

Karpacz

Tourist guide



The Big Pond



Karpacz

Tourist guide



biggest attractions · interesting places
suggestions for trips

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Welcome to Karpacz



Karpacz is a charming town at the foot of the Karkonosze Mountains with their highest peak – Śnieżka.

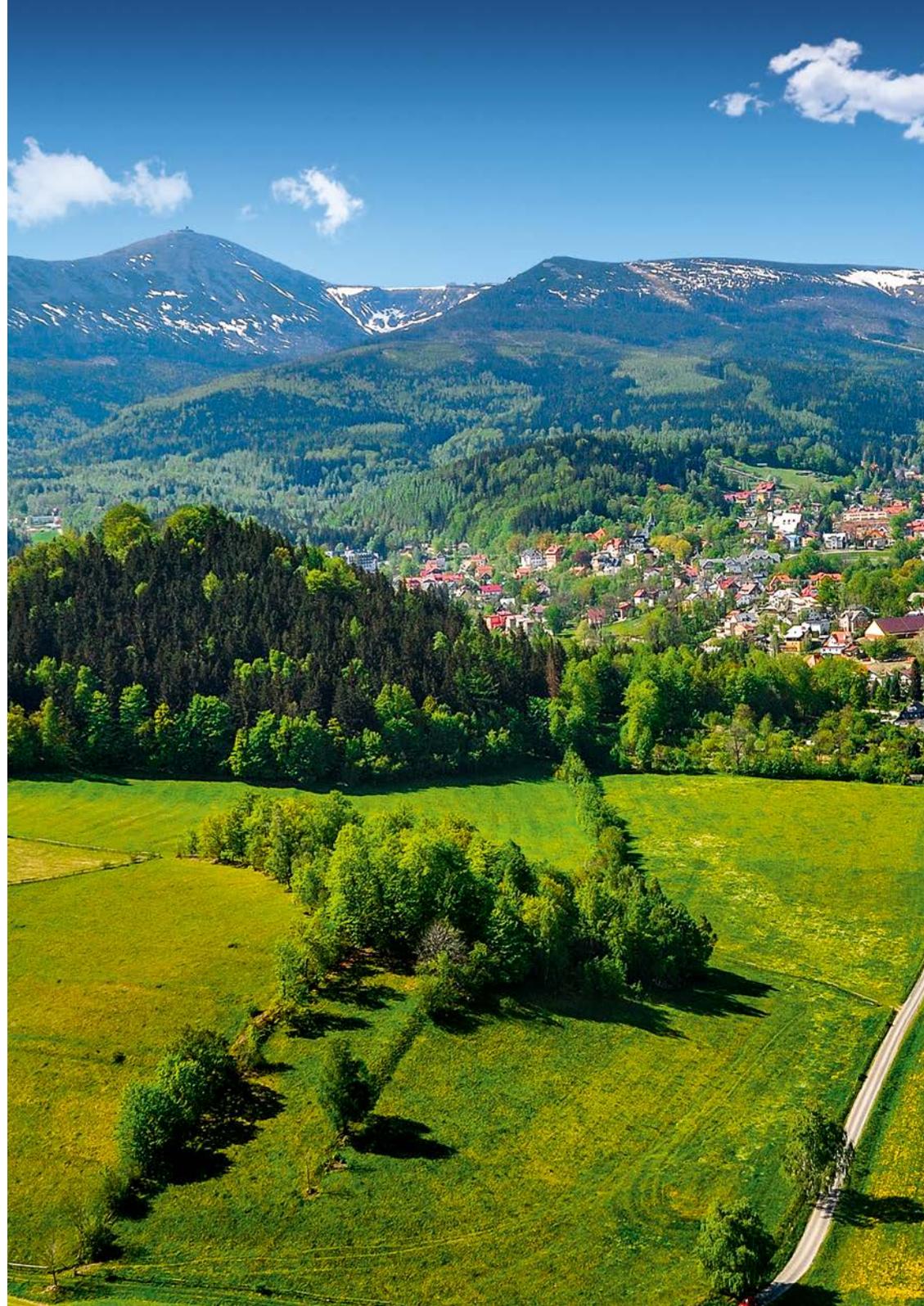
Amazing landscapes, unique attractions and excellent tourist infrastructure attract many visitors each year. What makes the guests so willing to come here and return next year? It's a unique atmosphere of a place that is shaped by hospitable, passionate and active residents and the tourists themselves.

Karpacz offers excellent and varied conditions for spending leisure time all year round. Spring, summer and autumn are primarily mountain trek times. Nearly 100 kilometres of hiking trails run through the area, making it possible to discover one of the country's most valuable areas in terms of nature, which in most part is under the protection of the Karkonosze National Park. In winter, thanks to the appropriate terrain and favourable climate, the town transforms into a ski resort offering numerous slopes and ski lifts, especially for beginners and families with children.

Apart from outdoor recreation, Karpacz has something to soothe the soul and tone the body. Interesting museums, unique monuments, swimming pools and aquaparks, SPA centres, bowling alleys, discos, restaurants and stylish cafes – we are sure everyone will find something interesting.

From the tourist resorts located in the Sudety Mountains, Karpacz has the most developed accommodation infrastructure. With nearly 5,000 permanent residents, the town can accommodate nearly 17,000 guests. Adequate facilities await here for those who like large, comfortable hotels, those who prefer to have everything “under one roof”, as well as those who are looking for nostalgic villas and for amateurs of simple conditions at an affordable price.

Get carried away and see how Karpacz can inspire you!



Location

Karpacz is situated in the south-western part of Lower Silesia voivodeship in Sudety Mountains, and more precisely, at the foot of its highest range – Karkonosze Mountains



-  Budnicza Struga brook
-  Łomnica river
-  Łomniczka river
-  Dziką Potok (Wild Stream)

In the Łomnica river valley

The city of Karpacz is located at the height of 480 up to 885 m a.s.l. in a narrow valley of Łomnica river and its tributaries: Łomniczka, Budnicza Struga and Dziką Potok, among others.

At the foothill of Śnieżka

The city consists of five parts, which in the past constituted separate structures – villages, settlements, concentrations of shepherd shelters – and were consolidated in 1959, as they are today. The Śnieżka Mountain (1603 m a.s.l.), surrounded by almost 200-meter lower peaks, majestically overlooks the city.

Śnieżka

Karpacz Górny / Brückenberg (1635)

The highest situated district of Karpacz which features the Wang Temple and the route leading up to the peak of Śnieżka

Wilcza Poręba / Wolfsaue (1747)

A former settlement of lumberjacks and coal man. Today, traditional architecture meets modern facilities.

Karpacz – centre / Krumhübel (1559)

City's tourist centre

Skalne housing estate / Rübezahl (1934)

Green, quiet housing estate with numerous villas, tourist apartments and hotels

Płóczki / Twerchseyfen (1418)

The oldest district of Karpacz





Mount Śnieżka

1603 m a.s.l.

Towering over Karpacz, Mount Śnieżka consists of granite. Its peak is made of hard and exceptionally resistant rocks called hornfels which give it a distinctive pyramidal shape

Hurricane winds which sometimes exceed 290 km/h and frequent fogs present for more than 300 days of the year are characteristic for the highest peak of the Karkonosze Mountains

Street located on the highest altitude in Poland

The Na Śnieżkę Street in Karpacz is considered to be located on the highest altitude in Poland. It begins in Karpacz Górny (Upper Karpacz) at the altitude of 830 m a.s.l. and ends on the peak of the Mount Śnieżka with the altitude of 1603 m a.s.l. The road is accessible for all kinds of vehicles, from passenger cars to trucks, provided they are authorized to move around the Karkonosze National Park. The altitude difference of the street is as much as 768 m!



Równia pod Śnieżką

The Silesian Route, a primeval route from Vrchlabi to the Silesia ran years ago thorough the Równia pod Śnieżką subalpine plateau. During the WWII, trainings of the German polar expeditions took place there. Part of the terrain is covered with moors where precious plant species, including glacial relicts, grow

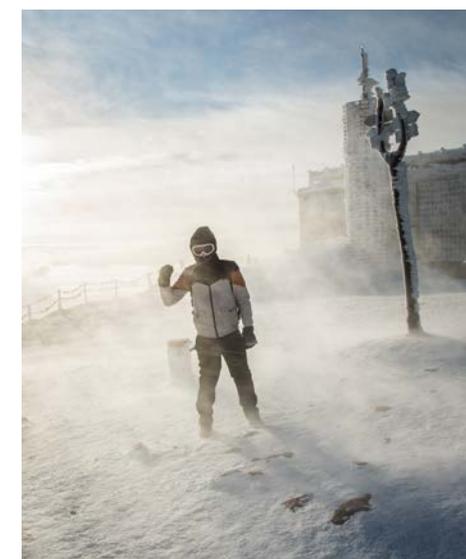
The slopes are covered by rock debris, sometimes mistakenly referred to as a boulder field. Most of the year atmospheric conditions are very severe, similar to those encountered behind the Arctic Circle: low temperatures, gusty winds and plenty of rain and snow. A distinctive element is the fog which occurs here over 300 days a year. During the nice weather, the summit of Mount Śnieżka is an excellent viewpoint, from where you can admire vast panoramas – in a good condition, the visibility reaches up to 200 km.

Ascending nearly 200 meters above the surrounding mountain ridges, the mountain has intrigued people and attracted globetrotters for long. The first entrance to the summit was probably in the mid-fifteenth century. The following centuries made Mount Śnieżka more and more popular, until in the 18th century its peak became one of the most visited peaks in Europe. In August 1800, John Quincy Adams – future president of the United States, arrived here. Construction of the chapel of St Lawrence, founded by Count Krzysztof Leopold Schaffgotsch, greatly contributed to the intensification of tourism. The dedication of the chapel took place on 10th of August 1681. Today, the tenth day of August is symbolically considered to be a holiday of guides and mountaineers. On this holiday, the Holy Mass is celebrated at its peak.

The symbol of Mount Śnieżka is reminiscent of saucers and often called the “flying saucers”, the building of the Meteorological Observatory – one of the two high-altitude Meteorological Observatories located in Poland (next to Kasprowy Wierch). Systematic weather observations have been held here since 1880.

Winter on Śnieżka

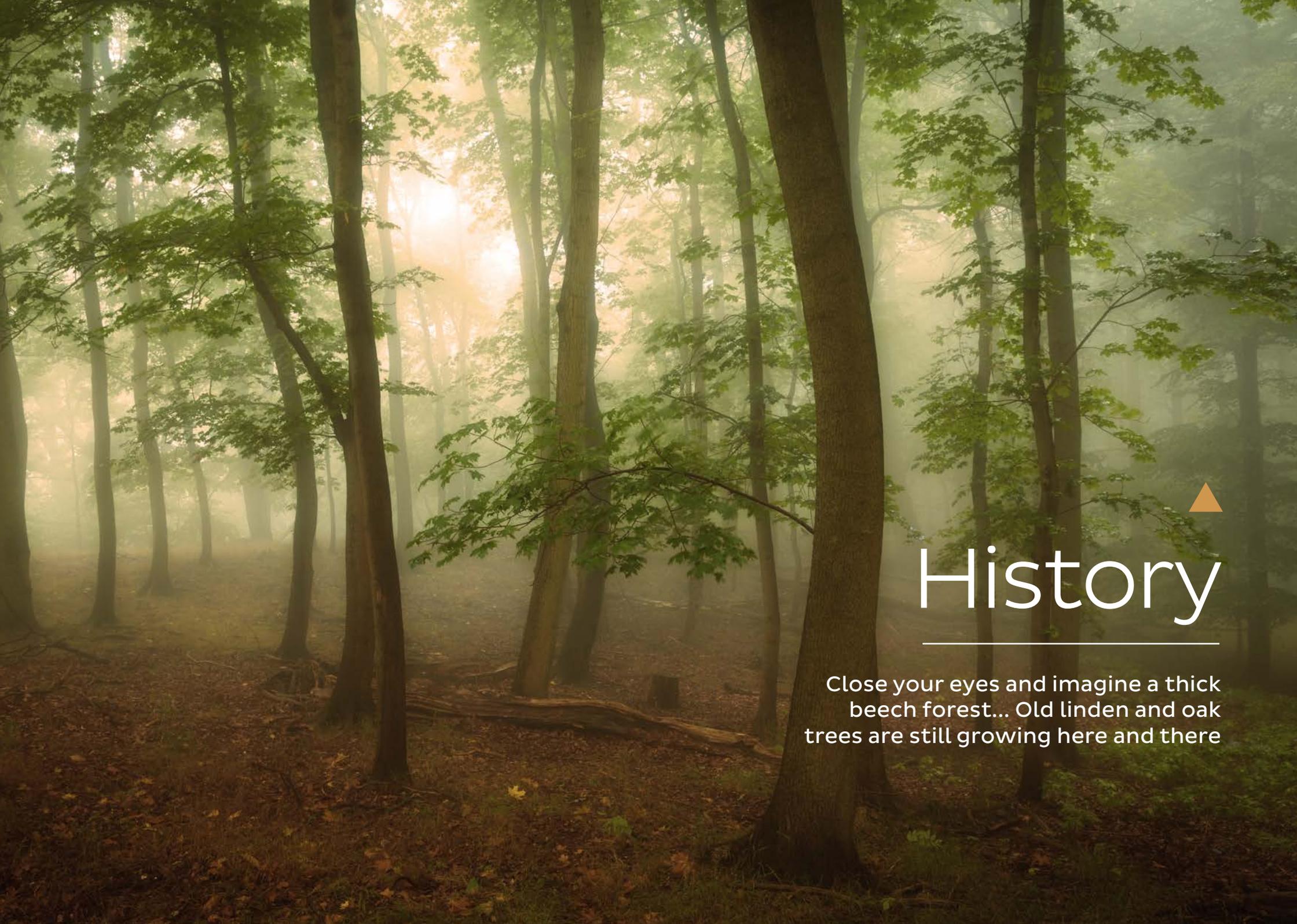
The lowest temperature of -33° C was recorded at the highest peak of the Karkonosze Mountains. The snow cover lays there approx. 200 days a year



Meteorological Observatory at Mount Śnieżka

The building designed by Witold Lipiński and Waldemar Wawrzyniak was erected in 1974. One of the designers explained the interesting shape of the construction: "In the 1950s, there were a lot of talks about the unidentified flying objects. I was fascinated with curves and spherical spaces, so naturally I decided that the National Hydrological and Meteorological Institute at Mount Śnieżka will be shaped like dinner plates."



A misty forest scene with sunlight filtering through the trees. The ground is covered in fallen leaves, and the trees are tall and slender. The overall atmosphere is serene and historical.

