ERRANT WANDERERS’ ROAD

Guide to the Bystrzycka Region for Active People

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to the Bystrzycka Region
for Active People
There is such a region...

And in this region, in the north part of the Bystyczkie Mountains, there is Droga Zbłąkanych Wędrowców (the Errant Wanderers’ Road). It starts near the church in Lasówka and runs by meadows through thick, spruce forests. It ends up at Zielona Droga (the Green Road), passing the Biesiec and Piekielnica peaks from the east. Whoever gave it such a name must have been a great romantic and we have decided to use it as the title of our guide. Although, this does not mean that the trails described herein lead tourists “down the garden path”.

The Bystrzyca Kłodzka region is spread along the Rów Górnej Nysy (the Upper Nysa Trench), and on the slopes of two massifs, the trench being one of a kind even in a sub region as unique as the Kłodzko Region. At the bottom of the RGN (we will use this abbreviation) flows the Nysa Kłodzka, which back in the Pleistocene era carried its waters slightly differently - through Domaszków and Wilkanów. Glacial sediments covered its bed, so it carved out a new one, which is the one we know today.

The RGN stretches approx. 30 km from the Stara Łomnica-Przełęcz Mielnicka (Stara Łomnica - Mielnicka Pass) line to Przełęcz Międzyleska (the Międzyleska Pass) and has an average width of 10 km.

This tectonic trench was only separated from the Kłodzko valley in the middle of the last century; hence it is still contained in the name of the valley according to custom. If you are looking for a comparison, this central Sudety depression is like a miniature version of the great trenches in Africa.

Nature gave the RGN an excellent setting. Its apparent monotony is broken up by the Idzików and Łomnica uplands, Wyszkowski Grzbiet (Wyszkowski Ridge) and, the most picturesque, northern part of Krowiarki. From the West, the RGN is closed off by the impressive ridge of Góry Bystrzyckie (the Bystrzyckie mountains) (approx. 40 km in length), thickly wooded with wide forest vistas which sometimes stretch out as far as the eye can see. The mountains are cut by the wild Bystrzyca Łomnicka valley, Spalona Droga (the Spalona Trail) which stretches from Przełęcz Spalona (the Spalona Pass) to Mostowice, and the route from Długopole-Zdrój to Przełęcz nad Porębą (the Poręba Pass). The almost flush upland of the massif approaches on the south from Spalona in clearly distinct ridges. The western border of the Bystrzycke Mountains is the Dolina Dzikiej Orlicy (the Dzika Orlica Valley), considered to be one of the five most beautiful valleys in the Sudety Mountains. Rising above it further on
there is the parallel range of Góry Orlickie (the Orlickie Mountains), also known as the Czech Comb, the kingdom of the legendary Kačenka who did not want Karkonosz.

On the other side there is the meeting point of the RGN and the Śnieżnik Massif – a place absolutely unique in the Polish mountains. Its longest offshoot, which runs north, is 23 km long and is distinctly divided from the Puchaczówka pass. In front of it – Zmiowiec and Czarna Góra, behind it – the Krowiarki range which ends near Żelazno with the low mountains Dębowa and Wapniarka. The most picturesque is the short western branch with Iglizna and Jaworowa Kopa mountains.

In such a space and surroundings, in the stair-like formation of the tectonic ledges of the RGN, closed in by beautiful mountain ranges, the borders of the Bystrzycka region are set out.

The tourist infrastructure, neglected after the war not only in the Bystrzyckie Mountains, has almost been re-born in a new shape – guesthouses and agro-tourism farms. Now you do not have to search for accommodation in Lasówka and Mostowice, in Poręba and Poniatów, in Nowa Bystrzyca, Stara Łomnica and every other village.

On the other side of the RGN there is a different kind of landscape of mountains that are farther, higher and more divided, ideal for downhill skiers, ski-tourers and cyclists who dream of excessive and extreme descents. There is also something special there for cross-country skiers – an idyllic trail, under the wooded wall of Śnieżnicki Park Krajobrazowy (Śnieżnicki Landscape Park) on the Nowa Wieś-Jaworek-Szklary-Marianówka-Idzików line.

The lovely tradition of winter sports, which was born in Międzygórze, has been forgotten. Międzygórze was regarded as a miniature of the Alps and Nordic mountains, created here by Princess Marianne of the Netherlands, the Lady of the palace in Krzemieniec Ząbkowicki. From Karkonosze to Międzygórze, it became fashionable to ride on horned sleds; several examples of the sporting version of these were bought up by the Bystrzyca section of GGV. The first downhill skiing in the Sudety was led by Mathias Zdarsky from Vienna - the undoubted father of Alpine winter madness.
Using the guidebook

The arrangement of 18 basic tourist trails - excluding walks and short excursions - is based in this guidebook around four main points (Bystrzyca Kłodzka, Długopole–Zdrój, the Spalona Pass and Międzygórze) from which the trails go, as a rule, in the closest region to the RGN and the massifs rising above it. We have taken care to go about this in such a way as to not repeat anything in any section. If they happen to coincide or break off somewhere, the reader will find a reference to that point (the trail number in brackets).

The sightseeing content has been kept to an absolute minimum in this guide because we recognise that tourists will want to discover and experience the rest for themselves.

Abbreviations used:

RGN – Rów Górnej Nysy (Upper Nysa Trench)
GSS – Główny Szlak Sudecki (Main Sudety Trail)
e.g. 4.20h – walking time 4 hrs and 20 min.
e.g. (862) – height above sea level in metres
szl.(tr) – szlak (trail)
– nice view
– pretty view
– beautiful view
– full-day trip
– half-day trip

Practical information and advice

This is for those who go to the mountains occasionally or by chance, or who have decided to give it a go and are ambitious with new challenges.

Emergency number of the GOPR (Volunteer Mountain Rescue Service) in the mountains
601 100 300

GOPR in the region Wałbrzych – Kłodzko
emergency number 985
contact telephone no. 74 84 23 414

GOPR rescue station in Zieleniec
74 86 68 121

In Międzygórze
74 81 35 226

Mountain Rescue Service (Czech)
+420 602 385 555

Signal to call for help in the mountains - the same throughout the world (vocally or visually): every 10 seconds, or 6 times/minute, a break for the next minute and then the signal again. Reply to the call (indicating that help is on its way) – a signal 3 times/minute.

