

The Best of Lower Silesia

50

Amazing Facts
You Did Not Know



**DOLNY
SLASK**

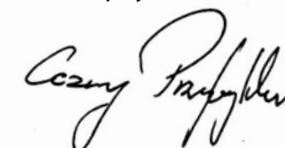


THE BEST OF LOWER SILESIA

Ladies and Gentlemen!

I am sure you know Lower Silesia as an extraordinary region full of amazing tourist attractions. I am confident you have learnt a lot about it and have already visited many places. That is why I would like to invite you to go on a different journey that those you have had thus far. I invite you for a trip full of tidbits, sometimes legends, but most often historical facts. I present to you the first part of the series called "The Best of Lower Silesia". It is a collection of fifty tidbits about this amazing region. Let them delight you, make you interested in the Province and amazed by its beauty. Let them fill you with admiration, and above all, encourage you to get to know and visit Lower Silesia personally. I sincerely hope that this guide will be the starting point for your tour of the wonders of this region. And then you will find out that not only is Lower Silesia the BEST but also full of fascinating mysteries. Perhaps you will discover all of them?

I wish you a pleasant journey!



Cezary Przybylski
Marshal of the Province
of Lower Silesia

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UNIQUE CERAMICS
FROM BOLESŁAWIEC

Do you know that the world-famous dinner and coffee sets, best known for their blue stamps, have been produced since the 19th century in Bolesławiec? It was once called "the city of clay", and today it is known as "the city of ceramics"? Ceramics from Bolesławiec have already won the hearts of millions of users around the world. These products are decorated only manually with the use of a brush or stamps; therefore, their users can rest assured that each of them is unique in its own way.



RUDAWY JANOWICKIE



THE LONGEST RAILWAY VIADUCT



RAILWAY VIADUCT IN BOLESŁAWIEC

Do you know that the longest railway viaduct is in Bolesławiec? The bridge across the Bóbr River was built in the years 1844-1846. The viaduct is 490 m long, 8 m wide and 26 m high. Interestingly enough, it is entirely made of stone. The Bolesławiec bridge is also one of the longest stone viaducts in Europe! It was renovated in 2009 and effectively illuminated and therefore has become one of the showpieces of the town.



HEALING HOT SPRINGS



SCHAFFGOTSCH PALACE

Do you know that Cieplice in Lower Silesia is the oldest health resort in Poland? Today, it is a part of Jelenia Góra, but until 1976 it was a separate town. Nonetheless, it has been attracting tourists looking after their health for centuries. The healing properties of local waters were used as early as at the end of the 13th century, from 1281 to be exact. Since then, the resort has enjoyed continuing popularity. In the Cieplice hot springs, the water temperature reaches 90°C. They are also the hottest springs in Poland.





CZOCHA CASTLE



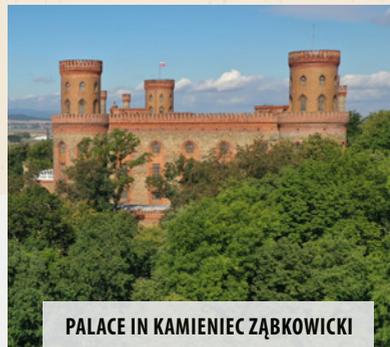
STOŁOWE MOUNTAINS - SZCZELINIEC WIELKI

Do you know that Lower Silesia still attracts treasure hunters? According to legends, many valuables from the so-called Grundmann's List (made in the years 1942-1944) are buried in the region. It is an encrypted catalogue of 80 hiding places of such valuables. The list includes churches, castles, undergrounds, and drifts. It was deciphered after the war and the places put on the list were examined. However, some valuables found were incomplete. It is however possible that Grundmann compiled another, yet undiscovered list...

Do you know that fifteen out of twenty-eight highest mountains that form the Crown of Polish Mountains are in Lower Silesia? Undoubtedly, the region holds the record country-wise. The highest mountains in Lower Silesia include Śnieżka, Śnieżnik, Wielka Sowa, Szczeliniec Wielki, Jagodna, Wysoka Kopa, Chełmiec and Ślęża. The Crown of Polish Mountains was approved in 1997 and announced at a meeting convened by the editors of the magazine „Poznaj swój kraj” (“Know Your Country”).



DUKES' CASTLE IN OLEŚNICA



PALACE IN KAMIENIEC ZĄBKOWICKI



OWL MOUNTAINS - WIELKA SOWA

**LOWER SILESIA
WILL DO YOU GOOD**



"WOJCIECH" NATURAL MEDICINE FACILITY IN ŁĄDEK-ZDRÓJ

Do you know that the number of spa towns country-wise is the largest in Lower Silesia? Eleven out of forty-five classified Polish spas are situated in our province. Lower Silesia invites you to visit such spas as Cieplice, Czerniawa, Długopole, Duszniki, Jedlina, Kudowa, Łądek, Polanica, Przerzeczyn, Szczawno, Świeradów. It is definitely worth visiting them, bathing in or scooping up their healing waters, and going on a long, relaxing hike, because Lower Silesia will certainly do you good!