History

Close your eyes and imagine a thick beech forest... Old linden and oak trees are still growing here and there

This is how Karpacz and the surrounding Karkonosze Mountains looked like a hundred years ago. Between the trees, only narrow paths ran to water worship sites of Dobre Źródło stream of the Elbe stream at the Łab-ski Szczyt peak, on the slope of Mount Grabowiec. The wilderness of this place is attested by Gallus Anonymus' writings referring to the crossing of Boleslaw the Wrymouth through the Karkonosze Mountains to Bohemia in 1110. He claimed that "the surroundings are terrifying, where no human has yet set their foot, ... the towering mountains reaching the clouds, full of rocks and steep (...)"

In the 12th century, however, the Walloons arrived in the unexplored Karkonosze Mountains. They arrived from distant parts of southern and western Europe, traversing Silesia in search of ore and precious stones. As the legend goes, one of them – a Laurentius Angelus, in 1148 in nearby Kowary encountered iron ore deposits, which initiated the development of mining and metallurgical industry in the area. In Karpacz, the Walloons discovered precious gems: corundum, sapphires and rubies, and rinsed gold from the gravel of the Karkonosze Mountains creeks. A reminder of their activity in this area are the writings left by the gold diggers – the so-called Walloons' books and symbols carved in rocks, which most likely showed the way to treasures.

The first permanent settlement in Karpacz appeared in the early 15th century. It was founded by the villagers of Bronysdorf, located in the Red Valley, after the catastrophic flood of 1412 which destroyed their houses. They moved to the valley of Dzikie Potok stream and established a settlement of Płóczki. Next, with the development of the mining industry in Kowary, the demand for wood and charcoal,



Die Hampelbaude
Steel engraving
by L. Richter,
1830s

which was necessary for firing blast furnaces, increased. Wood cutters and burners arrived in the area. The first of them dealt with the logging of the surrounding forests, while the others burned wood. Their activity can be described as plundering, because although today forests occupy almost 2/3 of the Karpacz area, the original forest stand has disappeared without trace.

Following the wood cutters, farmers and shepherds pasturing cattle appeared on the woodlands after the forest had been cleared. They built shepherd's huts, which over time began to transform into mountain shelters. More and more scattered settlements appeared in today's area of Karpacz. In three of them, court inns were built and court cases and disputes between residents were handled there.

In the first half of the 17th century, numerous Protestant refugees from Bohemia arrived in the Karkonosze Mountains. Among them were herbalists. Over the course of two centuries their activity has grown to such an extent that it was incorporated into an organizational framework and medical devices from the Mount Śnieżka region were well known in Europe. Since contemporary medicine in those days was still in its infancy, herbalists for decades had practically no competition. Their final demise came only in the 19th century. In 1843, new trainees were refused to join the guild, and in 1884, the last of the herbalists – August Zölfel died in Karpacz.

How has tourism developed here? Its origins date back to the 16th century, although the sightseeing activity in the form closer to what we know today appeared only at the turn of the 17th and 18th centuries. Undoubtedly, a great impulse to increasing the number of visitors to the Karkonosze Mountains was the construction of the Chapel of St Lawrence on Mount Śnieżka, which has become the destination point of numerous pilgrimages. On their way to the summit, wanderers most often visited the popular Buda Hampla – today's Strzecha Akademicka. Thanks to the custom of placing commemorative books in shelters, we can imagine the beginnings of local tourism better. We learn from them which notable people visited the Karkonosze Mountains: Johan Wolfgang Goethe, John Quincy Adams, Marie Casimire Sobieska or Józef Wybicki – author of "Mazurek Dąbrowskiego" (Polish national anthem).

In the first part of the 17th century, herbalists, later called Laborants, started to come to the Karkonosze Mountains

The Spirit of the Mountains and Laborants seeking for the Horseshoe Vetch Herb by K. Linder *Historien von Rübzahl*, Hirschberg 1736



Etliche Wallonen suchen auf dem Gebirge die Springwurzeln



In 1817 in Jelenia Góra, probably the first in the world organization of tourist guides and litter porters was founded

Litter Porters to the start

At the turn of 18th and 19th centuries, carrying litters was very popular in Karkonosze Mountains. The most wealthy tourists could afford this luxury and rent litter porters who carried them up the Mount Śnieżka or to other interesting places. On 4th of August 2000, the litter porters came back to the foot of Mount Śnieżka, as the First Litter Porters Championships called *Tragaría* took place in Karpacz. At the start line of the great Parade of Litter Porters, there were 16 teams who competed in several competitions like championships of the Karkonosze Group of GOPR (Mountain Volunteer Rescue Service) or race of the members of the City Council of Karpacz.

With the increase in the number of tourists, some residents of Karpacz and surrounding areas started to work as tour guides and litter porters. In 1817, in Jelenia Góra, probably the world's first organization of the representatives of this profession was established. Tourists were carried in litters to the Chojnik Castle, Szklarki Waterfall, and even to the peak of Mount Śnieżka! In the 19th century, winter horned sleigh rides also became popular in the Karkonosze Mountains. Previously used by owners of shepherd's huts for transporting wood, they became a very attractive means of transport for tourists. Such downhill rides were organized from Okraj Pass, Strzecha Akademicka or Bronek Czech Glade.

Over the centuries many things have changed, and although today litters and sleighs can only be seen in the Museum of Sport and Tourism, tourism in the Karkonosze Mountains is very well. Every year the city is visited by nearly one million tourists – you've got plenty to see here!



Museum of Sport and Tourism

A good starting point for seeing Karpacz is a visit to the Museum of Sport and Tourism to briefly learn the town's history and its attractions.

The museum was founded in 1974 and is housed in a historic half-timbered building, typical of the former Sudety architecture. Its collections are very rich and include exhibits from all Western Sudety Mountains. The permanent exhibition consists of three divisions:

Origin and development of tourism

The collected exhibits and photograms present the most important events and manifestations of the economic activity connected with the exploration of the Karkonosze Mountains and the subsequent development of tourism. The activity of the Walloons, miners, shepherds and herbalists is also presented. Prints and original exhibits also depict the traditions of the former Karkonosze tourism, such as litter and sleigh.

📍 ul. Kopernika 2
 📞 tel. +48 75 76 19 652
 🌐 www.muzeumsportu.org

Winter sports history

The Karkonosze Mountains are the mountains where winter sports were first started in Europe. Tobogganing and skiing developed here. After World War 2, Karpacz was the biggest centre of bobsleigh and toboggan sports in Poland. The exhibits in this section allow you to trace the development of sports equipment, starting with the oldest pieces of skis, bear paw snowshoes, sleds and bobsleighs. There are also many sports trophies of outstanding athletes, as well as documents and personal memorabilia of well-deserved activists.

Nature conservation

Various exhibits and colourful photograms in the exhibition room depict the natural environment of the Karkonosze Mountains. Presenting the most beautiful specimens of plant and animal life and the geology and climate of the region, this section reminds us of the need to protect this beautiful corner of our country.

Next to the permanent exhibition, in the room on the upper floor, very interesting temporary exhibitions are presented.



Wang Temple

Originally, the wooden church was erected in the Norwegian town of Vangsmjøsen, after which it was named. However, in the nineteenth century it turned out to be too small for the local population, and the additional bad technical condition and high costs of the

ul. Na Śnieżkę 8
 tel. +48 75 76 19 228
www.wang.com.pl



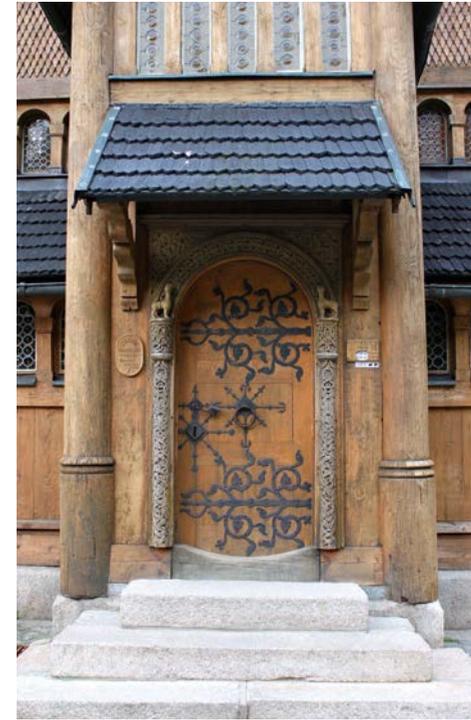


necessary repairs forced a decision to sell it. At the request of the Prussian king Friedrich Wilhelm IV, it was bought by a famous Norwegian painter living in Dresden – Johan Christian Clausen Dahl. The church was catalogued, disassembled and transported to Berlin where it was to be located on Pavia Island. At the request of his friend, Frederick of Bukowiec, the king gave it as a gift to Karpacz.

The building arrived in the Karkonosze Mountains in 1842, where during the reconstruction, it was slightly modified. It was extended by, among others, a stone tower to protect it from gusty winds blowing from Mount Śnieżka. On 28th of July 1844, a solemn opening and dedication of the church took place. From that day on, it has been invariably used by evangelicals from Karpacz and surrounding areas.

It is worth to pay attention to the rich decorations outside the temple. Only a few original wooden elements made of Scandinavian pine are preserved in the interior: 4 corner pillars, 4 internal columns, 2 columns in the choir entrance and portals. They are richly decorated with floral and animal motifs and runic writing. The 19th century crucifix, carved in one oak trunk, with a linden statue of Christ, is a valuable element of the equipment. On both sides of the altar, there are two candelabras on pedestals, representing swans as a symbol of fidelity and a heart as a symbol of love are. Candles on these candlesticks are lit only during the wedding ceremonies, and the temple itself is widely known as a church of happily married couples.

In the church courtyard, there is a memorial epitaph dedicated to Friederike Karoline von Reden with her image in the medallion. Next to it stands a sculpture by local artist – Ryszard Zajac, depicting the resurrection of Lazarus. Behind the sculpture grows one of the monuments of nature of Karpacz – stately common ivy. The temple is also surrounded by a historic cemetery, where grave-stones of Henryk Tomaszewski and Tadeusz Rózewicz are.



When visiting the Wang Stave Church, take a look at the rich decorations outside and inside the church



Krucze Skąły (Raven Rocks)

You can go there from the city centre by the Obrońców Pokoju Street (green or black trail)

According to the tales, the oldest tunnels on the Raven Rocks were to be hollowed out in the Middle Ages by gold and precious stone prospectors, as reported by the memorial stone placed at the foot of the rocks. In the 18th century, a man named Gottfried Exner was supposed to establish here two kaolin clay mines operating for the manufactories of Berlin. It was rumoured then that for a ton of this clay used in the manufacture of porcelain, the mine owner received 20 francs in gold. As a result of mining operations, two niches appeared on one of the pillars.

The Raven Rocks form a granite rocky outcropping in the form of pillars of up to 25 metres in height, located on the slopes of Krucza Kopa in the valley of Płomnica. There are large clusters of pegmatites with crystals of precious minerals: corundum, sapphire and tourmaline. The most valuable specimens found here are currently located in the Geological Museum in Wrocław.

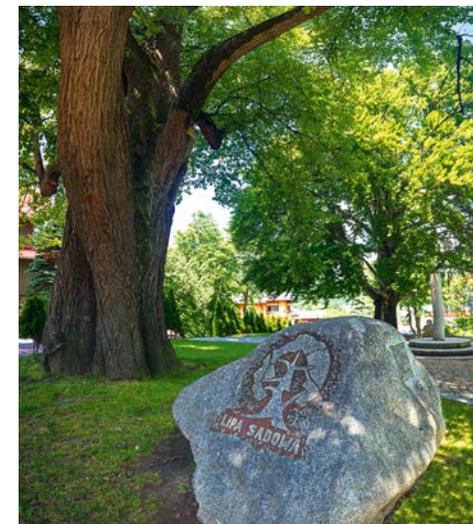
At present, the Raven Rocks is a climbing location, comprising several dozen routes of varying difficulty, and the top of one of the pillars provides an excellent viewpoint on the Karkonosze Mountains.

Lipa Sądowa (Court Linden)

park at the Court Linden next to the crossing of Kościelna Street and Konstytucji 3 Maja Street

In ancient Greece, linden symbolized innocence, purity and hope. It was planted in the centre of the settlement and war councils, courts, ritual dances and wedding ceremonies were held under its crown.

As legend has it – since 1602 in Karpacz, in good weather, under the sprawling linden opposite the current Bachus restaurant, court cases were held by village leaders. Since then, this tree has been called Court Linden. Today, the Court linden, which is over 200 years old and 5 meters in circumference, is considered a natural monument.



Dam on the Łomnica River

ul. Rybacka

Łomnica River is one of the wildest and dangerous rivers of the Karkonosze Mountains. In its upper section, the average water fall is 72 per mille, while in the lower section it is seven times lower. Besides, it is a very capricious and treacherous river. When the river flooded in 1897, it destroyed many houses, roads, farms and railway lines. Therefore, as part of the great flood control program called Prus, in the years 1910-1915, the riverbed was regulated on many sections. Anti-rubble barriers were erected to contain the material carried by the water. The effectiveness of the system was confirmed during the flood of the millennium in 1997.

The dam's crown is 105 meters long and a red hiking trail, a section of the Main Trail of Sudety Mountains, runs through it. Łomnica River waters, blocked by the dam, formed a small lake, and their excess falls down the picturesque cascades.



Dziki Wodospad (Wild Waterfall)

📍 ul. Olimpijska/Strażacka

A small waterfall was created as a result of the damming of Łomnica River waters with an anti-rubble barrier. Its name is associated with the nature of the river (in Polish, *łom* means *crowbar*.) The extraordinary beauty of this place makes it one of the most popular outdoor photographing and painting sceneries in Karpacz. In addition, the dam is a popular visiting spot on the way to Mount Śnieżka – three hiking trails (black, yellow, green) are passing in its vicinity, and just below the waterfall, there is the lower station of the funicular to Kopa, significantly shortening the road to the highest peak of the Karkonosze.



Apteka pod Złotą Wagą (the Golden Scales Pharmacy)

📍 ul. Konstytucji 3 Maja 82

The pharmacy's history began in old Krummhübel in 1913. In those days, the pharmacy was called "Prinzess-Charlotte-Apotheke" and was considered very modern because it was equipped with central heating, gas, electricity and water supply. Gas lighting has been



The historic building of the Golden Scales Pharmacy comes from 1913

preserved up to this day, which back in the days was something unique. Today, you can admire the original interior design of the listed building, e.g. wall-to-wall furnishings with marble countertops, an exhibition of old pharmacy glass and pharmacy utensils, and an old sideboard that has been thoroughly renovated and decorated with pharmacy-inspired motifs painted on the glass. Outside the building, you can see window shutters with painted trees and their Latin names.