On the Trail

Even on the marked trail, we should remember the principle of limited confidence. It is already the case that in our mountains it is easy to get lost on trails that are often changed, modified or not well marked. In certain parts, the route cannot even be found with the most recent tourist maps, and the bicycle trails are a complete mish-mash. A less experienced tourist might not understand them and simply get lost. If he then forgets which side he came from and which way the sun is heading - which is not always visible – he is left to search for even the smallest trail of flowing water. Following its course, he will reach the next little brook and then the next until they lead him to the valley, albeit not necessarily the one he wants to end up in. On the Czech side, the marking of tourist trails is very good; distances are given in kilometres, as opposed to our side where they are given in hours and minutes. The Czech make the situation complicated on their part - mainly for us - by branching out trails of the same colour.
Transportation

When planning longer trips that do not go in a loop, it is worth considering travelling one way by train or PKS bus. A weekend tourist ticket allows us to travel all over Poland with PKP "Regional Transport" trains and on 61 set routes on Czech railways – in second class cars of osobowy (Os - slow trains) and przyspieszony (Sp - fast trains).

During the summer tourist season, the Czech company "Orlobus" runs a special bus by the orlicko-kłodzko border for cyclists on the Nove Město nad Metuji – Nachod – Kudowa – Zielieniec – Orlík – Záhoří – Šerlich – Deštné – Město nad Metuji route.

A new sign has been introduced on Czech mountain roads. It is round and blue with a drawing of a little car and snow flake: without winter tyres it is best not to go on because the penalties are high.

Advice

Before setting out on a trail, you should leave information at your place of accommodation about the route you are taking and the time you expect to return. If your plans change, inform GOPR. If you have forgotten to save this number in your mobile phone, you can phone the emergency number of the police or the fire department. For weather forecasts in the mountains and conditions on the trails see www.gopr.pl

How should you act during a storm, which in the higher parts of the mountains can be very severe? You must make a descent (slowly!); do not hide behind trees, especially ones growing on their own, or go under them. Do not support yourself on rocks or lie on the ground. Better to crouch with your legs together or sit on your backpack (also on something that will insulate - wood, plastic). Avoid dips in the terrain and do not approach streams. Put all metal objects in your backpack, turn your mobile phone off, dismount from your bike and do not touch any metal parts on it. Tourists in a group should disperse. It is also useful to know that the leeward side of a mountain ridge is less in danger of being hit by lightning.

A journey in the mountains is also a chance for meeting people, both locals and other hikers. Do not avoid contact with them – they are often a source of valuable information. And do not ignore nature paths, especially when accompanied by children. These are marked by a white square, diagonally dissected by a green stripe. For their cognitive and educational value, it is worthwhile to take these paths on your journey. One such path surrounds Wapniarka near Żelazno.
We start from the middle, creating two winding routes (the other two - Spalona Pass and Międzygórze - are more natural) running from Bystrzyca and reaching close to Długopole-Zdrój.

The most interesting things in the oldest part of Bystrzyca Kłodzka can be seen on the Miejska Trasa Turystyczna (the City Tourist Trail) - medieval walls (less grand only from the west and north) with two stone towers and a tower called “Brama Wodna”, a church that has been rebuilt so many times that only art historians have a grasp of its mix of styles. They would also be able to “pick out” of the mix the residential guard tower of the old head of the village. And of course, we will not miss the square with the wonderful votive column of the Holy Trinity, behind which there are the most beautiful western-fronted tenement houses. This column took the place of a whipping post, which now stands on the Mały Rynek (Small Town Square). With time, as it ceased to be an instrument for “improving morals”, it was made dignified - a lantern was fitted to the top of it. Morals were already being discussed in 1636, when the city council appointed a “fear of God inspector” whose purpose was to hunt down residents who had befouled their bodies and souls in crimes against morality. For almost 90 years, these inspectors - with wretched results - watched over the morality of the townspeople of Bystrzyca and peasants from nearby villages.

But Bystrzyca is best visited without a map: just let yourself wander around the little streets of the old town, stop by stone doorways and peek into the halls with arched ceilings and gutters carved into the stone. We will find such medieval atmosphere while going, for example, from the square on Kościelna Street and continuing along Starobystrzycka, where the house in which Hermann Stehr, one of the most popular German writers of the turn of the 19th and 20th centuries, was born in 1864.

The town, which has rebuilt itself after two terrible fires, constantly captivates with its position on the shores of two rivers. It was referred to as the Silesian Rothenberg for a reason! Let us look at Bystrzyca from Floriańska Street and the bridge there, and then go a short distance on Górna Street to see the upper walls of the tenements with wooden balconies that seem to be hanging over three stair-wise sections of the defensive walls. Among them, there are little gardens.

Bystrzyca is definitely true to its medieval and royal origins.
Where knights lived

Route via Stara Łomnica, Gorzanów and Mielnik to Żelazno. Cyclists from Stara Łomnica take the green trail under Dębowa, via Wapniarka and Przełęcz Mielnicka (the Mielnicka Pass). Return along the other side of route 33 via Piotrowice Dolne and Stary Waliszów; by bicycle, start on the yellow trail.

Along the road and on the trails:

Stara Łomnica
Near the church, there is a group of three renaissance houses, one of which is connected by a passage to a medieval stone knight’s tower of impressive size, which is neglected and apparently privately owned. The aristocratic von Panwitz family built it, and their rather less aristocratic contemporaries have allowed it to fall to ruin.

Gorzanów
Known for its mineral water bottling plant, its “defensive” church towering over the village and, most of all, for the marvellous former residence of the von Herbersteins, which is now in a decrepit state. The splendour of Gorzanów’s palace, its park and gardens, the excellent estate theatre showing, amongst other things, the passion plays, have been a magnet drawing many people and groups of tourists to this most beautiful of Kłodzko’s villages.

Żelazno
The knight’s tower, recently beautifully restored, was built at the end of the 14th century, most likely by the head of the village of Bystrzyca Kłodzka, Jakob Rücker. Next to it there is a church surrounded by a defensive wall, which from the inside is encircled with wooden cloisters. A little farther to the north there is the palace of one of the greatest industrial magnates in Europe, Hermann von Lindheim (which is now a leisure centre).

The yellow track now takes us through so-called karst terrain. To put it most simply, water does various things with limestone cliffs here, so we have vanishing streams, or ponors, springs and karstic funnels and rising springs. The most famous of these is the Romanowski Spring, which can be found by straying a little bit from the yellow or green trail.

