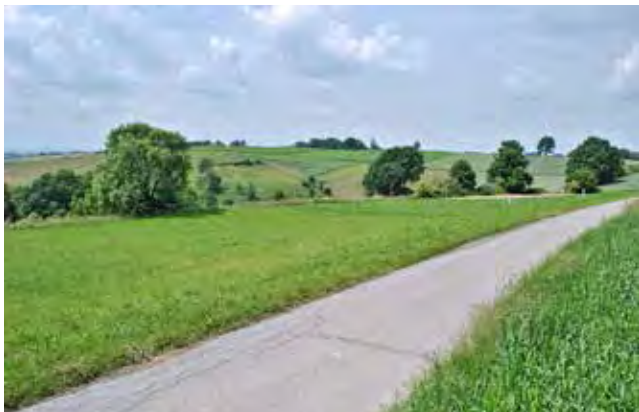
Route No. 317

Route colour: blue

The distance: about 16 km

The course of the route: Brzezcie on Odra (Dębicz) – Kobyla – Łańce – Kornowac – Kolonia Kornowacka – Krzyżkowice – Pszowskie Doly – Pszów

The beginning of the trail is located on the edge of the forest Obora in Racibórz. From here, we head towards Kobyla. In the center of this village, we can view the old school building from 1875; here also begins a very long and tiring uphill peddle, so stopping to have a rest gives you a good reason to visit the small, local church. The vast panorama opens up on the way to Kornowac, where tourists can easily make out the spoil tip of Szarlota in Rydułtowy. Whilst in Kornowac, it is worth finding the red brick building of the old school of 1902, which currently serves as the seat of the Commune. After a moment we pass by the local Gymnasium of the Pope John Paul II. The next part of the journey rewards travelers with the biggest impression off all – the absolutely stunning views that surround visitors from all sides. Next



on the route is the Kolonia Kornowacka buildings, and then Krzyżkowice. From here it is close to Pszowskie Doly, where the buildings – as the name suggests – show up in the valley. From

Pszowskie Doly the trail takes us to the center of Pszów, where you definitely need to see the magnificent Basilica of St. Mary and Pszowska Calvary (see page 19).

GORZYCE COMMUNE, LUBOMIA COMMUNE, WODZISŁAW ŚLĄSKI

Route No. 316

Route colour: yellow

The distance: 52 km

The course of the route: Olza – Odra – Bluszczów – Buków – Lubomia – Zawada – Syrynka – Czyżowice – Gorzyce – Uchylisko – Gorzyczki – Turza Śląska – Turzyczka – Wodzisław Śląski

The beginning of Route No. 316 is located near international road No. 24 in the village Olza. From here the route takes us through villages Odra and Bluszczów and on to Buków, where in the center of the village the original, wooden chapel from 1770 remains (see page 24). From Buków, the route runs between lakes, and through 'Landscape & Nature Protected Area' Wielikąt (see page 46), until the track reaches Lubomia. From Lubomia we head toward Syrynia, and via a field path we arrive at the settlement Goleniów of 8–9th century – perhaps the oldest site in the Euroregion Silesia built by human hands. From here we head towards Czyżowice, admiring along the way the most attractive part of the route – Czyżowicka Switzerland, with its magnificent forested landscape. After that, through Os-



iny we enter Gorzyce, where weary travelers can relax by visiting the palace and park (see page 6) or... the Waterpark "Nautica" (see page 54). From Gorzyce through Uchylisko, Gorzyczki and Kolonia Fryderyk (with a group of traditional tenement which is unusual because it's located in

the village) we arrive at the Turza Śląska. It behooves visitors to stop in the Sanctuary of Our Lady of Fatima (see page 19). Finally the route heads through Turzyczka to Wodzisław Śląski, where by the stadium MKS Odra Wodzisław the route ends.

THE CYCLE ROUTE RACIBÓRZ – OPAVA

The total distance of the route is approximately 32.5 kilometers, of which in Poland measures 18.5 km (route no. 6), and in the Czech Republic 14 km (route no. 552). Starting from Racibórz the red trail leads towards Wojnowice, where a 19th century palace is located, surrounded by a historic park (see page 6) and the late Baroque church of Exaltation of the Holy Cross. From Wojnowice it takes us to Bojanów, where it passes the historic wooden granary of the 18th century, and then heads off to Krzanowice, and its neo-baroque, powerful parish church of St. Wencelas (see page 22). Here you can also view the 17th century column of St. Mary, situated in the central square. In Krzanowice the route crosses the state border heading towards Strahovice. Another village on this path is Koberice where the neo-Gothic parish church from the second half of the 19th century is worth inspecting. The church boasts two 15th century bells. From Koberice through to Svoboda and Chlebičov the route finally gets to Opava, where it finishes.

A slight variation of the final part of the route is to cycle from Koberice towards Hněvošice and Oldřšov. In Hněvošice it is worth visiting the church of the Good Shepherd built relatively re-



cently. In the same village there is also a historic wooden church of St Peter and Paul (see page 27). Both routes cut through Kateřinky –

a district of Opava with the historic, chapel of St. Cross (called Swedish) from 1394 also an interesting visit.

CYCLE ROUTES "OPAVICE" (CYKLOTRASY OPAVICE)

"Opavice" is a series of four bicycle routes on both sides of the Polish and Czech border. All of them have been carefully marked, and special folders have been prepared with detailed descriptions and maps. These routes spread from Kružberk in the South to Głogówek in the North with a total distance of marked trails of approximately 220 km. Cycle routes "Opavice" include routes 34, 55, 503 and 6116.

The Route 34/55

Route colour: blue/red

The distance: about 28 km

The course of the route: Vávrovice (CZ) – Wiechowice (PL) – Wysoka (PL) – Branice (PL) – Úvalno (CZ) – Cvilín (CZ) – Krnov (CZ)

One of the options of exploring the region could be the cycling route running through several of the marked trails. Route no. 34 begins at the Polish – Czech border in Opava – Vávrovice in Czech Republic. After crossing the border it enters Wiechowice in the commune of Branice. The local landmark worth noticing here is the parish church of the Holy Trinity mentioned in the written sources in 1473. Next the trail reaches the village Wysoka, where the landmarks: Baroque palace and park of the 18th century, and the church of the Sacred Heart of Jesus built in 1922, are worth visiting. Another village on the route is Branice. Visitors can view the neo-Gothic parish church of Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary, and the statue of St. John of Nepomucen from 1801. The village is also the location of the therapeutic complex of the Independent Provincial Hospital for the mentally ill of Bishop Joseph Nathan. Its centre is situated in a church modeled on the ancient Christian basilicas.

In Branice, tourists can change the route: from route no. 34 and take route no. 55 towards the Czech border, which crosses the border in the village Úvalno.



The red trail takes us next, to Jeseníky. In Úvalno it is worth seeing the observation tower of Hans Kudlich. On the way from Úvalno to Krnov there is the hill Cvilín also worth popping into as at this historic site there is another viewing tower. From Cvilín the route heads downhill to Krnov where the choice of attractions and monuments will for certain require travelers to take a long break. From Krnov tourists

can continue along route 55 until Jeseník, or can change routes in Město Albrechtice onto route 6116 in the direction of Osoblaha, or swap the routes even earlier – in the place where the route 55 connects with the route 34 – and go back on the trail of route 34 towards Głogówek. Another option is to start in Krnov route no. 503 leading to the water reservoir in Kružberk.

CYCLE ROUTES OF THE HLUČÍN REGION (HLUČÍNSKO)

The area of the Hlučín Region is crossed by a dense network of cycling trails meandering there way through this picturesque land. Many of these trails are led by specially designed and built cycle routes. Route no. 4 (EV4) of European network of Euro-velo runs through the Moravian Gate, and other, longer routes leading through the Hlučín area also refer to it. Bike routes are well marked and cut through less frequented asphalt roads, forest and country lanes. Also available are special places for a rest-bit, as well as viewing information boards with maps of the area. The most popular cycling routes running through the Hlučín Region are described below:

Cycle Route No. 5 – The Amber Trail (Jantarová stezka)

Its total distance is 332.50 kilometers. The route runs from the border crossing Hat' - Tworków through Ostrava, Přerov, Olomouc, Prostějov, Blansko and continues until Hevlín. In the vicinity of the Hlučín Region the trail begins in Hat', where it is worth seeing the parish church of St. Matthew. Then, reaching Darkovičky the route goes past the interesting military fortification

complex (see page 33). Hlučín – the capital of the region – is a very charming town with a town square and a historic castle (see page 14). From Hlučín along the Opava River the trail arrives at Ostrava, where it ends. The whole distance of the Hat' – Ostrava route is 18 km.



