

Kielce



Kielce
Rajdla Dzieci

www.rajdldzieci.kielce.eu

www.um.kielce.pl/en/tourism

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POLAND

The Greatest Tourist Attractions

The legendary origins of Kielce go back to the Middle Ages, when the area which today is home to the region's capital city was covered by dense forests full of wild game.

It was in such woods that Duke Mieszko, son of Boleslaw the Bold, went hunting with his team of men. One evening, he got separated from his companions. Lost, he was attacked by a gang of robbers. The brave heir to the throne fought them off until he successfully defeated them. One of the robbers gave Mieszko a bottle. The thirsty duke fell for the robber's trick – instead of water, he drank poison and started to choke. Suddenly, he saw a bright light out of which emerged St. Adalbert. Mieszko went down on his knees, while the saint drew a curved line with his crozier. The line filled with flowing water, which quenched the duke's thirst and washed the poison out of his mouth. Mieszko sounded the horn and soon his men appeared. While leaving the clearing, he noticed a pair of huge white fang-shaped outcroppings. He promised to build a castle with a church in this place.

Shortly thereafter, a settlement was built in the heart of the forest, with a church dedicated to St. Adalbert erected in the clearing. The stream whose water had restored the duke's strength was called Silnica (Pol. siła – strength), and the village was named Kielce after the fangs that were found there (Pol. kiet – fang).



The first settlement from which the town of Kielce grew was located around the Church of St. Adalbert. Thanks to a ducal land grant there in the 12th century, the Kraków bishops created their own settlement hub in Kielce, building in 1171 a Romanesque collegiate on the hill towering over the earlier settlement.

In 1493, Cardinal Fryderyk Jagiellończyk gave the town its coat of arms with a golden crown and the letters C. K. on a red background. Kielce saw an economic awakening at the end of the 15th century and in the 16th century thanks to the development of lead, copper and iron mining, which, however, was interrupted by the Swedish invasion. Between 1624 and 1631, a Bernardine monastery was built on top of the Karczówka hill, and between 1637 and 1641, an early Baroque palace was erected on Castle Hill through the efforts of bishop Jakub Zadzik. The year 1724 saw the beginning of the construction of a seminary and a school, which later became a gymnasium under Russian authorities, followed by a secondary school. Currently, it is the seat of the Voivodeship Pedagogical Library and the Museum of Stefan Żeromski's School Years, celebrating

Kielce -
home to
the first
technical
university
opened in
Poland

Kielce - the only city in
Poland which can boast the
best preserved monument of
the Vasa dynasty era - the
Palace of the Kraków Bishops

It was here that
the production of
the famous Frania
washing machines
and iconic SHL
motorcycles began

The song "My, Pierwsza Brygada" (We, the First
Brigade), which is the official anthem of the Polish
Army, also hails from Kielce.

Kielce - open-air
geological paradise



the Nobel prize-nominated novelist. In 1789, the town ceased to be private property, and was nationalised. The diocese of Kielce was created in 1805, by the decision of Pope Pius VII.

In 1816, the capital of the Kraków Voivodeship was moved to Kielce (Kraków was a free town), while thanks to the efforts of Stanisław Staszic, the first Polish Technical University - Szkoła Akademiczno-Górnicza (School for Academic and Mining Education) was established. Kielce also became the mining centre of the Staropolski Okręg Przemysłowy (Old Polish Industrial Region). During the January Uprising of 1863, Kielce and the surrounding area became the arena for a fierce fight for freedom. In 1885, a railway line was opened, connecting the town to Dęblin and Dąbrowa Górnicza. During the First World War, Kielce became engulfed in battles between the Polish Legions and Russian troops. On 1 October 1918, soldiers of the Polish Military Organisation disarmed the last of the Austrian army, bringing an end to the partitions of Poland and freedom to the city. In 1919, the Kielce Voivodeship was created. During World War II, partisans from various organisations were very active in the area.

1



Artists' Square

From spring to autumn, the square located where Sienkiewicza and Kapitulna streets meet becomes the venue for exhibitions, happenings and outdoor events. Every year around September, it showcases contemporary installations by internationally recognised artists, such as the painter Leon Tarasewicz and the sculptor Ludwika Ogorzelec. Year round, the locals and tourists are reminded of the legend about the origin of Kielce thanks to the monument of a wild boar called Kiełek (Little Fang).

