The Hits
of Lower Silesia
Poland

Location, borders. The Republic of Poland is located in Central Europe. Its boundaries are formed by Germany to the west, by Czech Republic and Slovakia to the south, by Lithuania, Belarus and Ukraine to the east and by the Baltic Sea and Russia (The Kaliningrad District) to the north.

Territory, population, language. The total area of the country is 312,700 square kilometers with a population of 38 million. The official language is Polish.

National emblem and national flag. The national emblem of Poland is a white eagle in a crown against a red background. The national flag is white and red.

The capital, cities and the administrative division. The capital of Poland is Warsaw. The city has approximately 1,700 thousand inhabitants. Warsaw is located in the central part of the country on the Vistula River. Poland's biggest river. Warsaw is located close to other European capitals. Other major cities in Poland are Łódź, Kraków, Wrocław, Poznań, Gdańsk, Katowice and Szczecin.

All of these cities have convenient road-, train- and air connection with the world. Poland is divided into 16 administrative provinces (województwa).

Relief. Nature. Poland is a country with a very diversified relief. Polish landscape is dominated by lowland plains, especially in the northern part of the country – by the Baltic Sea, and in central Poland. Beautiful sandy and wide beaches by the Baltic Sea characterize the seaside landscape. In the northern and western part of the country, where the Pomeranian, Mazurian and Great Poland Lake districts are set amidst picturesque hills and beautiful forests, thousands of lakes are hidden away. The biggest of them is lake Śniardwy with an area of 113 square kilometers. Uplands and mountain chains are spread in the south of Poland: The Sudety Mountains, with the highest peak Śnieżka (1603 m above sea level), and The Carpathian Mountains, whose central part is comprised of The Tatras – with Alpine features, and the highest peak in Poland (2499 m above sea level). Polish nature is not only famous for its vast primeval forests, dense net of rivers, including the two biggest rivers: Vistula and Odra, but also due to its rich fauna and flora.

The Climate. Poland has a temperate climate. The summers are warm and sunny with an average day temperature above 20°C. The coldest months of the year are January and February with the average temperatures falling to a few degrees below zero. During the winter (in January, February and March) there are usually great snow conditions in the mountains. In the northeastern part of the country there are also large areas covered with snow more than 90 days per year.

Lower Silesia

Location, boundaries. Lower Silesia is not only a geographical and a historical region, but also an administrative province. This province is located in southwestern Poland. Its boundaries are formed by The Czech Republic in the south and Germany in the west. In the north Lower Silesia borders on the Lubuskie Province and Greater Poland Province. In the east it borders on the Opolskie Province.

Territory, population. On an area covering 19,948 km², 2.98 million people live.

Regional emblem. The emblem of Lower Silesia is the Piast eagle against a golden background.

The capital, cities and the administrative division. The capital of Lower Silesia is Wrocław (640,000 inhabitants). The major cities are Jelenia Góra, Wałbrzych, Legnica, Kłodzko and Świdnica. The Dolnośląskie Province is divided into 30 districts and 169 communes.

Relief and nature. Lower Silesia is a region with vast relief diversity. In the south, there are picturesque mountain ranges, among them The Sudety Mountains. Their highest range is The Karkonosze Mountains, whose highest peak, Śnieżka, is 1603 m above sea level and is situated in the central part of the foothills. In the north, the Śląska Lowland is spreading out with its Dolnośląskie Bory (forests).

The mountains of Lower Silesia are rich in ornamental and precious stones. In the past even gold and silver was found here. Lower Silesia is known for its numerous sources of mineral water and health resorts. The picturesque valleys and river fractures further enhance the beauty of the region. To the most famous fractures belong the Kwsa Valley, the Bóbr Valley, The Kamienna Valley, The Nysa Kłodzka Valley and, obviously, the Odra Valley – the Odra River being the largest river in Lower Silesia. Nature is protected in two national parks, twelve scenic parks and fifty-four nature reserves.
**Dolny Śląsk**  
*(Lower Silesia)*

Lower Silesia is a region situated in southwestern Poland covering an area of almost 20 thousand km². This region is thought to be one of the most attractive and diverse in the country. The region’s popularity can surely be attributed to its beautiful nature, great heritage as well as its potential to develop spa tourism and the more and more popular agro tourism.

In Lower Silesia we can find monumental mountain ranges and picturesque valleys, with strong mountain streams forcing their way through the landscape. It is a land of wild nature, abounding in numerous unique animal and plant species. It is also a land of captivating cities, proud of their magnificent centuries-old monuments.

Lower Silesia is a region with great history, full of unsolved puzzles and mysteries. It is a place where a lot of wars and raids took place. The ruins of castles, fortresses and strongholds constitute a proof of the region’s turbulent past. As a result of the dynamic historical events different cultures stratified and the permeating of styles and traditions flowing in ensued. Therefore the abundance in human creativity, its astonishing forms, beauty and plenty, is far from surprising in Lower Silesia.