Cycle Route No. 554 – Prajzská Cesta

The total distance of the route from Kravaře to the Polish border in Šilheřovice is 29 km. The trail begins by the palace in Kravaře (see page 13). Then it runs through Štěpánkovice and Albertovce to Bolatice. In Bolatice it is worth going to the open-air museum of local traditions (see page 35) and also to the parish church. The patron of the church is. St. Stanislaus, the patron of

Poland, in remembrance of Polish King Jan III Sobieski passing through the Czech village. Another village on the path is Bohuslavice with its parish church of the Holy Trinity from the mid 18th century. Then we get to Vřesina, and next to Hat' and Šilheřovice. In Šilheřovice you will find a palace (see page 13) with a large park and a golf course (see page 59).

SILESIAN HIGHWAY (SLEZSKÁ MAGISTRÁLA)

The distance of the cycle route no. 55, called "Silesian Highway", is 140 km. The route sets out from Jeseník through Město Albrechtice, Krnov, Úvalno and Opava to Kravaře. A 35 kilometer section part of the route between Krnov and Kravaře is worth noting. This part of the trail runs mostly along the newly laid cycle paths set down just beyond the main roads. In Krnov, at the beginning of the route, one should see the historic old town square and town hall, the pilgrimage church located right behind the town and a lookout tower on the hill Cvilín. Another observation tower is situated in Úvalno. In Holasovice, the next village on the route, there is a museum of the Silesian village worth visiting. After that, the route leads through the town of Opava, full of monuments and other tourist attractions such as: the Town Hall with the tower "Hláška" (see page 15), church of St. Vojtěch (see page 26) and the public parks and gardens (see page 60). The route from Opava first leads through the Malé Hoštice and then to Velké Hoštice where it is necessary to pay attention to the historic palace (see page 14). After that, the cycle path reaches Kravaře, the next town on the route. Kravaře is famous for its palace (see page 13) and a popular golf course in use around the palace (see page 59) as well as leisure and sport complex with a water park (see page 57).



Frequent Events



A REVIEW OF SELECTED REOCCURRING EVENTS ON THE POLISH PART OF THE EUROREGION SILESIA:

JANUARY

Pszów

The Pszów Mayor's Cup race



The event began in 2009 and takes place on the field of LKS "Naprzód 37" Krzykwice in Pszów. The run is organized on the third Sunday of January and starts in the morning, while the trophies & prizes ceremony takes place at around 13.30. This event is open to people of all ages, and is organized by the town of Pszów.
www.pszow.pl

JANUARY

Racibórz

The Regional Meeting of Vocal Communities



The Regional Meeting of Vocal Communities is an annual concert of carols that has taken place for many decades now, and is housed in the church of the Sacred Heart of Jesus in Racibórz. The concert comprises of several teams (not only from the Racibórz district) including choirs, vocal groups and soloists. The organizers are the Youth Culture Centre and parish of the Sacred Heart of Jesus in Racibórz.
www.mdk-raciborz.pl

MARCH

KRZANOWICE COMMUNE

The Interschool Competition of the Lach Dialect in Krzanowice



The Competition of the Lach Dialect is a competition between student teams from Polish and the Czech Republic schools. They present short scenes of dialogue in the Lach dialect that is spoken in the area of the Silesian and Moravian border. The young actors also perform these scenes in local costumes. The competition is organized in Krzanowice School.
www.krzanowice.pl

MARCH/APRIL

KORNOWAC COMMUNE

The Easter fair and the show of local dishes – an exhibit of meals



The presentation of meals and of the Easter decorations fair takes place in the hall of the Communal Cultural Centre in Kobyla. During the event, you can taste the Easter specialties prepared by the ladies of the rural women circles from the community and purchase ornaments and handcrafts made by the Communal Cultural Centre female workers and youth from the local schools. The presentation is always held two weeks before Easter.
www.gok.kornowac.pl

MARCH/APRIL

PIETROWICE WIELKIE COMMUNE

The Easter horses' procession in Pietrowice Wielkie



The Easter horses' procession takes place on Easter Monday. Organized for centuries the horses procession traverses the field roads to reach the wooden church of St. Cross (see page 24), where the pleading service for a good harvest is held. Then, after the service, at approximately 15:00 in Pietrowice Wielkie there is colorful horses' race for the participating animals in the procession. The rest of the celebrations take place at the LKS sports center in Pietrowice Wielkie.

www.pietrowicewielkie.pl

MAY

WODZISŁAW ŚLĄSKI

The Military and Historical Picnic



The event always takes place in Wodzisław Śląski on the 3rd of May and is a family picnic. In addition to military vehicles and soldiers' reconstruction groups, during the event you can also see The Wodzisław Riflemen Unit 2023. There is also an option of taking a ride on some of the present-ed vehicles and tasting the pea soup from the field kitchen. The main organizer is the town of Wodzisław Śląski with the support of the Association of GRH Silesian Insurgent.

www.wodzislaw-slaski.pl

MAY

KRZYŻANOWICE COMMUNE

Fairs on the border



Fairs on the border is a traditional event taking place annually since 2008 at the former border crossing Chalupki – Bohumin. Here, collectors from across Poland and the Czech Republic present their "treasures" to interested buyers. Also, local residents who want to get rid of unnecessary, but valuable things such as porcelain, home appliances or furniture take part in the event. During the fair anybody can sell something. "Fairs on the border" takes place twice a year – the first one held on the second Sunday in May, and the second in mid-September. It is organized by Krzyżanowice Commune.

www.krzyzanowice.pl

MAY

PIETROWICE WIELKIE COMMUNE

The Eco- Exhibition in Pietrowice Wielkie



The Eco- Exhibition "Construction. Gardens. Heating Systems. Interiors" has become the event that brings together intentional consumers and has become a permanent event in the economic life of the region. It is an event of trying to establish as many transactions and agreements as possible and also the presenting of new products and services. The Eco-Exhibition is held on the second weekend in May and is combined with a family picnic. It is organized at the Social and Cultural Centre in Pietrowice Wielkie. The organizer is Pietrowice Wielkie Commune.

www.pietrowicewielkie.pl

MAY

BABORÓW COMMUNE

The Baborów Run of Edward Górczyński

The Baborów run every year gathers enthusiasts of running from across the whole of Poland, including the champions of this sporting discipline. The race is open to children, teens and adults, who take part in the main length of the run which is 10 km on the main road. Alongside the Run a Nordic walk called "The March for health" is also organized. The event takes place at the stadium in Baborów. The main organizer is the Cultural Centre of Baborów Community.

www.gok.baborow.pl

MAY

MSZANA COMMUNE

The Motor Cross-Country in Mszana

The Motor Cross-Country in Mszana is a motorcycle rally in a Wild West genre combined with a family fair. The event involves not only the local residents of Mszana but also partners of the Czech communes who willingly take part in it. The event begins with a cavalcade of motorbikes meandering through the roads of Mszana; the meeting place is at the open-air stage by the Centre of Culture and Recreation of Mszana Commune which is also the event organizer.

www.gokir-mszana.pl

MAY

GŁUBCZYCE

The Festival of Upper Silesia

The Upper Silesian Festival is an event that has more than twenty years of tradition. It is held alternately in Głubczyce and Krnov. The event is a family festival, during which concerts and performances are given by participants from Poland and the Czech Republic on the outdoor stage at the Głubczyce stadium or on the market square in Krnov. The meeting of the councilors of both towns is a fixed component of the Upper Silesian Festival. The organizer of the festival is alternates between the towns of Głubczyce and Krnov.