The slopes of Dębowa
Here stands the church-fair chapel of St. Anthony, a baroque Pietà and sandstone figure of St. Onufry to whom young women searching for a husband offered begging prayers. Wapniarka is not far from here, on the green trail. It has a viewing tower again, since recently. At the foot of the mountain there are many old lime kilns.
To Mineral Springs and Prussian forts

Set out on the road to Polanica-Zdrój via Stara Łomnica (1). At the end of Starówek, left on Graniczna Street to the village of Pokrzywno (convent of the sacred heart and mission museum). From here, the green trail leads us a short distance to Kamienna Mountain. From the trail, there is a view of Polanica, and then go by path to the ruins of the small Fort Fryderyk (Blokhauz). Return by the comfortable Stanislaw Trail via Łomnicka Równia (again, a beautiful view of Polanica), continue under Anielska Kopa (cliffs) to the village of Huta. The name tells us that there was once a steel mill here. We are now at Wójtowska Równia. Besides views to the south, we have here, on the Wieczność trail (“Eternity” trail), its guard - a strange stone person with a muff and a little cap on his head. Near the green trail (on which we later turn to the village of Młoty) on the left are the remains of Fort Wilhelm with a still well-visible moat. Both forts stood, unneeded, for almost 100 years.

On the route:

To the side of Szklarki, Kolonia Szychów and Szczawina, and therein Źródło Studzienne (the Studzienne Spring) and “Długopolanka” bottling plant. Until 1945, a small health resort with a physiotherapeutic facility was run in Szczawina. In the forest near Nowa Łomnica there are another two ferrous springs which locals call “red” and “white” water.

Młoty
A village, which still has the chance for a hydroelectric pumped storage power station. On the slope of Zamkowa Kopa, wide tunnels had already been carved out and set.

Wójtowice
A summer resort with a pseudo-basilica church and large leisure centre “Pod Dębem”.

A loop via “Spalona”

A short trip for those who like to climb sharp hairpin roads and go down them head first. At first, the trail is flat through Wójtowice (2) and Młoty (2), but from the ranger’s station at the end of the village, winding “stairs” begin, and continue for over 4 km to Przełęcz Spalona (Spalona Pass). The descent from the Spalona route (and what a view from the upper section!) to Nowa Bystrzyca (4) has you practically slamming on the brakes at every crazy turn. You can also complete the route in the opposite direction but on a rather lower dose of adrenaline.
Wooden Churches

We stand in front of them in reflection, awe and with surprise that they are still there. In the entire Kłodzko Region, only four remain - three in the Bystrzyca Klodzka district and one in the neighbouring district (Kamienczyk). We will see two which are very close - Nowa Bystrzyca and Zalesie. We will go there via Stara Bystrzyca, it will only be necessary to backtrack once to the fork in the road. Walkers can vary the route - if they know how to read a map - from Nowa Bystrzyca by the slope of Góra Kościelna (Kościelna Mountain), from Wójtowice in the direction of Huta and the first path on the right via Kościelnica to upper Zalesie. Here, go down via the road and yellow trail.

Nowa Bystrzyca - a village that should have been, but by a strange twist of fate had not become... a living skansen. This alone tells you what cottages and farmhouses you can visit there.

Along the road, fairly busy because it leads to Spalona, there is a wooden church, which looks somewhat bulging but its segmented form gives it certain lightness. The octagonal ave-bell is also magnificent. The interior is modest baroque with an organ with hand-bellows (!) which is over 200 years old.

The little church in Zalesie dates back to 1718, and so is older by only 8 years. It has a very characteristic, but seemingly slightly too high, steeple. It is very “sweet”, fitting beautifully into the surroundings. We cannot miss the opportunity to go inside (locals know who has the key), because where in one single place can you see 56 scenes from the Old and New Testament? Here, painted on wood, is a so-called “pauper’s bible” for believers who could not read.

To Międzygórze (By marked trails)

Yellow trail, return by red trail to Długopole-Zdrój. The route there and back goes across the RGN, almost all the time on terrain which is open on all sides. Just look in front of you and to the side and sometimes behind you. A good hiker who does not make stops can do this in 6 hours. On the route there are, amongst other things, Szklary Village (which used to be on the pilgrims’ trail), the sanctuary of Maria Śnieżna, Ogród Bajek (Fairytale Garden) and Wilkanów, known for being the place where the Wilczka river runs wild. In the village, there is a baroque church and magnificent palace-park complex. Tired hikers can significantly shorten their route by going from Międzygórze to Wilkanów by road.
The health resort is small - teeny tiny, really - but the park is larger than the whole village. The main street, with the added bonus of maple trees and Italian lindens, is 600 metres long. Life here plods along slowly, almost in a dream-like state, seemingly out of reach of everyday worries. On rare occasions, the silence is interrupted by the clatter of a train which will soon disappear into a tunnel in the side of Wronka.

Długopole, connected administratively with Lądek–Zdrój, specialises in treating diseases of the digestive tract, mainly of the liver and bile ducts, and also diseases of the circulatory system and bladder, diabetes, obesity and anaemia. Three oxalic springs flow here (Renata, Emilia and Kazimierz) with high carbon dioxide and iron content. The water is exceptionally tasty and invigorating but it is better to drink it in moderation.

Residents of the area were already making use of the “sour water” in 1563 when it flowed in the alum mine. Approx. 200 years later, Wolf, a local miller “caught” the spring in a wooden trough and built a wooden tank for bathing in a nearby cabin. Supposedly, he had previously fixed a copper vessel to the trough but it disappeared one night. Apparently the thieves thought that the trough itself could be used as a bath.

Before the war, artists, especially painters, appreciated the atmosphere of Długopole and happily settled here. It was known at the time as the “Schlesische Marienbad”.

Walks from Zdrój

To Wronka
A short way from the train station by the red trail, further to the left, on the edge of the hill, roam around the forest paths and finally descend the slope in the direction of the river.

To Piekielna Valley
Red trail through meadows to Ponikwa. By a church on the right. By a shallow and sort of romantic ravine we come to a road at the border of Długopole Dolne and Zdrój.

From bridge to bridge
Next to “Karol”, across the bridge on the river and left by a comfortable lane. On the right, the steep slopes of Wronka, on the left, Nysa Kłodzka with several cascades. At the edge of the clearing, we turn on to a forest road, and then on to the bare slope. Continue on the white road, which turns left behind the houses and goes to the bridge by the church in Długopole Dolne.
To Jedlnik

As simple as possible by foot via Poręba to the pass over this village. From there, left on Autostrada Sudetcka (the Sudeten Motorway) for approx. 250 m., a path to the right to the not clearly visible peak of Jedlnik. We can come back via the same route, but for better views, choose a road going through fields from lower Poręba to Długopole Górne. Patients at health resorts and tourists have always been going up Jedlnik because from there, one of the most beautiful panoramas in the Sudety unfolds (over 6 mountain ranges). There is such a variety of things to admire that a list of what you cannot see from here would be much shorter. In Prussian times, there was an arbour here and three fir trees grew, hence the name Dreitannerberg.