It is beyond doubt that the major attractions of the region are the monuments of the Cistercian route in Lubiąż, Trzebnica, Henryków and Krzeszów. Among the pearls of architecture are the monumental buildings in the Town Square in Wrocław, for example, The People’s Hall or Leopoldina Auditorium. A great tourist attraction is the Racławice Panorama in Wrocław. The places of worship worth visiting are Wambierzyce and Bardo. In Świdnica and Jawor big wooden churches, called The Churches of Peace because they were build after the Peace of Westfalia was signed in the 17th century, can be found. From the outside the churches look very plain, however, they astonish their visitors with the splendor of their baroque interior. Today they are on Unesco’s World Heritage List.

Castles and strongholds made of stone were erected in Lower Silesia already in the 13th century. Most often they were built on the highest rocks and hills in the region and they guarded the borders of Silesian principalities. Up to the present there are over 100 of them left. Treasure hunters still penetrate unexplored drifts in Walim and Głuszyce, mysterious vaults or dungeons of the Kłodzko and Srebrna Góra fortresses. This is obviously only one hundredth of all the places worth visiting in Lower Silesia.

The region has also magnificent nature. Approximately 17% of its area is covered with very valuable natural richness. In the region there are national parks, natural reserves and protected landscapes. In the uncommonly attractive Sudety Mountains, the picturesque Karkonosze Mountains with their natural wonders can be visited. Next to them, The Stołowe Mountains are situated. These mountains are famous not only for their fantastic labyrinths in the rocks but also for the formations in sandstone. The Milickie Ponds are almost a heaven on earth for ornithology enthusiasts. Unique bird species, the majority of them protected, can be found there. The beauty of the biggest valleys in the region – the Kłodzko and the Jelenia Góra valley, will delight all visitors. All the above mentioned sights, together with the largest number of curative resorts, famous for their superb waters, make the region a unique haven for tourists yearning for rest.

1. The Grodno Castle - Zagórze Śląskie  
2. The tenement houses of John and Margaret - Wrocław
Wrocław
– Old Town

Wrocław, a thousand-year-old city, is one of the most beautiful cities in Poland. Due to the location on the Odra River, the tributaries of the Odra and all the canals in the city Wrocław is called the City of Hundred Bridges. The Old Town with its great sights is especially noteworthy: the magnificent Town Square with the Town Hall, the tenement houses Jaś and Małgosia, the St. Elisabeth Garrison Church, Ostrów Tumski (The Cathedral Island) with the cathedral and the churches, Wrocław University and St. Maria Magdalena Church. The Town Square delights the eye and is worthy of any other European metropolis. The oldest part of the town is Ostrów Tumski. Until the arm of the Odra River was not covered up in the 19th century, Ostrów Tumski was one of the Odra islands. It was here the princely castle was situated. Today The Cathedral Island with the St. John the Baptist Cathedral is a sacral building complex.

Tourist Information
Rynek 14
tel. (+48 71) 344 31 11
fax (+48 71) 344 31 13
Opening hours: 9-21 every day during summer season
Opening hours off-season: 9-20
e-mail: info@itwroclaw.pl
www.wroclaw.pl
www.wroclaw.naszemiasto.pl

1. Town Hall – Wrocław
2. The tenement houses in the Town Square in Wrocław
3. Ostrów Tumski (The Cathedral Island) – The Cathedral

People’s Hall (formerly The Centenary Hall) and Szczytnicki Park in Wrocław

The People’s Hall was erected between 1912-1913 to commemorate the centenary of the battle of nations at Leipzig and was called the Centenary Hall. Max Berg created the most famous work of art of Wrocław modernism. The People’s Hall was erected in 1913, on the centenary of the battle of nations at Leipzig. It is also one of the first constructions in the world made of reinforced concrete. The construction has 130 m in diameter and is 42 m high. Its cubature has about 300 thousand m³.
In year 1948 a 96 m high spire was placed in front of the construction. The spire is a construction made of metal. It resembles the polls erected by tribes around the world and is a symbol of the restoration of the western grounds. In the monumental People’s Hall sport events, fairs and concerts are organized. Since July 2006 the building is on UNESCO’s World Heritage List. The Hall is situated outside the biggest park in Wrocław – Szczytnicki Park. The Japanese Garden, whose major attraction are two cascades: “female” and “male”, is situated in the park. Picturesque water streams mold the hilly grounds of the garden, while the numerous wooden

People’s Hall welcomes visitors every day
Opening hours: 8.00-19.00
ul. Wystawowa 1
tel. (+48 71) 347 72 00, 347 51 02
fax (+48 71) 348 68 51
www.halaludowa.wroc.pl
Japanese Garden
tel. (+48) 601 74 45 63
Open from 01.04 to 30.10
Opening hours: 9-19.00