www.mokglubczyce.com.pl

MAY

KUŹNIA RACIBORSKA COMMUNE

The International Dog Show

The International Dog Show is a real treat for dog lovers. The event is intended for all interested residents and people from outside the community. During the show, the dogs are presented by their breeders and the owners of purebred dogs. The exhibition is held annually in May at the town stadium in Kuźnia Raciborska as a daily picnic. The organizer is the Purebred Dogs Breeders Association.

www.zhpr.pl

FREQUENT EVENTS

MAY

LYSKI COMMUNE

The bike rally "The trails of Lyski Commune"



The bike rally "The trails of Lyski Commune" is organized twice a year – in spring during May and in the autumn. The event is addressed to all residents of the Lyski community, but it is also open to all those passionate of two wheeled riding machines. Every year, the route runs along different area showing the beautiful landscape and wildlife of the commune and surrounding areas. The event organizer is a Lyski Commune.
www.lyski.pl

MAY

LUBOMIA COMMUNE

The staging performance of the Battle of Olza



The event is an insurgent festival and refers to the historical events of the Silesian uprisings. The reconstruction allows you to witness the heroic rebels, who died in order to rejoin Silesia to Poland. The reenactment takes place in different locations: in Lubomia (by the rail track next to the un-used railway station) or in Buków. The main organizer is the Communal Cultural Centre in Lubomia.
www.gok.lubomia.pl

JUNE

KRZYŻANOWICE COMMUNE

The International Brass Bands Festival in Tworków



The festival is intended to be a competition. The brass bands from Poland and the Czech Republic register as participants beforehand and then take part in the event. On the morning of the event auditions are held, and in the afternoon the event turns into the main festival where the brass bands participating present their music. The organizers are Krzyżanowice Commune and the Communal Unit of Education, Culture, Sports and Tourism with the seat in Tworków.
www.krzyzanowice.pl

JUNE

KIETRZ COMMUNE

The Half-Marathon Kietrz – Rohov



This running event has been organized annually since 2007. Traditionally, it takes place on the second Saturday of June and passes through the picturesque and attractive Polish and Czech borderland. This international event is open to all but there are limits on the number of participants. There is an entry fee for the marathon runners. The organizers are Kietrz Commune and the Czech Commune Rohov.
www.kietrz.pl / www.rohov.cz

JUNE

RACIBÓRZ / KUŹNIA RACIBORSKA COMMUNE

Pływadło

Pływadło (an intended alteration of the word "vessel") is a regular event of a recreational and sports nature. The event participant's paddle by themselves on 'constructed vessels' or canoes, along a navigable section of the Odra river on the route: Racibórz – Kędzierzyn-Koźle. At the end of the route there is series of accompanying events and prizes for the best vessels, awaiting participants. The event is organized by Racibórz town and Racibórz and Kędzierzyn-Koźle districts as well as Kędzierzyn-Koźle town and Sports and Recreation Centre.

www.raciborz.pl

JUNE

RACIBÓRZ

The International Artists Meeting "Silesia – the land of many cultures"

The idea of this festival is to present the cultural mosaic of Silesia against a backdrop of artistic teams from around the world. The event is abound with presentations of local and international folk and dance bands, brass band, choirs and many others. In addition, there are also workshops, exhibitions, lectures, parades, demonstrations of folk costumes, etc held. The event organizer is the Association of Culture of the Racibórz Land "Źródło".

www.raciborz.pl / www.skrz.pl

JUNE

RUDNIK COMMUNE

The All-Polish countrywide Skating Race

The run takes place within all age categories on the route from Modzurów through Strzybnicki to Pawłów. An entry fee is applicable. Each participant receives a participant T-shirt and refreshments (a drink and a hot meal). Small prizes, trophies, medals and diplomas are awarded to the winners. The organizer of the race is the Rudnik Commune and a Sport Club UKS Zryw in Rudnik.

www.gmina-rudnik.pl

JUNE

GORZYCE COMMUNE

Rock & Reggae Summer Party in Olza

The annual event is held in June during the evening at the campsite "Camping Europe Olza" in Olza (see page 51). This is a concert with rock bands and reggae musicians. The event is ticketed and very popular, especially among young people. The main organizer is the Rural Cultural centre in Olza.

www.gorzyce.pl / www.wdokolza.org

JULY

KRZYŻANOWICE COMMUNE

International and District Competition of Horse Drawn Fire Engines in Bieńkowiec



The event is intended to be a festival connected with the competition of Horse Drawn Fire Engines. It begins in the afternoon with a parade of all the teams. The parade starts from the firehouse TSO Bieńkowiec and arrives at the local sports court. The competition involves teams operating Horse Drawn Fire Engines from Poland and the Czech Republic. The event is organized by the Krzyżanowice Commune and Volunteer Fire Department in Bieńkowiec. The competition has been running since 2006. www.krzyzanowice.pl

JULY

WODZISŁAW ŚLĄSKI

The Reggae Festival



The Reggae Festival is an annual event taking place in Wodzisław Śląski, in the town's park located in the town center. Wodzisław festival is the biggest free reggae festival in Poland. A few thousand fans of reggae music come to the festival every year. They have access to a campsite and sanitary and catering facilities. It is organized by the town of Wodzisław Śląski and the Art Agency "Total", along with the band "Tabu" playing reggae music. www.nmnz.pl

JULY/AUGUST

RACIBÓRZ

The Medieval Festival in Racibórz



The aim of the event is to familiarize the residents of our region (especially children and young people) with the history of medieval Europe. Special attractions like presentations of medieval fights tournaments and reconstructions of battles, concerts of the early music and craft workshops are organized as a part of the experience. The event is organized by the Association of "Drengowie" (old tribe) from the Upper Oder River with financial support of Racibórz Town and Racibórz District. www.drengowie.pl



JULY/AUGUST

RYDUŁTOWY

The Family Run of Lovestruck



The family run of "Love-struck couples" is organized in the Rydułtowy Playing Centre Fikołkownia RAFA (see page 52) during the summer holidays. The event consists of a street race of couples in love (marriage, siblings, children with parents, fiancées, etc.) and the festival of the family nature. The event is aimed at Rydułtowy and surrounding areas residents, regardless of age. It is organized by the town of Rydułtowy. www.rydułtowy.pl

AUGUST

LYSKI COMMUNE

The Festival "The Magic of Rock"

"The Magic of Rock" is the largest rock festival in the region, organized annually on the last Friday of August in Lyski on the Railway Station Street, next to the Community Office. The event is designed for fans of rock music, both rock ballads and more 'powerful' sounds. It is organized by an Art Agency Rock Art and the co-organizer is the Lyski Commune.
www.magiarocka.pl / www.lyski.pl

AUGUST

RACIBÓRZ

The Memorial of firefighter Cpt. A. Kaczyna and firefighter A. Malinowski

The Memorial is dedicated to the memory of firefighters who died in August 1992 during forest fires in the region of Kuźnia Raciborska. During the Memorial event a lot of artistic entertainment and sports activities take place. The crowning point of the Memorial is a concert of Polish music stars, and also performers from other countries. Organizers: The Polish Trade Union "Solidarity" of the District Headquarters of the State Fire Service in Racibórz, The town of Racibórz, MKZ "Union" Racibórz, the Racibórz District, Polish Television Ltd Katowice.
www.memorial.com.pl

AUGUST

KUŹNIA RACIBORSKA COMMUNE

The Festival of Wedding Bands

The aim of this festival is to present the most interesting and original musical groups performing wedding and banquet music. The event is open to public so anyone willing can join and listen to the performing groups. The festival is held every last weekend of August. It is organized by the Centre of Culture, Sport and Recreation of Kuźnia Raciborska town.
www.kuzniakultury.pl

AUGUST/SEPTEMBER

WODZISŁAW ŚLĄSKI

The Motor Show

During the Motor Show in Wodzisław you can see vintage cars, racing cars, remote control cars and go-karts, also trucks, caravans and motorcycles. Everyone can have a try at driving on some of the simulators and also have a sneak peek at secrets about the road rescue services' work. The Motor Show started in 2010 and is on every 2 years and admission is free. The event organizers are: The Town of Wodzisław Śląski, District Headquarters of the Police, District Headquarters of the State Fire Service, Polish Automobile Association and the Automobile Club of Silesia.
www.wodzislav-slaski.pl / www.auto-slaski.katowice.pl