Historyczny Park Miniatur (Historical Miniature Park)

📍 ul. Konstytucji 3 Maja
(opposite the Town Hall)

If you are curious about these and other stories from the life of Karpacz, if it interests you who was behind the fire at Fr. Henry's mountain shelter, where, according to local tales, Wrocław deposits were hidden, or why it took 8 years to build the observatory on Śnieżka and what Göring was doing in Karpacz – take an extraordinary journey into the past. The Historical Miniature Park is a set of models of the most famous buildings in Karpacz – existing and non-existing, for which time stopped at the beginning of the 20th century. The models have been built to scale – the largest one is 28 m², the smallest – 4 m².

Skarby Ziemi Juna (Treasures of the Land of Juna)

Treasures of the Land of Juna is an exhibition referring to the geological wealth of the Karkonosze Mountains and presents a rich collection of minerals and precious stones. Presented here are exhibits rescued from the fire of Museum of the Land of Juna in Szklarska Poręba, supplemented with the highest quality specials donated by friendly geologists and collectors. The exhibition includes amethysts, mountain crystals, malachites, diamonds, sapphires and gold.

📍 ul. Obrońców Pokoju 4b
☎ tel. +48 75 71 73 287
www.skarbyziemi-juna.pl





Kościół Nawiedzenia Najświętszej Maryi Panny

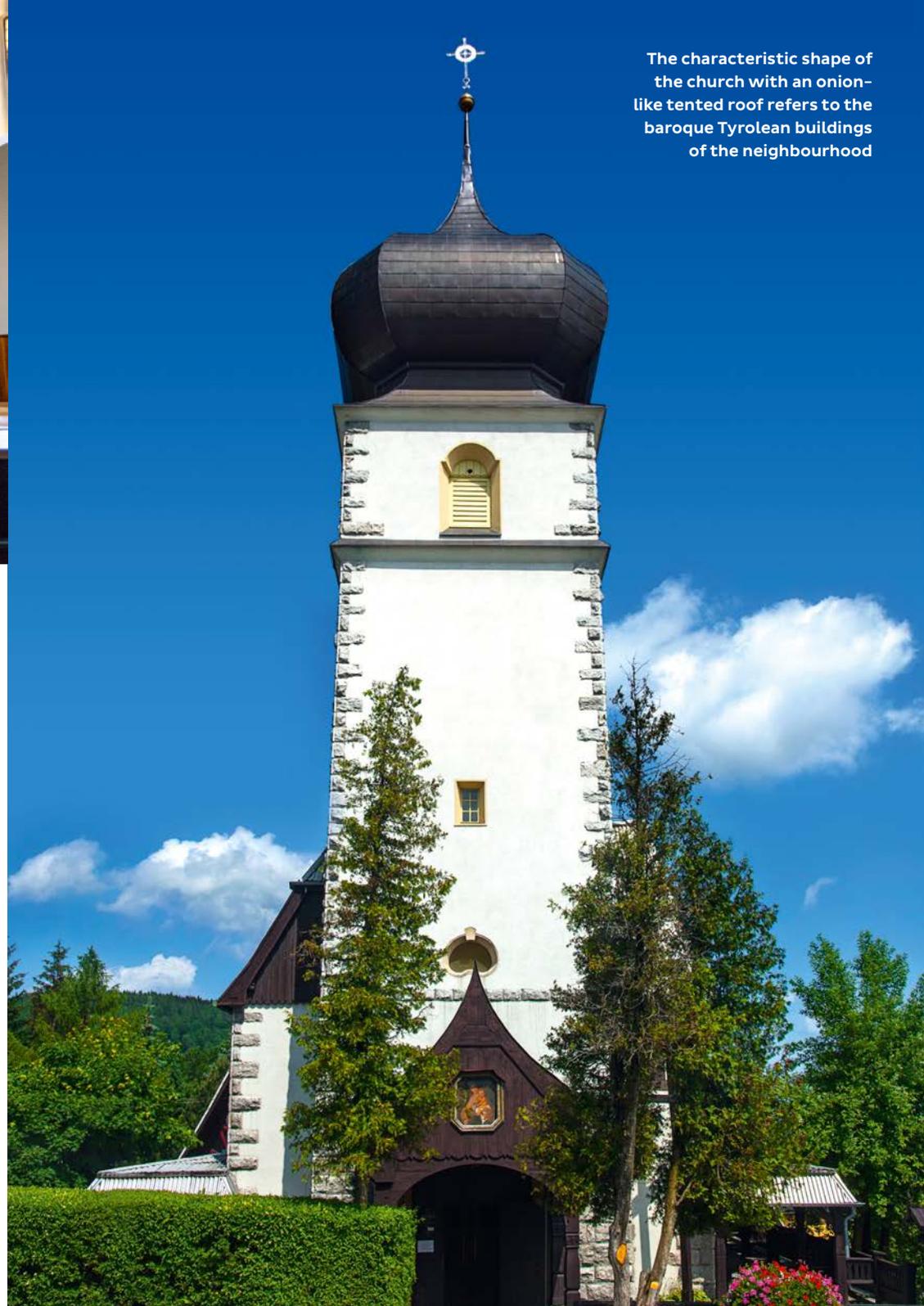
(Church of the Visitation of the
Blessed Virgin Mary)

📍 ul. Konstytucji 3 Maja

The people of Karpacz who profess Catholicism originally belonged to the nearby parish of Miłków. In Karpacz, masses were celebrated in a Catholic school (a house opposite the church with large cross and statue of Christ.)

Today's church was built in 1910. The characteristic shape of the temple along with the onion-like tower dome refers to the Baroque Tyrolean construction style in the area. In the years 1979-1985, an extension was carried out, after which the structure obtained its present shape.

Inside the church, there is a late baroque main altar with the image of the Visitation of the Blessed Virgin Mary and two side statues depicting St Peter



The characteristic shape of the church with an onion-like tented roof refers to the baroque Tyrolean buildings of the neighbourhood

The ceiling of the Church of the Sacred Heart of Jesus is decorated with panels with floristic patterns



and St Anthony. In the old part of the church on the wooden ceiling there is a polychromy, which comes from the period the church was being built.

During the renovation of the church tower in 2007, three parchment handwritten documents in German dated at 28th of October 1909 were found in the crowning sphere. They described the efforts to build the church and the course of building works. They also listed the names of people particularly associated with this project. These documents were replaced in the tower sphere, accompanied by the testimonies of the modern times, including description of the parish and Karpacz and a town plan.

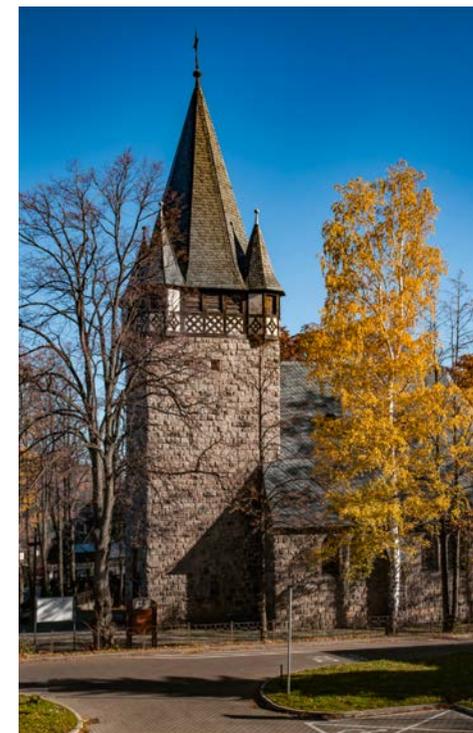
Kościół Najświętszego Serca Pana Jezusa

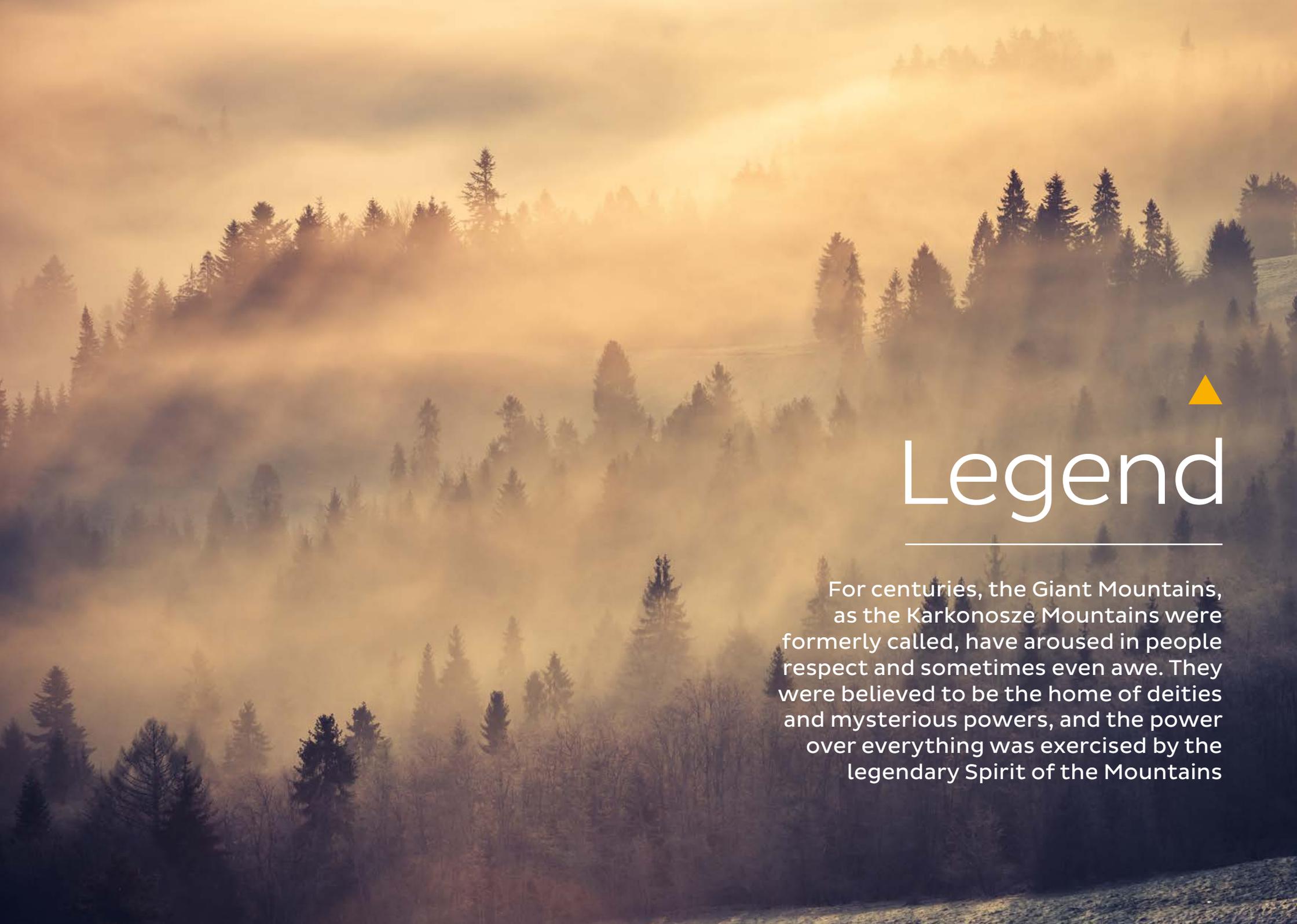
(Church of the Sacred
Heart of Jesus)

 ul. Konstytucji 3 Maja

Situated slightly lower than the Church of the Visitation of the Blessed Virgin Mary, this temple was erected by the faithful of the Evangelical-Augsburg Church. Its dedication took place on 13th September 1908. It became the property of the Roman Catholic Church only after the World War 2 and now it serves as an auxiliary church for the local parish.

The most valuable items in the church include: sandstone altar commemorating the 1000th anniversary of the baptism of Poland, an altar triptych with the central image of the Lord Jesus with an open heart, a painting of St Anthony against the background of the Karkonosze Mountains and Karpacz, and a pulpit made in Teplice in a woodcut school, decorated with reliefs depicting scenes from the Gospels. The ceiling of the temple is decorated with coffers in floral motifs.





Legend

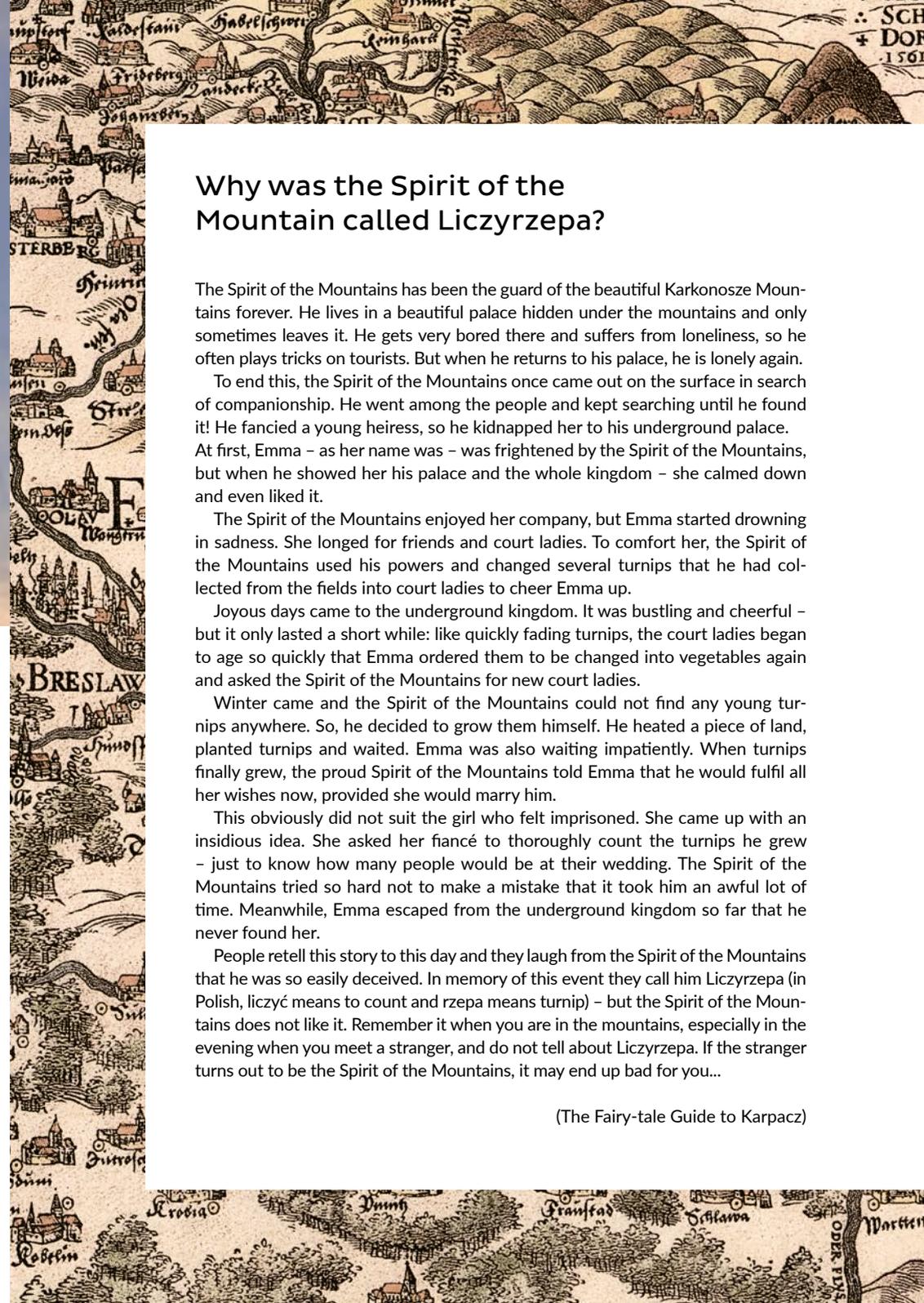
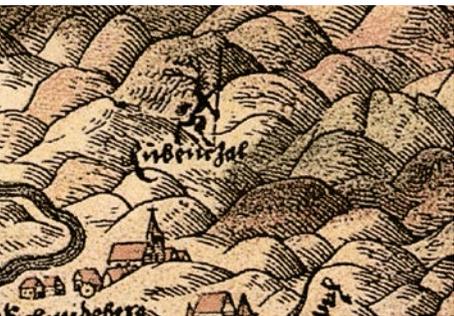
For centuries, the Giant Mountains, as the Karkonosze Mountains were formerly called, have aroused in people respect and sometimes even awe. They were believed to be the home of deities and mysterious powers, and the power over everything was exercised by the legendary Spirit of the Mountains



Variability in the forces of the nature was identified with the changing mood of the Karkonosze Mountains ruler. The evil Spirit of the Mountains could call hails and violent storms, fogs that restricted visibility, or very strong winds that destroyed houses. When in a good mood, the Spirit let the locals enjoy the sight of the rainbow and the sunshine.

