On the Wild Orlica River
Bystrzyca Klodzka and its surroundings

TOURIST GUIDE
The Czech Republic does not only consist of Prague, Moravsky Kras or Karlovy Vary just as Poland does not only consist of Cracow, Wieliczka or the Mazurian Lakes. In both countries there are places which appear as if they have not been discovered before. With a rich and complicated history, admirable monuments, and untouched nature and unique landscapes. One such place is the Wild Orlica River Valley (‘Dzika Orlica’) which divides the Bystrzyckie Mountains in Poland from the Orlicke Mountains in the Czech Republic.

There is no use looking for descriptions of this borderland area in Polish tourist guides. Maps show the area but they do not tell us anything about it. And this is the first reason for publishing this modest – in intention and size – guide.

The second reason is almost as important as the first one. Our “Little Guide” should fit the concept of the tourism information system in the community of Bystrzyca Kłodzka. One of the main aims of the system is to make information available to tourists and to all those interested in the region.

And the final reason for this publication. The border with our South-West neighbour is becoming more and more symbolic, the contact with them in the tourist sphere are closer and improved. Mountains and valleys do not separate us any more. The cross-border cooperation among our towns, communities and societies as Euroregions is developing promisingly. But the rapport between our countries entails getting to know one other. An unusual past and cultural richness as well as common Slavic roots have had a unique mountain landscape in the background. They are all worth learning about. ‘The mountains are there to delight us’ – said Wladyslaw Krygowski, one who beautifully wrote about the mountains. ‘Especially the forgotten mountains’, we can add.
The community of Bystrzyca Klodzka is situated in the Sudety Mountains in the southern part of the Klodzko Valley. It has 20,000 inhabitants and covers an area of 338.6 square kilometers which stretches from the Wild Orlica River Valley at the western edges of the Bystrzyckie Mountains to the main ridge of the Snieznik Massif in the east. The area borders on the Czech Republic and on the community of Miedzylesie to the south. International car and train routes to Prague, Brno and Vienna run through the area.

The lay of the land is exceptionally varied, from towns situated in valleys 300 metres above sea level to mountain villages situated 750 metres above sea level. Forests occupy 44.6% of the area. There are 38 villages within the area including Długopole-Zdroj, with its significant spas, and Miedzygorze, which is very popular with tourists and people on holiday.

Tourist and recreational facilities in the mountainous areas are moderately yet sufficiently developed. This can be seen as an advantage and indicates the virginal character of the place as well as the potential possibilities of its balanced development.

The area’s economy has an industrial–agricultural character and a relatively rich raw material base. It is based on using local forest, agricultural and mineral resources. Such businesses as food processing, light industry, and wood industry (including match making and cardboard and furniture production) have a long and rich tradition here. The developing enterprises are now more connected with tourism and recreation as well as with the organization of summer and winter leisure. These enterprises are supported by unusual scenic values, a mild climate in the foothills and a stimulative climate in the upper regions, mineral springs, a rich history, and values of architecture of the borderland.
The beauty of Bystrzyca Klodzka can best be admired from the nearby hills situated on the eastern side of the Nysa Klodzka River. Only from there we can see gently curved terraces rising above the river. The town was originally settled in the lower terraces outside the current town limits. Higher up the terraces, the Old Town proudly shows its variety of walls, roofs and towers. Such a town with all its monuments cannot only be routinely ‘sightseen’. It is necessary to roam around the narrow streets and forgotten backstreets that divide old houses, to climb up steep stairs in alleyways between walls, and to stop and admire the beauty and sophistication of old stone portals.

The geographical location of the town is actually quite curious. It is situated in the Upper Nysa River Valley, the region whose distinct lie of the land was discovered and named only in the middle of the twentieth century. It looks as if the Nysa Klodzka River cut a winding valley in which the settlement started.

Bystrzyca Klodzka has medieval and royal origins. Its location on a trade route connecting Silesia with Bohemia was the reason for its early settlement in the eleventh century. In the second half of the thirteenth century, a Czech castellan, Havel of Lemberg, was given the Kłodzko land from the Czech king, Vaclav I. As the governor of the region, Havel of Lemberg obtained municipal privileges for the town. The German name of the settlement – Habelschwerdt – is translated as ‘Havel’s island’. The name ‘Bystrice’ first appeared in 1369. Linguistic studies clearly show that new settlers came mainly from Hesse, Saxony and Lusatia. Thanks to James Rückner’s surrounding the town with walls on July 4, 1319, Bystrzyca was granted a town charter by King John of Luxemburg. James Rückner, the senior official, set up a fortified office building with a tower.

Bystrzyca Klodzka could share its numerous monuments with many other towns, despite the fact that history (e.g., the Hussites, the Swedes, the Thirty Years’ War, foreign armies, and fires) was not always kind to it. When rebuilding after the ravages of wars was completed, new disasters came up: a great flood in June of 1827, cholera epidemics in 1831 and 1837, and an earthquake in January of 1901.