Artists' Square, at ul. Sienkiewicza 29, is also home to the Regional Tourist Information Centre and a local branch of the Polish Tourist and Sightseeing Society (PTTK).

Two walking trails depart from here: blue (going through the City Park and Kadzielnia to Pierścienica Mountain in the south of Kielce) and green (going through Kadzielnia and Wietrznia to Bukówka).

2



Stanisław Staszic City Park

The park was created as a result of a 19th century expansion and modernisation of the city on land which, up until 1789, had been held by the Bishops of Kraków.

The river Biruta has its source near Staszica Street which leads to the park. In 1973, a sculpture called "The vow of love" was unveiled here. The spring became immortalised in the novel "Syzyfowe prace" (Sisyphean Labours) by Stefan Żeromski. On the other side of the pond, there is an 18th century statue of St. John of Nepomuk, and a monument made of red sandstone commemorating the daring assassination of a Gestapo agent, Franz Wittek, by Polish partisans in June 1944. Crossing the vast square with an acoustical shell, you can get to the main park avenue. It stretches along the wall, by which you can find a small aviary and an eclectic bastion known as "Plotkarka" ("Gossip"). On the opposite side of the avenue, the patron of the park, Stanisław Staszic, has his monument.

A restored gate featuring a small gallery of modern art leads from the park avenue to Zamkowa Street.



Zieliński Palace

The current buildings of the palace were constructed based on the 18th century farm buildings which belonged to the Kraków bishops. In the 19th century, the property was leased by Tomasz Zieliński, administrative official of the District of Kielce, and in private – an art collector and patron of artists. Within a few years, the new tenant transformed the property into a romantic palace and garden complex. Since 1985, the palace has been home to Dom Środowisk Twórczych (the House of Creative Communities) – an institution that organises concerts, exhibitions, meetings and other art-related events. On top of stylish interiors, the palace also has a concert hall and a charming restaurant. The so-called Dom Praczki (literally, the House of the Washerwoman) is a vital part of the complex, as it houses the Museum of Sacred Art.

Dom Środowisk Twórczych
Tomasz Zieliński Palace
ul. Zamkowa 5
25-009 Kielce
+48 41 367 67 70
www.palacykzielinskiego.pl



Centre of Patriotic and Civic Reflection and the Institute of Design

The premises which these days are used by Castle Hill and its institutions used to be a prison between 1826 and the 1970s. This history is presented in the Centre of Patriotic and Civic Reflection, through its permanent interactive exhibition, designed by Mirosław Nizio, who is responsible, among other things, for the design of the Warsaw Uprising Museum in Warsaw. The Centre is also an educational facility providing civic education, allowing the analysing and defining of Polish patriotism. The second institution in Castle Hill is the Institute of Design. Through their own creative activities and cooperation with other centres of design, this modern facility shapes the artistic sensitivity of artists, local residents and visitors.

Castle Hill
ul. Zamkowa 3
25-009 Kielce
+48 41 367 68 01
www.zamkowa3.pl



THE PALACE OF THE KRAKÓW BISHOPS

It is one of the finest and best preserved 17th century residences. It was intended to reflect the merits and achievements of the founder, the Kraków Bishop Jakub Zadzik. The construction of the palace began in 1637. In the following century, the north and south wings were added. In 1789, the Great Sejm decided in favour of making the palace state property. During the Partitions, it was the seat of governorate authorities while, in 1816, the first Polish Technical University – Szkoła Akademiczno-Górnicza (School for Academic and Mining Education), founded by Stanisław Staszic – was established in the north wing.

The palace was built in the Baroque style by Italian architects. It features a representative first floor called the piano nobile, an arcaded front loggia and four hexagonal towers topped with Baroque cupolas. In the main building, visitors can admire wonderful palace interiors, furniture, tapestries and original plafonds with paintings from the workshop of Tommaso Dolabella. The southern part of the Palace serves as the Sanctuary of Marshal Józef Piłsudski, and the north wing is home to a gallery of Polish painting and decorative art, whose collection includes

National Museum
in Kielce
pl. Zamkowy 1
25-010 Kielce
+48 41 344 40 15
www.mnki.pl



the works by such masters as, for example, Szermentowski, Hadziejewicz, Boznańska and Pankiewicz. In the summer, visitors can enjoy the Italian gardens of the museum.