ŁĄDEK-ZDRÓJ



SZCZAWNO-ZDRÓJ

**BEAUTIFUL
PAPER MILL**



PAPERMAKING MUSEUM IN DUSZNIKI-ZDRÓJ

Do you know that the 17th-century paper mill in Duszniki-Zdrój is considered the most beautiful in the world? The paper mill was built as a manor house, the façade was decorated with rosettes, half-rosettes, and pilasters. Inside the mill, two rooms were polychrome-decorated with floral motifs and genre scenes. The most mysterious scene refers to the Biblical story of Potiphar's wife trying to seduce Joseph. It is an allusion to one of the owners of the mill who – like the Biblical Joseph – eluded someone's advances. Efforts are currently made to put the mill on the UNESCO's World Heritage List.





MYSTERIES OF KARKONOSZE EXHIBITION IN KARPACZ



SZCZELINIEC WIELKI

Do you know that Karpacz is the herbal capital of Europe? At least it used to be. As early as in the 16th century, the local mountain areas were inhabited by herbalists who treated people. All the plant life present in the Karkonosze Mountains favoured herbal medicine, and people growing or selling herbs for use as medicine were called alchemists or lab technicians. It was they who made numerous plant-based ointments, infusions, and potions. To this day it is believed that the mandrake root have miraculous properties.

Do you know that the Table Mountains (the Stołowe Mountains) located in Lower Silesia are the only table-topped mountains in the country? They are flat, hence their name. The Upper Cretaceous sandstone slabs are arranged horizontally, which is why they often resemble tabletops. It is one of the most interesting mountain ranges in the country. It abounds in unusual rock forms resembling people, animals, and various objects.



WANG TEMPLE IN KARPACZ



MYSTERIES OF
KARKONOSZE





WOJANÓW PALACE



JIZERA ALPINE TUNDRA

Do you know that in Lower Silesia everyone can feel like a king? Most of Polish castles and palaces are scattered around the province. They include restored mansions, modern spa resorts and luxury hotels, but also many ruins the glory days of which are over. No matter what you look for at a particular moment, whether it is rest, adventure, luxury, or mystery, one thing is sure: you will find it in Lower Silesian castles and palaces.

Do you know that the coldest place in Poland is in Lower Silesia? It is the Izera Meadow (Łąka Izerska), also known as the Izera Pasture (Hala Izerska). Although measurements have not been taken until 1995, on December 29, 1996, the temperature of -36.6°C was recorded there. It can be said that climatic summer never comes to the Izera Meadow, because the average daily temperature higher than 15°C has not been recorded here. What is more, temperatures below zero occur every month, including July and August, when in the morning it often drops down to -5°C.



BOLKÓW CASTLE



STANISZÓW PALACE



FIRST SENTENCE EVER WRITTEN IN POLISH



CISTERCIAN ABBEY IN HENRYKÓW

Do you know that the oldest sentence written in the Polish language comes from the Book of Henryków? The sentence probably dates back to 1268, and the book is kept in the Archdiocese Archives in Wrocław. The famous "Day, ut ia pobrusa, a ti poziwai" is translated as "Let me grind (grind grain into flour, to mill flour), while you rest." The book itself is written in Latin and dates back to 1241 (after the Mongol invasion), when local people feared for the existence and valuables of the Cistercian monastery in Henryków. In 2015, it was put on the UNESCO's "Memory of the World Register".



THE HIGHEST-LYING RAILWAY STATION



JAKUSZYCE GLADE

Do you know that the highest-lying railway station in Poland is the Szklarska Poręba-Jakuszyce stop? It is situated 886 m above sea level, and thanks to the Marshal's Office of the Province of Lower Silesia, in 2010, passenger railway traffic was restored 62 years after it was suspended (in 1948). Fans of cross-country skiing willingly use this connection. Perfectly prepared routes and snow that lasts there from November to May, make the Jakuszyce Glade a favourite place for skiers.



LOWER SILESIA RAILWAYS

GANDALF'S ROOTS WERE IN THE KARKONOSZE MOUNTAINS



KARKONOSZE

BEAR CAVE



BEAR CAVE

Do you know that the character of legendary Gandalf from “The Lord of the Rings” by J. R. R. Tolkien is based on the Karkonosze Mountain Ghost? Tolkien was inspired by picture postcards with copies of various paintings, including a postcard of an old man with a long, grey beard. It was a reproduction of J. Madlener’s painting called “Der Berggeist” (“The Mountain Ghost”). On the paper that the postcard was wrapped in, John Ronald Reuel Tolkien scribbled “Origin of Gandalf”.