AUGUST/SEPTEMBER

Pszów

The Motorcycle Rally in Pszów



The event is organized in August or September at the Stadium "TS Górnik Pszów" by Traugutt Street or on the Old Shooting Range LOK in the former mine ANNA. The event is addressed to the residents of Pszów, as well as the surrounding towns and fans of motorcycles. Also, concerts, a parade of motorcycles and a picnic take place during this event. The Motorcycle Group Hanyusy is the event organizer.
www.hanysypszow.pl

SEPTEMBER

BRANICE COMMUNE

The Historical Picnic in Włodzienin



The historical picnic is a two-day event including (among other things) a presentation by the reconstructing groups of the staging of the middle-ages as well as the actions of the Second World War. The event is open to all visitors, especially for those who are interested in history. The main organizer of the event is the Association of Historical Reconstruction "Silesia".
www.wlodzienin.srh-silesia.pl

SEPTEMBER

MARKLOWICE COMMUNE

The "Silesia Cup" of the Roller Skis Race



The Competition for the "Silesia Cup" in roller blades race is also the national meeting of School Sports Clubs practicing this discipline. The event, as a nationwide sporting event is open to everyone. The race starts at the square of the Barosz – Gwimet Company and participants have a choice of either an 8 or 12 km track. The organizers are: Marklowice Commune, the Silesian and Beskids Ski Association and Student Interschool Sports Club in Marklowice.
www.umks.marklowice.pl

OCTOBER

RACIBÓRZ

The Festival of Travelers – "Windmills"



The festival takes place annually in Racibórz in the last weekend of October. Within the festival there are organized meetings with the participation of eminent travelers, explorers and journalists as well as the travel workshops, slide shows and travel & reportage movie presentations. The event is accompanied by performances of the invited teams and musical groups from all over the country. The Festival is organized by the Association of Artists and Travelers – Rosynant Group.
www.wiatraki.rosynant.pl

NOVEMBER

BABORÓW COMMUNE

The Chess Tournament of Andrzej Rippa



The tournament is organized every year in November at the performance hall in Baborów, by Rynek 9 Street. It is intended for all enthusiasts of this classic, intellectual sport. The tournament is split in to two categories – juniors and seniors and proceeds in the morning. The tournament participants not only arrive from the local area, but also from the provinces of Silesia and Lower Silesia. The main organizer is the Cultural Centre of Baborów Commune.

www.baborow.pl / www.gok.baborow.pl

NOVEMBER

PSZÓW

The Trendy Rock Festival



The Trendy Rock Festival is held every year in November, at the headquarters of the Public Cultural Centre in Pszów. The Public Cultural Centre is also the organizer of the festival. There is an admission charge to the event and it takes place during the evening. The Festival is organized in the form of a rock bands concert. It is aimed at fans of more 'intense' sounds. The Festival has been organized since 2006.

www.mokpszow.pl

DECEMBER

RACIBÓRZ

The Christmas Market



The fair is traditionally held throughout December in Racibórz market square where artists and craftsmen from all across Poland present their products, skills and services. The smell of gingerbread and cookies, sparkling Christmas tree decorations, Christmas centerpieces and the taste of mulled wine with aromatic spices – is all part of the Racibórz Fair experience. The open-air cinema is another attraction and is open on selected weekend in December. The organizer of the Fair is the Town of Racibórz, Racibórz Cultural Centre and the Silesian Employers' Association.

www.raciborz.pl

DECEMBER

RYDUŁTOWY

Santa's Play Day – the music festival of H. M. Górecki



This festival takes place at Rydułtowy Cultural Center "Feniks" during the first half of December. The formula of the festival is still evolving but in previous years the Center has seen piano workshops for children, a composing competition for a children's musical track, a piano competition for children and also special musical sheet publications. Each event is accompanied by a gala concert with the participation of invited guests. The organizer is Rydułtowy Cultural Center "Feniks".

www.rck.rydultowy.pl

FREQUENT EVENTS

Other events:

Date	Commune	Event name	Location	Organizer
January / February	Racibórz	Carnival Dance variety show	Sports Hall „Rafako”	Youth Cultural Centre in Racibórz
February	Krzanowice Commune	“Burying the Bass” – carnival farewell	Public Cultural Centre in Krzanowice	Choir Cecylia from Krzanowice
March	Baborów Commune	The ceremony in Babice dedicated to the victims of the genocide in Huta Pieniacka by Ukrainian nationalists	Parish Church in Babice	Cultural Centre of Baborów Commune, Rural Administrative Unit in Baborów and Baborów Commune
21 March	Branice Commune	‘The Spring Welcoming Event’ by children from Polish and Czech schools and nurseries	Border Bridge between Poland and the Czech Republic	Branice Commune and Commune Úvalno in the Czech Republic
March- December	Wodzisław Śląski	Wodzisław Antique Fairs	The Central Market Square in Wodzisław Śląski	Association “Our Wodzisław”
Palm Sunday	Gorzyce Commune	Communal Observance of Easter Palms	A selected church in Gorzyce Commune	The Local Rural Women Circle and the Cultural Centre
Palm Sunday	Gorzyce Commune	Papal concert in the church in Rogów	The church in Rogów	Gorzyce Commune, Rural Cultural Centre in Czyżowice
Easter Monday	Krzyżanowice Commune	Easter horse procession in Bieńkowice	Bieńkowice Parish	The Parish and Rural Administrative Unit in Bieńkowice and Krzyżanowice Commune
March / April	Kuźnia Raciborska Commune	The Amateurs Car Rally for the Mayor’s Cup of Kuźnia Raciborska	Kuźnia Raciborska	Automobilclub „Ślązak” from Rydułtowy
April	Rydułtowy	The Jan Margiciok and Leopold Hałaczek Memorial	Rydułtowy	The town of Rydułtowy
4 May	Kornowac Commune	Procession in honor of St. Florian in Pogrzebień	Pogrzebień	Pogrzebień Parish
Beginning of May	Racibórz	May picnic with Racibórz Cultural Centre	Central Market Square in Racibórz	Racibórz Cultural Centre

Second Sunday in May	Krzyżanowice Commune	Borderland Choirs Festival	St. Anna Church in Krzyżanowice	„Ad libitum” Association and the parish of St. Anna in Krzyżanowice
May	Racibórz	Juwenalia	Racibórz Town	Państwowa Wyższa Szkoła Zawodowa in Racibórz
The Last Sunday in May	Krzyżanowice Commune	Concert dedicated to the memory of Liszt and Beethoven in Krzyżanowice	Krzyżanowice	Krzyżanowice Commune and the Communal Unit of Education, Culture, Sport and Tourism with the seat in Tworków
The last Sunday in May	Gorzyce Commune	Gorzyce Commune Days	The area around the Rural Cultural Centre in Gorzyce	Rural Cultural Centre in Gorzyce
Around 1 June	Gorzyce Commune	Family Festival „Merry Czyżowice”	Sports court Czyżowice	The Association of Local Activity „Perspektywa” from Czyżowice
June	Wodzisław Śląski	Wodzisław Śląski Days	Stadium MOSiR in Wodzisław Śląski	Wodzisław Śląski town and Wodzisław Cultural Centre
June	Racibórz	St. Marcel Fair	Dominicans square in Racibórz	Racibórz town
June	Racibórz	Racibórz Days	Racibórz	Racibórz Town, Racibórz Cultural Centre and Sport and Recreation Centre in Racibórz
June	Marklowice Commune	Festival of Silesian Cuisine within Marklowice Days celebrations	The square behind the Commune's Office in Marklowice	Marklowice Commune
June	Rudnik Commune	Water rafting „Between castles”	The route Racibórz – Ślawików	Fundation Gniazdo in Modzurów, DFK Circle in Rudnik and Youth Council of the Rudnik Commune
June	Krzyżanowice Commune	International Rally of Historic Vehicle	Zabelków	Rural Administrative Unit in Zabelków and Krzyżanowice Commune
June	Baborów Commune	Youngsters League of Stanisław Tokarz	Sport court Baborów	Cultural Centre of Baborów Commune
Around 23 June	Gorzyce Commune	A Midsummer Night in Olza	Leisure Centre in Olza	The Music band „Czyżowianki” and Rural Cultural Centre in Czyżowice
July - August	Racibórz	Series of summer concerts	In the park of the town of Roth	Racibórz Cultural Centre
July	Krzanowice Commune	Krzanowice Days	Market square in Krzanowice	Krzanowice Town and Commune, DFK Circle, Public Cultural Centre
August / September	Lyski Commune	The Mayor cup of The International carp competitions of Lyski commune	Fishery in Pstrążna	„Bialeccy Farm” from Pstrążna and Lyski Commune

