



DOLNOŚLĄSKA
ORGANIZACJA
TURYSTYCZNA

Lower Silesian Tourist
Organization



Religious Heritage in Lower Silesia

Pilgrimage routes in Lower Silesia

Pilgrimages in Lower Silesia are a centuries-old tradition. Previously their character was only religious, but today we are offered the possibility of being both a pilgrim and tourist. While wandering the Lower Silesian trails, keep in mind that we follow the ancient paths, walk in the footsteps of millions of people who walked this way before us, carrying their requests, sorrows and thanks to the sacred places. Each of them left a piece of themselves on the trail, creating a unique atmosphere of the route and of the holy places.

In Lower Silesia there are several spots where the pilgrimage routes intersect. Krzeszów, Świdnica, Jawor, Ząbkowice Śląskie, Henryków – these are the places where the course of history and tradition were created, where Polish statehood and national identity developed.

And between them there is the wonderful nature of the Sudeten Mountains: mountain landscapes, flowered meadows, picturesque fields, quiet villages and small towns. A tour on the Pilgrimage routes of Lower Silesia is the best cure for professional burnout, ubiquitous stress and the fast pace of modern life.

Come to Lower Silesia and see it for yourself.



The Lower Silesian Way of St. James

from Lower Silesia to Santiago de Compostela – Trail of the Shell



Bolesławiec

The Cathedral of Santiago de Compostela in Spain is the pilgrimage destination of the Way of St. James, where tradition has it the remains of Saint James are buried. Around the year 44, James the Apostle was beheaded by the order of Herod Agrippa, thus becoming the first martyr among the apostles. According to the legend, his body was transported to Spain by boat and buried in a place where Santiago de Compostela is situated today. A chapel was built over the grave, and later a great cathedral, which became a place of pilgrimage of the faithful from all over medieval Europe. The Way of St. James, which has existed for over a thousand years, is one of the oldest and most important Christian pilgrimage routes (the first documented arrival of the pilgrims took place in 950). Its unique characteristic is that there is no single path of the pilgrimage, and the participants can reach the destination by many different routes. Since the Middle Ages, its main route was the Via Regia, or the Royal Road, whose construction was initiated by the Roman army. Later it became a historical trade route linking Spain and Russia. Pilgrims on their way to Santiago de Compostela got to this road by minor forest and field roads, by which many chapels, churches, inns and night shelters very soon were built.



Bolesławiec

The Mediaeval pilgrimage was primarily religious in nature: the strengthening of faith, a course of penance, requests for healing or thanksgiving. The great of this world (Charlemagne, Isabella of Castile, St. Ignatius of Loyola) walked alongside the ordinary folk to visit the holy places. In the fourteenth cen-



Luban



tury, when the pilgrimage movement prospered, over a million people covered the trail each year. Members of the Radziwiłł family and Jakub Sobieski, the father of King John III Sobieski, the victor of the Battle of Vienna set out on the pilgrimage from Poland

Pope John Paul II visited Santiago de Compostela twice. After his visit in 1982, the Council of Europe recognized the Way of St. James as the trail of particular importance for the culture of the continent, and in 1987 as the European Cultural Route. Since 1993, the road is a UNESCO World Heritage Site.

The Way of Saint James runs through Lower Silesia by three different trails. **Trail 1** starts in Glogów and leads through Grodowiec all the way to the village Jakubów, where in 1376 a Gothic church of St. James was built with fieldstones. The temple and the nearby miraculous spring attracted and still attract many of the faithful. From Jakubów the trail leads through Lubań, Nowogrodziec, Pogorzelska and Polkowice to Tomaszów Bolesławski and Bolesławiec, in which three historic churches of Blessed Virgin Mary are located.



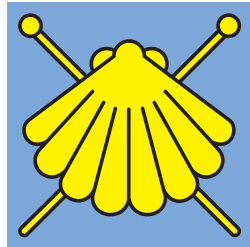
Glogów



Grodowiec



Grodowiec



Trail 2 starts in Olawa, from which it leads to the Cathedral of St. John the Baptist in Wrocław and the Church of St. Martin for many years associated with Wrocław's artistic circles. Another stop on the trail is the church of St. Sophia in and then the pilgrims are led to through Legnica and Legnickie Pole to Cistercian Lubiąż. The trail ends in Złotoryja

with a meditation path in memory of St. Hedwig. The shortest of the three, **Trail 3** starts in Jelenia Góra, where the towers of the Church of St. Cross and the Church of St. Erasmus and Pancrattius overlook the picturesque town. The trail leads through Lubomierz and Biedrzychowice to Lubań, where it ends.