Fortunately, the town was not affected by the two world wars and the medieval layout of streets, defence walls and buildings was preserved. Period houses come mainly from the eighteenth century, but many of them have older sections. They are usually two- and three-storey tenements with stone portals, Renaissance vaults and Baroque architectural forms. The most treasured monuments are the town defence walls with three towers: the Knight Tower (also called the Black Tower, from 1319; in 1843 the tower was converted into a
belfry of the Evangelic church), the Klodzka Gate (with traces of a two-storey gate) and the Water Gate (next to the fortified Mayor’s House with a residential tower, once two storeys higher). Other important monuments include the Gothic-Renaissance St. Archangel’s church from the middle of the thirteenth century; the town hall from the fourteenth century, rebuilt into Renaissance; the Baroque chapel of St. Frank Xavier; the late-Renaissance manor house; the chapel of St. Florian; and a monumental Statue of the Holy Trinity from 1736 (almost a theatrical image of the twelfth chapter of the Apocalypse).

In the center of the Small Market (former called the Beef Market) proudly stands a pillory from 1556 – a symbol of the medieval judiciary. It is made of stone and remains in perfect condition with iron clamps for fixing the sentenced. The unambiguous shape of the pillory is a reminder of sentences executed on debauched citizens (‘for two weeks a man and a woman were standing in front of the church, chained to the hellish stone ‘ – a quotation from the town chronicles). What is more, in 1636 the town council hired ‘a custodian of morals’, whose job was to look for all signs of immorality and debauchery. The post lasted for almost 90 years and was treated very seriously. Unfortunately, no information can be found in the chronicles about the improvement of morals.

In the second half of the nineteenth century three match factories sprang up in Bystrzyca Kłodzka. Since that time the town has been associated with matches. No wonder the Philumenist Museum was founded here; it is the only one in Poland and one of four such museums in the world. It has an extensive and valuable collection of match-box labels and fire-kindling tools, such as tinderboxes and flintlocks up to various types of lighters.

The most interesting tourist trekking routes starting in Bystrzyca Kłodzka are the green ones through the Spalona Pass, Huta and Stará Lomnica and the yellow one through Stará Bystrzyca, Zalesie, Huta, andPokrzywno, ending in Polanica Zdroj.

Lasowka is different from other typical chain villages. And this is not the main reason that it delights us. The village is situated on a gentle and extensive hillside. From the upper side it is closed by the forest edge and in the lower parts it borders on the Wild Orlica River. The river is somehow stubborn; it flows upstream towards the North Sea instead of the Baltic. As in an old pastoral settlement, among meadows and streams old cottages and new, sometimes pretentious, bungalows are scattered. Nowadays Lasowka is a holiday village with beautiful views of the hillsides and peaks of the Orlické Mountains.

The beginning of the village was a glass-workers’ settlement proudly called Kaiserwalde (1662). The only remains of it is a forester’s lodge called ‘Royal Forest’. In the 1660s A. Peterhausel, a glass-worker master from nearby Bedrichov, set up the first glassworks. About 100 years later, the Rohrbach brothers, founders of modern glass-making in the Klodzko area, rented the glassworks. In those times the villages of Lasowka, nearby Mos-towice and Piaskowice formed a real glass-making region. Hundreds of tons of drawn glass, window-panes, laboratory glassware and crystal glass well known in Europe were produced there every year. In 1825 in the village there were 42 buildings, 6 waving workshops, a watermill and a limestone kiln, a brewery and a distillery. In the middle of the nineteenth century the village had a small match factory. There was also a country tavern with rooms for rent (however, a similar venue in nearby Zelenka, on the other side of the border, was more popular with a more demanding clientele). At the beginning of the twentieth century Lasowka was a well-known holiday village, often visited by tourists. Now it is regaining this character, however, with its sometimes incidential architecture.

Nothing is written in Polish tourist guides that Lasowka was the...
Lasowka

Lasowka Mostowice

The village of Mostowice has its few houses scattered in the place where the Sudeten Highway leaves the valley of the Wild Orlica and climbs to the east towards Spalona Pass. Due to scenic landscapes and climate conditions as well as a convenient location near the border crossing to Orlice Zahori, the tiny holiday village has interesting prospects.

The border crossing in Mostowice in 2003

Birthplace of Herman Kohl – one of the world’s most famous pilots. He was the first man to cross the Atlantic from the East to the West in a single engine Junkers W-33 monoplane. He was accompanied by an Irishman, James Fitzmaurice, and Gunter von Hunfeld, also called ‘The Crazy Baron’. They took off on April 12, 1928, and after 36 hours landed on Green Isle in the Gulf of St. Laurence. Countless crowds welcomed the three heroes in New York and Chicago. In his early youth Herman often visited Duszniki’s boarding house called ‘Prinzessin Charlotte’ (today ‘Piastow Grod’). During the First World War, with his friends (Ernst Udet and Manfred von Richthofen, the flying aces) he gave flying shows over the health resort of Duszniki.