FREQUENT EVENTS

August / September	Rydułtowy	Rydułtowy Days	Leisure areas by Bema road	Rydułtowy Cultural Centre „Feniks” and Rydułtowy Town
September	Glubczyce	Glubczyce Days of Culture	Glubczyce	Glubczyce Town, Public Cultural Centre in Glubczyce
September	Kuźnia Raciborska Commune	World Championship in Caps	Public Cultural, Sport and Recreation Centre in Kuźnia Raciborska	Public Cultural, Sport and Recreation Centre in Kuźnia Raciborska
Last weekend of September	Rydułtowy	Health Promoting Days	Sports hall of Primary School no 1 in Rydułtowy	Rydułtowy Town
September	Racibórz	A farewell to summer	The Długosz Square in Racibórz	Racibórz Cultural Centre
September	Racibórz	Religious Song Festival „I met the Lord”	Racibórz	Youth ministry and Parish of the Sacred Heart of Jesus in Racibórz
October	Marklowice Commune	The Road race Cup of the Mayor of Marklowice Commune	Marklowice	Marklowice Commune
October	Lubomia Commune	The Feast of Lubomski Cake	Lubomia	Cultural Centre of Lubomia Commune
November	Kornowac Commune	A Review of Artistic Groups in Kobyla	The hall in Kobyla	Cultural Centre of Kornowac Commune, Association Lyskor
November	Racibórz	Festival of Choral Song to the lyrics of J. von Eichendorff	Hall of Racibórz Cultural Centre	Silesian Union of Choirs and Orchestras, DFK branch in Racibórz
November	Krzanowice Commune	International Festival of Polish and Moravian Songs	Cultural Centre in Bojanów	Public Cultural Centre in Krzanowice
December	Lyski Commune	Communal Christmas Market	Lyski	Lyski Commune
December	Racibórz	The Charity concert „Christmas of Hearts”	Racibórz Cultural Centre	Racibórz Chamber of Commerce
December	Krzyżanowice Commune	Weihnachtsmarkt in Tworków	Square by the church in Tworków	Charity Group Caritas in Tworków

A REVIEW OF SELECTED FREQUENT EVENTS IN THE CZECH PART OF THE EUROREGION SILESIA

MARCH

OSTRAVA

The Fair "Holidays and the Region"



The International Tourism Fair promotes diversity of tourist attractions in the Czech Republic, Slovakia, Poland, Italy, Hungary and many other countries. The event presents a wide range of travel agency offers as well as tourist resorts and hotel complexes. The event is accompanied by a photographs exhibition, lecture activities and conferences.
www.cerna-louka.cz

MAY

OPAVA AND THE SURROUNDING AREAS

The Silesia Mountain Bike Marathon



This is the most popular mountain bike race in the region. It is available for amateurs as well as professional mountain bikers of all ages. The Race takes place on the two traditional routes (90 km and 55 km), leading through the picturesque valleys of the river Moravice.
www.silesia.opava.cz/silesia

MAY/JUNE

OSTRAVA

The International Music Festival "Janáčkův máj"



Started in 1976, the international festival of chamber and symphony music attracts to Ostrava the best soloists, chamber ensembles and large symphony orchestras from all around the world.
www.janackuvmaj.cz

MAY/JUNE

OSTRAVA

The Golden Spike Ostrava



The international athletics meeting has been organized each year since 1961 in the Czech city of Ostrava. It takes place at the city stadium in Ostrava-Vitkovice and attracts competitors with big names and of the highest sporting caliber.
www.zlatatetra.cz

FREQUENT EVENTS

JUNE

HRADEC NAD MORAVICÍ

The Beethoven's Hradec



The international music competition and festival of classical music takes place at the Hradec nad Moravicí castle (see page 12). Every year the festival attracts artists from all over the world. All competition performances are open to the public and the competition is complemented by numerous accompanying events and concerts.

www.beethovenuv-hradec.eu.pn

JUNE

BUDIŠOV NAD BUDIŠOVKOU

The Budišov's Pentecost



The multi-genre festival of music and culture has a long history. Suspended in the eighties, it returned in 2011 to Budišov nad Budišovkou. The festival attracts many people because of its great concerts presenting different styles ranging from folk accents through to the sounds of rock, and ending with acoustic music.

www.budisovskeletnice.cz

JULY

OSTRAVA

The International Music Festival "Colours of Ostrava"



The international multi-genre music festival has had its routes from 2002 in the post-industrial complex of the Dolní Vítkovice ironworks in Ostrava (see page 41). The Festival, in addition to a feast of music, offers a rich program of additional attractions, including workshops, discussions' panels, films and performances presentations.

www.colours.cz

AUGUST

KRAVAŘE

Indulgence Celebrations in Kravaře



The biggest indulgence celebration of more than a century of tradition takes place around the 24th August. It is organized on the nearest weekend to the celebration of St. Bartholomew, the Patron Saint of the Kravaře Church (see page 26). The ceremony attracts many people with outstanding concerts, numerous carousels, a fireworks display and treats of local and regional cuisine.

www.kravare.cz/turista/kravarsky-odpust

SEPTEMBER

OPAVA

The Festival "Bezručova Opava"

One of the oldest festivals in the Czech Republic offers a wide range of cultural activities in various fields of art – literature, fine art, theater, film, and music. Each edition of the Festival takes on a different theme.
www.opava-city.cz/bezrucovaopava

SEPTEMBER

OSTRAVA

NATO Days in Ostrava & Days of Air Force Czech Republic Army

Held since 2001, the biggest aerial and military event in Central Europe is a special treat for "hard core" military fans. The event offers meetings, film screenings, presentations, military equipment and technology demonstrations as well as spectacular air show displays.
www.dny-nato.cz

SEPTEMBER

Nový Jičín

Days of the Town Nový Jičín

Days of the Town Nový Jičín is an event that was started in 1993. The event is very diverse, but always refers to the rich past of the town and presents the most important happenings and curiosities of its history. The celebration is accompanied by numerous exhibitions, concerts and dance performances.
www.mksnj.cz/slavnosti

OCTOBER/NOVEMBER

ODRY

Silesia cup

The international karate tournament gathers competitors from karate clubs from Czech Republic, Slovakia and Poland. The tournament started 1999 and every year the competition brings together more than 200 contestants.
www.karateodry.cz

DECEMBER

OPAVA

The Christmas market in Opava

The Traditional Christmas Market is located in Opava market square. You can buy Christmas decorations, gifts and regional products from the many outdoor stalls. The fair abounds in rich artistic program!
www.opava-city.cz

FREQUENT EVENTS

Other events:

Date	Event name	Location	Additional information
January	Ostrava Crossbar	Ostrava	International indoor athletics high jump competitions, more information: www.ostravskalatka.cz
March / April	Long-distance rally „Bezručů Moravice“	Hradec nad Moravicí	The oldest walking rally in the Czech Republic, more information: www.hradecinfo.cz/products/nejstarsi-dalkovy-pochod-v-cr-bezrucova-moravice
14 days prior to Easter	Easter in the Palace in Kravaře	Palace in Kravaře (see page 13)	Traditional Easter exhibition, more information: www.kravare.cz/turista/promo-akce-1/velikonocce-na-zamku-v-kravarich
May / June	Putting up and shearing May tree	Bolatice, Sudice and other locations of the Euroregion Silesia	Traditional festivities connected with the accompanying program
June	Grand Opava Prize	Opava	Traditional festivities connected with the accompanying program, more information: www.jkopava.cz
August	Štěrkovna Open Music Festival	Hlučínské Lake (see page 59)	Music festival, more information: www.sterkovnamusic.com
June - September	Theater performances – drama theater, opera, operetta, musical, ballet	Silesian Theatre in Opava	more information: www.divadlo-opava.cz
June - September		The National Moravian and Silesian Theatre in Ostrava – Theatre of Antonín Dvořák and Theatre of Jiří Myron	more information: www.ndm.cz
June - September		Theatre of Petr Bezruč in Ostrava	more information: www.bezruc.cz
June - September		Beskids Theatre in Nový Jičín	more information: www.beskydskedivadlo.cz
September	Thalia Opavská	Silesian Theatre in Opava	The ceremonial prize awards for outstanding play acting on the Silesian stage theatre, more information: www.divadlo-opava.cz