1. Pergola
2. People’s Hall – Wrocław
Leopoldina Auditorium in Wrocław

Leopoldina Auditorium's interior is believed to be the most beautiful interior in Wrocław. All ceremonies of the Wrocław University, the inaugurations of the academic year, seminars, national holidays and even concerts are held here due to great acoustics. The Leopoldina Auditorium was built in year 1732 and is called after the Austrian emperor Leopold I, who established the first college called The Leopoldyńska Academy. The baroque interior in the auditorium is the work of the outstanding artists of that time: the sculptor F. J. Mangold from Prague and the painter J. K. Handtke from Olomuniec. An Italian, I. Provisore, did the stuccowork. Illusionistic wall- and vault painting is impressive due to its allegorical sculptures and amazing decorations, which form here a harmonious whole. In a part of the auditorium, called Podium, the visitors' attention is caught by a monumental sculpture depicting the emperor Leopold on a throne together with the allegories of Wisdom and Thrift, one on each of his sides. The allegories of Fray and Stupidity are at his feet. The shapes in the inner circle of the fresco above the auditorium, dedicated to the praise in honor of the Divine Wisdom, symbolize learning and liberal arts.

The Racławice Panorama

Due to the use of special painting techniques, an enormous painting (15 x 114 m) "moves" the spectators to a different time, a different reality. The painting depicts a battle between insurgent troops under the command of the national hero, Tadeusz Kościuszko, and the Russian army on the 4th of April 1794 at Racławice, near Kraków.

This legendary work of art painted by Jan Styka and Wojciech Kossak could be looked at in Lwów in the beginning of the 20th century. After World War II, in year 1946, the painting, together with a part of the Ossolineum collection, was brought to Wrocław. The Racławice Panorama was opened to the public in the mid 80's of the 20th century and became at once the main attraction in Wrocław. The Racławice Panorama is the first and the only Polish work of art of this kind that has survived up to the present.
Silesian Churches of Peace in Jawor and Świdnica

Wooden, Evangelical Churches of Peace in Jawor and Świdnica, with brick nogging, are the only monuments of this kind in the world. Silesian Protestants erected them in the middle of the 17th century and today the churches are on UNESCO's World Heritage List. The temple in Świdnica has a rich baroque interior with 18th century paintings, while the church in Jawor has 143 scenes from the Old and New Testament painted on its galleries. Both buildings have richly ornamented lacunars.

Maria Sanctuaries

The sanctuaries in Wambierzyce and Bardo are the destinations of numerous pilgrimages to the miraculous figurines of The Mother of Jesus. The Basilica in Wambierzyce is a place with an interesting baroque architecture, with cloisters around an oval aisle and 11 chapels. The church tops a small town square. From the square there are 57 steps leading up to the church. These steps have a symbolic meaning. A big attraction is a movable crib from 1882 with over 800 figurines. According to local accounts and legends, the worship of Maria spread already from 1200 in Bardo. The worship of Maria stemmed from the miraculous figurine of The Mother of Jesus, which to the present day is the greatest treasure here.

In the Śnieżnik Massif, near Międzygórze, on the slope of Igliczna Mountain, The Church of The Śnieżna Mother of Jesus is located. The object of worship is the miraculous figurine of The Mother of Jesus. The figurine is a replica of The Mother of Jesus in Maria Zell in Austria.

The Church of Peace in Świdnica
Pl. Pokoju 6
tel. (+48 74) 852 28 14

Tourist Information
ul. Wewnętrzna 2, Świdnica
tel./fax (+48 74) 852 02 90

Maria
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The Sanctuary of The Wambierzycka
Mother of Jesus Queen of the Families
Pl. N.M.P 11
tel. (+48 74) 871 91 70
fax (+48 74) 871 91 95

The Sanctuary
of The Bardzka Mother of Jesus
Pl. Widzioci 5
tel. (+48 74) 817 14 21

1. The Sanctuary of
   The Bardzka Mother of Jesus
2. The sanctuary of The Śnieżna Mother of Jesus on the Igliczna mountain close to Międzygórze
3. The Sanctuary of The Wambierzycka Mother of Jesus
Cistercian Monasteries

The Cistercians came to Silesia in the 12th century. In order to devote themselves to divine service in peace and in solitude, "The White Monks" settled far away from human habitation, amidst fertile fields and forests. The abbey in Lubiąż, a building complex, in its present shape comes from the 18th century. Out of 300 rooms in the buildings, the renovated Princely Hall, with its beautiful baroque sculptures and frescos, amazes the visitors. The Silesian Prince Henryk Brodaty founded the abbey in Henryków in the 13th century. It was here, in the Henrykowski monastery that the first words in Polish were written down in the 13th century. The building complex is comprised of a late Gothic church and baroque monastery buildings. The Cistercian abbey in Krzeszów is called quite rightly the pearl of the Silesian baroque. The St. Joseph Church is ornamented with beautiful frescos painted by Michael Willmann, called the Silesian Rembrand.

In Trzebnica, amidst picturesque hills, the first Cistercian convent in Silesia is located. This late baroque building complex is one of the biggest in Poland.