Due to revitalisation works carried out on museum grounds, information on current exhibitions and events is available at www.mnki.pl.



Cathedral Basilica of the Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary

Founded in 1171 by the Kraków Bishop Gedeon, it is the most important church in this area of the city. The first church was a small building in the Romanesque style, but frequent remodelling over the centuries has given it the appearance of a Baroque basilica. The eastern part of the church had plaster stripped off exposing the Romanesque sandstone blocks, on which medieval master stonemasons' house marks have been preserved. The north aisle features a plaque from 1782, presenting standards of weights and measures, the letters of the alphabet and basic principles of the Christian faith. From the west, you can enter the Basilica via the Baroque main portal made of marble from Chęciny. The main nave has a Baroque altar dating from the 18th century, with the painting of the Assumption of the Virgin Mary by Szymon Czechowicz. The walls of the presbytery are decorated with paintings commemorating important events in Polish history: The Establishment of Christianity in Poland and The Vows of Jan Kazimierz. The north aisle connects to the chapel of the Lord Jesus with a 16th century crucifix made of a silver sheet, showing a view of Jerusalem from the times of Christ and the so-called Łągiewniki Triptych from 1500. In the south aisle, you can see the Renaissance tombstone of Elżbieta Zebrzydowska née Krzycka, and the revered painting of our Lady of Graces of Kielce, crowned by Pope John Paul II during a pilgrimage in 1991. Next to the church, there is an 18th century bell tower and a tombstone commemorating the hero of the Kościuszko Uprising, Wojciech Bartos Głowacki.

Cathedral Basilica of the Assumption
of the Blessed Virgin Mary in Kielce
Plac Najświętszej Maryi Panny 3
25-013 Kielce
+ 48 41 344 63 07 (Parish office)
www.kielcekatadra.pl



Diocesan Museum

The museum collects the most beautiful and historic works of sacred art of the Diocese of Kielce. The first room along the tour is a lounge room featuring 19th century interiors: a set of Empire style furniture, pictures and drawings. The Gothic Room features the oldest exhibits. Collected here are examples of Gothic sculpture and painting: the wings of the triptych from Rakoszyn near Nagłowice (ca. 1505), bearing the images of St. John the Baptist and St. John the Merciful; the Throne of Grace from Witów near Koszyce (early 16th century), i.e. a medieval image of the Holy Trinity. The following room is devoted to the bishops of Kielce. One painting which stands out from the rest represents Christ in the crown of thorns. Painted in 1900 by Jan Styka, it comes from a series of images dedicated to this subject. The furniture in this room, hinting at Renaissance furniture with its form, once used to embellish the bishops' dining room. A visit to the museum can be combined with a visit to the cathedral treasury.

Diocesan Museum in Kielce
ul. Jana Pawła II 3
25-013 Kielce
+48 41 344 58 20
www.muzeum.kielce.pl



The Museum of Stefan Żeromski's School Years

More than 50 years ago, the entire house in which today's museum is situated, was used by a secondary school with over 250 years of history. Among its famous graduates who should be named are: Adolf Dygasiński, Walery Przyborowski, Bolesław Prus, Gustaw Herling-Grudziński and Stefan Żeromski.

The Museum of Stefan Żeromski's School Years was founded in 1965 in order to commemorate the centenary of the writer's birthday. The exhibition focuses on the early life of Żeromski (growing up, first literary attempts, lower secondary school years), and also familiarises visitors with the place where Żeromski lived and created. The museum also exhibits manuscripts of Żeromski's works, for example the only surviving fragment of "The Faithful River". Among the various exhibits, the museum visitors usually particularly appreciate the following: a wooden school bag known in Polish as deka, a reconstruction of a gymnasium student's uniform, 19th century notebook and the cross beam from the author's manor house in Ciekoty.