September	Spectaculo Interesse Ostrava	The Puppet Show Theatre in Ostrava	Biennale of international festival of puppet theaters, more information: www.dlo-ostrava.cz
September	Třebovice Cake	Ostrava – Třebovice – in the park area	Autumn music festivals, more information: www.trebovickykolac.com
September	Odry milling plant	Odry and local area	Traditional mountain bike open competitions, more information: www.2k.cz
September / October	St. Wenceslas Music Festival	Ostrava, Opava, Fulnek and other locations of Euroregion Silesia	Monthly festival of classical music, more information: www.shf.cz
October	Grand Prix PEPA Opava	Opava	International competitions in bodybuilding and fitness, more information: www.pepasport.cz/rs/gp-pepa
December	Litultovice Christmas challah	Litultovice	Endurance running competitions, the last competition of the Opava 'Running Cup' connected with the announcement of the results, more information: www.behopava.cz
During the year	Opava Running Cup	Opava and local area	Several traditional competitions in racing, more information: www.behopava.cz

What is the Euroregion Silesia?

Euroregion Silesia is a quite specific institution with an unusual, binational Polish and Czech administrative structure. It has no personality or legal capacity, therefore, it can not acquire rights and incur obligations by its actions and you cannot find it in the records of business activity and NCR. This term does not appear in the official documents of the European Union either. We could therefore make the conclusion that formally... it does not exist. Is it a ghost-institution? Not quite. Important roles in understanding what the Euroregion Silesia is; at play are two Associations that form its body and regulate its legal status. The first one being the "Association of Communes of The Upper Odra River Basin" („Stowarzyszenie Gmin Dorzecza Górnej Odry") located in Racibórz. The second is the "Euroregion Silesia – CZ" (formerly "Regional Association for the Czech-Polish Cooperation Opava Silesia") based in Opava. Both associations were created in 1998 in order to spread the idea of the European integration, support and implement of the Czech- Polish border cooperation. In the same year both organizations formed the partnership under the name Euroregion Silesia, that relates to the area that the euroregion covers. This partnership agreement between the two aforementioned associations, initiated the Euroregion. It also sealed its role as an animator of multifaceted entity; Polish and Czech border cross cooperation in the border regions of Polish and Czech Silesia and Moravia. Allowing a smooth integration of the area within the European Union. Therefore, if we are talking about the Euroregion Silesia, we must keep in mind these two associations and all their members. The Polish or Czech association itself, without a mutual agreement would not be the Euroregion, but only the deliberate association, which may also be erected outside the border area.

However complicated and intricately the structure of the Euroregion seems to look, it is not an artificial creation made by combining two societies, operating in different countries. Also relevant here and common to both countries is the rich history of Silesia, which is the genesis of the appointing of the Euroregion and by which is the reason to – currently on the basis of the modern pro-European policy – renew and strengthen cooperation in the area of Polish and Czech border.

Euroregion Silesia, as its name implies, refers to the common history of Polish and Czech Silesia, which until 1742 was entirely under the rule of the Habsburgs. After losing the war with the Prussian King Frederick II the greater part of Silesia was taken over by Prussia, and the newly established border slowed down, and over time completely stopped the development of mutual contacts. The divided area was never merged back, and after World War II – Upper Silesia became part of Poland and Czech Silesia part of Czechoslovakia. Although, only a "green border" was dividing both countries, the border itself was closely guarded and the border crossing was possible only in a few designated areas. Contact between people from both sides of the border and the development of cross-border cooperation has been made possible after democratic changes that took place in both countries in 1989. The real culmination of a cross-border cooperation on the Czech and Polish border occurred with the gradual formation of different Euro-regions in the 1990s. Euroregion Silesia, (appointed on 20th August 1998), is one of the youngest. At the beginning it covered only a few cities, towns and communes of the Polish and Czech side with a minimum of human resources and technical facilities. Today, Euroregion Silesia has almost eighty members (communes), and its subsidiaries are two efficient secretariats – the Polish side being in Racibórz and the Czech side in Opava. These towns (unofficially) designated 'capitals' of the Euroregion.

Other Euro-regions operate on the basis of similar experiences and in relation to their unusual structure and a common history of border areas. In Poland there are 15 of them and in the Czech Republic there are 13. On the Czech-Polish border we are one of six Euroregions, and across the Europe there are more than 185.

Euroregions could not exist without its members. They are local and regional authorities, working closely together in a partnership form of cooperation. The Euroregion Silesia membership base contains that of 20 communes¹, towns and cities on the Polish side in the regions of Silesia and Opole and 56 communes and cities in the Czech side in the Moravian – Silesian Region (see map on the cover). The area of the communes designate the territory of Euroregion – in the case of the Euroregion Silesia its area is 2 724 km². The Czech part of the Euroregion is located in the Moravian -Silesian Region and covers an area of four of its six districts, which are Opava, Bruntál, Nový Jičín i Ostrava – Město. The area constituting the Polish part of Euroregion is located within the provinces of Silesia and Opole and includes the following districts: Głubczyce (Opole province), Racibórz, Rybnik and Wodzisław (Silesian province).

The main task of our Euroregion is to initiate and coordinate projects that support the development of the territory of the Polish and Czech border. We work on common interests in the field of economy and sales, expansion of cross-border infrastructure, environmental protection, tourism, social and cultural heritage and cultural and educational activities. Above all else, we specialize in the creation of cross-border cooperation in the area of developing human contacts, social initiatives, all kinds of cultural, recreational and educational events and cooperation of Euroregion communes, as well as non-governmental organizations.

¹ Including Jejkowice commune (Rybnik district) that joined the Association and became a member in June 2014.

OVERVIEW – INFORMATION ABOUT THE EUROREGION SILESIA

An important factor in the functioning of the Euroregion Silesia is the prospect of using EU funding through projects and programs in the fields of Polish and Czech border cooperation. Since the first EU programs such as supporting of the Czech and Polish border cooperation, the Euroregion Silesia has been coordinating and administering the programs financial resources. It realized its role in this area very early on, prioritizing the opportunity to pursue their own projects financed by these programs, over the assistance of others when using European funds. The Euroregion has partnered with the governing bodies of these programs on both sides of the border and within a few years; together with the other Euroregions of the Polish and Czech border, it built a strong position being currently irreplaceable, especially in the management of "the small projects fund". Through the Euroregion Silesia over 7.7 million Euros was distributed for the implementation of nearly 750 small cross-border projects.

In recent years, Euroregion Silesia has started several of its own projects in the field of Polish and Czech border cooperation. One of the most important is the project that created "The Euroregion Silesia strategy of development for 2014-2020". Among the more interesting projects we would like to also mention the projects "The Bulletin of the Euroregion Silesia", "EUREGIO PL- CZ" and the "Weekend in the Euroregion Silesia", which tangible result is this informative publication.

For more details about us, our activity and our projects see our website. Enjoy your new experiences!