The first representation of this mystical figure appeared on a map of 1561 by Martin Helwig. The Spirit of the Mountains was then depicted as an unusual creature with goat legs, lion's body and eagle's head. Over time, the image changed and today we know him primarily as an old wanderer with a long beard, who takes care of the Karkonosze on a daily basis and watches treasures hidden in them. However, the Spirit of the Mountains has many characters as he had many names. People call him Karkonosz, Liczyrzepa, Rzepiór, Rübezahl or Pan Jan. However, you have to be careful because not every name can be pronounced out loud...

The first vision of the Spirit of the Mountains on the Martin Helwig's map from 1561



Why was the Spirit of the Mountain called Liczyrzepa?

The Spirit of the Mountains has been the guard of the beautiful Karkonosze Mountains forever. He lives in a beautiful palace hidden under the mountains and only sometimes leaves it. He gets very bored there and suffers from loneliness, so he often plays tricks on tourists. But when he returns to his palace, he is lonely again.

To end this, the Spirit of the Mountains once came out on the surface in search of companionship. He went among the people and kept searching until he found it! He fancied a young heiress, so he kidnapped her to his underground palace.

At first, Emma – as her name was – was frightened by the Spirit of the Mountains, but when he showed her his palace and the whole kingdom – she calmed down and even liked it.

The Spirit of the Mountains enjoyed her company, but Emma started drowning in sadness. She longed for friends and court ladies. To comfort her, the Spirit of the Mountains used his powers and changed several turnips that he had collected from the fields into court ladies to cheer Emma up.

Joyous days came to the underground kingdom. It was bustling and cheerful – but it only lasted a short while: like quickly fading turnips, the court ladies began to age so quickly that Emma ordered them to be changed into vegetables again and asked the Spirit of the Mountains for new court ladies.

Winter came and the Spirit of the Mountains could not find any young turnips anywhere. So, he decided to grow them himself. He heated a piece of land, planted turnips and waited. Emma was also waiting impatiently. When turnips finally grew, the proud Spirit of the Mountains told Emma that he would fulfil all her wishes now, provided she would marry him.

This obviously did not suit the girl who felt imprisoned. She came up with an insidious idea. She asked her fiancé to thoroughly count the turnips he grew – just to know how many people would be at their wedding. The Spirit of the Mountains tried so hard not to make a mistake that it took him an awful lot of time. Meanwhile, Emma escaped from the underground kingdom so far that he never found her.

People retell this story to this day and they laugh from the Spirit of the Mountains that he was so easily deceived. In memory of this event they call him Liczyrzepa (in Polish, liczyć means to count and rzepa means turnip) – but the Spirit of the Mountains does not like it. Remember it when you are in the mountains, especially in the evening when you meet a stranger, and do not tell about Liczyrzepa. If the stranger turns out to be the Spirit of the Mountains, it may end up bad for you...

(The Fairy-tale Guide to Karpacz)



Karkonoskie Tajemnice

(Secrets of the Karkonosze Mountains)

📍 ul. Mickiewicza 1a
 ☎ tel. +48 75 76 19 999
 www.karkonoskietajemnice.pl

In the basement of the Karkonoskie Tajemnice visitors have the opportunity to learn legends and stories that had their source in the Karkonosze land – stories of the miners and herbalists that settled here, and the

mysteries of the ruler of the Karkonosze Mountains.

The interiors were arranged by world-famous artists, and the exhibition itself is in large part interactive. Thanks to the achievements of modern technologies, you can experience with all your senses the magic and power that drowns in the Karkonosze Mountains. The undergrounds are full of secret passages and magical artefacts, which let you create, for example, a philosopher's stone or play a harp with invisible strings.

📍 ul. Karkonoska 53



Młynek Miłości

(The Mill of Love)

A happy place of lovers that commemorates the story of the great love of a miller's daughter and a knight. The folk parable proclaims, "only here the mill wheel turned grain into flour, and changed people's fates, and the miller's daughter made equal to the princess."



A place of gravity anomaly

📍 ul. Strażacka

When over 300 years ago Isaac Newton was resting in the orchard and the famous apple fell on his head, he did not expect that there would be some exceptions from the gravity law that he discovered.

In Karpacz, on one section of Strażacka Street (from Karkonoska Street towards Wild Waterfall behind the Piecuch Hotel and before the bridge over Łomnica River), there is a place where gravity rights do not apply. An empty bottle, a can or a car with its engine not running will roll uphill. According to the studies conducted here, there is an anomaly zone where gravity is lower than elsewhere by 4%.

Throne of the Mountain Spirit

In the park by the dam on the Łomnica River there is a granite seat with a carved image of the Mountain Spirit. Next to it there is a board with a description of this fabled figure.



Culture

In the 19th century – the epoch of romance, nature became the source of artistic inspiration. In the wild, inaccessible and dangerous Karkonosze Mountains, artists suddenly found beauty, ambience and mysterious atmosphere. The mountains inspired poets, painters, sculptors and composers. Suffice to say that the character of the Spirit of the Mountains became inspiration of 15 music works, including 5 operas (including by Carl Weber)



The most famous poet, who found inspiration in the Karkonosze Mountains, was Tadeusz Różewicz. He first arrived in Karpacz in the 1990s. He was meeting with his friend Henryk Tomaszewski – the creator of the Wrocław Pantomime Theatre, who permanently lived in Karpacz. Over time, Tadeusz Różewicz visited more and more often, and subsequent visits brought forth new works. One of them is *Gawęda o spóźnionej miłości (Tale of late love)*...

The poem dedicated to the Karkonosze Mountains was inspired by an entry in the commemorative book of honour of the eminent Polish climber, Wanda Rutkiewicz. Inspired Różewicz wrote later:

Tadeusz Różewicz

(1921–2014) was a remarkable Polish poet, playwright, prose writer and screenplay writer. He was one of the most versatile and creative continuators of the literary Avant-garde in Poland and abroad. He won many prizes, including Polish Władysław Reymont Literary Prize (for the lifetime achievement) and Nike Literary Award (for his volume of poetry titled *Matka Odchodzi*).

Tadeusz Różewicz
Tale of late love

(fragment)

*I am
75 years old
and say what you will
I fell in love with the Karkonosze
which are
about 450 million years old
I fell in love with the Giant Mountains
(...)*

(...)
*On the street leading to
Museum of Sport and Tourism
In Karpacz
I came across Wanda's trace
A trace of her foot
A trace of her hand
A trace of her smile
(...)*



Tadeusz Różewicz since 1996 regularly visited Karpacz.
In the picture: Tadeusz Różewicz and his wife Wiesława, near Vang Church, next to the Lazarus sculpture made by Ryszard Zajac



Tadeusz Różewicz loved the Karkonosze Mountains with all his heart. Several times he considered moving to Karpacz for good, but eventually he did not. As he said, "There was a will. But I thought that spending days and nights in engagement are more promising and sweet than in marriage. Moving from places at an old age is not easy. As the saying goes: «You can't teach an old dog new tricks». I think being a guest is always nicer, gets a warmer welcoming than the one who stays forever and gives the host trouble later. Nagging that there is a hole in the roof, or that you the gutter needs repairing, and so on. That's why I think our sympathy will be nicer and warmer if we refrain from the very formal wedding. We will just shack up, which sometimes has its advantage." (Archives of the Museum of Sport and Tourism)

However, there is a place in Karpacz that the poet particularly liked – mentioned in the poem, the Museum of Sport and Tourism, which he frequented during his visits. On the occasion of the artist's 80th birthday, an exhibition entitled "Tadeusz Różewicz – a poet and a playwright in the Karkonosze Mountains" was organised here. The most valuable souvenirs are now presented in the permanent collection of the museum in the section dedicated to the poet, which is part of the exhibition "Poles in the Karkonosze Mountains."

On his friendship with Henryk Tomaszewski, the poet would say: "We only know each other little, but well. For many years we have been thinking about cooperation. But we couldn't meet, being too busy with our own workshops."

Henryk Tomaszewski – a long-time resident of Karpacz, was an outstanding dancer, mime, choreographer, director, teacher, founder and director of the Wrocław Pantomime Theatre. He worked on a worldwide unique form of pantomime theatre, and his programs, where the movement was the fundamental means of expression filled with plastic arts and music, were built on the basis of literature, mythology and culture.

Collecting was the fulfilment of his theatrical passion. From 1967, he collected dolls, the enormous collection of which he later gave to the town. In 1995, on the basis of the collection, the Municipal Toy Museum was established, presenting a cross-section of the toy making from the 17th to the 20th century.

Tadeusz Różewicz
*With a visit to Henryk Tomaszewski
to the Toy Museum*

(fragment)

(...)

*Two old artists – an actor and a poet-
met each other at the end of the century
and they are talking about toys
and keep silent about a man*

(...)

After they died, the two great creators were laid to rest in neighbouring graves in the historic cemetery next to the Wang church in Karpacz Górny.

The Karkonosze Mountains invariably inspire, and the beauty of the landscape, tradition and atmosphere of the town gives inspiration to the talented residents of Karpacz.

📍 ul. Kolejowa 3
 ☎ tel. +48 75 76 18 523
 www.muzeumzabawek.pl

Toy Museum

This is where adults return to childhood memories, and children can watch the world of the adults in miniature. The Toy Museum was founded in 1995 from Henryk Tomaszewski's private collection. A cross-section of the toy making is depicted here, covering about 200 years: from the 18th century figurines, to 19th century dolls, to the toys typical of the 20th century. Here you can find dolls from Japan, Mexico or Australia.

The Morgenstern House



Carl Ernst Morgenstern
*A View Over the Snowy Pits
 and Łabski Peak, 1910*

📍 ul. Marii Skłodowskiej-Curie 1

Professor Carl Ernst Morgenstern (1847–1928) was one of the most famous Karkonosze landscape painters. Living in Wrocław, from the end of the 1880s he and his students very often visited the Karkonosze Mountains. On the basis of sketches made in the open air, he created large painting works in the Wilcza Poręba studio. Expeditions in the Karkonosze Mountains inspired him to create countless drawings, etchings, watercolour and oil paintings, which, along with

the development of printing techniques, have been replicated on fashionable postcards at that time. More vicious competitors even called him a “king of postcards.” At present, the Morgenstern house is a private house that is not made available for sightseeing.



Toy Museum







Nature

Karpacz is located at the foot of the Karkonosze Mountains, right by the border with one of the most precious natural areas of our country – the Karkonosze National Park. The area of the park is approx. 59.5 km² and covers the northern slopes of the Karkonosze Mountains – from the Okraj Pass in the East to Mumlawski Wierch in the West



The Small Pond

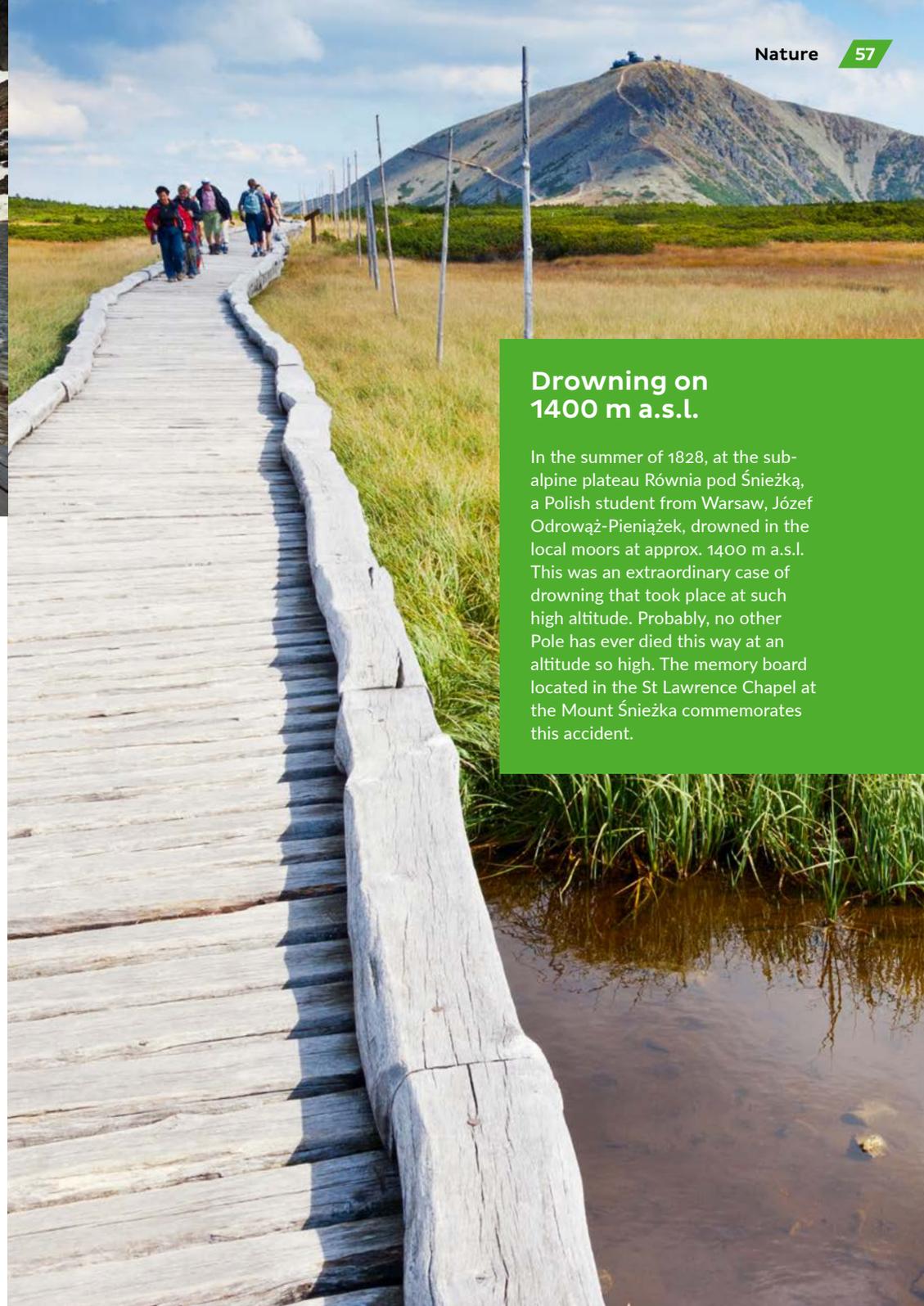
The most valuable asset of the Karkonosze Mountains is their postglacial relief – the remnant of the glacier that was created here in the Pleistocene era. It carved glacial lakes and created moraines that gave the ridge its present character. Remains of the glacial period can also be seen in the flora. There are numerous relics, i.e. plants that normally have their habitat in Scandinavia – hence the Karkonosze Mountains are often called “the Scandinavian nature in the heart of Europe.”