The Museum of Stefan Żeromski's School Years,
a branch of the National Museum in Kielce
ul. Jana Pawła II 5
25-013 Kielce
+48 41 344 57 92
www.mnki.pl/zeromski



The Laszczyk Manor House

This manor house is located on the southern slope of Castle Hill behind a wooden fence with shingles on top. It is the last wooden object of this type within the city. The house was erected in the 18th century by Jakub Jaworski, the last *starosta* of Kielce. In 1988, it became the Kielce Region Countryside Museum's headquarters and exhibition space. Originally, the complex consisted of the manor house and outbuildings. According to archived sources from 1838 and 1848, the wooden, single-storey building of the manor house was built using larch wood, with an underpinning of fired brick and stone with lime mortar. Two stone storehouses were added to the wooden part from the side of the garden. The house was topped with a high hipped mansard roof covered with a single layer of shingles. In the front, it had a porch through which you passed into a dark hallway. Currently, the administrative areas are located at the rear of the property, and the interior of the house serves for exhibition purposes.

The Laszczyk Manor House
Muzeum Wsi Kieleckiej (Kielce Region Countryside Museum)
ul. Jana Pawła II 6
25-025 Kielce
Before 3 pm, tel.: + 48 41 344 92 97 Ext. 121
After 3 pm, tel.: + 48 41 344 50 06
www.mwk.com.pl



The Museum of Toys and Play

This is the largest and oldest toy museum in Poland. The Museum is in a historical 19th century building in Plac Wolności (Liberty Square), which was once home to an indoor market. Going through the exhibit is an extraordinary adventure for children, as the museum creates interactive exhibitions in which young explorers of the history of toys can not only look at but also touch the exhibits. Visitors to the museum can marvel at historical toys, dolls from around the world, the largest collection of folk toys in Poland, theatre puppets, an extensive collection of iconography, contemporary collections of most toy making cooperatives as well as modelling collections. During the tour, children have the opportunity to play in the play area and, in the summer, also in the courtyard.

The Museum of Toys and Play

pl. Wolności 2

25-367 Kielce

+48 41 344 40 78

Group reservation: +48 41 343 37 06

www.muzeumzabawek.eu



"Magic of Caramel" Confectionery Workshop

An old pharmacy building, going back more than one hundred years, is home to the first confectionery workshop in Kielce, known as the "Magic of Caramel". It offers presentations on how caramels are made as well as "from the plant to a chocolate bar" workshops. Visiting this smallest factory of sweets offers you an opportunity to make your own delicious lollipop, try freshly-made sweets that are still warm and find out what magic is involved in the production of colourful caramels. During the chocolate workshops, each participant may learn about the production process and the history of chocolate, try cocoa beans and chocolate from different parts of the world and, last but not least, make your own personalised chocolate bar.