Lubiąż; The Cistercian Monastery Building Complex; tel. (+48 71) 389 71 66 www.fundacja lubiaz.org.pl
Henryków; Pl. Cystersów 1 tel. (+48 74) 810 50 69
Krzeszów; Punkt Obsługi Pielgrzyma (The Pilgrim Information Center) tel. (+48) 608 452 070
Trzebnica tel. (+48 71) 312 11 18

Arboretum in Wojsławice

Arboretum in Wojsławice is one of the few manor-house parks in Lower Silesia that survived the post-war turmoil. A village owner and botanist, Fritz von Oheimb, established this garden, which is one of the most beautiful dendrological gardens in Poland, in 1831. In the garden over 600 species of trees and bushes grow, exotic as well as native. The park is a branch of the Botanic Garden in Wroclaw and is its research and didactic center.

Arboretum in Wojsławice Wojsławice, close to Niemcza tel. (+48 74) 837 64 69
Botanic Garden Wroclaw University ul. Sienkiewicza 23, Wrocław tel. (+48 71) 322 59 57 fax (+48 71) 322 44 83 www.biol.uni.wroc.pl/obuwrlw
1. 2. 3. Arboretum in Wojsławice
The Chełmy Scenic Park

The Chełmy Scenic Park is located in the southern part of the Kaczawskie Plateau in The Western Sudety Mountains. The area of the park is 159.9 km² and the protection zone covers an area of 124.7 km². It is an upland area with heights 350-400 m above sea level dominating. The area is also a part of the geological unit called the kaczawski metamorphic, which has a characteristic stratiform structure. The park was created with the purpose of protecting the natural, historical and cultural richness of the region. The forests that grow on the territory of the park belong to the best-preserved deciduous forests in Lower Silesia. A lot of different tree species grow in the park, such as fine-leaved and broad-leaved linden, English oak and Durmast oak, maple, sycamore, black alder and gray alder and many more. The flora diversity is undoubtedly the greatest richness of the "Chełmy" Scenic Park. In the park there grows as many as 44 species of vascular plants, which are protected in Poland. Many of them can only be found in the park. The visitors can also admire the mountain and piedmont plants, rarely found in Poland.

The Milickie Ponds and The Barycz valley

The Scenic Park “Dolina Baryczy” was established in 1996 not only with the purpose of protecting water- and marsh plants, waterfowl and wading birds but also with the purpose of preserving the natural, historical and cultural richness of the Barycz valley. The park, spreading between Lower Silesia and the Great Poland province, has an area of 87 thousand hectares. Its area makes the park the biggest scenic park in Poland. In the park there are great areas of woodlands, numerous rivers and streams and a lot of ponds and water reservoirs, among them a well-known group of fishponds and riparian forest. Big forests and pond areas (The Milickie Ponds) are the natural refuge for forest animals and birds. There are over 276 species, 166 of them are breeding species. Especially noteworthy are the Milickie Ponds covering an area of 8 thousand km². The Milickie fishponds are the biggest carp-breeding center not only in Poland but also in Europe.
The Ślęża Mountain

The Ślęża Mountain is the highest peak, 718 m above sea level, of the Ślęża Massif. It is mainly composed of granites and gabbros. The mountain used to be the center of the Pagan solar cult of the local tribes. Stonewall fragments were found on the top of the mountain. The stonewall width was approximately 12 m and it was built out of stone splinters. A mysterious statue with a characteristic oblique cross symbol was also found. Ślęża is situated 34 km to the southeast of Wrocław and is surrounded by numerous lower heights: Radunia, Gozdnicza, Wieżyca, the Oleszeńskie hills and Kiełczyńskie hills. Mixed forests with spruce, pine, beech, oak and birch cover them. A lot of very rare plants species and many odd species of butterflies, snails and arachnids can be found in the forests. On this area there is an Archeological Reserve, in Będkowice, which encompasses the early medieval settlement territory comprised of a tumulus cemetery and the remnants of a rampart.

www.sobotka.pl

1. The Ślęża cult sculpture.
2. The archeological reserve.
3. The Ślęża Mountain.

Jaskinia Niedźwiedzia (The Bear’s Cave)

The Bear’s Cave is the biggest, the most beautiful and the most interesting Polish cave open to tourists. The cave was discovered in the marble quarry, Kletno III, in October 1966. Among the few dozen thousands of bones found in the cave 90% are the remains of the cave bear, 18 damaged and 5 whole skulls. In the cave the bones of a few dozen of other animal species, among them cave lions, wolves, beavers and foxes were found. In the cave there are all forms of dripstones: stalagmite, stalactite, columns, draperies, cascades, basins and small underground lakes, streams, chimneys and siphons.

At present 3 km of tunnels are discovered and it is already known that there are yet some that are unexplored. The Bear’s cave is located on the territory of a reserve with the same name.