The distinctive feature of these mountains' landscape are also granite rocks with their fancy shapes. The most famous and most visited are the Pilgrims, the Sunflower, the Twarożnik or the Three Pigs.

Nature lovers will surely be attracted by the subarctic Upy peat bog, protected by the international Ramsar convention as a habitat of extremely rare plants and animals. Those searching for knowledge of herbs can visit the valley of the Wilczy Potok creek, while those wanting to explore the traces of the former mining should visit the Sowia Valley, where red carbuncles were discovered which are known and recognized worldwide.

Pielgrzymy

These granite rock formations of up to 25 m of height are shaped in such peculiar way due to the long and complex process of erosion



Drowning on 1400 m a.s.l.

In the summer of 1828, at the sub-alpine plateau Równia pod Śnieżką, a Polish student from Warsaw, Józef Odrowąż-Pieniążek, drowned in the local moors at approx. 1400 m a.s.l. This was an extraordinary case of drowning that took place at such high altitude. Probably, no other Pole has ever died this way at an altitude so high. The memory board located in the St Lawrence Chapel at the Mount Śnieżka commemorates this accident.



The Karkonosze National Park Information Centre

 ul. Leśna 9
 tel. +48 75 70 00 008
www.kpnmab.pl



The KNP Information Centre is located in one of the few houses preserved in the typical architecture of the Karkonosze Mountains. The educational centre invites you to visit the geological-geomorphological exhibition, the Karkonosze Herb and Shrub Garden and the Herbalist's House. The attractiveness of the exhibition is further increased by 3D panoramas, a geological map made of stone mosaic of the eastern Karkonosze Mountains, the Karkonosze's touch model and a collection of minerals. Exhibition in the Herbalist's House presents richly decorated laboratory boxes containing collected plants, glass bottles and vials containing healing potions.

What if going to a museum was not a boring experience? What if even 4-year-olds remembered interesting information? What if we told you that we could fit 450 million years of history into one hour... Multimedia Karkonosze Museum allows you to go back in time and be a participant in the great events that have contributed to the creation of this region.

Multimedia Karkonosze Museum

 ul. Karkonoska 5
 tel. 504 003 564
www.muzeumkarkonoszy.pl

The Big Pond

Because of the unique flora and fauna around the pond, it constitutes the strict reserve that cannot be entered. It can be viewed only from the edge of the Big Pond Cauldron





Karpatka

📍 You can go there from the city centre by the Rybacka Street and then take the red trail

Few towns can boast such a place as Karpatka. In Karpacz, in the very town centre, there is a granite hill (726 m a.s.l.) covered with

a primordial pine forest. The peak and slopes of the hill are covered with granite rock blocks on the surface of which a number of weathering cauldrons and spherical hollows are formed by the non-uniform weathering of the rock. The water flowing down formed troughs – these stone cauldrons were considered pagan sacrificial bowls.

In the 18th century silver mines were built on the Karpatka, but they yielded no profit. Today, their traces can be found on the northern slopes of the hill. Among the stones, there are also crosses carved on quadrangular posts, which most likely point to the boundaries of the old mining plots.

At the turn of the 19th and 20th centuries, the hill was covered by a dense network of paths with designated vantage points. It was one of the most popular hiking trails in the town. A red hiking trail runs here.



Exposure of hornfels rocks

📍 ul. Obrońców Pokoju

Hornfels belong to extremely hard and weather resistant rocks. In Poland, they can be found in Lower Silesia and Mount Śnieżka is the most famous place of their occurrence. The name of the rock comes from the German language and means the horn rock.

In Karpacz, hornfels rocks are found not only at the top of Mount Śnieżka. You can also see them in the town centre. At Obrońców Pokoju Street, there is a remnant of a small quarry from the early 20th century, where a large fragment of the hornfels rock is exposed.

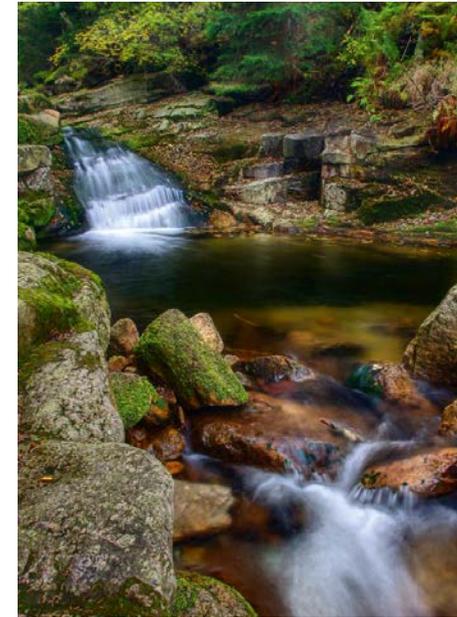
Marmit granite rock

📍 ul. Olimpijska, below Wild Waterfall

Marmit is one of the greatest geological features of the Karkonosze Mountains. 200 meters below Wild Waterfall, the Łomnica River forms a natural, approximately 2 metres high cascade. At its footstep, there is an eversion hollow with diameter of approximately 8 metres and depth of over 2.5 metres formed in the solid granite substrate. A geological surprise awaits on the left bank of the Łomnica. About 0.5 m above the water surface, there is a marmite – an eversion hollow. The shape resembles the evaporative pool, but it is much smaller and has inverted proportions – its depth is larger than the diameter. Marmit in Karpacz has a regular hole of 0.73-0.86 m in diameter, a maximum depth of 2.25 m and a volume of approx. 0.8 m³.

Until now, the process of marmite formation has not been unequivocally explained. Theoretically, they are formed by the action of boulders, which are rolling under the influence of whirlpools, gouge the bottom of the river to form hollows. According to geomorphologists, the Karkonosze cauldron was most likely formed at the end of the ice age, when vast amounts of water flowed from the melting glaciers of the Great and Little Pond.

In 1892, the first research expedition was organized and then about 30 spherical granite stones were excavated from the bottom of Karpacz, the largest of which weighed about 25 kilograms. The most beautiful specimens went to the museums in Jelenia Góra and Berlin.







▲
Sport and
leisure
activities

The town of by Mount Śnieżka relies on sports. In winter it attracts amateurs of winter sports from Poland, and when it gets warmer, fans of mountain hikes and active leisure time



3 x Śnieżka = 1 x Mont Blanc

The participants choose from three distances thus running up the highest peak of Karkonosze Mountains once, twice or three times accordingly

The Karkonosze Mountains are the cradle of European winter sports. Here, after the World War 2, the largest group of toboggan and bobsleigh amateurs appeared. Today, the town of by Mount Śnieżka also relies on sports. In winter it attracts amateurs of winter sports from Poland, and when it gets warmer, fans of mountain hikes and active leisure time.

For several years, the Karkonosze Mountains have become more and more a significant place on the running map of Poland. The location of Karpacz in the central part of the ridge and the abundance of hiking trails guarantee excellent conditions for cross-country skiing. In summer and winter, there are two famous running competitions: the Tomek Kowalski Karkonosze Winter Ultramarathon and 3 x Mount Śnieżka = 1 x Mount Blanc. In the spring and autumn, a sporting event, Run to the Łomniczka Cauldron, tops it all.



Zawody MTB Uphill Race Śnieżka

Winter Karkonosze Ultramarathon

Winter. Strong wind, snow above knees, polar desert all these may wait for participants running together for 52 km along the ridge of the Giant Mountains from Jakuszyce to Karpacz





Orlinek Ski Jumping Hill

ul. Olimpijska

At the turn of the 19th and 20th centuries, the first ski jumping hills were built from snow in Karpacz. The competitors reached the lengths of the jumps from a dozen or over twenty meters.

In 1912, the first wooden jumping hill in the vicinity of the current Orlinek Hotel was erected. In 1914 a 38.5 m long jump was recorded. After the World War 2, the structure was demolished due to its poor technical condition, and in 1946, under the direction of Stanisław Marusarz, construction work on the new wooden jumping hill started. Interestingly, the jumping hill was built according to his guidelines, without any plans or technical documentation. He once revealed that the jumping hill was constructed "(...) from the head and experience gained on the jumping hills worldwide."

The wooden structure of the Orlinek did not, however, resist the strong Karkonosze winds and in the 1970s, it was decided to erect a new steel structure. In 1979, a new ski jumping hill was opened in the name of Stanisław Marusarz with a K85 construction point. Its record belongs to Adam Matysz, who set it at the 2004 Senior Ski Jumping Championships in Poland, with a 94.5 m long jump.

Currently, the jumping hill is used as an extreme sports centre and an excellent vantage point.

Avalanche

It's about fun! Avalanche is the International Downhill Run from Śnieżka to Samotnia. Its first edition snatched one hundred persons and made no harm to anyone. Every year, more people take part in the run! The event is dedicated especially to families and there are no age restrictions. The time limit to get to the finish is 2 hours.



Conquerors:

Maciej Berbeka, Eugeniusz Chrobak, Leszek Cichy, Anna Czerwińska, Andrzej Czok, Artur Hajzer, Zygmunt Andrzej Heinrich, Bogdan Jankowski, Halina Kruger-Syrokomska, Jerzy Kukuczka, Janusz Kurczab, Aleksander Lwow, Janusz Majer, Piotr Morawski, Bogusław Ogrodnik, Anna Okopińska, Krystyna Palmowska, Maciej Pawlikowski, Ryszard Pawłowski, Tadeusz Piotrowski, Piotr Pustelnik, Wanda Rutkiewicz, Janusz Skorek, Krzysztof Wielicki, Wojciech Wróż, Dariusz Załuski, Andrzej Zawada.

Skwer Śladów Zdobywców (Conquerors' Square)

ul. Konstytucji 3 Maja (next to the Municipality Office)

The Conquerors' Square is located in the centre of Karpacz, right next to the Town Hall. In this way, the town and the Mountaineering School pay tribute to the people with enormous passion and love for the mountains, and the footprints of their boots cast in bronze have been the testimony of their accomplishments for decades.

In 2010, on the 30th anniversary of the Polish winter expedition to Mount Everest, Krzysztof Wielicki and Leszek Cichy, on the Conquerors square, the Everest Stone weighing over 12 tons was placed. On this occasion, a two-day meeting with those who reached the peak was held in Karpacz.

Uphill Race Śnieżka
Sports competition for amateurs and professional athletes who actively practice mountain biking



Suggestions for hiking trails

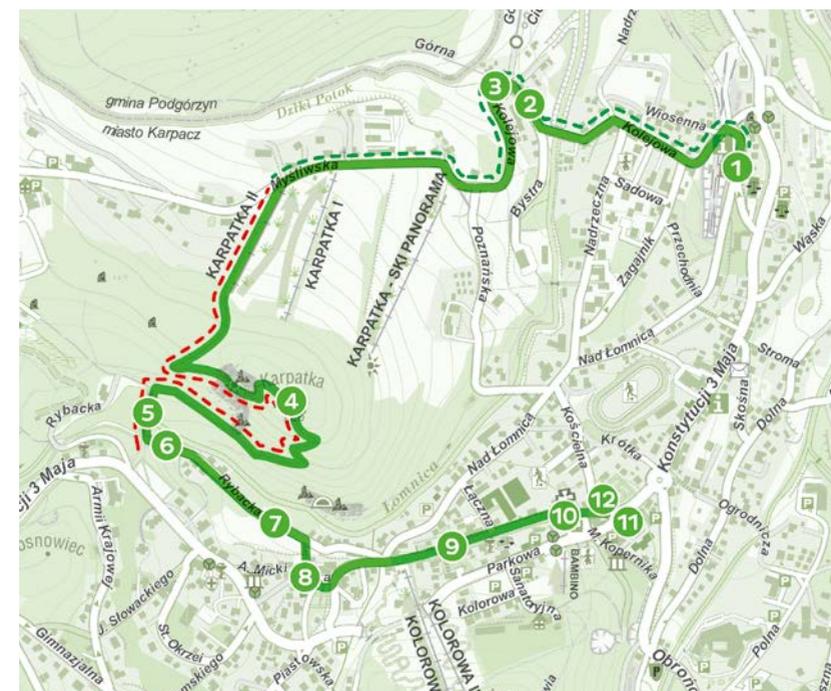


Trail ①

Walking time: approx. 3 hours
 + approx. 1-2 hours for visiting the museums
 Difficulty: ▲▲▲ easy

Route:

the Toy Museum → the Płóczki Court Inn → entrance to the old mining tunnel → Karpatka → Dam on the Łomnica River → park by the waterfall → House of the Adopted Doll → Secrets of the Karkonosze Mountains → Conquerors' Square → Church of the Visitation of the Blessed Virgin Mary → church of the Sacred Heart of Jesus → park by the Court Linden



Chapel of St Anna on Mount Grobowiec



Panorama of the Jelenia Góra Valley

The tour begins with the **Toy Museum** ① located in the former railway station building. It houses a unique collection of toys from around the world – Henryk Tomaszewski's private collection, which the artist gave to the city. From the museum, the route runs to the left and then uphill along Kolejowa Street (green trail). After a few hundred meters, on the right, walk past the former **Court Inn** ② (now the Halicz Guesthouse) and **entrance to the old mining tunnel** ③.