The Main Sudeten Tourist Route (about 350 km long) named after M. Orlowicz runs through Lasowka. In the Bystrzyca area it runs through the Spalona Pass, Dlugopole Zdroj, Wilkanow, Igliczna and Miedzygorze.
It is almost certain that originally a border watch-tower existed in the area and as time went by it developed into a settlement. The first mention of it in written sources comes from 1596 and mentions a village of **Langebruck**. It is likely that its inhabitants were to watch game in local forest and protect it against Czech hunters. In the eighteenth century Mostowice belonged to the Miedzylesie territory which was ruled by the Althanns. At the end of the century it was owned by Baron von Stillfried from Szczytna. In those times Mostowice was not only a village but a small town with about 1500 inhabitants.

**In the nineteenth century, Mostowice, which from 1840 was owned by Princess Marianna Oranska, was the largest and the most industrialized village in the Bystrzyckie Mountains.** There were four watermills, numerous weaving workshops, a blacksmith’s shop, a brewery, a distillery, a sawmill and even a customs office. Handmade paper was produced in a small paper mill, and there were match factories and a wooden toy factory. There was also a one-of-a-kind Prussian artificial lapidary workshop producing glass pearls for making jewellery. The beauty of the village attracted many tourists, skiers and holidaymakers.

After a long process of village depopulation in the Bystrzyckie Mountains, only 7 farms with 25 inhabitants remained in Mostowice in 1978. A tourist who accidentally finds the place can stop to admire the slightly undulating valley of the Wild Orlica River. From the nearby hills he or she will see a tower of a Baroque church, buildings of Orlicke Zahori, meadows and fields, and the beginning of forests on the side hills of the Orlicke Mountains. In the village one can see a modest Baroque church from 1780 with an onion dome on its tower. In front of the church stands a stone figure of St. John Nepomuk and a small monument commemorating the victims of the First World War.
Let us begin with a little sensation or rather confusion which was revealed in the beginning of 2002. The mountain hostel ‘Jagodna’, owned by the Polish Tourist Society, was named after the highest peak of the Bystrzyckie Mountains. However, it appeared that the peak might be de-throned. A well-known mountain expert, Mariusz Szatkowski, thoroughly studied 242 topographical maps, including the oldest ones available. He discovered that Polish maps had listed the wrong heights of some peaks in the Sudety. Moreover, some of these peaks are not the highest ones, and Jagodna is placed among them. Contour lines indicate that a nameless peak (985m) lies about 1000 metres north of Jagodna (977m). It cannot be mistaken for Sasanka (965m) as it lies about 400 metres away to the south-west and about 125 metres to the west away from the blue trekking route. If more accurate geodetic measurement proves Mr Szatkowski’s hypothesis, we will probably have New Jagodna (988 metres above sea level).

Spalona (‘Burnt’) is a village lying below a mountain pass of the same name. It took its name after a great fire in 1474. Spalona Pass is situated at 800-815 metres above sea level on a gentle hillside of Sasin. It is the most important tourist and road hub in the middle of the Bystrzyckie Mountains. Three important roads connect here: the Sudecka Highway, running from the valley of the Wild Orlica, the Burnt Road from Bystrzyca Klodzka and the Curved Road from the upper parts of the village of Młoty. On the pass an eco-tourist farm coexists with the mountain hostel ‘Jagodna’. The hostel is trendy and convenient for today’s tourists who prefer to reach a mountain by car. Cyclists and skiers also often stay at the hostel. Long lasting snow cover and excellent landform features favour cross-country skiing: a 22-kilometre long ski route, marked with yellow signs, goes to Zieleniec.
The first tavern owned by Hartmann was built on the pass in 1870. It was soon changed into a mountain hostel called ‘Hartmannsbaude’. A quarter of the century later a bigger tavern with huge verandas was built. It served as a typical mountain hostel, and a mail-coach service started to operate there in 1924. Today’s hostel has 50 accommodation places. It is owned by the Polish Tourist Society and is situated in the same building, although it has been renovated and enlarged.

The hostel’s interior is tastefully designed. In the main dining room stands an old sofa on which apparently Hermann Goring used to sit. It is almost sure that the Commander-in-Chief of the Luftwaffe and Marshall of the Third Reich used to visit the region to hunt during the 1930s and 1940s. His landing field was in Duszniki, and the runway on the plateau of Wojtowska Rownia was an excellent place to train Nazi glider pilots. Today the area is often used by paragliders.

The most important and longest three tourist routes (red, blue and green) meet on the pass. The Cross-Sudeten Horseback Riding Route also runs through here.

The process of depopulation of higher situated villages and settlements in the Bystrzyckie Mountains had two stages. The first one, in the 1890s, was quite slow; in the second stage, after 1945, new settlers quickly left the places which were difficult to live in. Rudawa survived by a miracle. In the 1960s it was joined to nearby Mostowice and Poniatow but soon after that it was discovered as a perfect holiday village. Rudawa is beautifully situated in a distinct narrowing of the Wild Orlica Valley, at the feet of Jagodna, from which three streams flow down.

The scenery of the area resembles Alpine landscapes. The view of three nearly 1000 metre high peaks of the Orlickie Mountains and two little villages on the other side of the river – Podlese and Nova Ves – is wonderful.