Zakład Usług Turystycznych (The Tourist Service Center)
“Jaskinia Niedźwiedzia” (“The Bear’s Cave”) in Stronie Śląskie
ul. Kościuszki 55 (the location of the Bear’s Cave – KLETNO)
tel. (+48 74) 814 12 50
www.jaskinia.pl
e-mail: zut@jaskinia.pl
Opening hours
9-16.40 (May - September) and 10-17.40 (October - April)

1. 2. 3. The Bear’s Cave – Kletno
**The Waterfalls in The Sudety Mountains**

Plenty of water from the streams and rivers of The Karkonosze Mountains run down steep, rocky valleys forming cascades and waterfalls. The highest waterfalls are Kamieńczyk, Szklarka and Podgórna and the cascade Łomniczka waterfalls.

The mountain stream Szklarka forms the Szklarka waterfall. A wide, falling from the height of 13 m cascade narrows and spins close to the ground. The Kamieńczyk waterfall is located next to the road leading to Jakuszyce. The visitors can admire it in two places. The water falling from 27 meters forms three cataracts of varied heights. The Podgórze waterfall in Przesieka (547 m above sea level), the third biggest Polish waterfall in The Karkonosze Mountains, forces its way through a rocky gorge. Its triple fall is ten-meter-high fall.

On the Kłodzko Land, the Wilczka creek falls down from a 20-meter-high rocky gorge and forms in a dark, rocky ravine the second highest waterfall in The Sudety Mountains.

**Tourist Information**
ul. Konstytucji 3 Maja 25a, Karpacz
 tel. (+48 75) 761 97 16
e-mail: it@karpacz.pl
www.karpacz.pl

Chair-lift going up on Kopa
tel. (+48 75) 761 92 84
www.kopa.com.pl

1. Hostel on Śnieżka
2. Śnieżka
3. The Wilczka waterfall
4. The Kamieńczyk waterfall
5. The Szklarka waterfall

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**Śnieżka in The Karkonosze Mountains**

Śnieżka (1603 m) is the highest mountain in The Karkonosze Mountains and The Sudety Mountains. Moreover, it is also the highest peak in The Czech Republic. It is the symbol of Karpacz and, since ages, a magic place according to tourists. On the top of Śnieżka there is a baroque St. Wawrzyniec Chapel. St. Wawrzyniec is the patron of guides. A small top dome on Śnieżka is the best beauty spot of The Sudety Mountains and in Lower Silesia. On Śnieżka there is also a restaurant, a meteorological observatory and a hostel. The peak of Śnieżka is composed out of hard metamorphic rocks overgrown with polar and Alpine vegetation. The slopes are covered with deforested area. It is easier to climb up on Śnieżka from Karpacz. From here a number of hiking trails lead up to the peak. One can also reach the nearby peak, Kopa, by chair-lift.

Tourist Information
ul. Konstytucji 3 Maja 25a, Karpacz
tel. (+48 75) 761 97 16
e-mail: it@karpacz.pl
www.karpacz.pl

Tourist Information
ul. Pstrowskiego 1,
Szklarska Poręba
tel./fax (+48 75) 717 24 49
e-mail: it@szklarskaporeba.pl
www.szklarskaporeba.pl

Tourist Information
ul. Konstytucji 3 Maja 25a, Karpacz
tel. (+48 75) 761 97 16
e-mail: it@karpacz.pl
www.karpacz.pl

Tourist Information
Pl. Chrobrego 1, Kłodzko
e-mail: rit@powiat.klodzko.pl
www.ziemiaklodzka.pl

1. Hostel on Śnieżka
2. Śnieżka

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1. The Wilczka waterfall
2. The Kamieńczyk waterfall
3. The Szklarka waterfall
Śnieżne Kotły (The Snowy Cirques) in The Karkonosze Mountains

The Snowy Cirques are the two best-developed postglacial cirques with a maximal depth of 215 m. A thin rocky path divides them. They are squeezed in the northern slope of the main ridge of The Karkonosze Mountains, between the Łabski peak and the Wielki Szyszak. The name of the Cirques stems from the layers of snow that remain in the gullies till late summer. The Snowy Cirques have also the richest mountainous plant community not only in The Karkonosze Mountains but also in The Sudety Mountains. In the Wielki Kocioł (the Big Cirque) there are two small Śnieżne Stawki (Snowy Ponds). The whole area is a strict nature reserve.

Tourist Information
ul. Pstrowskiego 1, Szklarska Poręba
tel./fax (+48 75) 717 24 49
e-mail: it@szklarskaporeba.pl
www.szklarskaporeba.pl
www.karkonosze.it.pl

1. 2. 3. Śnieżne Kotły (The Snowy Cirques)

The handicraft of Lower Silesia

Bolesławiec and the area around it is well known due to the kaolin clay found here. Seven centuries of potters’ work is presently continued by the potters from the ceramic workshop in Bolesławiec. As it was in the past, the handicraft in Bolesławiec: vases, beer jugs and pitchers are hand-decorated with the stamp method characteristic of Bolesławiec. The traditions of bread baking are recalled at the International Bread Fair in Jawor organized since 1997. During three days visitors can admire the craft of the bakers and confectioners, taste rare baked goods and become familiar with the bread baking traditions. Visitors can also look at bakers baking old, traditional Polish bread in a household called “The track of the dying professions” in Kudowa Zdrój-Czermna. There one can also visit pottery workshop, where demonstrations of how pottery is shaped are organized.