"Magic of Caramel" Confectionery Workshop

ul. Adama Mickiewicza 1

25-352 Kielce

+48 537 950 750

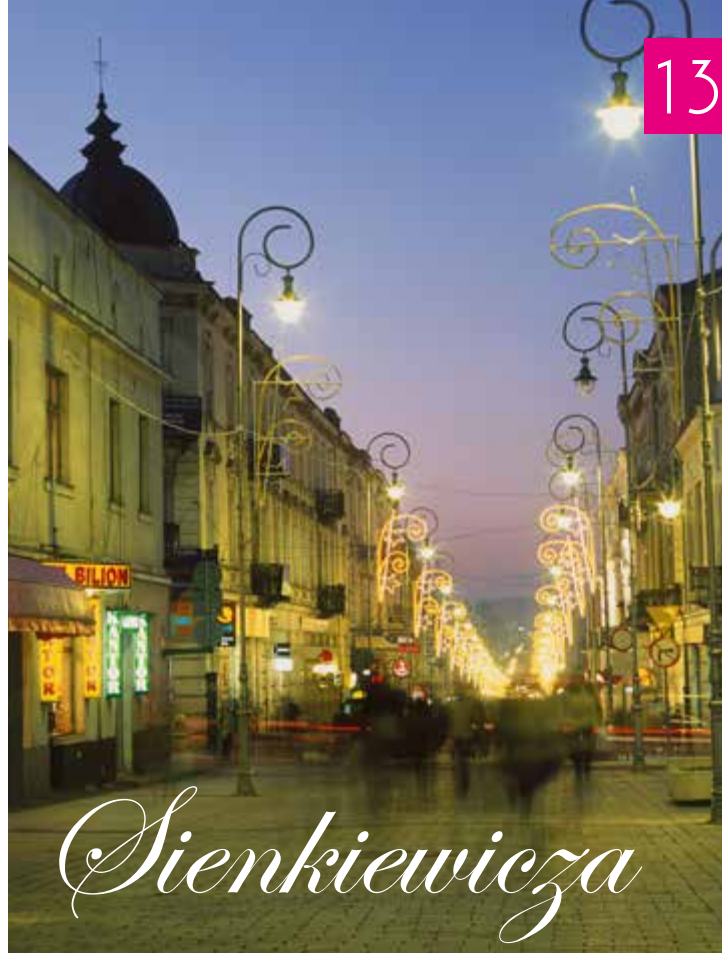
www.magiakarmelu.pl



Kielce Cultural Centre

Where the magnificent edifice of the KCC stands today there once used to be a small 16th century church dedicated to St. Leonard. Two centuries later, a convent of the Daughters of Charity was built here, where the nuns ran a hospital. During the Partitions, the so-called Leonard Edifice was later used for the offices of governorate authorities. In 1974, the building was demolished to make room for the construction of the Kielce Culture Centre. Today, it is one of the largest cultural facilities in Poland, boasting two stages: one with a capacity of 200 people and the other – 700 people. The KCC stages concerts, performances, meetings and shows. The biggest events are the Off Fashion festival and the Memorial to Miles Targi Kielce Jazz Festival. Outstanding jazzman, Miles Davis, was immortalised in a statue which has been standing in front of the KCC since its unveiling in 2001.

Kielce Cultural Centre
pl. Moniuszki 2B
25-334 Kielce
Ticket office: + 48 41 343 81 42
www.kck.com.pl



Sienkiewicza

Street

Beginning at the monument of the celebrated author Henryk Sienkiewicz, it is the longest pedestrian street and the most prestigious address in Kielce. Its total length, ending at the train station in Plac Niepodległości (Independence Square), is approx. 1,270 metres. The origins of the street date back to the 17th century, and its rapid growth took place in the 19th century, when the surveyor Marian Potocki made a spatial development plan of Kielce. Today, it is lined with historic buildings from the 19th and 20th centuries and monuments reminiscent of the rich history of the city and its inhabitants.



History Museum of Kielce

The idea of establishing a museum dedicated to the history of the city dates back to the beginnings of museology in Kielce. The history of the city first appeared at exhibitions and in the collections of Polskie Towarzystwo Krajoznawcze (Polish Tourist Association) whose museum was created in Kielce in 1908. The museum is located in a historic, neoclassical building and its interiors hold many interesting exhibits, many of which have been donated by the local inhabitants from their family memorabilia. The permanent exhibition allows visitors to follow the captivating past of the city from the times before the city charter, through early medieval days, followed by the time Kielce was owned by the Bishops of Kraków, moving on to more recent history when the city was the centre of the voivodeship and the governorate, when Poland fought for independence, followed by the time of the Second Republic, World War II and the post-war period. The exhibits include, among others, medieval coins, weapons, fragments of pottery, objects of everyday use, paintings, photographs, and even the famous SHL motorcycle.

History Museum of Kielce

ul. św. Leonarda 4

25-303 Kielce

Tel. (Tue-Sun): + 48 41 340 55 26

Tel. (Mon): + 48 41 340 55 27, + 48 41 340 55 20

www.mhki.kielce.eu



Market Square

The market square often hosts exhibitions and open-air concerts, with 19th and 20th century houses as the backdrop. The House under the Three Coats of Arms is home to the Museum of Dialogue Between Cultures, whose exhibition features history, culture and tradition with constant emphasis on the multitude and diversity of views, faiths and beliefs. In the adjacent building (entrance from ul. Orła 3), you can see a permanent exhibition entitled "Ponidzie and Wiślica in Prehistoric and Early Medieval Periods". The most important objects in the market square include the Classicist building of the Town Hall, the Sołtyk House built in 1765 by Mateusz Gilba, the cook of Bishop Kajetan Sołtyk, the neoclassical Saski House and "Wójtostwo" – the late 18th century house of the mayor, in which Tadeusz Kościuszko stayed in 1794. Many of the historical interiors of houses surrounding the square are now home to charming restaurants and cafes.