Wrocław



Złotoryja



Lubomierz

The Way of St. James is marked with shells and yellow arrows. In Poland, however, an attempt to harmonize their design was unsuccessful and therefore some of the trails are marked with white shells and a red cross-sword, and others with yellow shells.

Along the James' trail there are plenty of attractions for the pilgrims – museums, historic sacred places, unique works of art, and above all, the possibility of communing with nature and the picturesque landscapes of Lower Silesia. Along the way, Głogów is worthy of stopping by, with its Tolerance Bridge.

In Bolesławiec we can find the longest viaduct in Poland, over the Bóbr River Valley. This remarkable technical achievement is an openwork work of art as well. Bolesławiec is also famous for a variety of original and

beautifully decorated ceramics. Turning a little bit from the main road near Brzeg towards Malujowice, we can see the rural churches with medieval paintings – the so-called Brzeg polychrome route. While in Środa Śląska, don't miss its famous golden treasure - an impressive collection of medieval coins and jewels of Czech monarchs, discovered by accident in 1985 and 1988 during construction work. From here it is very close to Lubomierz, the town where Polish cult film trilogy "Sami Swoi" was shot, and the Museum of Pawlak and Kargul – the main characters of the comedy.

Those who walk along the shell-marked route have an opportunity not only to have spiritual experiences, but also to explore the history of Lower Silesia and all the best it has to offer.



Jelenia Góra

The Cistercian Route in Lower Silesia

The Order of Cistercians was founded in the French Burgundy at the end of the eleventh century and is therefore considered to be one of the oldest orders in the world. In the times of Abbot Bernard (later saint) the order was enjoying a time of prosperity, which manifested in the expansion of the Cistercian idea all over the Catholic Europe. In Lower Silesia, the Cistercians settled through the efforts of Duke Boleslaus the Tall, the grandson of Boleslaw the Wrymouthed. Thanks to him, in 1163 the first abbey in the region was founded in Lubiąż. It is the largest and most



Lubiąż



Lubiąż

representative Cistercian building complex in this part of Europe. Because of its impressive size and location on a small hill over the river Oder, it can be seen well from afar. The Abbey owes its present appearance to the reconstructions and upgrades carried out in the seventeenth and eighteenth century. It is hard to say what surprises more in the baroque splendour of the rooms: mirrors and decorated walls or polished marble mosaic floor. The building complex comprises of the Abbatial Palace with a dining hall, the Duke's Hall, a library and a summer refectory as well as the church of the Blessed Virgin Mary.



Lubiąż



Lubiąż is located exactly in the middle of the Cistercian Route. From here it leads east – to Trzebnica, south – to Świdnica, Henryków and Kamieniec, and to the west – to Legnica, Jelenia Góra, Bardo, to finish in Krzeszów.

In Trzebnica in 1202, Duke Henry the Bearded, at the request of his wife Hedwig, later saint, founded the first Cistercian nunnery in Lower Silesia for the nuns from Bamberg. Since 1267, when the Silesian Duchess was announced saint, her tomb in the basilica in Trzebnica has been the destination of pilgrimage from Poland, Germany and the Czech Republic. This Romanesque church was rebuilt several times, in the eighteenth century to give it a Baroque decor which can be admired until today.

Also in the interior of the abbey in Henryków there are but a few Romanesque details left. And it was here in the years 1268 to 1273 that Abbot Peter wrote a chronicle of the mo-



Henryków

nastery, in which the first recorded sentence in the Polish language was written. It reads: "Day ut ia pobrusa, a ti pozwiwai" (let me mill and you rest). The monk immortalized the words that a peasant servant of the monastery said to his wife (this chronicle, called "The Book of Henryków" is currently in the Archdiocese Museum in Wrocław). Like many other Cistercian buildings, the monastery church was rebuilt several times, and was modernized in the seventeenth century in accordance with the Baroque fashion. It survived the turmoil of war virtually intact. Among the various Baroque works and details, wonderful stalls, made by unknown masters over the course of 150 years, attract special attention. In St. Magdalene's chapel, the Piast of Ziemlice Mausoleum is located, with one of the oldest Gothic double tombstones in Poland of Duke Bolko and his wife, Jutta.