Tourist Information
ul. Sierpnia 80 nr 12, Bolesławiec
tel. (+48 75) 732 02 12
www.boleslawiec.pl

Workshop in Bolesławiec
ul. Gdańska 30
tel. (+48 75) 732 20 62
www.polish-pottery.com.pl

1. 2. 3. Bolesławiec ceramics

1. Stained-glass windows characteristic of The Karkonosze Mountains
2. Traditional baked goods
3. Bolesławiec ceramics

Międzynarodowe Targi Chleba w Jaworze (The International Bread Fair in Jawor)
tel. (+48 76) 871 10 39

1. Stained-glass windows characteristic of The Karkonosze Mountains
2. Traditional baked goods
3. Bolesławiec ceramics
Peat bog close to Zieleniec

The peat bog reserve close to Zieleniec is a strict reserve covering an area of 156.8 hectares. It is located in The Bystrzyckie Mountains on the European divide. Rich peat bog and marsh vegetation grows here, for example mountain pine, dwarf birch, marsh pine, few-flowered sedge, peat moss with marsh cranberry and marsh whortleberry, cotton grass and long-leaved and round-leaved sundew, and also rare insects in Poland can be seen here. The reserve was established already in 1919. In the 30's of the 20th century the area of the reserve was almost 220 hectares (presently it has an area of 123 hectares).

In the reserve a hiking track is marked out. The information boards and view towers placed on the track allow the tourists to fully appreciate the beauty of the reserve. The tourists are not allowed to stray off the route due to the dangerous swaps.

Tourist Information
Pl. Chrobrego 1, Kłodzko
e-mail: rit@powiat.klodzko.pl
www.ziemiaklodzka.pl

Tourist Information
Rynek 17, Radków
tel. (+48 74) 871 22 70
e-mail: radkow@radkowklodzki.pl
The National Park in The Stołowe Mountains
www.pngi.pulsar.net.pl

1. Peat bog close to Zieleniec
2. Zieleniec Wielki (Great Szczeliniec)
3. Szczeliniec Wielki (Great Szczeliniec) and Błędne Skały (Wandering Rocks)
Health resorts

Lower Silesia is a region of health resorts: here as many as 10 curative resorts are located! This richness Lower Silesia owes to its geological past and to the shape of the relief as a result of that past. For years it has been known that the largest number of mineral water springs take their source in the mountains, where the water, which forms the rocky crevices and subterrestrial tunnels, is enriched with carbon dioxide and valuable micronutrients. For hundreds of years health resorts where a kind of Mecca for people who look for peace, rest and, first and foremost, want to improve their health. The resorts worth visiting are: Polanica Zdrój, Kudowa Zdrój, Szczawno Zdrój, Duszniki Zdrój, Święradow Zdrój, Jedlina Zdrój, Cieplice Śląskie Zdrój and Długopole Zdrój.

Wratislavia Cantans

Festival

Since 40 years Wratislavia Cantans is a big, annual music holiday, whose initiator and creator in year 1966 was the outstanding conductor – Andrzej Markowski. From the beginning of its existence, Wratislavia Cantans is a festival “without limits” presenting the culture of many nations in their best artistic performance in the most beautiful monumental interiors in Wrocław and in Lower Silesia. During the festival oratorio-cantata and symphonic concerts, concerts of chamber music, vocal and instrumental recitals, concerts of sacral music of many religions and many performances of old music take place. In front of an almost 20-thousand-big international audience, more than 1000 performers from the whole world perform annually.

Since 1978 “Wratislavia Cantans” is a member of the prestigious European Festivals Association (EFA) in Gaunt.

The International “Wratislavia Cantans” Festival

Rynek 7
tel. (+48 71) 343 98 04
tel./fax (+48 71) 343 08 33
e-mail: office@wratislavia.art.pl
www.wratislavia.art.pl

1. 2. 3. Wratislavia Cantans Festival
The gold, stones and adventures in Lower Silesia

In Złotoryja, on the Kaczawskie piedmont, cut in 1660, the drift of the gold mine “Aurelia” is preserved. The established, in 1992, Fraternity of Gold Diggers organizes annually, in the end May, Gold Rinsing Championships. It is great entertainment and the contestants can keep the found “treasures”. Lwówek Śląski, which is situated in a beautiful spot just outside The Bobra Valley Scenic Park, welcomes visitors every year in July to an adventure with precious stones. A big holiday of earth treasure hunters takes place there: the mineral and precious stones fair, the demonstration of cutting agates, and hikes to the agate fields in the area.

