



# WELCOME TO GORLICE COUNTY



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*Dear Readers,*

I wish to invite you to the beautiful and hospitable Gorlice County located in south-eastern Poland. It is a perfect place for active recreation, offering you an opportunity to experience the natural beauty of the Beskid Niski as well as the multiculturalism, richness and historical diversity of our region.

In the past, Bishop Karol Wojtyła – the Polish pope St. John Paul II – traversed this land on foot with young people. Participants of the 2016 World Youth Days as well as many pilgrims and wayfarers continue to follow in his footsteps across the Land of Gorlice.

I would like to recommend the Wooden Architecture Route, abundant in Catholic and Orthodox churches with as many as five entered on the UNSECO World Heritage List. Feel invited to come and trek along the Trail of First World War Cemeteries where soldiers of many nationalities rest in peace and the Petroleum Trail featuring the world's first oil rigs and a place in Gorlice where Ignacy Łukasiewicz lit up the world's first kerosene streetlamp. Be sure to visit the royal town of Biecz, with a hospital funded by Saint Queen Jadwiga and Bobowa with strong Hasidic ties. Feel invited to use the well-being facilities available in our health resorts Wysowa Zdrój and Wapienne as well as the lake in Klimkówka and the Hucul Stud Farm in Regietów.

Gorlice County awaits you!

*Head of Gorlice County*

*K. Górski*  
Karol Górski





# Three cultures

As Gorlice County had been inhabited by various ethnic and national groups for centuries, it can boast an impressively rich culture today. The northern part of the county was dominated by Poles who developed Pogorzan culture while the mountainous areas saw Vlach and later Vlach and Ruthenian settlement. The latter inhabitants developed Lemko culture. In the eighteenth century, Jews appeared in the area of today's county, settling mainly in towns (Bobowa, Gorlice, Biecz), but also villages.

Both material and spirituals cultures of the locals (particularly those of Lemkos and Pogorzans) coexisted in harmony despite many differences resulting from the tradition and faith, or different living conditions.

Pogorzans and Lemkos developed different architectural styles. A typical Pogorzan household would comprise a few structures: a house, a barn and a cellar, while Lemkos used to build a single extensive structure under a shared roof, comprising residential and farm functions. Traditional Pogorzan architecture can be seen in the open-air folk museum in Szymbark (e.g. a cabin from Siary with a roof hole as a smoke outlet ❶). As for traditional Lemko houses, some can still be seen in villages (e.g. Bartne). Lemko churches can be found in a number of places: Kwiaton, Hańczowa, Bartne, Gładyszów, Łosie ❷, or Uście Gorlickie.

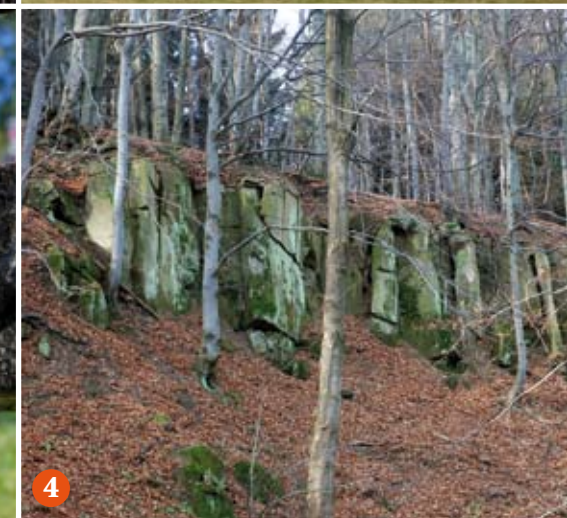
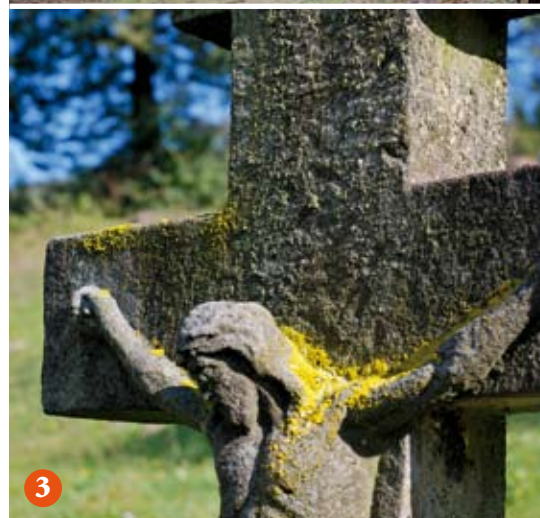
Pogorzan and Lemko peasants were mainly farmers and breeders. Craftsmanship also developed in many villages, such as Łużna and Sękowa, known for weaving, while the Lemko villages of Małastów, Przegonina, and primarily Bartne, were known for stone-masonry ❸, with the raw material provided by the quarries on Magurycz ❹ and Magura Wątkowska. Wooden objects, mainly spoons, were the domain of those living in Nowica, Leszczyny and Przysłup ❺.