Do you know that the name “Bear Cave” comes from the remains and bones of animals found in it, especially the cave bear? It is one of the most popular and beautiful caves in Poland. It is also one of the longest and deepest caves country-wise. It stretches out horizontally on three levels. Attention! If you want to visit this popular tourist attraction, you should book an entrance ticket ahead of time.



TIME GATES UNDERGROUND IN JELENIA GÓRA



URANIUM MINE



URANIUM MINE IN KLETNO

Do you know that in the small town of Kletno, on the northern slope of Żmijowiec (the Śnieżnik Range), there is a uranium mine that was operating in the years 1948-1953? Not everyone knows that miners used drifts that were built in the Middle Ages! Back in those days, iron, silver, and copper were mined there. During the years of its operation, the uranium mine in Kletno had 20 drifts and 3 shafts, and the total length of all mining excavations was 37 km.



WHAT IS HIDDEN IN THE KŁODZKO CELLARS?



UNDERGROUND TOURIST ROUTE IN KŁODZKO

Do you know that tunnels and corridors under the Kłodzko Old Town are the result of the work of the townspeople who kept expanding their cellars since the 13th century? Initially, they were used as warehouses and hiding places for goods and... the famous Kłodzko beer. Over time, the supplies stocked up in the cellars symbolized household wealth. The Kłodzko cellars were known mainly for the fact that in most cases they were carved out of solid rocks, which ensured low and constant temperature.



COLOURFUL LAKES



COLOURFUL LAKELETS IN RUDAWY JANOWICKIE

Do you know that in the Rudawy Landscape Park, in the village of Wieściszowice (Marciszów commune, Kamienna Góra district), there are three lakes: yellow, purple, blue and the so-called Green Pond, filling with water periodically? In the 18th century, the inhabitants of this area began mining pyrite-bearing shales, which led to the opening of the pyrite mine. It operated until the beginning of the 20th century. After its closure, water filled the excavations, thereby forming beautiful lakes.



THE SKULL CHAPEL



SKULL CHAPEL IN KUDOWA-ZDRÓJ

Do you know that the Skull Chapel in Czerмна is the only such object in Poland? The walls, ceiling, and the altar of a small Baroque building are lined with skulls and shinbones. The chapel was built in 1776 by priest Wacław Tomaszek and it is made of about 3,000 human skulls and bones (above the ground alone). These are the remains of victims of Silesian wars and contagious diseases in the 18th century. This place is also called the Sanctuary of Silence and Reflection on Life and Death.



THE OLDEST DAM



DAM IN LEŚNA

Do you know that the oldest dam in Poland is located on the Kwisza River in Leśna? It was built in the years 1901-1905 by workers coming mostly from the Austro-Hungarian Empire and Italy. The object is 45 m high and 130 m long. It dams up the waters of the Kwisza River, thus forming the Leśna Lake. In the years 1905-1907, a waterpower plant was built at the foot of the dam. Today, it is the oldest hydroelectric power station in Poland.



OLD AND NEW RAILWAY TUNNELS



TUNNEL NEAR MAŁY WOŁOWIEC

Do you know that the longest Polish railway tunnel carved in a solid rock is in Lower Silesia? It is a tunnel under the Mały Wołowiec mountain. It is 1603 m long and lies between the Wałbrzych Główny and the Jedlina-Zdrój stations. The tunnel was carved in the years 1907-1912. Actually, the Province of Lower Silesia is a leader country-wise when it comes to the number of railway tunnels: there is 17 of them, both open and closed to rail traffic. So, the time has come to travel across Lower Silesia by train!



RECORD-BREAKING MONASTERY IN LUBIAŻ



CISTERCIAN ABBEY IN LUBIAŻ

Do you know that the monastery in Lubiąż is the largest post-Cistercian abbey in the world? And that's not all! It is in Lubiąż where the longest baroque façade in Europe stretches out. Its length is 223 m and, what is equally interesting, it has over 600 windows. It was calculated that the roof is approx. 2.5 ha in area. The Cistercian abbey in Lubiąż is also the largest monastic complex in our country and the second largest church complex in Europe, after El Escorial in Spain.



POLISH COPPER



"RUDNA" MINING PLANT

Do you know that the largest copper deposits in Poland are in Lubin and Polkowice? Professor Józef Zwierzycki examined this area after World War II and speculated that it might be copper-rich. He won over another scientist, Jan Wyżykowski, to his research. In March 1957, in a borehole near Sieroszowice, miners encountered copper-bearing marl, and in August of that year, scientists reached the copper-bearing seam. Currently, the entire recoverable resources of copper ore are estimated at approx. 48 million tonnes.