On the trail, in turn: the shady Bukowa Dolina (Bukowa Valley), figurative group “crucifixion” and penitential cross by the baroque church in Poręba, excellent views over the pass and, hidden nearby, there are drifts and bunkers from WW2.

To Bystrzyca

The bicycle trail is marked, our pedestrian one is not, we will only be on the red and green trails in sections. We go and turn via Ponikwa and Wyszki and from Bystrzyca we can return via Długopole Dolne, this time with Wyszkowski Ridge on the right.

To “Śnielinek” and “Solna Jama”

We go by foot to the village of Poręba by the so-called Złodziejska Ścieżka (Thieves’ Path), running through fields, south in the direction of Gnieowszów. Beautiful views from there over the RGN and Śnieżnik Masif. After reaching the Sudety Motorway, right and shortly left on the blue trail to the ruins of the castle “Śnielinek”. To Solna Jama, path to the south-west or continue on the blue trail. We return on Złodziejska Ścieżka (the Thieves’ Path) but only to the chapel (at the “Na Czekaju” crossroad). Here, go right and right again to Długopole Górne. Approx. 1 km before the church in this village we can find on the left the early medieval hill fort “Wyszczeń” (10th-12th century) with traces of ramparts and the outline of a moat. There are two stately manors in the village - late baroque and empire style.

On the route:

Ponikwa
The village briefly belonged to Princess Marianne of the Netherlands; it even had a viewing arbour on the high ridge. What we can see today is several cottages with galleries on the side wall and the ceiling fresco of the church which shows... the residents of the village and surroundings from the interwar period.

Wyszki
The views here are prettier, as far as Bystrzyca Kłodzka to the end of the village, and even before the so-called Pustki (Voids) (a month and a half long fire destroyed the forest here in 1473), there was a very popular summer resort here near the ranger’s station. Residents of Bystrzyca walked to it on a (still maintained) beautiful path lined with lindens and chestnut trees.

The ruins of “Śnielinek”
The name is from a feudal lordship, so we do not know where the name “Szczerba” (chip) came from. Maybe from the local Devil’s Boulders. The castle was destroyed by Hussites after existing for only a few dozen years. Princess Marianne later bought the picturesque ruins. To this day, a considerable amount of the pieces of the tower and traces of the moat which was cut into the rock have been preserved.

Solna Jama
A small cave (approx. 40 m long, a large chamber and long lakelet) which is worth crawling into. So far, there is no encrustation but it has not been explored completely. From the outside, it looks like the mouth of a strange animal.

Two loops

For motorised tourists and cyclists, we recommend the exceptionally picturesque loop via Poręba and the pass above it, Gnieowszów (to the castle ruins - just behind it) and Długopole Górne.

For those who only want to pedal hard at the beginning (gain altitude) and then kick back and relax.

Completely inactive ones can also do this. By car.
- Via Poręba, the pass above it, and Gnieowszów (9).
- The beginning is the same; continue via Ponikwa, Niemojów and Rzązanka.

To “Spalona”

Red trail (GSS) via Ponikwa (8), slope of Sasanka and a burnt village. Return on the blue trail via Sasin, Sasanka and Jagodna to Przełęcz nad Poręba (the Pass over Poręba); continue via this village (7). On the trails: views above Ponikwa (for about 2 kilometres), and also between the peaks of Sasanka and Jagodna. On that last one (the highest peak of Góry Bystrzyckie (the Bystrzyckie Mountains) - 977 m. above sea level), a viewing tower stood for a long time after the war.
To Dolina Dzikiej Orlicy (the Dzika Orlica Valley)

This is a lengthened version of trail 3 from Bystrzyca-Kłodzka, but from the end of the village Młoty (2), we do not climb to “Spalona”, but to Lasówka, and from there, we head along Dzika Orlica until Mostowice. From there, we can choose to go by the Sudety Motorway (via “Spalona”) or continue along the river (by Rudawa) - this version is more interesting in terms of landscape. In any case, both will run along the Pass over Poręba. The end of the trail runs via this village.

On the route:

Lasówka
Summer resort village with scattered houses and charming views of the wooded peaks of Góry Orlickie (the Orlickie Mountains). At the bottom, the Dzika Orlica weaves gently, carrying its amber waters, light brown after the rain. Before flowing into the Czech Republic, it has a rusty-blood red colour. When it is dry, you can jump over it and already be at our neighbours’. Together with neighbouring Mostowice, Lasówka created in the second half of the 17th century and in the 18th, an active centre for glassworks.

Mostowice
Just think - in its best (?) times, its population was almost 1500 and there were: four water mills, an iron forge, a sawmill, paper mill, a small wooden toys and match factory, an artificial rock-polishing mill and even a customs office. Today there are several buildings...a well maintained church...and peace and quiet! At least until the tourists find it. Pass over Poręba (7).

To the Nysa Kłodzka Springs

This excursion includes a trip by car or bicycle - via Długopole Górne and Domaszków - to Nowa Wieś and by foot to the springs of the royal river of the Kłodzko Region.

Walking part:
This is good for those who read the map because they can go along the Nowinka stream and then along the side of Owca and Kamienny Garb to upper Jodłów and, from there, on the red trail. Look for the springs on the map. You can return to the car (bicycle) via Potoczki, Jodłów centre, then cut across the blue trail and finally forest roads will take you to Nowa Wieś. The laziest motorists can reach the village of Potoczki immediately (via Goworów and Jodłów) or via Międzylesie and Pisary. A path to the east will take you to the springs.

On the route:
Charming little villages, each of them different, including Jodłów and Potoczki, enclosed in the south-western “mouth” of Śnieżnik, and Nowa Wieś with the most impressive RGN shrine, a project of Jacob Carove himself. Before the war, tourists still flocked there to see the lace veil of the French queen Marie Antoinette, in which the unfortunate woman went to the guillotine.

After active outings from Długopole-Zdrój, you can replenish biologically in the physiotherapeutic centre “Karol” or in the SPA “Dwór Elizy”.
Used for transportation since only 1880, apparently because of its high setting (811 m). Also, certainly from a strategic point of view, the Germans led the Sudety Motorway through it (and it is only a fragment of the intended trans-Sudety road), thus explaining its rise in tourism. One way or another, 2 shelters on the pass remain from those times - one (once concealed) by the road in front of the hostel, the second, approx. 70 m lower on the road to Nowa Bystrzyca.

Before WW1, the region and its passes became exceptionally popular with skiers who appreciated the tourism opportunities in Góry Bystrzyckie (the Bystrzyckie Mountains) and the particularly reliable snow cover here. The Klodzko Mountain Society (GGV) decided to rebuild a primitive hostel “Hartmansbaude” here and in December 1932, “Jagodna” (then “Brandbaude”), which is here today, was built. The new hostel had been built about 4 years earlier in Zieleniec, which was already famous at that time.