Settled with Czech inhabitants, the village was first mentioned in written sources in 1574 as Sztolne Zwiry. It was at the time of border disputes about the Wild Orlica Valley. The disputes lasted for nearly 15 years. Until 1684 the village was part of the royal demesnes, then it was owned by Count von Althann from Miedzylesie, Count von Magnis and Princess Marianna Oranska.

Early in its history, iron and copper ores were mined in the surroundings of Rudawa which were then smelted in nearby ironworks. The village’s golden age was the middle of the nineteenth century. Apart from the metallurgical industry, hand weaving flour-
In 1840 Rudawa had 491 inhabitants and in 1880 the number had reached 655. What does Rudawa offer today? Except for natural features there is a modest eco-tourist base and two tourist/leisure centres. One of them, called ‘Orlica’, is situated close to an artificial lake on the Wild Orlica River and is not far from a ski lift. It is the place where the Polish and Czech prime ministers, Hanna Suchocka and Vaclav Klaus, met in 1992. The valley is a perfect place for those tourists who are interested in traces of the past. They can be found in Rudawa itself as well as in side valleys where old hamlets were once located.

In the centre of the village there are two houses, two barns, a nice boarding house called ‘Baca’ and a small church. The Baroque church was built in the eighteenth century and later rebuilt. Its roof and tower glitter against a background of dark spruce trees. In one corner of the church courtyard German gravestones can be found. In another corner gravestones are piled up untidily and are mostly without inscriptions. There is also a stone statue of St. John Nepomuk, a crucifixion figure from the beginning of the nineteenth century, and a stone chapel built in 2003.

Going from Rudawa to the Pass Over Poreba we can see the village of Poniatów on the right. Once the village was quite big, now it is small with dense buildings. From the road only roofs and a church tower can be seen. From Rudawa we can also go to Niemojow – a small village with a border cross, where Habsburg emperors came to hunt in the sixteenth century. At the turn of the nineteenth and twentieth centuries the village was an important centre of cross-country skiing.
on the nearby fields and meadows is enough to see a wonderful wide panorama of the mountains. The higher we go, the better the view.

However, the origins of Poreba are very old. In documents it was first mentioned in 1360. It was probably a Czech settlement from the first part of the thirteenth century. In 1294 the Czech king Vaclav II gave the village to the Cistercians from Kamienieck Zakowicki. Then it was owned by the Glaubitzes, Count von Althann, Count von Magnis and finally by Princess Marianna Oranska.

One of the most famous events from the history of the area was the peasants’ revolt in 1622. During the Thirty Years’ War farmers from Poreba, Ponikwa and some other villages put up resistance against soldiers exacting war tribute. They even laid siege to the town of Bystrzyc Kłodzka with its regiment of von Lichtenstein’s dragoons. Only a few thousand of cruel Lisowczyk’s troops managed to restore order in the area.

The inhabitants of Poreba, the village on the east hillsides of Jagodna and Deboz, were mostly farmers and craftsmen. They raised a lot of cattle, mainly draught oxen. In the sunny valley wine growing and fruit farming were developed. At the end of the nineteenth century Poreba was widely famous for delicious plums and plum vodka. No wonder the village was frequently visited by patients from Dlugopole-Zdroj who walked through the Bukowa Valley (‘Buckeltal’) and climbed Mount Jedlnik, not only to admire beautiful views but also to stop by country taverns.

February 27, 1802, was a tragic day in the history of Poreba. A big avalanche rolled down the mountainside of Deboz. It killed nine people and destroyed two farm houses standing in front of the tavern. It was the first and only avalanche in the Bystrzyckie Mountains.

The village has some interesting monuments. There is a church from 1576, completely rebuilt into a Baroque church in the eighteenth century. Near the church stand a crucifixion figure and an original sandstone penitential cross with very short arms and unusual decorations.

A 300-year-old yew tree standing by the road is an important natural feature. It is 14 metres high, has the circumference of 268 cm and is one of the highest trees in the Sudety. Above the village one can find underground tunnels bored in solid rock in 1938. They were built as military storehouses. In the vicinity of the tunnels a few bunkers are located and in one of them a cannon stand is placed. Under the Sudecka Highway a system of mine tunnels was found.

Following a winding and steep road one can reach the Pass Over Poreba (690 m above sea level) and the Sudecka Highway again. The latter was completed in 1938 as a part of Sudecka Road. To this day discussions about the purpose of building the highway - military or tourist - have been taking place. The builders probably had the two aims in mind. Apart from that, one thing is indisputable: it is one of the most beautiful mountain roads in the country. The stretch from the Pass Over Poreba to the village of Gniewoszow goes round the hillsides of Deboz and Jedlnik and the views from the road are simply breathtaking.

Let us follow the road to Gniewoszów. From there a blue tourist route will lead us to two tourist attractions. One of them is located above the Devil’s Rocks – it is the ruin of the Szczerba Castle, one of the medieval guard castles in the Kłodzko Land. The second attraction is a small cave called Solna Jama (‘Salty Cave’) that has a small pond inside of it.
This small spa, squeezed between forested hills, has an idyllic atmosphere. The hospital and the park are located on terraces sheltered by trees. It is a quiet, almost somnolent place.