Local Jews focused on trade, banking as well as operating craftsmanship and manufacturing workshops. They were also owners of many inns.

The coexistence of the three cultures came to an end as the Second World War started, whipping out the Jewish population. In 1947, Lemkos met their tragic fate and were resettled to the so-called Regained Territories. Some of them returned to their places of origin after 1956.

The traces of the Jewish community are mainly cemeteries, in Gorlice, Biecz or Bobowa ❻. The last village also has a renovated synagogue accessible to visitors. Thousands of Lemkos and fans of their culture meet every July for the Festival of Lemko Culture in Zdynia, an event taking several days and staged by the Lemko Association.

The tradition and culture of Gorlice County can be also appreciated at numerous events organised by the County Head Office and municipal offices of individual communes.







# Town of Gorlice, county capital



The beginnings of the town on the Ropa River date back to the mid-1300s and are linked to Dersław Karwacjan. In 1417, King Władysław Jagiełło granted Magdeburg rights to Gorlice and the town soon became a dynamic centre of commerce, mainly due to its favourable location on a trade route towards Hungary. Alongside trade, craftsmanship was also enjoying vibrant development in the fifteenth and sixteenth centuries with tailors, shoemakers, linen drapers, smiths, coopers, bakers, and butchers operating here. In the latter half of the seventeenth century, that development was interrupted by the Swedish Deluge when the town was destroyed by the troops of the Transylvanian duke George Rákóczi.

A true “industrial revolution” came about in the second half of the 1800s thanks to developing mining and oil processing. The oil boom lasted until the First World War. In May 1915 the town was completely destroyed.

Today, Gorlice has a population of 30,000 and is the economic, administrative and cultural centre of the county. The town boasts numerous historical monuments and is also a vital hub for tourist trails, like those leading to Magura Wątkowska and Magura Małastowska.

History lovers will want to visit the Regional Museum of the PTTK ❶ (Polish Tourist and Sightseeing Society), featuring a wealth of exhibits related to the history of the petroleum industry as well as the region’s ethnography and culture. There is a separate section devoted to the First World War.

The most interesting historical monuments are to be found near the market square. The Lesser Basilica of the Birth of the Blessed Virgin Mary ❷ was erected in 1875-1892. The structure stuns the visitor with its entrance facade featuring half-pillars between which stand statues of the Evangelists.

Close to the church is the Karwacjan Manor, housing the Museum of the Karwacjan and Gładysz Manors ❸. The building was beautifully restored in the late twentieth century and today sports charming light facades, uncovered fragments of stone and brick walls and above all its tall tiered roof covered with brick-red tiles.

Fans of the petroleum industry should visit the town-hall ❹, which in the mid-19<sup>th</sup> century housed a pharmacy where Ignacy Łukasiewicz was experimenting with oil distillation. He is remembered on the portal in the hall. At the corner of Węgieńska St, where the world’s first kerosene street lamp was lit up in 1854, stands a shrine with the Pensive Christ. Also worth a visit is the open-air petroleum museum at Lipowa St called Magdalena.

The town has several cemeteries from the First World War, including one at Góra Cmentarna (Cemetery Mount) ❺, where more than 800 soldiers rest in peace.

Municipal sports and leisure facilities are managed by the Sports and Recreation Centre ❻ and include indoor and outdoor swimming pools and a sports pitch.



❶



❷



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# Beauty enchanted in wood



Travelling across Gorlice County, one comes across many monuments of wooden architecture: Orthodox and Catholic churches, chapels and belfries which have become a permanent feature of the landscape in the Beskid Niski and Pogórze.