Excursions from Spalona

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Along the route of Dzika Orlica

Trail ER-2, after arriving at Mostowice, corresponds to trail no. 12. We come back the same way, because it is almost flat and you can never get enough of this valley. Those who would like to take a longer walk can turn towards Lasówka, descend to the village Młoty and from the ranger’s station, ascend along the green trail to the pass.

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A beautiful piece of Góry Bystrzyckie (the Bystrzyckie Mountains)

Pretty good trip to the north from the pass. The blue trail, which only mirrors the red trail at the beginning, takes us up to Biesiec and even further. There, turn right on Zielona Droga (the Green Road) and the green trail, but only for about 1.5 km. Then turn right again, now on the bicycle path, the colour of which will accompany us to Przełęcz Spalona (the Spalona Pass). Bystrzyca Łomnicka will too, but only as far as Młoty. Attention! Droga Zbłąkanych Wędrowców (the Errant Wanderer’s Road) once cuts across once goes away from our route. It is better to pay attention especially to the green trail to avoid getting off it - we know why. Let us now concentrate on the forking of the bicycle trails at the height of Lasówka in order not to end up on Droga Królewska (the Royal Road), or worse - on the path of Great Fear somewhere near Huta. By the way, there are quite a few “romantic” names in the north part of the Bystrzyckie Mountains - there are also Angel’s Hill (Anielska Kopa) and Spitfire (Piekielnica), Highland Robber’s Mountain (Zbójnicka Góra) and the Devil’s Labyrinth (Piekielny Labirynt), Vulture Mountain (Góra Sępia) and two sacred places.

On the trail: Let us not count on the views, we can at most count the ranger's stations - there should be at least three. It is easy to enjoy the wildness of Bystrzyca in the course of the mountains and Zielony Most (the Green Bridge) over it. Someone calculated that between the hostel “Jagodna” and the Crossroads at Biesiec there are 14 rest points. For active and lazy people alike.
There was an immaculate mountain home, a real pearl of the great possessions of Princess Marianne - princess of the Dutch royal family and lady of the fantastic residence in Kamień Ząbkowicki. Not just any experts, but the Swiss highlanders themselves, had to find such place and "prompt" Marianne. One of them was made landlord of a farming centre on the pastures below Śnieżnik. On first seeing Międzygórze, we stand in amazement: how can all these houses that seem to be brought in from foreign mountains fit here, when the wild Wilczka river and the Bogoryja stream barely squeeze through amongst Jaworowa Kopa, Smrekowiec and Szeroka Kopa? There is more space on Łysa Góra and in nearby Jaworek Górny.

This guidebook is not a place to enumerate Princess Marianne’s countless services for the development, or the complete blossoming, of the Śnieżnik Massif since 1838. Her property also extended to Góry Bystrzyckie (the Bystrzyckie Mountains) where she had almost 4300 ha. of forests alone. One should also remember that her work was continued in Międzygórze by Dr Heinrich Jaenisch, who set up a weather station here, which is well-known in Europe.

The charm of Międzygórze and its surroundings was recognized in the second half of the 18th century, several highland families from Styria had already settled here and in 1820, it was already possible to hire a mountain guide and porter who would, for a small fee, carry the willing traveller in a sedan. At the end of the 19th century, it was fashionable in Międzygórze to ride on horned sleds — in the pastures below Śnieżnik and from Czarna Góra.
(Czarna Mountain) and after downhill ski training courses organised by Mathias Zdarsky (first in February, 1911) winter madness started here. With delight, tourists descended, mainly from the peak of Śnieżnik to the hostel on the pasture. Later, a sled route and ski jump were built.

Just a few of Międzygórze’s attractions in telegraphic short form:

- **Wilczka waterfall** – before the flood, equal to “Kamieńczyk” in the Karkonosze (27m), now (after the artificial threshold was washed away), 5 m lower. At its foot, there is a deep depression where the falling water has worn the rock away. Further on the depression takes the shape of a rocky canyon (400m), ending in a reservoir contained by a high dam of almost 30 m.

- **Ogród Bajek (Fairytale Garden)** – this world of child wonders is not only for kids. This dream world was built out of what nature has given us - from tree roots, trunks, bark, pinecones, etc.

- **Wooden church** – with rounded body and exceptional simplicity.

- **Several of the old wooden houses** on Śnieżna Street.
- Near the pilgrim church „Maria Śnieżna” on Igliczna.

**Walks and short excursions**

**Up the Wilczka river**
Approx. 1.5 km to the fork of the red and blue trail. We can extend the walk by going on the blue trail and then left on the green trail.

**To Jawor**
The peak is close by with a view of the RGN and Bystrzyczkie Mountains. The yellow trail leads to Jaworko Górne, from the cross in the south-east direction to the peak.
A somewhat longer return - from the cross to the west via Jaworowa Polana.

**To Nowa Wieś**
The most picturesque excursion from Międzygórze along the western edge of the Śnieżnik Massif. The bicycle path ER-2 leads here. There and back should take less than 3 hours, unless you decide to go from Nowa Wieś to Nowinka valley to see the cliffs.

**On the way:** Jaworek, a formerly crowded summer resort town with 3 mills, a paper mill and a distillery. Beautiful old cottages.

**Nowa Wieś**
Between the wars, this was a popular tourist town with a sled path. The most valuable attraction - the beautiful, late baroque church, one of the largest in the Kłodzko Region. Even from a distance it presents itself impressively against a background of wooded mountainsides. It is not entirely certain in what circumstances Marie Antoinette’s lace veil found itself in this shrine. Apparently she was wearing it on her way to the guillotine. What an attraction that was for tourists who still flocked to Nowa Wieś in the interwar period! In 1958, the veil was lost, only to reappear “miraculously” in Telgte (Germany).

**Version for Cyclists:** We absolutely recommend going farther along the Nowinki valley and finding on the right a path which quickly takes you to the upper part of Goworówki valley. And that is equally pretty, with cliffs scattered about on either side. Return to Międzygórze via Goworów (many attractions) and Nowa Wieś.

**To Igliczna Mountain**
The sanctuary on Maria Śnieżna is located just below its peak. Not as many pilgrims make their way to Madonna with Baby Jesus anymore. We get to the church in 1-1.5 hrs by three trails: red (above Waterfall, Princess Marianne’s wooden palace and by the Baszta cliffs), yellow via Ogród Bajek (Fairytale Garden) and green (beside rocky ledges and the bridge at their foot).