The oldest mention from 1338 states that Dlugopole originated from a settlement called Legowice, which supplied the nearby Bystrzyca Klodzka with hay. In the middle of the sixteenth century an alum mine operated here and gold was looked for. Instead of gold, in 1563 ferrous water was found, which flowed from one of the drifts. Later it turned out to be treasure more precious than gold. Local inhabitants bathed in the water, drank it and even mixed it with wine to get a sparkling drink. The spring was enclosed in a wooden and later stone channel.

The first man to have a vague idea of a spa was a local miller who put a large bathing vat in a nearby house. Chronicles do not say whether he charged any money for bathing or not. It is curious that in 1789 the village was called ‘Bad Langenau’, even though water from the ‘Emilia’ spring was found nine years later. Between the years 1817 and 1834 new facilities were built: a wooden boarding house for patients, a pump room above the ‘Emilia’ spring and a brick Spa House. But it was Dr Julius Hancke from Wroclaw and his descendants who turned Dlugopole into a real spa resort. He established a big Spa Park and built a new pump room in neo-Gothic style. Soon, a walking colonnade and new bath houses were built. The spa became popular not only in Germany – many guests came from Silesia and Great Poland. Since therapeutic mud was used in treatment, Dlugopole was also called ‘Silesian Marienbad’.

There is no exaggeration in a saying that mountain tourism was born in spas. Highlanders do not climb peaks for no apparent reasons but spa patients were the first to look for beautiful views, romantic places and the richness of folklore. Special view points were established for guests from Dlugopole-Zdroj. The oldest one was on Wyszkowski Ridge and was called ‘Belvedere’. Later, on the same ridge new view points were set up which were called ‘Mariens Dank’ and ‘Scharfe Ecke’. There was a wooden observation cabin below the peak of Mount Wronka. Patients often hired cabs to visit the Piekielna Valley, the Bukowa Valley and Poreba. Favourite destinations...
In July 1997 the Wilczka River went crazy. It flowed through Miedzygorze with unprecedented strength and changed its famous waterfall. The cascade was divided into two parts and the sill of the waterfall was lowered by 7 (some say that 4) metres. This caused the Karkonosze’s ‘Kamienczyk’ (27 metres) now to be the highest waterfall in the Sudety Mountains. On the night of 8 July the same Wilczka River together with the Nysa Klodzka River wiped out everything in its path in the nearby village of Wilkanow.

Miedzygorze is a well-known tourist–recreation-al village and a health resort at the foot of the Śnieżnik Massif. In 1840 Princess Marianna Oranska purchased the land and transformed a small, hidden woodcutters’ settlement in the mountains into an absolute tourist-holiday miracle. In 1870 a real tourist tavern called ‘Pod Dobra Data’ (‘Zur Guten Laune’) was built. It was leased by Joseph Weiss, the owner of ‘Blekitny Jelen’ (‘Blaue Hirsch’) in Bystrzyca Klodzka. A year later a tourist hostel called ‘Szwajcarka’ was completed on a mountain pasture below the peak of Mount Śnieżnik. Marianna Oranska came to the opening ceremony carried in a sedan chair, which was a popular way of visiting the mountains by eminent personages. Most of Miedzygorze’s typical wooden buildings were set up in those times. They were modelled after Tirol and Scandinavian folk and spa build-
At the turn of the nineteenth and twentieth centuries Miedzygorze had ambitions to become a winter sports centre. In January 1897 the first, 10 kilometer long sleighing slide from the pasture below Śnieżnik took place. The sleigh was specially brought from the Karkonosze Mountains. Apart from that, tobogganing and cross-country skiing were developing.

Not many lovers of Alpine skiing know that its famous creator and author of the first skiing textbook, Mathias Zdarsky, ran his courses just in Miedzygorze, the only place in the Sudety Mountains. The courses were organized by the Wrocław section of GGV in the years 1911-1913. Zdarsky had his Miedzygorze base in the Tiroler Hof Hotel. The beginnings were then very promising: in 1908 a Winter Sports Society was established in Starkow and Marianowka and a year later in Niemojow. There were also ski-clubs in Kłodzko and Walbrzych. During the interwar period tourists in Miedzygorze could stay at ten hotels and fourteen boarding houses. There was also a ski jump, two toboggan runs, a skating rink and a swimming pool.

One of the most interesting monuments in Miedzygorze is a wooden, St. Joseph’s church from 1740, and popular tourist attractions are the Fairy Tale Garden, Marianna’s house, the dam on the Wilczka River and a waterfall, which runs through a deep and steep gorge.

Miedzygorze is a hub of tourist tracks and a convenient trip starting point in the Śnieżnik Massif. The Bear Cave, the Czarna Gora ski station, the Bialskie and Złote Mountains are easily accessible. Our Czech neighbours often organize hikes in the Śnieżnik area.
The charm of Miedzygorze was first discovered in the middle of the eighteenth century by pilgrims traveling to visit the miraculous figure of Snowy Mary, a faithful copy of the figure of Mother of God from the Maria Zell sanctuary in Austria. In the years 1781-1782 a Baroque-Classical church was built specially for the figure. Later, the church was extended – a tower and a gallery were built. In the same time the first Stations of the Cross leading from the church to the peak of Igliczna mountain were set up. The Rosary Way goes along the path from the church down to the dam on the Wilczka river.