Next, walk the steep Myśliwska Street, pass the ski slopes on the **Karpatka** ④ hillside and just after them, turn left on the red tourist trail. Further, the trail runs through pine-spruce-beech forest.

Its narrow path it runs through numerous and very interesting rock formations. Look around between the trees, for there is a beautiful view of the Karpacz centre and the highest sections of the Karkonosze Mountains with the summit of Mount Śnieżka. You can also see the Orlinek ski jumping hill from there.

The red trail leaves the forest near the **Dam on the Łomnica River** ⑤. After passing its crown, you reach the **park** ⑥, where you can sit on the throne of the Spirit of the Mountains to see the Karpacz coat of arms, or even stand on it and be a hand of the sun clock for a moment. In the park, there are also metal statues of animals that lived or live in the surrounding woods, and a replica of a gate that stood here until the World War 2.

From the park, go downhill to Rybacka Street, where there is a very original **House of the Adopted Doll** ⑦. This magical place was created by a Karpacz resident, Mrs Urszula Jonkisz, who has been collecting dolls and sewing original clothes for them. Going down Rybacka Street, on the right-hand side you

will pass the old wooden ski jumping hill – Karpatka; then walk up the stairs (to the right) to Mickiewicz Street. There is a park and a peculiar museum, where you can learn the legends and secrets of the Karkonosze Mountains. This is a good place to rest and children can have fun on climbing walls. The entrance to the **Secrets of the Karkonosze** ⑧ is guarded by a strange and somewhat scary figure, one of the embodiments of the Spirit of the Mountains – Karkonosz.

As you walk down the promenade, you will reach the Town Hall. Below is the **Conquerors' Square** ⑨, where the footprints of the famous Polish mountaineers are cast. Enthusiasts of the sacral architecture will certainly be interested in **two churches** ⑩ ⑪ located in the town centre. Both are part of the cultural heritage of the Via Sacra cross-border route, about which you can learn in detail from the tables by the Church of the Sacred Heart of Jesus.

The tour ends in a park, by the more than 200-year-old **Court Linden** ⑫. Here you can relax and learn about the history of Walloons and the mining traditions of Karpacz. This is where another hiking trail begins – the Mining Trail.



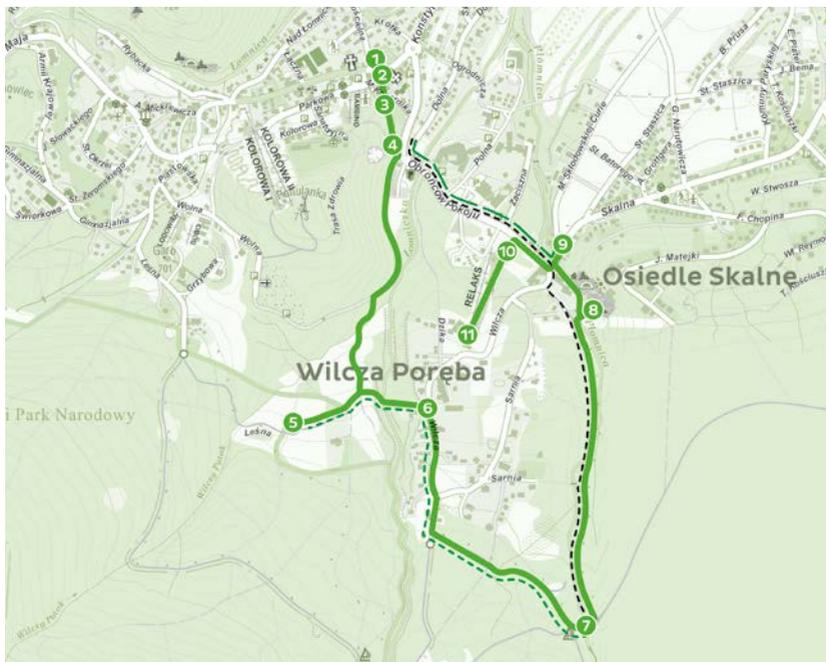
In the park near the Dam on the Łomnica River, there are statues of animals inhabiting the Karkonosze forests in the past or now

Trail ②

Walking time: approx. 3 hours
+ 1–2 hours for a visit to the museum and the Fairy-tale Park
Difficulty: ▲▲▲ easy

Route:

Court Linden → Bachus Court Inn → Museum of Sport and Tourism → exposed hornfels rocks → KNP Information Centre → Wilcza Poręba → Wide Bridge → Raven Rocks → the Morgenstern House → Treasures of Land of Juna → Fairy-tale Park



The shortest street in Poland, Skrzatów Karkonoskich Street, is only 30 m long

Tour starts in the park by the **Court Linden** ①. From the boards here, you can learn about Karpacz's mining traditions, and on granite boulders you will discover mysterious Walloon signs. After leaving the park, the route leads to the **Bachus Restaurant** ②, where a court inn once was, where the village leader would handle court cases. Behind the restaurant and car park, on the other side of the street you will see a distinctive half-timbered building – the **Museum of Sport and Tourism** ③, which is yet another point on the route. Stop here for a moment to see an exhibition showing the origins of tourism in the Karkonosze Mountains, the development of winter sports and the natural environment. Opposite to the museum is a “small curiosity” – the shortest street in Poland – Skrzatów Karkonoskich Street. Anyone who looks here will

surely notice a stone with an elf image, and while more intrepid tourists should also see the prints of the tiny footprints of goblins, which often wander there. Then the trail goes down Kopernika Street to Obrońców Pokoju Street and turns right. After several hundred metres, you will see **exposed hornfels** ④, where you can see the outcrop of one of the hardest rocks in Poland. Here is also a starting point of a short geological path running through Obrońców Pokoju Street, along which mighty rocks of the region were placed.

Just behind the hornfels rock outcrop, the trail turns right and the gravel road runs uphill. At the crossroads, turn left, from where a forest path will lead to the **Karkonosze National Park Information Centre** ⑤. You can get learn geology, geomorphology and history of the searching for minerals and gold in the Karkonosze Mountains. The Information Centre is surrounded by the Karkonosze Herb and Shrub Garden with the Herbalist's Lodge.

After leaving the KNP Information Centre, go back several metres and follow the green trail to **Wilcza Street** ⑥. Next, turn right and continue down the green trail to the **Wide Bridge** ⑦, where the trails leading to Budniki and Sowia Pass intersect. The black trail running along the River Płomnica leads to **Raven Rocks** ⑧.

After leaving the forest on Skalna Street, you can go to the other side and take a look at the interesting **Morgenstern house** ⑨ – the famous Karkonosze landscape painter. The route will eventually run to the left into Obrońców Pokoju Street, which leads to the Liczyrzepa Manor House. In the basement of the restaurant there is a mineralogical exhibition – **Treasures of the Land of Juna** ⑩. Going further down Obrońców Pokoju Street, you will reach the town centre once again. For families with children we recommend the **Fairy-tale Park** ⑪ – a fairy-tale land, where an extraordinary adventure for the whole family starts.



On the Raven Rocks, you can try rock climbing

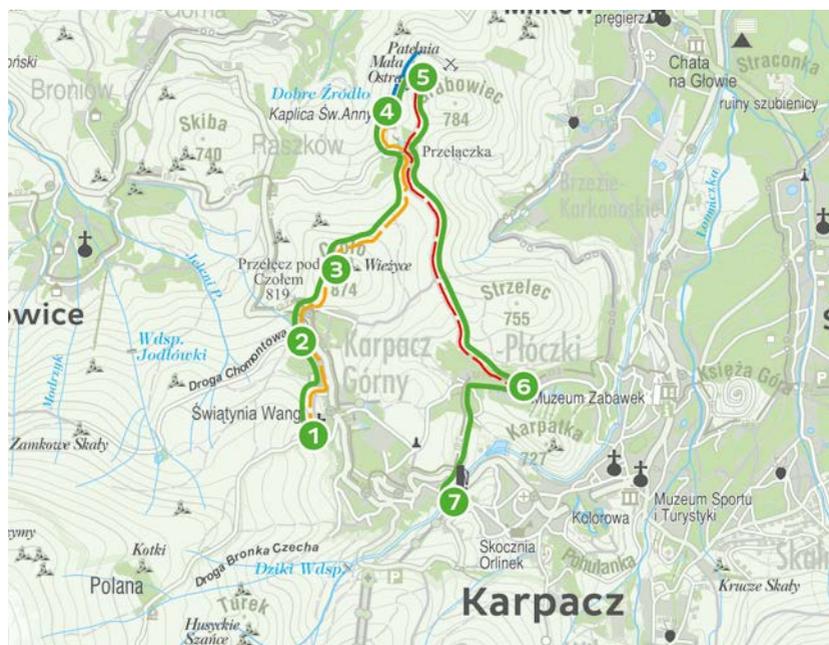
Trail ③

Walking time: approx. 3–4 hours

Difficulty: ▲▲▲ easy

Route:

Wang Temple → Mill of Love → Czoło → Chapel of St Anna
→ Mount Grabowiec → Karpacz – Płóczki → Biały Jar



The first point on the hiking route is the most valuable and famous monument of Karpacz – the **Wang Temple** ①. The church is located in Karpacz Górny, where you can get on foot or take a bus. After leaving the Wang Temple, at the entrance to the Karkonosze National Park, turn right and along the fence of the church square go along the yellow trail leading to the **Mill of Love** ②. According to a legend, long time ago there was a real mill, and the water that was running from beneath it had wonderful properties.

The route continues along the street, on the left it passes the cross-country ski trails and reaches the Karpacz town limits. Then, at a small roundabout, turn right into Partyzantów Street and after several hundred metres turn left – onto the yellow trail called Babia Ścieżka. On the right, in the deepest part of the forest is the highest peak of the Karkonosze Foothills – **Czoło** ③ (847 m a.s.l.). There, by the Wieżyce rock formation, once called the Forest Council, secret meetings of Protestants were held.

The yellow trail leads to a road that turns left to the Lubuszanin resort. It is easy to find a direction indicator showing the way to the **chapel of St Anna** ④. It is located on the west side of Mount Grabowiec, next to Dobre Źródło. As the legend goes, the one who runs around the chapel seven times with water in his mouth will ensure happiness in love. You can go to an inn near the chapel. Next to it, there is probably the largest and oldest sycamore tree in the Karkonosze Mountains with over 4 m in circumference.

After a short (or longer) rest, you may want to consider walking to the rock formation on **Mount Grabowiec** ⑤: Patelnia, Mała and Ostra. You can choose from the two routes to get there. The longer route leads along the blue trail, first to the ruins of the fort, then below, it takes a sharp turn to the right into the red trail that leads to the first rock – Patelnia (Frying Pan). Rocky steps will take you to the top, so you can admire the beautiful view of the Jelenia Góra Valley. Another route to the rocks is taking a shortcut that runs through the forest or by going back to the yellow trail to the Lubuszanin resort, and from there going uphill the red trail you will also reach your destination.

It is best to return to Karpacz by the red route which leads to the oldest district of the town – **Płóczki** ⑥ (Myśliwska Street). The route turns right into **Biały Jar** ⑦ and then to Karpacz Medical Centre – to the left. Go along Świętokrzyska Street, passing over the toboggan run, to reach your destination and the end of the hike.



The Good Spring

Suggestions for mountain hiking

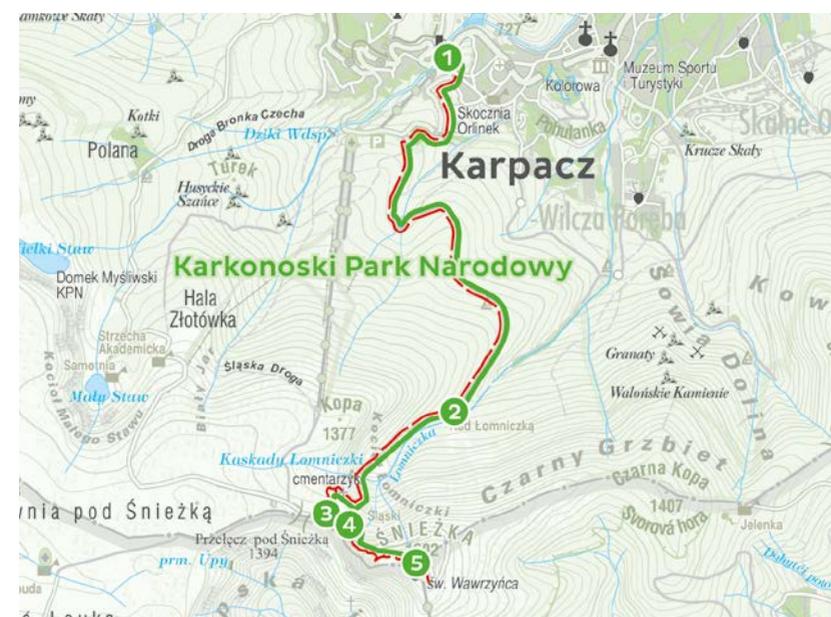
Trail ①

Walking time: approx. 3 hours

Difficulty: ▲▲▲ moderate

Route:

Karpacz Biały Jar bus stop → “Nad Łomniczką” shelter → Mount Śnieżka Pass → “Dom Śląski” shelter → Mount Śnieżka



The tour begins at the **Karpacz Biały Jar ①** bus stop, which is the largest hub of hiking trails in the town. The red trail leads up Olimpijska Street, passing the Orlinek ski jumping hill, which now operates as the “Quasar” Extreme Sports Centre. Stop here for a moment and climb to the top of the jumping hill to experience the jumpers’ adrenaline rush and to admire the picturesque panorama of the Karkonosze Mountains and the town. A little above the Orlinek, there is an entrance to the Karkonosze National Park. The red trail leads from the