**To Krowiarki**
These low mountains make up the end of the longest and most segmented branch of Śnieżnik. Experts believe that no other mountains in the Kłodzko Region are more picturesque – Krowiarki with their arcs reach almost the centre of the region and are significantly deforested. You do not need to look for a bit of bare slope or a forest glade in order to see something. Tourists have what they love here - vast meadows and wide open space.
Marcinków to the yellow trail. Left on that and then a short way to Góra Skowronia (Skowronia Mountain), return via Biła Woda to the forking of the trails before Przełęcz Puchaczówka (the Puchaczówka Pass). Approach Międzygórze by blue trail. For cyclists, it will be easier to descend to Idzików and return via Wilkanów.

On the route: e.g. Pasterskie Skaly (Pasterskie Cliffs) above Idzików, on the left side of the road from that village to Kamienna. Legend has it that they are four shepherds who were turned to stone because they scorned bread and the smallest one is their dog. But what was he, the poor thing, to blame for? There are actually seven cliffs, so the old tourist trail to it led to a small inn called “To the Seven Shepherds”. And geologists say that the cliffs are a real geomorphologic phenomenon from over 80 million years ago.

And then Marcinków - one farm, two summer resort houses, the ruins of a church, a neglected cemetery and drifts from old silver ore and lead mines. And then Biła Woda which is completely desolate, but with the prospects of an attractive skiing centre.

The more picturesque Krowiarki on the yellow trail from Biła Woda to Żelazno.

And see on the nearby meadows a large flock of sheep, which have almost completely disappeared from the Sudety landscape. Raising them was not a tradition here and after the war, the summer grazing stopped, too. It is easier to imagine such a picture with sheep across the border because Czechs keep small farms and the meadows on them do not get overgrown.

By foot, we recommend the shortest trail (blue, to the north) via Polana, Śnieżna and the western slope of Czarna Góra (Czarna Mountain). Return by the green trail via the peak of Czarna Góra (wooden viewing tower) and Jaworowa Kopa to the crossing with the blue trail, on which you descend to Międzygórze. By bicycle, either the same (with the shortcut on Izabela Road) or the much easier and longer via Wilkanów and Idzików. By car - only the last version of the trail.

To Przełęcz Puchaczówka (the Puchaczówka Pass)

The proper Przełęcz Puchaczówka is found, despite assumptions, not at all in the highest (and most picturesque) point on road no. 392, but a little lower, near the chapel by the descent to Sienna. It once had the name Pogonna Przełęcz (Pogonna Pass) from the checkpoint existing there which was meant to counter the smuggling of salt from Silesia and tobacco from Moravia. Just above the pass, the head shepherd from Podhale “works”. Here, you can taste żętyca (a drink from sheep’s milk whey), oscypek (smoked cheese from goat’s milk) and lamb.

And the more picturesque Krowiarki on the yellow trail from Biła Woda to Żelazno.

To the base of the peak, tourists most frequently take the red trail, going past the Wilczka valley and beside the Kozie Skały (Kozie Cliffs) under the peak of Średniak. The blue and green trails twist and turn too much before Smrekowiec and behind it. But 3 hours is enough, even by these trails, to reach the peak of Śnieżnik (from the pasture, by green trail). It is a strange deal with that peak. As soon as you are on the pasture below Śnieżnik, it seems...
that you only have a short walk left, but there is still about 45 min. left to go. From the pile of stones on the peak (left after the destruction of the viewing tower in 1973), the panoramas are rather disappointing. Evidently, that tower was there for a reason. In order to see the “maximum” views, you must walk around the edge of the peak to some extent. It is also worthwhile going down the Czech side to “slonik” (“the little elephant”), but it is farther from there to the pretty Morava valley.

And if you have already reached Śnieżnik on the red trail, then go down to the pastures at least on another trail - blue or green, or to the south a combination of the blue trail (via Umarły Las) and the yellow one (via Jawor).

To Trójmorski Wierch (Trójmorski Summit) and two Śnieżniks

A nice outing to the border peaks of the south-west part of the Śnieżnik Massif. We move south along the yellow trail until the elevated Przełęcz Puchacz (Puchacz Pass). From there, yellow trail leads via Puchacz (1190 m) to the somewhat smaller Trójmorski Wierch (Kłapiące Głazy) concealed by boulders which really rattle when it is very windy. Hence the old name “Rattling Boulders” (Kłapiące Głazy) and a similar name in Czech. On its south-west slope, the catchment areas of three seas - the Baltic, the Black and the North Sea - meet. We are also almost at the spring of the Nysa Kłodzka, although topographers have not agreed where its main spring is. Some put it at the western slope of Jasień (at a height of approx. 920 m), others choose the so-called wandering source on the slope of Puchacz (at a height of approx. 900 m).

We return still on the same trail via Goworek with its one lonely, protruding cliff and via Mały Śnieżnik (Little Śnieżnik) (which, seen from the RGN, looks bigger than its Big Brother) to the pastures below Śnieżnik. Despite fatigue, we carry on along the green track which will lead us to the second peak of the Eastern Sudety (after Pradziad). From Śnieżnik, of course, to the pasture and onward a short distance on the red GSS to Międzygórze.
And we pedal on...

For those wanting to engage in recreational tourism by bicycle in the RGN, the best options are: Wysoczyzna Łomnicy (the Łomnica Upland), Wysoczyzna Idzikowa (the Idzików Upland) and Krowiarki. The trails are relatively easy and the views and atmosphere of the places they run through - by our choice - can be very satisfying. On a summer day, it is possible in these “hills” to cover up to 50-60 km, you just have to be up for it and be in a good shape. The best idea seems to be cycling-walking excursions because they allow you to be mobile and zip through the less interesting terrain more quickly.

After the previous ideas for bicycle routes in this guide (mainly by asphalt and unmarked roads), we would like to suggest a couple places where you can really let loose in Góry Bystrzyckie (the Bystrzyckie Mountains) and Śnieżnik Massif.

For experienced “bikers”, who love pushing higher, with the sweat running down their foreheads, only to hurtle madly downhill, there are some asphalt hairpin roads: from Poręba to the pass above it, and from that pass under Różanka, from the ranger’s station in Młoty to Przełęcz pod Uboczem (the Pass under Ubocze) (above Lasówka), from upper Idzików to Przełęcz Puchaczówka (the Puchaczówka Pass). Going on that last trail, you can extend the descent to Sienna and the Kletno-Stara Morawa-Stronie Śląskie-Sienna loop. And still in the Bystrzyckie Mountains, from Nowa Bystrzyca on Spalona Droga (the Spalona Road) to Przełęcz Spalona (the Spalona Pass) - the most winding trail.