At the feet of Śnieżka in The Karkonosze Mountains, in Ścięgny close to Karpacz, one can experience an adventure in the Wild West, in the cowboy city “Western City”. The city covers an area of 5 hectares and is composed of 12 wooden buildings looking like characteristic old, Western buildings.

“Aurelia” Gold Mine in Złotoryja
tel. (+48 76) 878 33 74
www.zlotoryja.pl

Polish Fraternity of Gold Diggers
Polskie Bractwo Kopaczy Złota
www.bractwo.bbk.pl

“Agatowe Lato” (“The Agate Summer”) in Lwówek Śląski
ul. Przyjaciół Żołnierza 5
tel. (+48 75) 782 45 32
www.lwoweksłaski.pl

Western City in Ścięgny close to Karpacz
tel. (+48 75) 761 95 60
www.western.com.pl

1. The Agate Summer
2. Złotoryja – gold rinsing
3. Western City

Cross-country ski racing

Bieg Piastów (The Piast Cross Country Ski Race) is an international cross-country skiing event taking place on the Jakuszyce Glade since 1976. The race belongs to the European Long Distance Popular Race Series EUROLOPPET. The event takes place annually during a March weekend. The Little Piast Race, for young people under the age of 18, and The Regional CISM Championships inaugurate the Piast Cross Country Ski Race. Later, the 50-km-long Piast Classic Cross Country Ski Race takes place. The race is simultaneously The Polish Championships. The last event is the 25-km-long Freestyle Piast Cross Country Ski Race. The Jakuszycka Glade is situated in The Izerskie Mountains, close to the Czech border crossing, 8 km from Szlarska Poręba. The Jakuszycka Glade has a number of perfectly marked out and maintained trails with very attractive views. These trails are of different degrees of difficulty and their total length is 100 km. The highest situated trails are situated on the height of 1000 m. On the Glade the snow lays even in April. In the neighborhood of Sokolowisko, in The Suche Mountains, close to the picturesque “Andrzejówka” hostel, the great cross-country skiing race “Bieg Gwarków” takes place.

Bieg Piastów
tel./fax. (+48 75) 717 33 38
e-mail: biuro@bieg-piastow.pl
www.bieg-piastow.pl

Bieg Gwarków
tel. (+48 74) 664 71 11
www.bieggwarkow.hb.pl

1. 2. 3. Bieg Piastów (The Piast Race)
Underground cities

Drifts in Walim. In mountain slopes, in the neighborhood of Walim, a huge building complex of underground drifts and corridors of a factory or quarters of Hitler were built between 1943 and 1945. The building, known under the cryptonym “Riese” – was never finished.

The underground city Osówka is the biggest underground factory of Hitler’s secret arms. It is situated on the southeastern side of the Osówka Mountain. The subterranean part of the building complex is composed of three drifts situated on different heights next to the road connecting the villages of Końce and Walim. As the result of the work that began in the middle of 1943, a huge system of concrete corridors, fortifications and halls was erected. The aim of the construction was kept secret.

Tourist Information
ul. Grunwaldzka 20
58-340 Głuszyca
tel. (+48 74) 845 62 20
fax (+48 74) 845 63 32
e-mail: biuro@osowka.pl

Muzeum Sztolni Walimskich
(The Museum of Drifts in Walim)
ul. 3 Maja 26
tel./fax. (+48 74) 845 73 00
e-mail: muzeum@sztolnie.pl
www.sztolnie.pl

1. The Underground City Osówka
2. The Walim drifts

Mining Monuments

Since ages Lower Silesia has been an area of mining exploration. Today many mines are tourist attractions. The visitors can learn about the history of the mines and about the treasures of the earth. In the mine in Złoty Stok presumably 16 tons of gold were extracted – today, in this place, there is an Underground Tourist Trail. On the trail there is a 200-meter-long drift called Czarna Sztolnia (Black Drift) leading to an underground 8-meter-high waterfall. In the Underground Tourist Coal-Mine, former “Nowa Ruda” mine, one can visit 700 m of former mining pits. In the neighboring Wałbrzych, in The Museum of Technology and Industry located in the preserved industrial building complex from the 19th century, there are unique hoist towers, machines and other devices for coal extraction. In Kowary, at the feet of the Karkonosze Mountains, in two former exploring drifts of uranium mines, a 1200-meter-long underground tourist trail was marked out. In the drifts in Kowary called “Sztolnie Kowary” there is currently a radon inhalatorium.