The small lime wood figure is still visited by pilgrims, tourists, holidaymakers and local parishioners. The Sanctuary was visited by bishop Karol Wojtyla in 1961 and 1968. In June 1983, during the second pilgrimage to his homeland, the Pope John Paul II crowned the figure of Snowy Mary.

Close to the church stands a tourist hostel called 'Na Iglicznej'. It is located in a former timber and brick country tavern from about 1880.

The beginnings of Gorzanow cannot be precisely dated. It is known that an old knights settlement and a small castle, destroyed during the Hussite Wars, existed here in 1343. Development of Gorzanow is connected with the Herberstein family who owned the palace and the land until the 1830s. Frederic von Herberstein was called the Bloody Count. As an insatiable master, he declared a long-lasting war on rebellious peasants. Johann Hieronymus Herberstein established a court theatre with amateur and professional stages. The theatre was managed by a famous Silesian writer and actor, Karl von Holtei. At the beginning of the twentieth century the Mystery of Christ's Passion, which was performed outdoors, became famous around Europe. The whole village was then transformed into one big stage.

Not many manor houses in the whole Sudety Mountains could equal the Gorzanow's palace. It was built about 1570 in the Renaissance-Mannerism style, and in 1653-57 was extended as Baroque by J. Carove. It has a monumental entrance gate and an inner courtyard. Outside the palace, outbuildings dating from sixteenth to nineteenth centuries are located.

The most famous of all park buildings (the so-called Nymphen, an impressive round garden pavilion with four entrances and rich decorations inside), remained in dreadful condition. Only stones and the remains of ancient heroes bear witness to the beauty of the place.

One of the other monumental buildings which should be mentioned is St. Mary Magdalene’s church from the fourteenth century. Originally Gothic, it was thoroughly rebuilt into early-Baroque style in the seventeenth and eighteenth centuries. The inside is breathtaking. The main Baroque-Rococo altar was carved by M.I. Klahr. Near the church stands a Baroque graveyard chapel. The whole area is surrounded by a stone wall with two attic gates and three
chapels from the period of the last alteration. Furthermore, in the hamlet of Muszyn a Renaissance manor house from the sixteenth century is located. Remains of a similar house can be found in the hamlet of Raczyn. In the whole village there are a lot of old houses and roadside figures. There is also a penitential cross.

Gorzanow is well known for more reasons. One of them is mineral water. **Seven mineral springs were found here.** Of these, only two - ‘Cyranka’ and ‘Mineral’ - are currently used. In the years 1969-1985 the waters from Gorzanow were recognized as therapeutic and bottled in Stronie Slaskie under the name of ‘Kryształ’.

The other reason is the unprecedented number of figures of the same saint. It is unbelievable that in only one village five figures of St. John Nepomuk can be found. The saint is the patron saint of Prague and was mainly worshipped in Czech, Moravy and Silesia. One of the five Gorzanow’s ‘Nepomuks’ is in the St. Mary Magdalene’s church and, which is very rare, is depicted in a lying position.

Other religious sites are located in the beautiful and quiet hillside of **Debowa Gora.** St. Anthony’s chapel was built there, close to which a hermit’s house once stood. Near the chapel there is a Baroque pieta from 1734 and a sandstone statue of St. Onufry. It is believed that St. Onufry helped realize people’s dreams. He was especially sensitive to prayers of pregnant mothers and young women looking for husbands.

If Gorzanow had not delighted us at the very beginning, let us look at it from these religious sites. The village looks simply beautiful from here.

The green tourist route starts in Gorzanow. It runs through Stara Lomnica, Huta, the Spalona pass, goes past Lyson mountain (598 metres above sea level) and reaches Bystrzyca Klodzka.
Nowa Bystrzyca is situated above Stara Bystrzyca in the beautiful valley of the Mala Bystrzyca River. Its buildings reach the upper parts of the valley. Despite the spring of highly carbonated mineral water, the village will never become a spa. This is due to the very busy road running through the middle of the town directly to the Spalona pass. The most probable date of the beginning of the village is the first part of the fourteenth century, although the first written mention comes from 1414.

Originally Nowa Bystrzyca was a private possession, then, until 1684, it was part of the royal land and finally it belonged to Bystrzyca Klodzka. The village developed very quickly – in 1787 it had 500 inhabitants. They were mainly farmers and craftsmen dealing with millstones. At the turn of the nineteenth and twentieth centuries Nowa Bystrzyca consolidated its farm-industrial character, which has been preserved up until then – 15 weaving workshops, a sawmill and a paper mill were in operation there.