There is also the “downhill” - an extreme type of mountain bike racing, a descent at breakneck speed, even above 100km/hr at times on a track beset with natural and man-made obstacles. Amateurs of such strong expressions will find, without difficulty, sufficiently wild tracks in the Bystrzyckie mountain region - anything but foot trails. (The closest professional track -From Czarna Góra (Czarna Mountain) to Sienna, 2.4 km long and in Zieleniec only 800 m).

From mid-May to September 20th, on the Polish-Czech border (in the Bystrzyckie and Orlickie Mountains), a cyclebus runs to places such as Lasówka and Mostowice (info www.orlobus.cz). Since 2002, a system of bike trails, “Cyklo-Glacensis” has been in place.
Nordic Walking

The Finns invented walking with poles, and the world was quick to take up this new trend. Physiologists believe that when practicing this sport, up to 90% of muscles are at work and the knees and spine are relieved by 30%. Of course that is if we walk properly - in marching steps, naturally, almost intuitively. But it is necessary to practice the technique of this type of walking and holding the poles. It relies above all on harmony between the work of the arms and legs. We place our feet parallel and touch the ground first with the heel. Move the right pole front and at the same time take a step with the left foot. Hands and poles should be held near the body and the shoulders should be relaxed. Dig the pole in front of you in line with the other foot. Also remember to keep the poles in a diagonal position. And do not lean on them, just push away from them. Choose the length of pole by multiplying your height times 0.68.

Rock climbing

Although the RGN and the mountain masses above it do not compare to Góry Stołowe (the Stołowe Mountains), there are many places here to climb, or to practice its safer version called bouldering and even just wandering around the cliffs. It is enough to say of the lesser known bouldering that it is "pedestrian" climbing along boulders and low cliffs without a safety line. An absorbing mat called a crash pad, on to which you simply jump off from “disobedient” sides is enough. Having a spotter is also recommended. Bouldering requires agility and strong arms.

For this type of climbing, vertical walls in the many and inactive sandstone or limestone quarries are suitable (these are marked on good tourist maps). Here are a few suggestions: in Krowiarki (in the Przełęcz Mielnicka area), in the Bystrzyckie Mountains - near Gniewoszów and Różanka. However, the most attractive form of cliffs for climbing seems to be Pasterskie Skały (Pasterskie Cliffs) (16) which have the structure of coarse-grain sandpaper that, once sliding down it, lowers the adrenaline level somewhat.

But it is not up to us to classify the cliffs for various types of climbing. We simply tell you where these cliffs are:

- In Góry Bystrzyckie (the Bystrzyckie Mountains) — Siwa Skała above Łasówka, Szary Kamiień near Spalona Village, in Lomnicka Równia by the road from Stará Bystrzyca to Zalesie, on Kościelna Góra (Kościelna Mountain) above Wójtowice, under the peak and on the slopes of Gniewosz.

- In Krowiarki — Biała Woda (on the left side of the road to Przełęcz Puchaczowka - Puchaczówka Pass), around Nowy Waliszów (to the north and south), southern slopes of Suchoróń.

- In Międzygórze — and the nearer and farther areas - so-called Baszta, single cliffs on the yellow trail on both sides and on Góra Parkowa (Parkowa Mountain); by the green and blue trails to Śnieżnik (after passing Smrekowiec). The largest grouping of cliffs is to the south of Międzygórze, in Domaszewski Potok (the Domaszewski Stream), Nowinka and Goworówka valleys.

In the saddle

For a good start, one piece of good advice — do not get on the horse even if someone tells you it is gentle. As they say: “do not judge the book by its cover” — a horse, even when ridden, can be a very shy animal. Do not count on simple
and easy gratification in the saddle especially if you try riding bareback. And do not blame the horse for everything. So if you decide on an off-road ride, horse rally or vacation on horseback, first get to know the ABCs of the riders’ club.

Only after such an initiation can you set off on the most beautiful of all horse trails in Poland, including 8 stages and 12 days. Sudecki Szlak Konny PTTK (The Sudety Horse Trail PTTK), which runs along the Bystrzyca Kłodzka Region from Przełęcz Puchaczówka (the Puchaczówka Pass) to Lasówka, stopping off at places such as the pasture below Śnieżnik, Międzygórze, Igliczna, Bystrzyca Kłodzka and Przełęcz Spalona (the Spalona Pass).

Agrotourism farms and other centres offering horse rides: “Chata Lidia” and Marcin Madaj in Międzygórze, “Pinokio” in Marianówka, “Orlica” in Rudawa and “Pod Lipami” in Długopole Dolne.

Like the birds

The wind in the Sudety usually blows from the south and south west, sometimes from the east and then it is worth going to Wójtowiska Równia (so-so drive, from Wójtowice or to the end of Szczawina, onwards by foot). The open meadow is simply ideal for hang gliders and paragliders. With favourable wind, you can even manage a 20 km flight. The place was discovered a long time ago by German glider pilots who were launched from here with the help of rubber ropes. It is possible that they also used Łomnicka Równia, as the swastikas inscribed on rocks there would indicate.

Hang gliders have started to visit Czarna Góra more often, starting from it in the direction of Stronie Śląskie and Lądek. A bit of help to them is the chair lift that runs from Sienna to the peak all year round. On the other hand, in Krowiarki, Skowronia Góra, a step from Marcinków to which there is a decent drive, has turned out to be a new discovery for “the winged”.

Looking for buried treasure

Armed with a geological hammer, we can go in search of minerals, counting on the fact that we may be able to find some decorative or even precious stones. We are in a good area for it because in the Middle Ages, Walloons (using hazel branches!) and even Venetians searched in the Sudety for valuable stones.

Where can you come across precious stones most easily? Primarily in inactive quarries and various pits. Larger excavations such as road works or deep drilling are good opportunities for collecting minerals. You can also find them in various exposed terrains, on slopes, in stone quarries and even on level forest paths (e.g. in the Śnieżnik Massif area) with material from post-mining dumps. Mountain streams and rocky river banks are not bad places to look, especially after high water has receded. Many specimens are hidden in so-called geodes; lumps of rock which can be carefully split apart.

Although the eastern side of the Śnieżnik Massif is significantly richer in minerals (in Kletno alone there are over 60 types and variations), it is also worthwhile to look on the western side. The areas to the south of Międzygórze are geologically very interesting. The slopes above Jaworko and Nowa Wieś are one of two places in the Polish mountains where so-called eclogites appear - cliffs created from the crust of the bottom of the pre-ocean, that were elevated to the surface from the depth of over 100 km, after the collision of the continental plates (between 400 and 300 million years ago). It is also possible to find bright blue cyanite and even garnet there, as well as other minerals such as pyrite, adularia and albite.
In the valleys of streams and by tourist trails in this part of the Śnieżnik Massif, you can find, for example, fluorite, amethyst and crystal quartz. Sometimes they are covered with brown hematite and those transparent ones are mountain crystals. For ages it was believed that if you put them under your pillow, they can lighten up your dreams while you sleep.