LOWER SILESIAN GINGERBREAD



BAKERY IN WROCLAW

Do you know that Świdnica in Lower Silesia was the first Polish town where gingerbread was made? The oldest written sources about baking gingerbread come from Świdnica and date back to 1293! They mention “piperatas tortas facientes”, i.e. producers of spicy cookies. Gingerbread is a spicy pastry, because apart from flour, honey, and butter, it also includes pepper and other spices. The first mentions of Toruń’s gingerbread date back to the year 1380.



FISH PARADISE, BIRD PARADISE



PONDS IN MILICZ

Do you know that the largest complex of fishponds in Europe, the Milicz Ponds, is in Lower Silesia? There are over 300 reservoirs, the largest of which are almost as big as lakes. The water table is 7,500 ha in area. The Milicz Ponds are the undisputed kingdom of carp. The region has been known for its fish economy for over eight centuries. The reserve is also the largest bird paradise in Poland as it is home of approx. 300 species of birds.



GARDEN OF DREAMS



ARBORETUM WOJŚLAWICE IN NIEMCZA

Do you know that the largest collection of daylilies in Europe is in Lower Silesia? Not to mention the richest collection of rhododendrons and azaleas in Poland! The Wojsławice Arboretum in Niemcza – the Botanical Garden of the University of Wrocław is a place that every nature lover should visit. It is open to visitors from April to November. The entire garden covers an area of 62 ha, and the total number of different species and varieties of plants to be admired in the Wojsławice Arboretum exceeds 14,000.

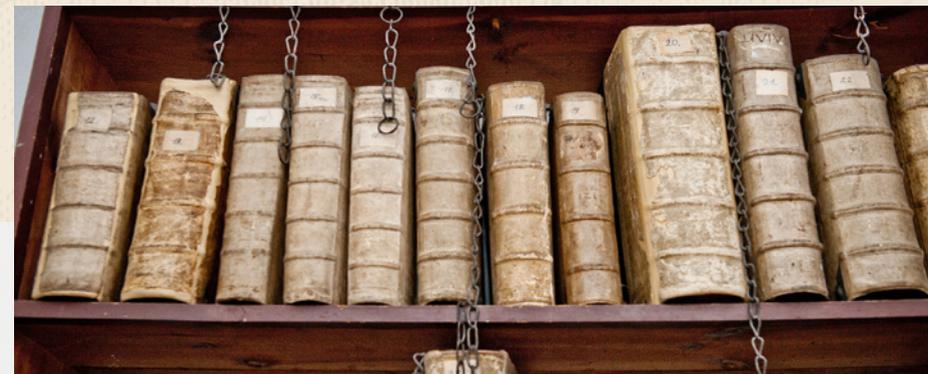


CHAINED BOOKS



CHAINED LIBRARY IN OLEŚNICA

Do you know that in St. John the Apostle and Evangelist's basilica in Oleśnica houses one of the last chain libraries in Europe? Rare, old books are secured with chains; to this day, there are 52 volumes put in them. Chains protected books from theft. The most valuable publications were attached to a thicker and stronger chain (approx. 60 cm long), those of a slightly lower value were strapped with a thinner one. Only the librarian could unchain the book.



VOLCANIC PLUGS



OSTRZYCA

Do you know that Mount Ostrzyca, Wilcza Góra and Grodziec in the Kaczawskie Foothills are the most famous volcanic plugs in Poland? A plug, also called a volcanic neck or lava neck, is a fragment of the former volcano's chimney made of solidified lava (in this case, basalt). Such forms are usually steep slopes. Volcanic plugs have survived to this day because they are made of rocks with exceptional resistance to erosion. This place is worth visiting, especially that Ostrzyca is commonly known as the "Silesian Fuji-Jama".



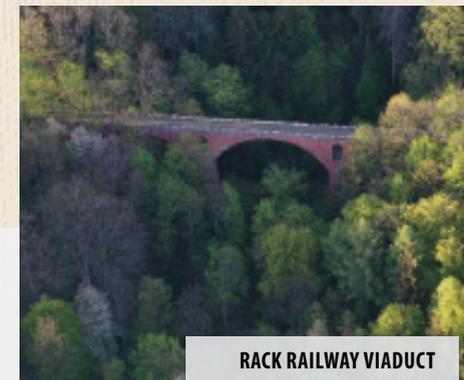
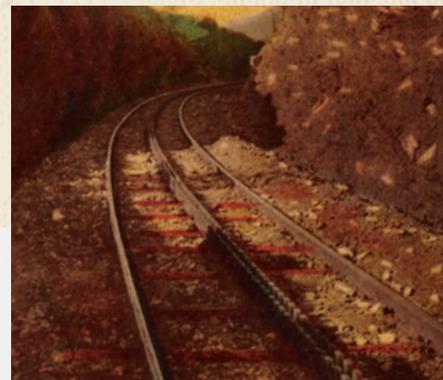
GRODZIEC CASTLE

RACK RAILWAY



RACK RAILWAY STATION

Do you know that the only rack railway in today's Poland was on the Silver Pass ("Przełęcz Srebrna)? Ultimately, for financial reasons, it was closed in 1932. The track had a third rail in the middle – a rack, while steam locomotives had a gear and pushed trains to the station on the Silver Pass. There, the front of the train was changed so that the steam locomotive protected the train against falling part and the carriages against falling down in an uncontrolled manner.