Tourist Shelter at the Łomniczka Stream

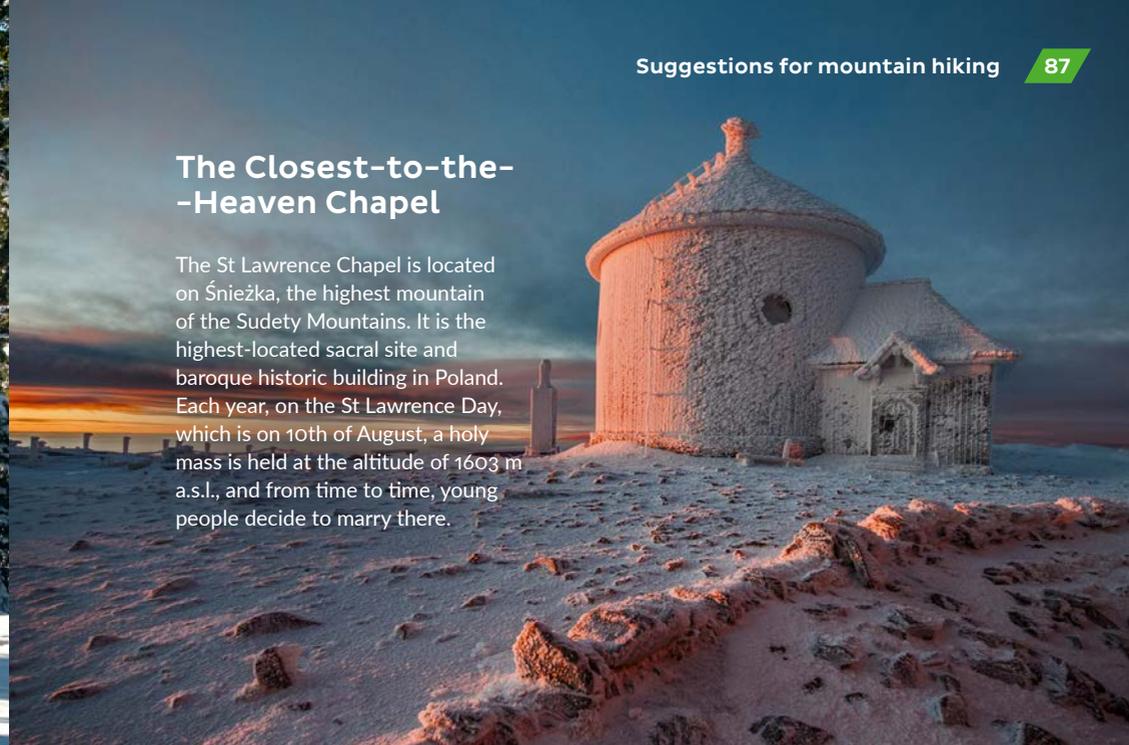
wide and gentle road through the woods to the **“Nad Łomniczką” shelter** ②. This section is also accessible for families with children in pushchairs.

Before you set off, have a taste of the famous pancakes with berries and whipped cream. Interestingly, it is the only mountain shelter in the Karkonosze Mountains without electricity – so it offers only catering services, with no possibility of accommodation. From here, the trail begins to descent steeply towards the **Śnieżka Pass** ③. On your way, relax for a moment by the cascades of the Łomniczka and at the symbolic burial ground of those who lost their lives in the mountains. But you must remember that in winter the section from the “Nad Łomniczką” to the “Dom Śląski” shelter by the Śnieżka Pass is closed due to avalanche danger!

The route reaches the **“Dom Śląski”** ④, at an altitude of 1400 m a.s.l., and from here you only need to cross 203 m to the summit of **Mount Śnieżka** ⑤. Of course, this is just the height difference! But your destination is close. There are two routes available – the easier one is the Jubilee Route or the so-called sharp bends. Getting to the top by each route will take about 30-45 minutes. Mount Śnieżka is on the state border, so there are Polish and Czech buildings here. The most distinctive feature is the High-altitude Meteorological Observatory, whose architecture resembles flying saucers. The most valuable monument is

The Closest-to-the-Heaven Chapel

The St Lawrence Chapel is located on Śnieżka, the highest mountain of the Sudety Mountains. It is the highest-located sacral site and baroque historic building in Poland. Each year, on the St Lawrence Day, which is on 10th of August, a holy mass is held at the altitude of 1603 m a.s.l., and from time to time, young people decide to marry there.



the baroque chapel of St Lawrence built in the years 1665-1681 from the foundation of Krzysztof Leopold Schaffgotsch. On the Czech side, there is a mail building and a slightly below the upper station of the gondola cableway. The Mount Śnieżka top is an excellent vantage point. In good weather, you can see from here the Śląża and the Wrocław city lights.

Silesia House Tourist Shelter



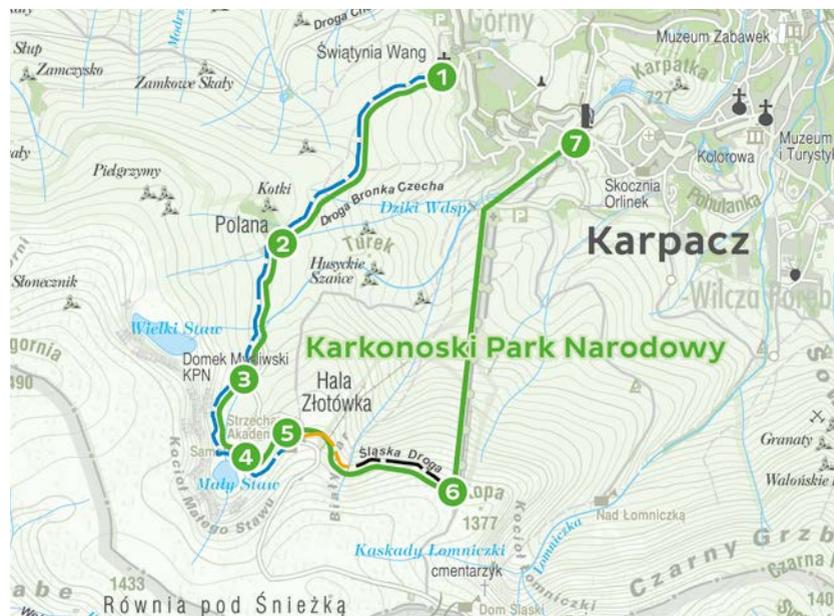
Trail ②

Walking time: approx. 2.5 hours

Difficulty: ▲▲▲ easy/moderate

Route:

Wang Temple → Polana → Hunting Lodge → “Samotnia” shelter → “Strzecha Akademicka” shelter → Kopa → Karpacz Biały Jar bus stop



The tour begins by the **Wang Temple** ① and entrance to the Karkonosze National Park. The wooden temple is one of the biggest tourist attractions of Karpacz. In the 12th century, it was erected in Norway in the town of Vang, and in 1842, thanks to the Prussian king Frederick William IV, it was brought to Karpacz and handed over to the local evangelicals and it serves them to this day. The trail goes up through the woods with a wide cobblestone road – the so-called transport road. It reaches **Polana** ②, where a shelter used to be; today,

only its foundations remained. On them, a new resting place for tourists was constructed, where you can stop for a while. After a few hundred meters and crossing the Goat Bridge, the trail turns right into a rocky path. It reaches the **Hunting Lodge** ③, where the educational centre of the Karkonosze National Park is located. You can come here and watch nature films, listen to lectures or take part in organized talks and workshops. From the lodge, the blue trail leads along a picturesque path through the Kocioł Małego Stawu. In winter, the section leading to the “**Samotnia**” shelter ④ is closed due to avalanche danger! In that case, by the Hunter’s Lodge return to the so-called transport road and go up. After several hundred meters, you will reach the crossroads: the forest road that turns right will take you to the shelter. Regardless of which road you choose, you will get to one of the most beautiful places in the area. The bottom of the large glacial lake is filled with the waters of the Mały Staw, which is the second largest lake in the Karkonosze Mountains. Its area covers less than 3 hectares and its



Hunter's Cabin



Samotnia Tourist Shelter

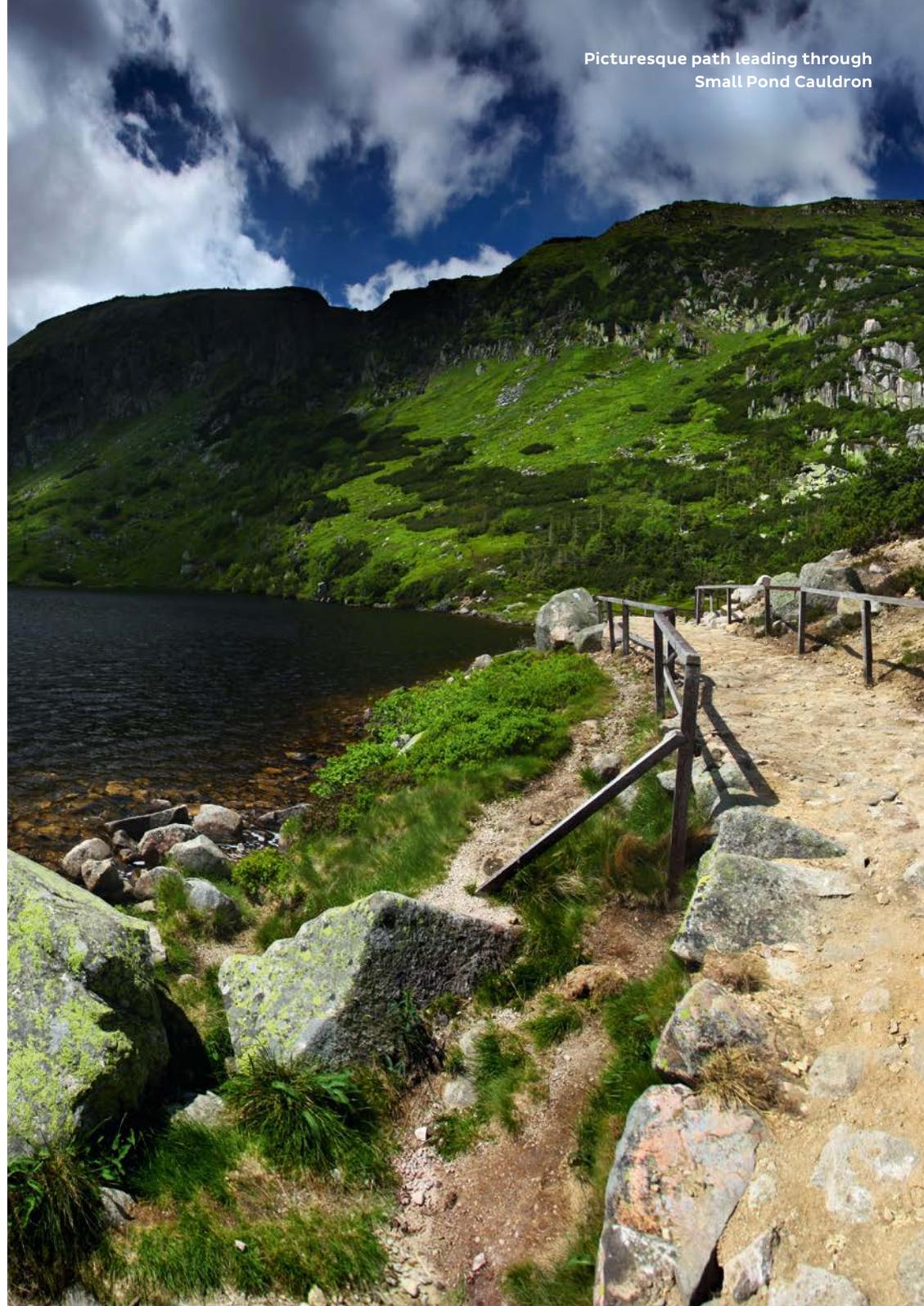


**Strzecha Akademicka
Tourist Shelter**

Symbolic Cemetery of the Mountain Victims

In the Łomniczka Cauldron, at the red trail, there is a symbolic Cemetery of the Mountain Victims. Names of people who died in the mountains or dedicated their lives to the Karkonosze Mountains are listed at the memory boards. This is one of a kind site in the whole area of Karkonosze National Park strict reserve. The cross was build according to the design by the well-known visual artist Leszek Legut from Karpacz and it is a symbol of people remembering those who will never wander the mountain trails again.

maximum depth is approximately 7 m. These waters are home to many trout fish that once were guarded by a trout keeper! The first building was erected here in the 17th century. It was a small shack that housed Schaffgotch's trout keeper. The present building of the "Samotnia" shelter dates back to the 19th century. The blue trail leads sharply uphill; after a few tens of metres stop for a while and turn around – the view is breath-taking. After about 10 minutes the route reaches the "**Strzecha Akademicka**" 5 shelter. It is the largest building of its kind in this part of Karkonosze Mountains. Have a look at the preserved original wooden dining room décor and tiled stove by the buffet. Further, the yellow trail leads along the resting place, in front of the building, and runs into a niche of the Biały Jar. In winter, the route is closed due to avalanche danger. The fact that in 1968 it became the place of the greatest tragedy in the history of the Polish mountains is testimony to the real threat. An avalanche took 19 lives. Next to Złoty Potok creek there is the foundation of a monument dedicated to the victims; soon after it was erected, it was also destroyed by the element. After crossing the creek, there is a monotonous section of the black trail leading to the upper station of the gondola cableway on **Kopa** 6. Your efforts will, however, be rewarded with stunning views when going downhill in a cable car. The tour ends at the lower station of the cableway, from where you can take the red or yellow trail to the **Biały Jar bus stop** 7 and further to the town centre.