In 1864 Spalona Droga (‘Burnt Road’) was completed. In the interwar period it joined the Sudecka Highway so that tourist traffic towards the Spalona Pass and Jagodna Mountain could easily develop. This unusual road was named after a terrible fire from 1473. The fire started near Nowa Bystrzyca and within 6 weeks burned to ashes almost everything on its way to the pass. The road is 8.5 kilometres long and is very steep. Its most beautiful part starts at the last village buildings. From here the road meanders fancifully up the hill to reach the Spalona Pass. The views from the road are just breathtaking. No wonder cycling and motor races are organized on the road.

Quite a lot of old wooden and brick houses have survived up to present time. Some of them should undoubtedly be preserved. They are old wooden cottages with small front galleries roofs showing the influence of Czech folk architecture. There is also an old manor house. The most attractive are wooden houses in the upper part of the village. Modernization did not change their old architectural character. Moreover, the beautiful surroundings of the houses are their greatest asset.
Zalesie is the best hidden village in the Bystrzyca Klodzka area and perhaps in the whole Sudety Mountains. It is hard to find the road linking it with the rest of the world. The village is squeezed in a deep and narrow but picturesque valley. Through the valley an inconspicuous mountain stream flows. It is called the Drwina ('Mockery'). Why? Maybe because in the past the stream was often unpredictable. One day in May 1882 the Drwina mocked the inhabitants of Zalesie by flooding their houses and causing havoc throughout the area. After that, the population of the village never regained the previous number of almost 300 inhabitants. Nowadays, Zalesie is quiet, sleepy and a little mysterious.

Tourists come to Zalesie to see a wooden church with a pencil-like tower from 1718. The church is very small, as if there was no room for a bigger one in the valley of the Drwina. The building is beautifully renovated, has a shingled roof and stands on a white underpinning. Near the church there is a small graveyard, surrounded by thuyas, with graves of the Sudeten Germans and Polish settlers who came here after the World War II.

The inside of the church is an absolute miracle. One can feel dizzy watching all the paintings covering the ceiling of the nave, the chancel and the organ gallery. The collection of wooden polychromes consists of 56 scenes from the Old and New Testaments. It is simply called the ‘Biblia Pauperum’ ('Bible for the poor'), a Bible for those who could not read. Each scene contains a number of corresponding paragraphs from the Bible so it is worth watching the pictures with the book in our hands. The folk painters are unknown – they signed the pictures in Gothic script and did not care about spelling.

Today Zalesie has only a dozen houses which are similar to those in other villages in the Bystrzyckie Mountains. In the upper part of the village a stone pillar-like chapel stands. As we walk up the road along the yellow tourist route we can reach a small village named Huta. Its inhabitants used to hunt forest birds and worked in a local, the oldest in the Klodzko Land, glassworks. On the right, just before Huta we can climb Barczowa mountain (811m) which is probably the best viewpoint in the middle of the Bystrzyckie Mountains. The whole Klodzko Land, the Upper Nysa Valley, the Snieznik Massif and the Bystrzyckie and Orlicke Mountains can be seen from there. On the right from the hill we can find ruins of Wilhelm’s Fort.

If we go across the green tourist route, we take a long straight road called Wieczność (‘Eternity’) at which a stone figure stands. It is named ‘The Guard of Eternity’. At the crossing of the yellow and green routes we have two ways. On the right, going North, we take Stanislaw’s Road (former Wrede’s), which is very attractive in terms of beautiful views. It can be compared only to the part of the Sudecka Highway from the Poreba pass to Gniewoszow. On the left we go along the edge of the Wojtowska Plain and near a forgotten small church with the stone Calvary we turn left to the village of Wojtowice. Suddenly a small valley with two architectural features can be seen: a pseudo-basilican church and a massive building of a luxurious holiday centre named ‘Pod Debem’.

From Wojtowice we can go through Mloty and Crossroads pod Uboczem to Lasowka where our trip around border villages of the community of Bystrzyca Klodzka ends.
COUNTRY CODE FOR POLAND +48

EMERGENCY AND INFORMATION TELEPHONE NUMBERS
Emergency number: 112
Police: 997, 74 811 11 03
Fire Brigade: 998, 74 811 54 00
Emergency Ambulance Service: 999, 74 811 39 99
• Bystrzyckie Centrum Zdrowia – hospital, ul. S. Okrzei 49, tel. 74 811 15 77
Mountain Search and Rescue Team (GOPR), ul. Śnieżna 23, Międzygorze tel. 601 100 300
Municipal Office in Bystrzyca Kłodzka ul. H. Sienkiewicza 6, tel. 74 811 76 05, fax 74 811 15 88, www.bystrzyaca.klodzka.pl e-mail: promocja@bystrzyaca.klodzka.pl

CULTURE
Municipal Cultural Center ul. Wojska Polskiego 20, Bystrzyca Kłodzka tel./fax 74 811 05 91, e-mail: mgok@pknet.pl www.mgok.pknet.pl
Philharmeny Museum Mały Rynek 1, Bystrzyca Kłodzka, tel./fax 74 811 06 37, e-mail: muzeum.filumen@wp.pl www.muzeum.filumenistyka.pl
Chamber of Agricultural Remembrance of the Municipalities of the Śnieżnik Mountain Range, Bystrzyca Kłodzka, ul. Kolejowa 5, tel. 74 811 25 27
Municipal Public Library, Pl. Wolności 16, tel. 74 811 14 47, e-mail: biblioteka.bystrzyca.pl www.biblioteka.bystrzyca.pl
National Music School ul. Okrzei 34, Bystrzyca Kłodzka, tel. 74 811 03 49, www.psm.bystrzyca.pl e-mail: psm-bk@kki.net.pl