RACK RAILWAY VIADUCT

FLAT
ON TOP



PLANE BY ŚNIEŻKA

ROCKS LIKE
PIPE ORGAN



ORGANY WIELISŁAWSKIE

Do you know that it is in Lower Silesia where the highest parts of the mountains in Poland are levelled? It is Równia pod Śnieżką, a subalpine plateau in the Karkonosze Mountains and a relic of the former plain that stretched here before the mountains uplift. The plain is situated at an altitude of 1,400 to 1,446 m above sea level with an area of 9 km². Most of it is covered by bogs with dwarf mountain pine, one of the largest in the mountains of Central Europe. This is a national park, so tourists cannot stray off the trail.

Do you know that the Wielisław Pipe Organ looks like a real one? It is a remnant of an inactive quarry which unveiled unique forms of rhyolites from approx. 270 million years ago. They were formed as a result of volcanic activity, when the magma hardened near the surface of the ground, thereby forming spectacular cracks (joints). In the northern part of the exposure, the joint sets are oriented vertically and resemble an organ pipe. This phenomenon is relatively rare in this type of rocks, which only make the Wielisław Pipe Organ more unique.



THE LARGEST MOUNTAIN FORTRESS



FORT SREBRNA GÓRA

Do you know that the fortress in Srebrna Góra, towering over the Silver Pass, is the largest mountain fortress in Europe that has never been captured? It was built in 1765-1777 by order of the King of Prussia, Frederick II the Great, and was one of the state-of-the-art fortifications of that time. It successfully resisted Napoleon's army at the beginning of the 19th century. Later it lost its military nature: for a decade it housed a training ground, and at the turn of the 19th and 20th centuries it became a tourist attraction. It was also used as a prisoner-of-war camp during World War II.

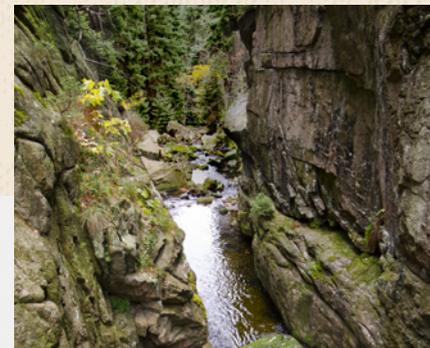


KAMIEŃCZYK IN "THE CHRONICLES OF NARNIA"



KAMIEŃCZYK WATERFALL

Do you know that scenes from "The Chronicles of Narnia: Prince Caspian" were shot at Kamieńczyk Waterfall in Szklarska Poręba? The waterfall itself is the highest in the Polish Sudetes and consists of three cascades with a total height of 27 m. Under the central cascade of the waterfall, there is a small cave called the "Golden Hollow". It was partially carved by Walloons who extracted amethysts from the hollow. Tourists may rest in the "Kamieńczyk" mountain hostel, the first private facility of this type and at the same time a great base for them to explore the higher parts of the Karkonosze Mountains.



**LOWER SILESIAN
GREEN GOLD**



NICKEL, CHRYSOPRASE AND OPAL MINE IN SZKLARY

Do you know that the only place in Poland where chrysoprase can be found is Szklary near Ząbkowice Śląskie? This is the only place where highly valued gemstones such as apple-green chrysoprase (Lower Silesian green gold), milky white opals and red carnelian occur. The king of Prussia, Frederick II the Great, was immensely fond of them. In the years 1890-1993, there was a nickel and chrysoprase ore mine in Szklary, later turned to the Underground Educational Route of the Nickel, Chrysoprase and Opal Mines. In one of the vaults, 81 minerals occur in one place!



**WOODEN
"SZWAJCARKA"**



"SZWAJCARKA" HOSTEL IN SOKOLE MOUNTAINS

Do you know that "Szwajcarka" is the only wooden mountain hostel in the Sudetes that has retained its original shape and appearance? It is also the oldest facility of this type in Poland. It was named after the wife of its first owner, Wilhelm von Hohenzollern. Initially, it was used as a hunting lodge and also as a study for its owner. Only later, when the route leading to Krzyżna Góra became very popular, was "Szwajcarka" used as a shelter. Today, it is a tourist hostel.



KRZYŻNA MOUNTAIN AND SOKOLIK

rites of the Silesian Olympus



ŚLĘŻA

Do you know that the Ślęża mountain (718 m above sea level), also known as the "Silesian Olympus", used to be a place of pagan religious worship of local Slavic tribes? This is what the German chronicler, Bishop Thietmar, wrote about it at the beginning of the 11th century: "This mountain was worshipped by all the inhabitants because of its size and destiny as the accursed pagan rites were performed there."