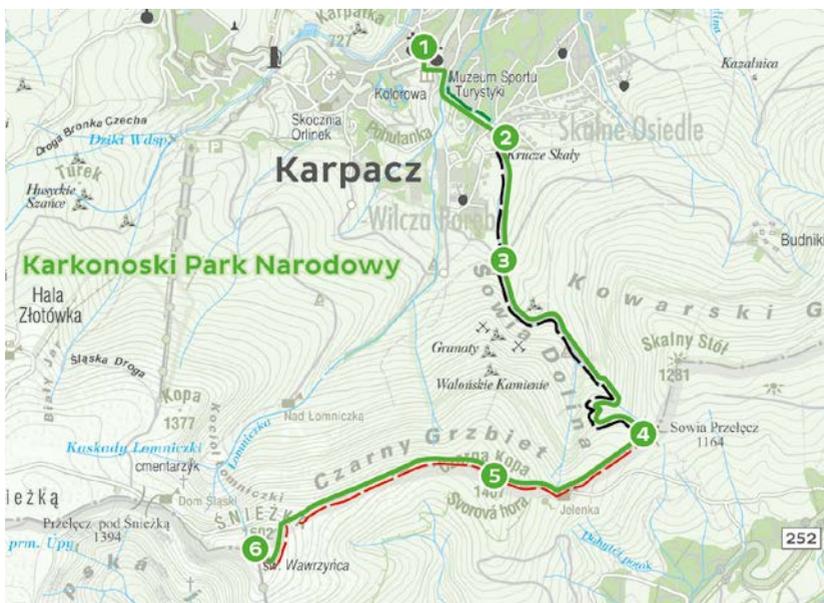


Trail ③

Walking time: approx. 4 hours
Difficulty: ▲▲▲ moderate/hard

Route:

Bachus Restaurant → Raven Rocks → Sowia Valley →
Sowia Pass → Black Ridge → Mount Śnieżka



Start the tour in the centre of Karpacz at **Bachus Restaurant ①**. This building and the mighty linden that grows on the opposite side are witnesses of the town's ancient history. As the legend goes – from the beginning of the 17th century, village leaders would handle court cases there, hence the names: Court Linden and the Court Inn. The present building of the restaurant comes from 1836. Next, the trail leads to the Museum of Sport and Tourism. Go in and learn the history of tourism in the region, the development of winter sports and nature conservation. Then stroll down Kopernika Street, turn right into Obroń-

ców Pokoju Street and turn to the Raven Rocks towards the black trail. After passing the Relax hotel, the trail turns left and behind the bridge right into the forest path. Go downhill a bit from the main trail to look at the rock formation of the **Raven Rocks ②**. In the past, gold, precious stones and then kaolin clay were mined there, after which two distinctive caverns remained. Today the rocks serve as a climbing centre, so it is very likely that you can watch climbers practising there. After crossing the bridge on the right, you will go back to the black trail. It leads to the Wide Bridge and from there, through **Owl Valley ③**, it ascends slowly to the **Owl's Pass ④**. This valley is one of the most beautiful valleys in the Karkonosze Mountains, and it is very interesting from a geological point of view. There are rare minerals, such as carbuncles and copper and lead ores with traces of gold. The red and blue trails lead from the Owl Pass to Mount Śnieżka. The trail goes to the Czech "Jelenka" shelter, where you can taste the traditional Czech dumplings. The trail continues its ascent to **Czarna Kopa** and **Czarny Grzbiet ⑤**, along which you will reach the Jubilee Road leading to the top of **Mount Śnieżka ⑥**. Scenic views of the Polish and Czech sections of the Karkonosze Mountains and the whole of the foreland are stunning. Next, the red trail turns left and after about 15-20 minutes you will reach your destination.

Jubilee Path







10 biggest Jilemnice Area attractions

Karkonosze Museum

📍 Castle in Jilemnice

In the museum, there is a stationary exhibition dedicated to the beginnings and development of skiing in Karkonosze Mountains. The historic mechanical sound Christmas crib, which is still working to this day, is one of the most interesting exhibits. It was constructed by Jáchym Metelka who began its construction in 1883 and finished it in 1913. In the museum, there are also held temporary exhibitions related to the history of Karkonosze Mountains.

Historic Railway Station

📍 Martinice v Krkonoších

A unique complex of buildings with working mechanic semaphores, recording the railway traffic and railway protection in 19th and 20th centuries. The preserved constructions and equipment are from 1871-1948.

Zvědavá Ulička Street

3

📍 Jilemnice

Here you can see the old and typical Karkonosze country building – log cabins. The street was built after the great fire in 1788. Its name (the Nosy Little Street) comes from the characteristic arrangement of houses – each next house is moved forward by one window axis in relation to the next house. This way, the nosy citizens could watch the events in city centre. On the street you will find a monument of St John of Nepomuk and the Šaldův Statek restaurant located in a historic log cabin.

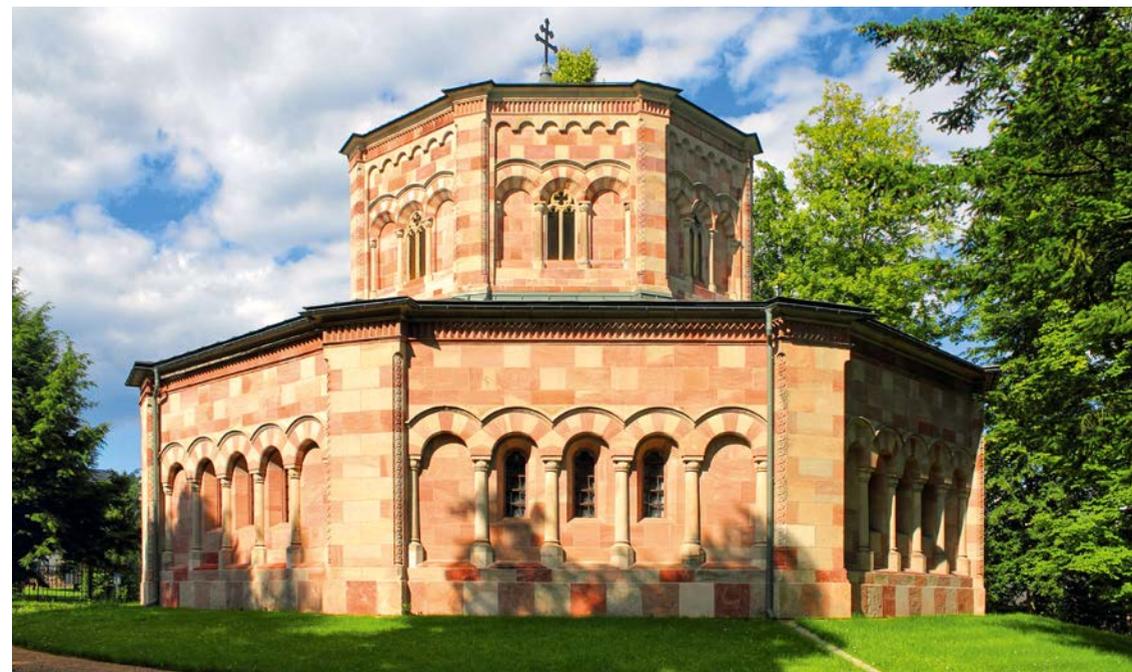


The Renaissance Palace and Tomb of the Harrach Family under the Invocation of The True Cross

📍 Horní Branná

The palace was built in 1582 by Zdeněk from Valdštejn. In 1632, it was repossessed by count Otto Bedřich from Harrach. Today, you can find an exhibition dedicated to the life and works of the Czech pedagogue and philosopher, John

4



Amos Comenius, who during the Thirty Years' War resided there before being exiled to Poland. Next to the palace, there is the tomb of the Harrach family under the invocation of the True Cross. In the village, you can find also gothic St Nicholas's church extended by a baroque Trinity's chapel.

5 Žalý Observation Tower

 Benecko

The eighteen-metres high tower on the peak of Přední Žalý mountain was built in 1892 by count Harrach. It is the only stone observation tower in Karkonosze Mountains. From there, you can admire a spectacular view over the whole Karkonosze Mountains, a part of Jizera Mountains and Orlické Mountains, as well as Bohemian Paradise. Next to the tower, there is a replica of the old tourist shelter with a log cabin construction.

Museum of Karkonosze Crafts

 Poniklá

In this museum, you can admire the old Karkonosze crafts, as well as machines and devices used in a rural household. You can also watch the exhibits from such fields as agriculture, linen processing, laundry and ironing, as well as garments and accessories, a display of prams and other interesting things from the bygone times.

 Paseky nad Jizerou

7 Bílá Skála (White Rock)

Bílá Skála (964 m a.s.l.) is a peak on the border of Karkonosze Mountains and Jizera Mountains crowned with a visibly distinguished quartz block. From the peak, you can admire a fantastic view over both mountain ranges. The cross on the top of the rock reminds us that this place was the destination of the pilgrimages in the reign of totalitarianism.



8

Hucul Farm

 Janova Hora Mountain

The farm is located in the Vítkovice village and it is known for breeding Hucul ponies. Here you can enrol for the horseback riding lessons or even set off for a horse ride accompanied by the instructor. On the farm, there is a stylish playground where you can find farm animals.

Production of Handmade Christmas Ornaments

 Poniklá

The Rautis family company manufactures handmade Christmas ornaments from the air-blown glass beads. You can visit the plant after you make the reservation via Internet. During the visit in the plant, you can make your own Christmas ornament, just as you like it. This production process of the Christmas ornaments has been submitted to the UNESCO world heritage list.



Starý Kravín (The Old Barn) Museum and Gallery

 Františkov

The museum offers a stationary exhibition showing the old and uneasy mountain life, as well as the collection of historic fire equipment. In the neighbourhood, you can find a Dřevosochání (literally "carving in wood") educational path presenting the works of outdoor carving workshops which have been held there regularly for many years.

10



Accommodation

Visit www.karpacz.pl, go to “Baza Noclegowa” (Accommodation), sub-pages “wolne miejsca na dziś” (accommodation available today), “lista obiektów IBN” (list of IBN objects) and “wszystkie obiekty” (all objects).

It is the most up-to-date and reliable accommodation base in the town. Objects can be searched by the following criteria: object type, location, object affiliation to IBN, online booking options and price range.

Results are sorted by update time, which is done by the managers. Once you have selected a specific object, you will find basic information about the facility accompanied by descriptions and photos. An additional option is to look for attractions and ski lifts in the vicinity of the accommodation.

Every year, the Economic Forum hosts presidents, prime ministers, ministers, European commissioners and other key figures from the political and economic scene of our continent.

The Economic Forum

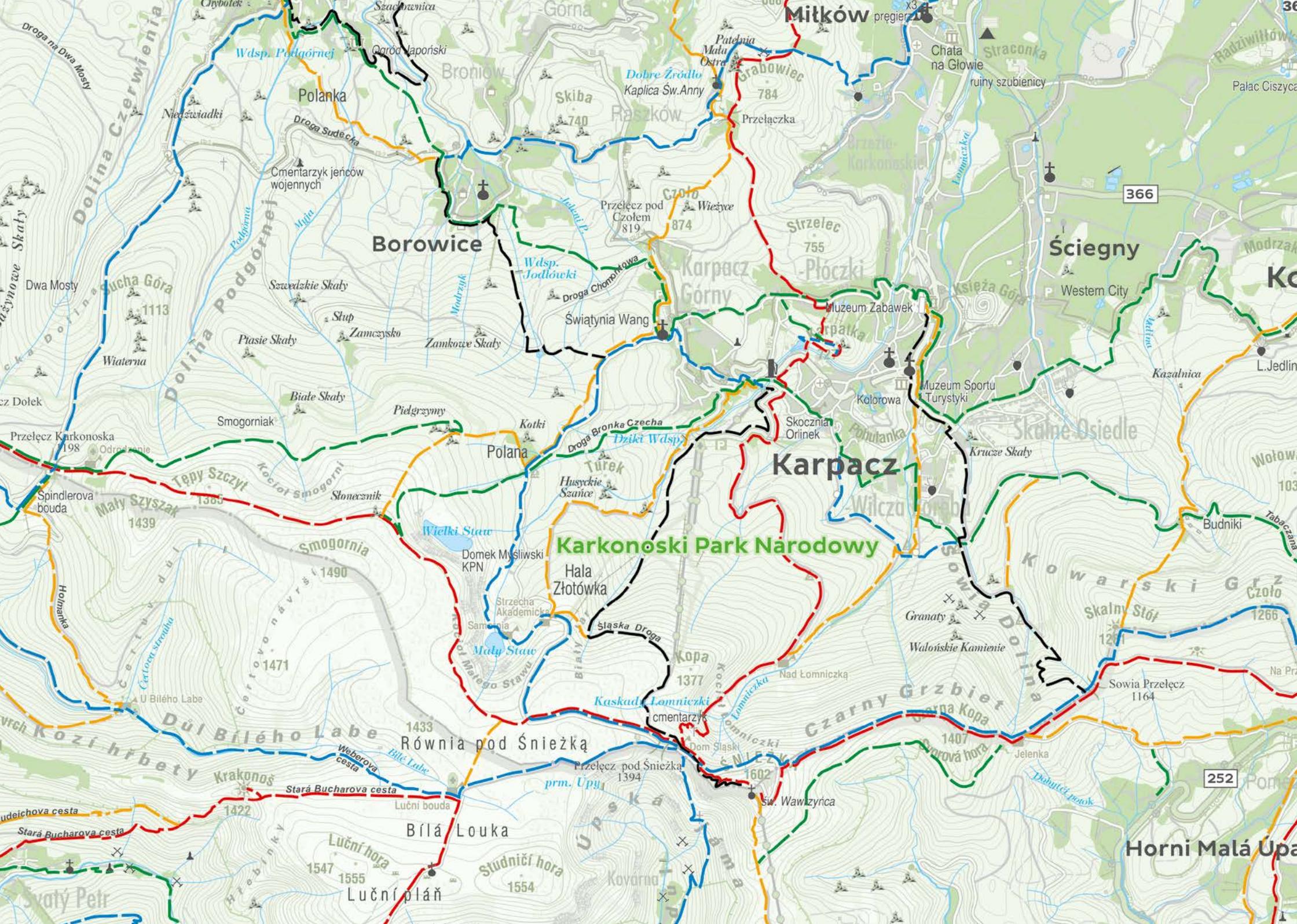
The Economic Forum is the largest and the most important international political and economic conference in Central and Eastern Europe. It has been held at the beginning of September every year since 1992, and for thirty years of its existence it has become a platform for exchanging views and shaping the opinions of leaders, as well as one of the most important meeting places for political and business elites in Europe. The Forum has been making important declarations for years, and the opinions of participants are quoted by the world media and discussed by expert circles.

The Forum brings together nearly 4500 guests, who participate in over 200 debates organized over 3 days. Apart from a rich content-related programme, a wide range of cultural and recreational events presenting the beauty of the region await the participants of the event. Since 2021, the conference has been held in Karpacz, with the conference center located in the Gołębiewski Hotel.

Information

More information available on the website of the organizer – the Foundation Institute for Eastern Studies: www.forum-ekonomiczne.pl





Borowice

Karpacz

Karkonoski Park Narodowy

Równia pod Śnieżką

Bílá Louka

Ściegny

Horní Malá Úpa

Mitków

droga na Dwa Mosty

Sucha Góra

Przełęcz Karkonoska

Důl Bílého Labe

Stará Bucharova cesta

svatý Petr

Cmentarzyk jeńców wojennych

Przełęcz pod Czołem

Świątynia Wang

Polana

Wielki Staw

Domek Myśliwski KPN

Mały Staw

Hala Złotówka

Ślaska Droga

Kopa

Przełęcz pod Śnieżką

Przełęcz pod Śnieżką

Przełęcz pod Śnieżką

Kovarna

Przełęczka

Wieżycy

Przełęczka

Skocznia Orinek

Kopa

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Kopa

Sirzelec

Przełęczka

Skocznia Orinek

Kopa

Kopa

Kopa

Kopa

Kopa

Kopa

Kopa

Kopa

Chata na Głowie

ruiny szubienicy

Westem City

Kazalnica

Skalne Osiedle

Granaty

Jelenka

366

252

Palac Ciszyca

L. Jedlin

Budniki

Na Pr

Na Pr