TOURIST SERVICES
Tourist Information Center, Office of the Association of the Municipalities of the Śnieżka Mountain Range, Mały Rynek 2/1, Bystrzyca Kłodzka, tel. 74 811 37 31, fax 74 811 37 07 e-mail: it-bystrzyca@wp.pl www.bystrzycka.klodzka.pl www.turystyka.bystrzyca.klodzka.pl
Tourist Services Center „Poddroże Marzeń”, Plac Wolności 21, Bystrzyca Kłodzka, tel./fax 74 811 10 57 e-mail: podrrozechmarzen@interia.pl www.poddrozechmarzen.com.pl Polish Tourism and Sightseeing Society (PTTK) branch, ul. Wojska Polskiego 2/9, Międzygorze, tel./fax 74 813 51 95, e-mail: pttkmiędzygorze@o2.pl www.pttkmiedzygorze.to.pl
„GoTrans” – mountain sightseeing trips, ul. Snieżna 7, Międzygorze, tel. 74 813 51 47, 503 097 253 e-mail: andrzejsobkowiak@o2.pl Health Resort Clients Service Center ul. Wolna 2, Długopole-Zdrój, tel. 74 813 90 45, tel./fax 74 813 90 51, e-mail: dlugopole@uzdrowisko-ladek.pl www.uzdrowisko-ladek.pl

CASH MACHINES
• Bank BZWBK - ul. Mickiewicza 8
• Bank PKO BP - Pl. Wolności 10
• Bank BGŻ - ul. Wojska Polskiego 20
• Bank Spółdzielczy - ul. Sienkiewicza 2
• Euronet - ul. Strażacka 8
• Państwowy Bank Spółdzielczy w Strzelinie - Os. Szkolne 106/17

PHARMACIES
• Apteka „Bystrzycka”, ul. Okrzei 12, tel. 74 811 14 21
• Apteka „Herbana”, Os. Szkolne 10, tel. 74 811 10 10
• Apteka „Centralna”, ul. Mickiewicza 15, tel. 74 811 42 97
• Apteka „Przy Netto”, ul. Mickiewicza 3, tel. 74 869 87 41
• Apteka „Słoneczna”, Pl. Wolności 28-29, tel. 74 866 88 45

MUNICIPAL TOURIST INFORMATION CENTERS
Branch of the Municipal Public Library of Bystrzyca Kłodzka ul. Zdrojowa 17, Długopole-Zdrój, tel. 74 813 91 70, e-mail: bibliodlugopole@wp.pl
• Gorzanów Enthusiasts’ Society ul. Kłodzka 8, Gorzanów tel. 607 799 271, 74 812 10 06 e-mail: tmg.gorzanow@wp.pl
• Lesówka 56, tel. 605 527 427, e-mail: aleo@podzieleczm.pl
• “Na Iglicznej” Mountain Hostel Góra Igliczna 2, tel. 74 813 51 18 e-mail: igliczna@wp.pl
• “Jagodna” Mountain Hostel run by the Polish Tourism and Sightseeing Society (PTTK) Spalona 6, tel. 74 811 98 16

SPORT, RECREATION, TOURISM
Sports stadium and open-air gym, ul. Mickiewicza 14, Bystrzyca Kłodzka, tel. 74 811 76 75
Tennis courts, ul. Strażacka, Bystrzyca Kłodzka, tel. 74 811 76 75
Swimming pool, ul. Floriańska, Bystrzyca Kłodzka, tel. 74 811 76 75
Multi-purpose playing field „Orlik 2012”, ul. Ludowa, Bystrzyca Kłodzka, tel. 74 811 76 75

SKIING AND BIKING EQUIPMENT RENTAL STATIONS
Bystrzyca Kłodzka Bike and sports shop, service center, rental of bikes and Nordic walking poles: ul. J. Słowackiego 3, tel. 74 644 14 41, 515 186 430, e-mail: rowerowy@vp.pl
Międzygorze The “Śnieżnik” Center – rental of skiing and biking equipment, baby carriers, and Nordic walking poles; Nordic walking courses; organization of hikes and bike trips with transport to Czarna Góra and Spalona: ul. Wojska Polskiego 6 tel. 502 525 564, 793 010 909 www.centrumśnieznik.pl e-mail: biuro@centrumśnieznik.pl

Spalona Ski rental station by the ski lift in Spalona: tel. 74 811 90 39, 695 420 688
Ski Rental Station – “U Jeremiego” Bar: Spalona 4a, tel. 74 811 90 99, 601 801 305 Stara Bystrzyca Bike rental station – Stacja Przygoda, ul. Bystrzycka 48, tel. 531 774 327, www.stacjaprzygoda.pl e-mail: marek@stacjaprzygoda.pl