THE HIGHEST-LYING CHAPEL



ŚNIEŻKA

Do you know that the chapel of St. Lawrence on Śnieżka is the highest-lying, baroque building in Poland? It was built on a rotunda plan with a 7-metre radius, in the years 1665-1681 on the initiative of Count Krzysztof Schaffgotsch, a representative of one of the most powerful families in Silesia. On August 10, the St. Lawrence's Day, i.e. the feast of Sudeten guides, a mass is celebrated for them in the Polish, Czech and German language.





FEMALE CROWN FROM THE 14TH CENTURY



PEACE CHURCH IN JAWOR

Do you know that one of the most valuable finds in 20th-century Europe is in Lower Silesia? It is the Treasure of Środa Śląska, a collection of several thousand medieval coins and jewels of Czech monarchs that were found in 1985 and 1988 in Środa Śląska. The most impressive goldsmith's artifacts include a female crown from the beginning of the 14th century, rings, pendants, or a 13th-century clasp with a cameo brooch which was probably used to fasten ceremonial coronation robes.

Do you know that Churches of Peace were built only in Lower Silesia? These are three wooden Protestant churches built as a result of peace after the bloody Thirty Years' War between Catholics and Protestants in the 17th century. They could only be erected outside the city walls, without towers and belfry, and could be made only of wood, sand, straw, and clay. Two Churches of Peace have survived to this day – in Jawor and Świdnica. Both are put on the UNESCO's World Heritage List.