The history of the Cistercian settlement in Kamieniec Zabkowicki was a stormy one. At the beginning of the thirteenth century, there



Henryków

stood the Augustinian monastery, founded by the bishops of Wrocław. In 1240, due to internal problems in the Augustinian convent, the post in Kamieniec was closed down. In those circumstances, Kamieniec was taken over by the Cistercians, but the Augustinians from Wrocław tried to regain the monastery by force by removing the Cistercians and reinstating their provost in Kamieniec. This infuriated the bishop of Wrocław to such an extent that he threw a curse on the perpetrators of the invasion. Ultimately, the dispute was settled by the papal legate who gave the monastery for perpetual usufruct to Cistercians. Cistercian church in Kamieniec Zabkowicki was also changed in the Baroque era (around 1700), but a fire in 1817 caused great damage to the monastery and the church. Today the post-cistercian temple serves as a parish church.



Kamieniec Zabkowicki



Trzebnica



Henryków



Kamieniec Zabkowicki



The Cistercian trail ends with a visit to Krzeszów, a picturesque village in the mountains, among fields and meadows. The abbey of Krzeszów, like the one in Lubiąż, is one of the finest examples of Baroque architecture in Europe. The construction of the church began in 1728, and its walls are decorated with magnificent frescoes painted by Michael Willmann. A series of 50 paintings shows the history of St. Joseph and the Holy Family. The Cistercians left behind not only the



Krzeszów



Krzeszów

splendid Baroque buildings. We should keep in mind that their centuries-long presence in Lower Silesia is not confined to construction. The order, true to the principle "ora et labora" (pray and work), has had a tremendous impact not only on religion and culture, but also on the economy in the region. Known for their

passion for agriculture, Cistercians founded wineries, built fish ponds, weaving mills, tanneries, mills, and breweries. You can safely say that the Cistercian monasteries were the centres of technological and economic development in the region.



Krzeszów

The Cistercian Route in Lower Silesia



The Route of Marian Shrines and Pilgrimage Centres in Lower Silesia



The Route of Marian Shrines and Pilgrimage Centres in Lower Silesia

On this route there are 17 towns and villages, each having a fascinating history and historic sacred places. Here are the most interesting among them:

In the small village Wambierzyce, delightfully situated at the foot of the Table Mountains, the huge Basilica of Our Lady – the Queen of Families is located. The Jerusalem Temple of Solomon served as the model for the builders of the church. The basilica owes it the monumental entrance stairs and the richly decorated Baroque facade. Inside the basilica the grand altar with a statue of Our Lady of Wambierzyce is found, whose miraculous act changed the small town into a place of Marian devotion. Right next to the Basilica there is the famous Calvary hill with 74 little chapels. The great attraction is the moving crib by Longin Wittig, a local watchmaker, who carved the first mechanically operated figures for his infant son to comfort him after his mother's death. Today, the crib is made of 800 human and animal figures, 300 of which are mobile. The figures represent biblical scenes from the life of the Holy Family, but also scenes contemporary to the author: miners working underground and a cheerful folk party.



Bardo



Wambierzyce



Góra Igliczna



Wambierzyce



Strzegom



Wambierzyce

In the Śnieżnik Massif on Mount Igliczna, the Shrine of Our Lady of the Snow awaits pilgrims. This tiny church was probably built in the eighteenth century, but its current design comes from the turn of the nineteenth and twentieth century. In the temple, in the middle of the neo-Baroque altar, in the cabinet sustained by angels, there is a wonderful statue of Our Lady the Cause of our Joy. For many years pilgrims and tourists have come to the shrine to ask for fulfilment of their requests, thank for the fortunate turn of events, and admire the magnificent view of

Black Mountain, Śnieżnik and the Klodzko Valley. In Czerwna the pilgrims can slip into reverie over the passing of time in the Skull Chapel, made on the order of the local parish priest from bones and human remains from sixteenth and seventeenth centuries wars and epidemics.

The next stop on the route of the Marian shrines is Bardo Śląskie. Founded as a fortified city, the town was purchased in 1299 by the Cistercians, who built the first church in place of the former castle chapel. Today, the main centre of Marian devotion is the monumental Baroque church of



Bardo



the Visitation of Our Lady, which is dominated by the magnificent figure of the Holy Mother of Bardo. The temple is situated very close to the Museum of Sacred Art with many valuable exhibits. You can experience unusual sensations walking on a stone bridge over the Glatzer Neisse. Until recently, St. John of Nepomuk (a stone statue from 1709) was watching over the town and its residents from the whims of an inconspicuous stream, which during the spring thaw has repeatedly been the cause of flooding.