On the slope of Pasikoni (upper Idzików) there is an old quarry in which a large amount of interesting fossils were discovered at the end of the 18th century. Maybe they are still there? Maybe in the streams and the crevices in the cliffs we will find some day a tiny grain of gold? Because there are those, who find things.

Along with the current of the Nysa

Amateur kayakers generally start their trip along the Nysa Kłodzka in Kłodzko, because they get a kick out of the unusually picturesque breakthrough of the river through Góry Bardzkie (the Bardzkie Mountains), considered to be one of the most attractive in Poland. Even the two very difficult parts with strong currents in Młynów and just below Bardo do not discourage them. But experienced kayakers prefer real mountain rivers with their not always deep but capricious current, with rocks that have to be nimbly avoided. And that you can get in the upper course of the Nysa...

And those experienced water sports enthusiasts know that you can row it after spring thaws or after strong rain falls starting from Wilkanów and even from the village Roztoki. Then, the section of Biała Łądecka is also navigable practically from Stronie Śląskie after the waters of the Morawka have replenished it. And from Krosnowice, where both rivers meet, the problem is only in the dry periods.

Both potential kayaking trails are not busy and captivatingly wild. Unfortunately it is difficult to get any information about their suitable facilities (places for docking and moving, harbours with water equipment rentals) – this is because they barely exist. Here it is just the kayaker and water. He can row peacefully in the green gorge which from time to time opens up on to the near and distant mountains. That is also something.

Fishing

For the city slicker, adventure tastes like trout caught in a commercial fishery with a fish and chip stand. The specially starved fish will immediately bite at every hook, giving the accidental wanderer the nice illusion of success. In the Bystrzycka Region, there are up to 12 such fisheries (also in agrotourism farms), amongst others those in Długopole Dolne, Szkliarka, Lasówka, Rudawa, Spalona, Międzygórze and Nowa Bystrzyca.

You can also somewhat more actively not “go fishing” by car, but go by bicycle on the river or PZW ponds (in Wilkanów and Bystrzyca Kłodzka by Zamenhoff Street). Large bodies of water for actual fishing are located farther: new water reservoirs “Kozielno” and “Topola” near Paczków and in the Czech Republic, “Pastviny” (closest via Niemojów) and “Rozkoš” near Náchod.

Real active fishing is spinning. Hunting predatory fish from the middle of a river. In “rompers” aka hip waders. There are times when wading through the water can cover even 7-10 km in a day!
Let us fish in the flows of the Nysa and its smaller streams. The trout, of course, is king here and right after that, the stone loach, coming nearly right up to river springs. Then are gudgeons and other small fish. Pike and barbs reach Nysa Kłodzka to the village of Roztoki, but eels not farther than Bystrzyca Kłodzka. Perch and grayling have the smallest range which reaches Krosnowice at the farthest. In the rivers of the RGN, minnows, lamprey and bullhead also meet.

**Winter sports**

**Downhill skiing**
Amateurs of winter madness do not find ski stations with long and abrupt mountain slopes in the Bystrzycka Region, but there are several places here that are good for learning to ski and family skiing with small children. In Międzygórze there are two button lifts (on Jawornica and Lysa Góra – Lysa Mountain) by the groomed trails approx. 300 m long. There are equipment rentals with service and ski schools in place. Transport from Międzygórze centre. On Przełęcz Spalona (the Spalona Pass), approx. 80 m from the “Jagodna” hotel, there are almost identical conditions. If the snow conditions permit, it is more interesting in Rudawa by “Orlica” - slopes there are twice as long.

Which is the closest? Czarna Góra (Czarna Mountain) and Zielieniec. You can also go to Podgórze (near Dusznicki Zdrój) but best to go to the Czech Republic. Nearby are: Mladkov–Petrovice, Bartošovice, Zdobnice, Orlické Záhoří and Sedlčany, and below Śnieżnik are Cenkovice are Dolní Morava.

**Cross-country skiing**
A type of skiing not very popular here, even though the Śnieżnik Massif is perfect for skiing over virgin snows. For lack of special marking, you should make use of the numerous trails here.

Góry Bystrzyckie (the Bystrzyckie Mountains) with their level uplands, Dzika Orlica valley and network of wide forest ducts are as if especially created for classic skiing. On the other side of the RGN, you can wander for hours through the open space, somewhere from Goworów until after Idzików, gazing at the villages at the foot or the wall of the Bystrzyckie Mountains.

Significantly more generous prospects for cross country skiers are in Przełęcz Spalona (the Spalona Pass) and Lasówka regions. Four loops run from the pass: the red, approx. 3km long (approx. 500 m from the hostel there is an extraordinary view of Śnieżka), green- approx 4 km, blue – 12 km (in Mostowice connects with Czech trails) and black -14 km. There is also the yellow trail but it is not groomed. If we want to go further, e.g. to Torfowisko below Zielieniec, then via Przełęcz pod Uboczem (the Pass under Ubocze) and Biesiec the route is 21 km long. From Lasówka, on the other hand, there is the bicycle/ski trail in a loop via Polana św. Huberta (Polana St. Hubert), Widlasta Droga (Widlasta Road), Twarde Źródło (Twarde Spring), Zielona Droga (Zielona Road), Zielony Most (Zielony Bridge), Droga Królewskia (Królewskia Road), Piaszczysta Droga (Piaszczysta Road) and Droga Zbłąkanych Wędrowców (the Errant Wanderer’s Road).

Speaking of the last one - a few words about it. It is very rarely used although a pretty name is not the only thing it has to offer. It starts by the church in Lasówka, goes a short distance through meadows and later forests until Zielona Droga (Zielona Road). And then on for almost 8 km. Considering the difference of elevation of approx. 100 m, it becomes clear that this is a dream-road for cross country skiers. Especially because it is wide and well maintained like the majority of forest tracts in Góry Bystrzyckie (the Bystrzyckie Mountains).

Excellent ski trails, exceptionally well maintained, are just across the border in Góry Orlickie (the Orlickie Mountains). They go on literally for dozens of kilometres along and across this range.

Try cross country skiing at night some time, with a head-lantern, of course. The mountains are different then - there is different snow and different noises in the forests. And the villages lit up in the valleys. It is the most beautiful view on a moonlit night with a cloudless sky, when nature passes strange and fantastic shapes and images in front of our eyes.
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