GOLDEN PENDANT DECORATED ON BOTH SIDES

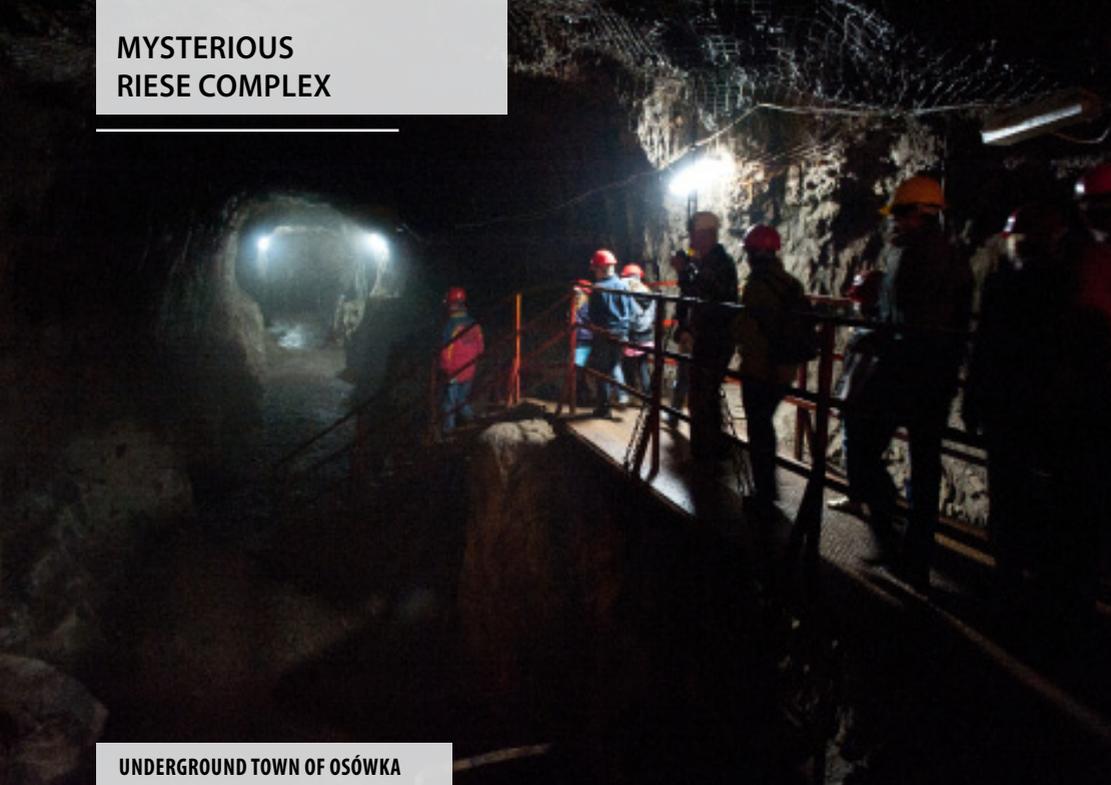


PEACE CHURCH IN ŚWIDNICA



PEACE CHURCH IN JAWOR

MYSTERIOUS RIESE COMPLEX

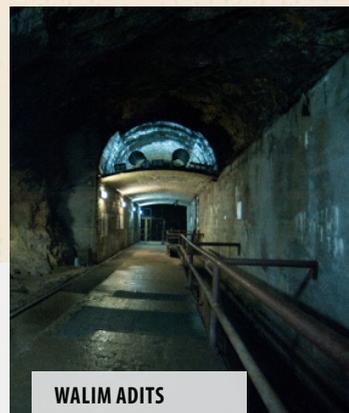


UNDERGROUND TOWN OF OSÓWKA

Do you know that the greatest mystery of World War II is in Lower Silesia? It is the Nazi-built Riese Complex, namely kilometres of underground tunnels, huge halls, and also above-ground structures. It is assumed that had the Germans managed to complete the project, thousands of people, including the leaders of the Third Reich, would have found shelter in the Sowie Mountains and the Książ Castle.



WŁODZARZ COMPLEX



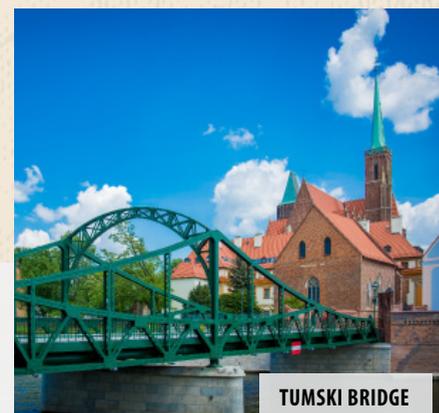
WALIM ADITS

BRIDGES THAT LINK ISLANDS TOGETHER



GRUNWALD BRIDGE

Do you know that Wrocław has the largest number of bridges in Poland? The capital of Lower Silesia, also known as the Venice of the North, is situated on the Oder islands, on the Oder, Oława, Widawa, Bystrzyca and Ślęza rivers. Out of over 100 Wrocław bridges, the most famous and recognizable one is the Grunwald Bridge, previously known as the Imperial Bridge. It was built in 1910.

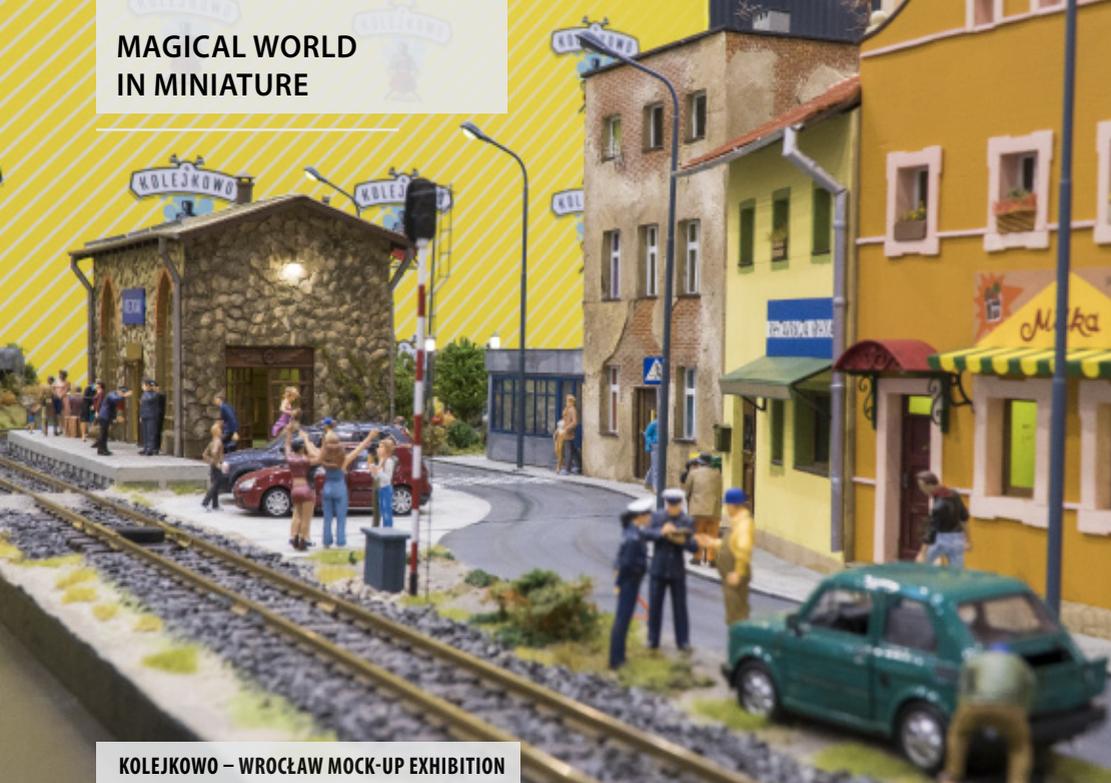


TUMSKI BRIDGE



RĘDZINY BRIDGE

MAGICAL WORLD IN MINIATURE



KOLEJKOWO – WROCLAW MOCK-UP EXHIBITION

Do you know that the largest railway mock-up in Poland is exhibited at the Świebodzki Railway Station in Wrocław? "Kolejkowo" is a lot like a journey through the miniature world of trains, cars, and everyday life of Lower Silesians. The mock-up shows the gems of the region, including Świebodzki Railway Station, the tenement houses of the Wrocław square market, the Karkonosze Mysteries in Karpacz, the observatory on Śnieżka and the "Szwajcarka" mountain hostel.