While wandering in Lower Silesia the tourists and pilgrims will come across traces of St. Hedwig repeatedly. Many churches are dedicated to her and many places somehow connected with her. St. Hedwig is a historical figure permanently bound up with the region and her life is described in detail in historical sources. Hedwig, the daughter of Count Berthold Anthecht, arrived in Lower Silesia in the mid-twelfth century as the wife of Duke Henry the Bearded.



Legnickie Pole



Jawor

She was famous for her profoundly religious and ascetic lifestyle. On the other hand, she became known for her sensitivity to the suffering and misery of others, especially from the lower classes. It is thanks to her insistence on Henry the Bearded that he financed the construction of the first convent for nuns of the Cistercian Order in Trzebnica. Immediately afterwards, a new church dedicated to the Blessed Virgin Mary and St. Bartholomew the Apostle, the favourite saint of the Duchess, was built. St. Hedwig spent the last days of her long life in the convent in Trzebnica, where she died at the age of 70. On October 16, 1243, she was buried in the monastery church, and 24 years after her death, Pope Clement IV proclaimed her a saint. The pilgrimage to the tomb of St. Hedwig is a

special tradition whose origins date back to the mid-thirteenth century. St. Hedwig is regarded as the patroness of Silesia and the patroness of marriages and families, the patroness of the Polish-German reconciliation and harmony between the two nations.

While in Trzebnica you can go on a walk on the so-called 'Big Path of St. Hedwig'. It is a several-kilometre-long urban trail on which the pilgrims stop by seven stones for meditation, to recall the seven virtues St. Hedwig.

The Marian Shrines and Pilgrimage Centres Route includes the tourist route Via Sacra. Via Sacra, or the Sacred Road, is traditionally associated with Rome, where it led from Velia hill through Roman Forum up to the Capitol. But the



Świdnica

Via Sacra leads also through Lower Silesia, northern Czech Republic and the German Lusatia on the historical trail of three cultures round with each other for many centuries. This route incorporated ancient trade and pilgrimage routes that can be frequented without visas and passports for some time now, after EU enlargement.

Via Sacra should start in Zittau, where one can see the Great Zittau Lent Cloth of 1472. While wandering through the lands inhabited for centuries by Lusatian Sorbs it is nice to visit Bauzen (St. Peter's Cathedral with the cathedral treasury), Panschwitz-Kuckau (the beautifully preserved Cistercian Sankt Marienstern monastery), Goerlitz (the Holy Tomb, Calvary, and the Evangelical Church of St. Peter and Paul) and Ostritz (the magnificent Cistercian St. Marienthal abbey with monastery hospital).

On the Polish side an important stop on the Via Sacra is Jawor with its Church of Peace included in the list of UNESCO World Heritage. This is one of the three peace churches built in Lower Silesia at the end of the Thirty Years' War. They were built in Glogów, Jawor and Świdnica using only light, impermanent building materials (straw, clay and wood). No wonder that when the fire broke out in 1758 in the Church of Peace in Glogów, almost in the blink of an eye the building burnt down completely. Churches in Świdnica and Jawor can be admired until today. These temples belonged to the Protestants, and the permission to build them was obtained with great difficulty from the Austrian Emperor Ferdinand III. Hence the builders strived to create buildings that can accommodate as many of the faithful as possible. This effect was achieved through the use of two floors of balconies called galleries. As a result, the church, whose interior resembles an amphitheatre, can accommodate up to 6 thousand people.



Karpacz

In the northern Czech Republic Via Sacra leads through Hejnice (the Church of the Visitation of the Virgin Mary), Jablonné v Podještě (the Basilica of St. Lawrence and Zdislava), Mnichovo Hradiště (the Chapel of St. Anna) and Český Dub (the Order of Malta's commandery of St. Zdislava).

The Route of Marian Shrines and Pilgrimage Centres is a wonderful escape from the stress and rush of everyday life. The physical and spiritual communion with nature, history and religion lets you relax and regain the inner calm. And it works for everyone – regardless of their faith.



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PROGRAM REGIONALNY
 NARODOWA STRATEGIA SPÓJNOŚCI



DOLNY ŚLĄSK

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