Museum Of Dialogue between Cultures

Branch of the National Museum in Kielce

The House under the Three Coats of Arms

Rynek 3, 25-303 Kielce

+48 41 344 60 96

www.mdk.mnki.pl

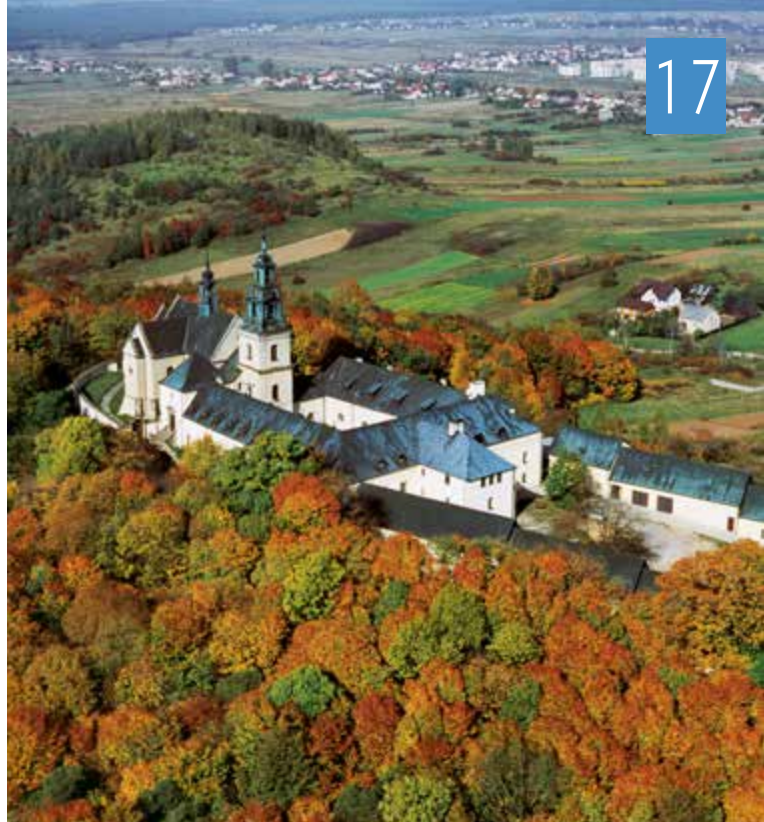


Institute for the Culture of Encounter and Dialogue

The Institute for the Culture of Encounter and Dialogue is a place dedicated to remembrance, reconciliation and relationship building. Its mission also includes educating, preserving the memory of the victims of the Kielce Pogrom, and organising cultural events. At the headquarters of the Institute, one can see a permanent exhibition entitled "Remember the Former Things of Old" (Isaiah 46:9), which tells about the tragic events of 1946. The exhibition features multimedia displays, such as recordings of testimonies by those who survived the massacre, and a timeline of events. After seeing the exhibition, visitors can go to the Blessings Room, where they can pray, meditate or just think for a little while in silence. The Institute also organises temporary exhibitions and events.

Institute for the Culture of Encounter and Dialogue
ul. Planty 7
25-508 Kielce
+48 577 809 333
www.jankarski.org.pl

The Jewish cemetery in Kielce, located at the intersection of Pakosz Dolny and Kusocińskiego streets, was founded in 1868. There are around 330 matzevot in the cemetery, out of which approximately 150 are located in the lapidary. The cemetery is open for visitors by appointment only. To visit, please contact: Marian Krężałek (tel. +48 783 084 183), Dorota Krężałek (tel. +48 782 793 072)



KARCZÓWKA

Karczówka is a picturesque hill rising to an altitude of 341 metres above sea level. Located in the western part of Kielce, it is protected as a natural reserve. On its summit, there is an ex-Bernardine monastery and a 17th century church dedicated to St. Charles Borromeo. The hill and surrounding area were once called Ore Mountains due to the presence of mineral deposits, e.g. galena. Galena is what the statue of St. Barbara – the patron saint of miners – which can be seen in the church on Karczówka is made of. An educational trail presenting the remains of shafts and heaps left after extracting the raw materials goes through the hill and the surrounding area. At the foot of the mountain, hikers can find the starting point of the red trail leading to Chęciny. It is named after Sylwester Kowalczewski, a local teacher, author, guide and activist.