OLDIE BUT GOODIE



WROCLAW ZOO

Do you know that the Wrocław zoo is the oldest facility of this type in Poland? It was open to the public on July 10, 1865 and has the richest collection of animals in the country and one of the richest collections of reptiles and amphibians in Europe. Currently, the zoo is home to about 12,000 animals representing over 1,100 species. The Africarium is its recent biggest attraction: approx. 1.5 ha in area of the first aquarium in Poland and the only one in the world presenting the fauna of one continent.





OSTRÓW TUMSKI – WROCŁAW

Do you know that the 18th-century statue of St. John of Nepomuk in Ostrów Tumski in Wrocław is probably the largest monument to this saint in the world? John of Nepomuk is believed to protect people and cities against floods, so it is not surprising that he landed in Wrocław, which was often struck by devastating floods, including the great floods in 1903 or, almost a century later, in 1997. During the second one, the residents of Wrocław heroically defended the oldest part of the city against the flood tide.



BOLKÓW CASTLE

Do you know that the castle in Bolków withstood many sieges? The wedge-shaped tower was a great help making the enemy missiles slide down the wall without causing any serious damage. Partially, the museum is kept in the form of ruins, therefore visitors may feel that time has stood still there. An exhibition dedicated to the history of the castle is shown in the renovated Women's House. The fortress is also a great setting for Gothic rock concerts; therefore, it regularly hosts participants of the "Castle Party" festival.



GHOSTS OF CHOJNIK



CHOJNIK CASTLE

Do you know that the Chojnik castle is haunted? To this day, it is believed that ghosts of the knights who wanted to become princess Kunegunda's husband show up on the castle walls on moonlit nights. To avoid marriage, she set a condition that her future spouse must complete a circuit along the castle walls on horseback in armour. Those brave enough who faced the challenge, one by one, ended their lives by falling down the abyss of the Hell's Valley. Eventually, one knight managed to get the task done, but he rejected Kunegunda's love and rode away. The humiliated young lady threw herself off the castle walls.



MYSTERIOUS CHAMBERS OF CZOCHA CASTLE



CZOCHA CASTLE

Do you know that the Czocha Castle, situated by the Leśna Lake, hides many secret passages? For example, the Portrait Chamber has three hidden passages, invisible to tourists. All you have to do is to simply push the camouflaged door in the right place to pass unnoticeably to the longest secret passage, hotel rooms and private chambers of the castle's last owner. The facility is full of mysterious legends that the castle guides passionately talk about.



GRODZIEC FOR TOURISTS



GRODZIEC CASTLE

Do you know that the first monument in Europe adapted for tourist purposes was the Grodziec Castle? It was first mentioned in the mid-12th century. The castle was rebuilt many times, but during the Thirty Years' War in 1633 it was almost completely destroyed. In 1800, the castle was taken over by Count Hans Heinrich VI von Hochberg from Książ. During his reign, the chambers were filled with souvenirs and made available to tourists.



WHAT DOES THE UNDERGROUND WORLD OF KSIĄŻ HIDE?



KSIĄŻ CASTLE

Do you know that the Nazi authorities built a network of tunnels under the Książ Castle? According to some theories, the tunnels to serve as military quarters, shelters, and a place for research on the secret weapons of the Third Reich. As stated by numerous hypotheses, many valuables and museum deposits, which were lost in the turmoil of the war and have not been discovered yet, were probably buried in the tunnels...



UNDERGROUNDS KSIĄŻ CASTLE

THE ONLY UNDERGROUND WATERFALL



GOLDMINE IN ŻŁOTY STOK

Do you know that the only underground waterfall in Poland is situated in a gold mine in Żłoty Stok? You can see it while visiting the “Czarna” (“Black”) tunnel. The water falls down with a thud, splashes against the rocks and makes everyone around wet, while the lights and echoes enhance the aesthetic experience, thereby stimulating our senses and firing the imagination.



EDITING AND TYPESETTING OF “THE BEST OF LOWER SILESIA”
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Photographs:

Page 11 - The Izera Pasture, photo by Katarzyna Męcina

Page 38 - women's crown from the beginning of the 14th century, pendant decorated on both sides from the 13th century, pendant decorated on one side from 13th century, in the collection of the National Museum in Wrocław, photo by Arkadiusz Podstawka

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