Podziemna Trasa Turystyczna (Underground Tourist Trail) “Kopalnia Węgla” in Nowa Ruda
ul. Oborowa 4 tel. (+48 74) 872 79 11
www.kopalnia.pnet.pl

Muzeum Przemysłu i Techniki w Wałbrzychu (The Museum of Technology and Industry in Wałbrzych)
ul. Wysokiego 28, tel. (+48 74) 664 60 33
www.muzeum.walbrzych.com.pl

Underground Tourist Trail – Kowary Drifts
tel. (+48 75) 718 34 00
www.sztolniekowary.pl

1. The Museum of Technology and Industry in Wałbrzych
2. Hard coal mine in Szupieć – Nowa Ruda
3. Gold mine in Złoty Stok
The Castles in Lower Silesia

There are many old castles left in Lower Silesia. Some of them were strongholds in the past guarding the trading routes and the borders of the principality, others were the seats of the Silesian line. In the neighborhood of Jelenia Góra, on the steep Chojnik Mountain, rises a huge castle built in the 14th century, with the same name as the mountain. The Grodno castle, not far from Zagórze Śląskie, was once the seat of plundering knights. At the feet of the castle there is a picturesque, winding Bystrzyckie Lake. The water castle in Wojnowice, close to Wrocław, situated amidst fields and forests, was the residence of the rich middle-class from Wrocław. The monumental castle is situated on a very picturesque rocky headland, approximately 3 km in the southern direction from Wałbrzych to Książ. It was built by the Świdniccy Piasts in the 13th century. Currently it is one of the biggest castles in Poland. It has over 400 rooms. The room with the most beautiful interior is the 18th century Makoymillian Hall with a richly ornamented plafond. The second out of the best-preserved castles in The Sudety Mountains is the Czocha castle. It is situated on the Leśniańskie Lake and was erected already in the 13th century with the purpose of guarding the Silesian-Lusatian border.

Zamek Książ Sp. z o.o.
(The Książ Castle) Wałbrzych
tel. (+48 74) 664 38 50
Zamek Grodno, Zagórze Śląskie (The Grodno Castle)
tel. (+48 74) 845 33 60
Zamek nawodny (The Water Castle) in Wojnowice close to Mrozów
tel. (+48 71) 317 07 26
Zamek Chojnik (The Chojnik Castle)
Jelenia Góra- Sobieszów

1. The Książ Castle – Wałbrzych
2. The Grodno Castle – Zagórze Śląskie
3. A Castle – Wojnowice

Paper mill in Duszniki

The only Museum of Paper in Poland is situated in a 17th century paper mill, which is a unique monument of technology. The building is the only example of baroque industrial construction in Poland, and one of few in Europe. It is situated on the Bystrzycza Dusznicka River, in the southern suburbs of the city. The resumed handicraft paper production was opened to visitors in 1977. Till 1905 handmade paper, valued for its quality, used for drawing up of formal documents, acts and diplomas, was produced here. The museum organizes demonstrations of paper production.

The Paper Museum in Duszniki Zdrój
ul. Kłodzka 42,
tel. (+48 74) 866 92 48
fax (+48 74) 866 90 20
e-mail: biuro@muzpap.pl
www.muzpap.pl

1. 2. 3. The Paper Museum – Duszniki Zdrój
The Kłodzko Fortress and the Srebrna Góra Fortress

The Kłodzko Fortress is a monument of military architecture and one of the most characteristic places in Lower Silesia. The well-preserved, big fortress was a defense system from the 17th and the 18th century. Its area is over 30 hectares. The building complex is composed of: the main tourist fortress, the ancillary stronghold Owcza Góra, city embankment and field fortification. Currently a part of the fortress is opened to tourists and is one of the major attractions in Kłodzko. It is also possible to see the underground labyrinth of corridors.

Another fortress worth seeing is the Srebrna Góra Fortress. It is the biggest building in the mountains of this kind in Europe. It was erected in the years 1765-1777 due to fortification necessity of the newly conquered province by Prussia. Its task was to tighten the Sudety line and the already built fortresses in Nysa, Kłodzko and Świdnica. The Srebrna Góra Fortress, the most powerful stronghold, was unconquered even by Napoleon.

Masterpieces created by engineers

The barrage in Pilchowice is situated in the picturesque Scenic Park of the Bóbr valley. It is the second highest (Solina is the highest) and the second oldest barrage in Poland. Moreover, it is the highest arched- and stone barrage in our country. The barrage was built out of stones and concrete and was opened in 1921. The reservoir supplies the turbines of the power plant with water. The turbines are located in a building at the feet of the barrage.

The architectural “pearl” in Bolesławiec is the railway viaduct made out of carved stones. The viaduct is the longest in Poland. It is 49-meter-long, 8-meter-wide and 26-meter-high. 35 semicircular spans, supported by bridge piers, look like a Roman aqueduct. Close to Zagórze Śląskie in The Wałbrzyske Mountains between 1912-17, a 220-meter-long and 44-meter-high dam was built on the Bystrzyca River. The dammed-up river water forms the picturesque, winding and 3-kilometer-long Bystrzyckie Lake.
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tel. + (33-1) 42 44 19 00, fax 42 97 52 25; www.tourisme.pologne.net, e-mail: info@tourisme.pologne.net

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