Euroregion Silesia contact details:

The Polish side
Stowarzyszenie Gmin Dorzecza Górnej Odry
ul. Batorego 7, 47-400 Racibórz
Polska
tel.: +48 32 415 64 94, +48 32 415 30 95
e-mail: info@euroregion-silesia.pl
www.euroregion-silesia.pl

The Czech side
Euroregion Silesia-CZ
Horní nám. 69, 746 26 Opava
Česká republika
tel.: +420 553 756 220, +420 553 756 243
e-mail: euroregion.silesia@opava-city.cz
www.euroregion-silesia.cz



INTRODUCTION / INFORMATION ABOUT THE PROJECT

The project: "Weekend in the Euroregion Silesia"	1
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PUBLIC MONUMENTS, CASTLES AND PALACES

The Piastowski Castle in Racibórz	5
The Post-Cistercian Monastery and Palace Complex and Basilica in Rudy	5
The Palace in Krzyżanowice	5
The Palace in Wojnowice	6
The Palace and Park in Kokoszyce	6
The Palace and Park Complex in Gorzyce	6
The Palace in Chałupki	7
The Palace in Modzúrów	7
The Palace in Pogrzebień	7
The Palace of Dietrichsteins	8
The Manor House and Park in Dzimierz	8
The Palace in Nasiedle	8
The Ruins of Tworków Castle	9
The Ruins of Eichendorffs' Palace in Łubowice	9
The Palace Ruins in Sławików	9
The Tower, the old defensive walls and Mary's Column in Racibórz	10
The Old Town Square in Wodzisław Śląski	10
The Town Hall in Głubczyce	10
Defensive Wall with Towers in Głubczyce	11
The neo-Gothic Knights' Tower in Wodzisław Śląski	11
The Observation Tower in Włodzienin	11
The Mill in Brzeźnica	12
The Hradec nad Moravicí Castle	12
The Palace in Fulnek	12
The Palace and the Museum in Kravaře	13
The Palace and the Museum in Nový Jičín	13
The Palace in Šilheřovice	13
The Castle and the Museum in Hlučín	14
The Silesian Ostrava Castle in Ostrava	14
The Palace in Velké Hoštice	14
The Old Town in Nový Jičín	15
The Town Hall and the Tower "Hláška" in Opava	15
The Viewing Tower of Ostrava Town Hall	15

CHURCH MONUMENTS

The Basilica of the Birth of the Virgin Mary and Calvary in Pszów	19
The Sanctuary of Our Lady of Fatima in Turza Śląska	19
The Church and Convent of the Franciscans in Głubczyce	19
The Church of the Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary in Racibórz	20
The Church of St Margaret and the Community Help Centre in Lyski	20
The Church of the Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary in Wodzisław Śląski	20
The Post Dominican Church of St. Jacob's The Elder in Racibórz	21
The Church of the Birth of Virgin Mary in Głubczyce	21
The Church of Ss. Peter and Paul Apostles in Tworków and the Country Church of Saint Urban	21
The Parish Church of Ss. Simone and Jude Apostles in Raszczyce	22
The Church of St. Wenceslas in Krzanowice	22
St. George Church in Mszana	22
The Church of St. Nicholas in Pstrážna and the Monument of the Silesian Insurgents	23
Sacred Heart Chapel in Baborów	23
Polednik family Tomb-Chapel in Lyski and the old cemetery from XIVth century	23
The Wooden Church of Ss. Joseph and Barbara in Baborów	24
The Pilgrimage Church of the Holy Cross in Pietrowice Wielkie	24
The Chapel of the Rosary in Buków	24
Holy Savior Cathedral in Ostrava	25
The Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary Co-Cathedral in Opava	25
The Church of the Most Holy Trinity in Fulnek	25

St. Vojtěch Church in Opava	26
St. Bartholomew Church in Kravaře	26
St. John the Baptist Church in Sudice	26
St. Lawrence Church in Přísf	27
The Wooden Church of Ss. Peter and Paul in Hněvošice	27

THE MUSEUMS, CHAMBERS OF MEMORIES

The Museum in Racibórz	31
The District Museum of the Glubczyce Region in Glubczyce	31
The Town Museum in Wodzisław Śląski	31
The Forging Museum in Bienkowice	32
The Upper Silesian Centre of Culture and Meetings of Eichendorff in Łubowice	32
The Silesian Land Museum in Opava	32
The Town Slate Museum in Budišov nad Budišovkou	33
The John Amos Comenius Museum in Fulnek	33
The Czechoslovak Fortification Complex Hlučín-Darkovičky	33
The Mausoleum of World War II	34
The Fire-fighting Museum in Ostrava	34
The Miniatures World "Miniuni" in Ostrava	34
The Open-air Museum of folk traditions and crafts in Bolatice	35
"Ostrá hůrka"	35

MONUMENTS OF TECHNOLOGY

The historic Narrow-Gauge Railway Station in Rudy	39
The Castle Brewery in Racibórz	39
The training practice mining excavations – an adit in Wodzisław Śląski	39
The Silesian Geophysical Observatory in Racibórz	40
The building of general cargo weights in The Coal Mine Rydułtowy – Anna	40
The watermill in Tworków	40
The Post-urban Complex in Ostrava – Vítkovice	41
The Mining Museum Landek	41
The derivative channel to the paper mill in Žimrovice	41
The windmill in Choltice	42
The Viewing Tower "Šance" in Jakubčovice	42
The Observatory and Planetarium of Johann Palisa in Ostrava	42

NATURE

The Nature Reserve Łęczczok	45
The Odra River Border Meanders	45
The Moravian Gate Arboretum in Racibórz	45
The Gypsum Mountain Nature Reserve in Dzierżysław	46
The Cistercian Landscape Compositions in Rudy Wielkie	46
The Nature and Landscape Protected Area Wielikąt	46
Arboretum Nový Dvůr	47
Zoo in Ostrava	47
The Landscape Protected Area Moravice	47
The Educational Trail "Slate heritage"	48

ACTIVE LEISURE

The Leisure Center "Olza" in Olza	51
The campsite in Pietrowice	51
The camping and campsite "CAMPING EUROPA OLZA" in Olza	51
The multi-purpose sports center with an artificial ice rink in Pszów	52
The "Tropical Island" in Marklowice	52
The Playing Centre "Rafa" in Rydułtowy	52
The Family Leisure Park "Three Hills" in Wodzisław Śląski	53
The Rural Leisure and Recreation Centre in Chalupki	53
The Sensory Relaxing Centre in Rydułtowy ROSA	53

The Waterpark "H.Ostróg" in Racibórz	54
The Tourism, Sports and Recreation Community Centre "Nautica" in Gorzyce	54
The Indoor swimming pool in Kietrz	54
The public swimming pool in Głubczyce	55
The Sports and Recreational Centre in Racibórz	55
The Public Sports and Recreation Complex "Center" in Wodzisław Śląski	56
Kayak harbors in Zabelków and Krzyżanowice	57
HELpark in Tośovice	57
The sports and recreation complex "Buly Aréna" with the Waterpark in Kravaře	57
The Public Sports and Leisure Centre in Ostrava	58
The golf course in Kravaře	59
The golf course in Šilheřovice	59
Hlučínské lake	59
The swimming pool "Silver Lake" in Opava	60
The water trail on Moravici	60
Public Parks in Opava	60

ACTIVE LEISURE

Krzyżanowice Commune (Route No. 9)	63
Lyski Commune (Route No. 330)	63
Kornowac Commune (Route No. 317)	64
Gorzyce Commune, Lubomia Commune, Wodzisław Śląski (Route No. 316)	64
The cycle route Racibórz – Opava	65
Cycle routes "Opavice" (The Route 34/55)	65
Cycle routes of the Hlučín Region (Cycle Route No. 5 – The Amber Trail / Cycle Route No. 554 – Pražská Cesta)	66
Silesian Highway	66