The Society of the Catholic Apostolate THE PALLOTTINES
pl. Karczówka Klasztor 1
25-602 Kielce
+48 41 243 61 03
www.karczowka.com



Kadzielnia

This nature reserve, encompassing the area of the former quarry Kadzielnia with a monadnock known as Geologists' Rock in the centre, is an open-air geological paradise. Around 380 million years ago, this area was the site of a warm sea. Many rocks and fossils found in this place testify to its existence in the past. So far, dozens of different animal species were found and described in Kadzielnia: sponges (stromatoporoidea), tetracorallia, tabulata, cephalopods and placodermi. The site is also one of the most famous cave areas of the Świętokrzyskie Mountains, with 25 caves and rock shelters. Since 2004, works have been carried out in order to give tourists access to several local caves. As a result of those activities, three caves became connected: Odkrywców, Prochownia and Szczelina (respectively: Explorers' Cave, Gunpowder Cave and Crevice Cave), creating a system with a total length of 392 m. Visitors can explore an underground route covering 160 m.

Kadzielnia also has several larger caves, with dimensions ranging from 30 to 100 m (i.e. Wschodnia Cave (100 m), Jeleniowska Cave (36 m) and Zwaliskowa Cave (30 m)). To complete the unique character of the place, a modern amphitheatre was worked into the surrounding area, along with viewpoints offering a panoramic view of the nearby hills and monuments telling about the rich history of the city and the area.

The underground tourist route is open for visitors from April through October. Advance booking is required. For reservations, please call: +48 695-213-381; for more information, please visit: <http://geopark-kielce.pl/caves/>

Geopark Kielce
ul. Daleszycka 21, 25-202 Kielce
+48 41 36 76 800



Energy

Science Centre

A place whose purpose is to popularise science through play and experimentation, the Energy Science Centre in the Kielce Technology Park is geared towards all visitors, regardless of their age. The Centre consists of several sections:

- the "Energy" exhibition with 28 interactive stations where you can conduct experiments on your own, including an over 750 kg wheel and axle.
- the "Power Generator" laboratory - here, everyone can feel like a real scientist: put on a lab coat, gloves and safety goggles and then explore, test and discover.
- a 3D cinema - by watching unique 3D films, you can find out how energy circulates in nature and how it is used. The cinema is also a venue for science shows, meetings with experts, lectures and discussions.
- the Experimental Energy Garden - it is designed to conduct experiments in the outdoors. It features, among other things, a special gym, a slide which works thanks to differences in ground elevation, a merry-go-round powered in an unusual way, a balance beam and a whole zone concerning optical issues. For when explorers get hungry, the leisure area can also be used to have a barbecue.

Energy Science Centre - Kielce Technology Park,
ul. Olszewskiego 6 (SKYE INC building, 2nd floor),
25-663 Kielce
+48 41 278 72 50
www.ecn.kielce.pl



Geoeducation Centre in Wietrznia

This modern and interactive facility situated within the Wietrznia geological reserve combines learning with fun. Visitors can take a tour of the Earth Gallery, which presents the geological history of the region and, in particular, the Devonian Period, in an interesting and accessible way. The exhibition features multimedia elements: an interactive board with an animated tetrapod and a Holobox display with an animated hologram of a trilobite. The walk ends in a 5D cinema, in which you can watch a remarkable video: the journey to the centre of the Earth. The Geoeducation Centre is also actively involved in conducting educational activities in geology for children and students.

Geopark Kielce - Geoeducation Centre
Zbigniew Rubinowski Wietrznia reserve
ul. Daleszycka 21
25-202 Kielce
+48 41 367 68 00
www.centrum-geoedukacji.pl