FREQUENT EVENTS

A REVIEW OF SELECTED REOCCURRING EVENTS ON THE POLISH PART OF THE EUROREGION SILESIA	69
The Pszów Mayor's Cup race	69
The Regional Meeting of Vocal Communities	69
The Interschool Competition of the Lach Dialect in Krzanowice	69
The Easter fair and the show of local dishes – an exhibit of meals	69
The Easter horses' procession in Pietrowice Wielkie	70
The Military and Historical Picnic	70
Fairs on the border	70
The Eco- Exhibition in Pietrowice Wielkie	70
The Baborów Run of Edward Górczyński	71
The Motor Cross-Country in Mszana	71
The Festival of Upper Silesia	71
The International Dog Show	71
The bike rally "The trails of Lyski Commune"	72
The staging performance of the Battle of Olza	72
The International Brass Bands Festival in Tworków	72
The Half-Marathon Kietrz – Rohov	72
Pływadło	73
The International Artists Meeting "Silesia – the land of many cultures"	73
The All-Polish countryside Skating Race	73
Rock & Reggae Summer Party in Olza	73
International and District Competition of Horse Drawn Fire Engines in Bienkowice	74
The Reggae Festival	74
The Medieval Festival in Racibórz	74
The Family Run of Lovestrucked	74
The Festival "The Magic of Rock"	75
The Memorial of firefighter Cpt. A. Kaczyna and firefighter A. Malinowski	75
The Festival of Wedding Bands	75
The Motor Show	75
The Motorcycle Rally in Pszów	76
The Historical Picnic in Włodzienin	76
The "Silesia Cup" of the Roller Skis Race	76
The Festival of Travelers – "Windmills"	76

The Chess Tournament of Andrzej Rippa77

The Trendy Rock Festival77

The Christmas Market77

Santa's Play Day – the music festival of H. M. Górecki77

A REVIEW OF SELECTED FREQUENT EVENTS IN THE CZECH PART OF THE EUROREGION SILESIA81

The Fair "Holidays and the Region"81

The Silesia Mountain Bike Marathon81

The International Music Festival "Janáčkův máj"81

The Golden Spike Ostrava81

The Beethoven's Hradec82

The Budišov's Pentecost82

The International Music Festival "Colours of Ostrava"82

Indulgence Celebrations in Kravaře82

The Festival "Bezručova Opava"83

NATO Days in Ostrava & Days of Air Force Czech Republic Army83

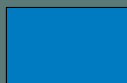
Days of the Town Nový Jičín83

Silesia cup83

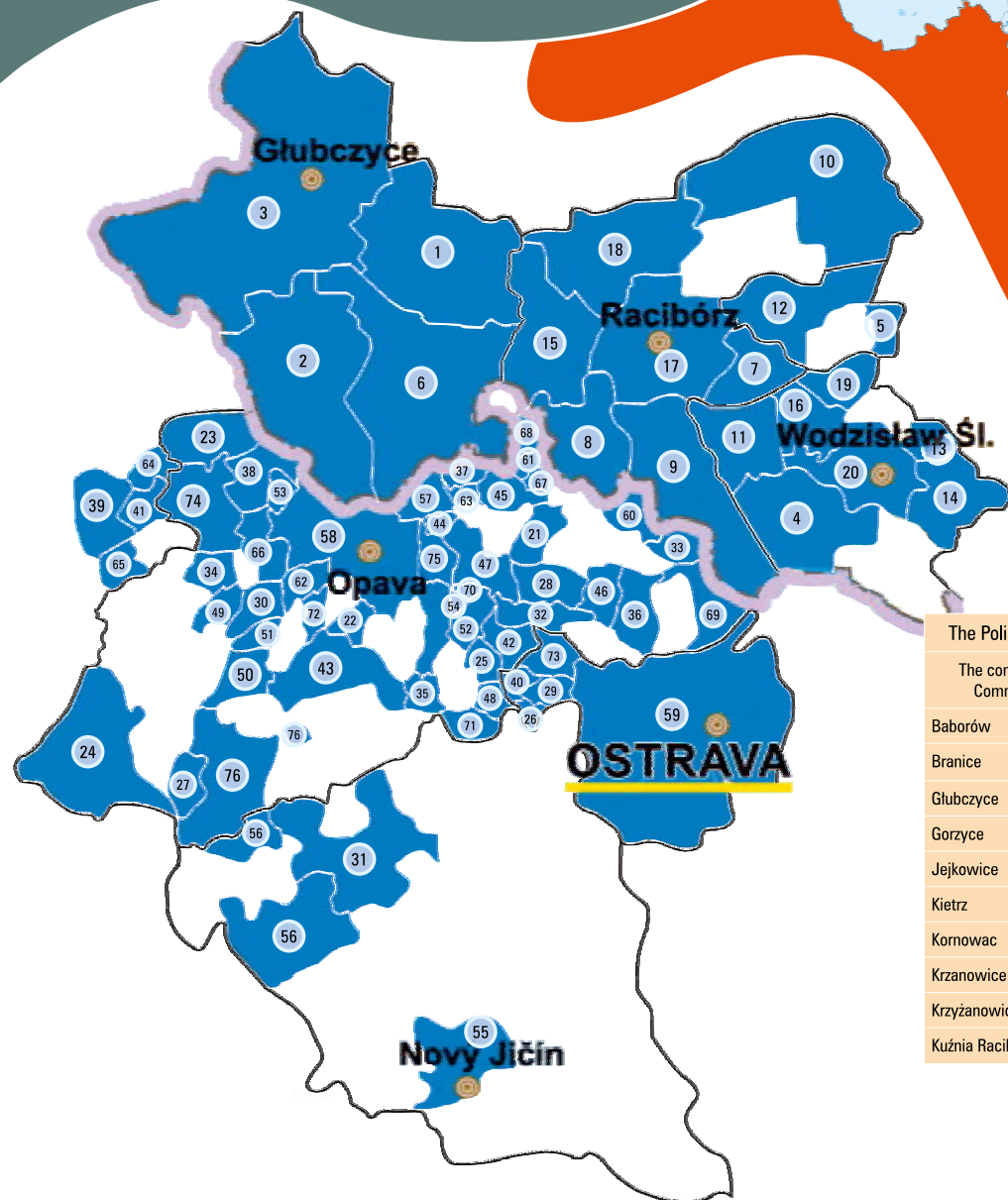
The Christmas market in Opava83

OVERVIEW – INFORMATION ABOUT THE EUROREGION SILESIA

What is the Euroregion Silesia?86



Euroregion Silesia



The Polish side of the Euroregion Silesia				The Czech side of the Euroregion Silesia							
The communities of the Association of the Communes of Upper Odra River Basin				The communities of the Association Euroregion Silesia - CZ							
Baborów	(1)	Lubomia	(11)	Bolatice	(21)	Hlubočec	(35)	Litultovice	(49)	Služovice	(63)
Branice	(2)	Lyski	(12)	Branka u Opavy	(22)	Hlučín	(36)	Melč	(50)	Sosnová	(64)
Głubczyce	(3)	Marklowice	(13)	Brumovice	(23)	Hněvošice	(37)	Mikolajice	(51)	Staré Heřminovy	(65)
Gorzyce	(4)	Mszana	(14)	Budišov n/Budišovkou	(24)	Holasovice	(38)	Mokré Lazce	(52)	Stěbořice	(66)
Jejkowice	(5)	Pietrowice Wielkie	(15)	Budišovice	(25)	Horní Benešov	(39)	Neplachovice	(53)	Strahovice	(67)
Kietrz	(6)	Pszów	(16)	Čavisov	(26)	Horní Lhota	(40)	Nové Sedlice	(54)	Sudice	(68)
Kornowac	(7)	Racibórz	(17)	Čermná ve Slezsku	(27)	Horní Životice	(41)	Nový Jičín	(55)	Šilheřovice	(69)
Krzanowice	(8)	Rudnik	(18)	Dolní Benešov	(28)	Hrabyně	(42)	Odry	(56)	Štítina	(70)
Krzyżanowice	(9)	Rydułtowy	(19)	Dolní Lhota	(29)	Hradec nad Moravicí	(43)	Oldřšov	(57)	Těškovice	(71)
Kuźnia Raciborska	(10)	Wodzisław Śląski	(20)	Dolní Životice	(30)	Chlebičov	(44)	Opava	(58)	Uhlířov	(72)
				Fulnek	(31)	Kobeřice	(45)	Ostrava	(59)	Velká Polom	(73)
				Háj ve Slezsku	(32)	Kozmice	(46)	Píšť	(60)	Velké Heraltice	(74)
				Hať	(33)	Kravaře	(47)	Rohov	(61)	Velké Hoštice	(75)
				Hlavnice	(34)	Kyjovice	(48)	Slavkov	(62)	Vítkov	(76)



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CROSSING BORDERS