One characteristic feature of the landscape is Greek-Catholic and Orthodox churches – in the spring and summer their large bulbous domes and brown walls are well seen from the distance, setting them clearly apart from the green fields. Typically, the churches of the Beskid Niski are tripartite, comprising a chancel, a nave and a porch above which rises a tower. All the church sections are covered with tall, sometimes multi-tiered roofs crowned with cupolas. The main interior item is the iconostasis, or a wall with a few rows of icons mounted on it, frequently with wood-carving decoration. The oldest churches, like the ones in Owczary and Kwiatów, date back to as early as the 1600s. Beautiful examples of church architecture also include those in Łosie, Bartne, Skwirtne, Konieczna, Hańczowa ❸, Czarna ❺ and Gładyszów ❷, the last one built on a Greek cross plan.

Roman-Catholic churches can be found mainly in the north of the county, the oldest and most beautiful being those in Binarowa and Sękowa. They were both erected in the early 1500s and originally comprised two sections (nave and chancel) sharing a shingled roof. Later towers were added to them or sometimes characteristic arcades called *sobots* to protect the church walls against humidity.

Different are the much later 18-th century churches in Szalowa, Szymbark or Rożnowice. They are baroque structures following the trends commonly applied in masonry constructions of the time. On the outside, this mainly means extensive double-tower facades, bulbous domes (Szalowa ❹), terminations with volute-like adornments (Szymbark ❶), as well as interior decorations, e.g. illusionistic paintings.

Gorlice County also boasts a glorious hexagonal cemetery chapel of the seventeenth century in Moszczenica and a church bell-tower in Pętna from the first half of the 1800s.

Traditional wooden construction practised by the locals of Pogórze region can be explored at the Open-Air Folk Construction Museum in Szymbark ❸. It features such items as a cabin with a roof hole as a smoke outlet, farm buildings, windmills, a smithy, an oil mill and a pottery kiln.







# Binarowa and Sękowa



Thanks to their uniqueness and extraordinary architectonic and historical value, the churches in Binarowa and Sękowa were entered onto the UNESCO Heritage list in 2003.

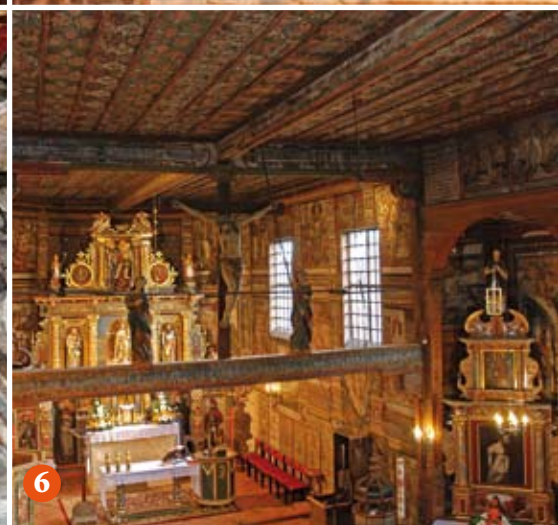
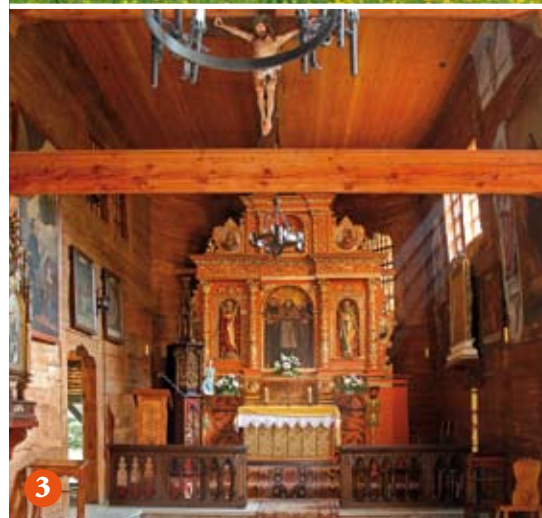
The church of Sts. Philip and James the Apostles in Sękowa ❶ was erected around 1520. During the First World War, the church was almost completely destroyed and later meticulously reconstructed. The structure comprises a square-shaped nave, a narrower chancel and a tower. The entire church is surrounded by open, post-supported arcades called *sobots* ❷. The tourists are stunned by the tall shingled roof as its surface seems to be so elongated by the roofs of the arcades as to be reaching the ground. The unique tower is very characteristic: short and sprawling, covered with a bulbous dome. Interesting architectonic details include gothic portals, primarily the beautiful western one.

Covered with flat ceilings, the interior is strikingly modest. The prime eye-catcher is a Renaissance main altarpiece from the 1600s with rich wood-carving decoration ❸. In its centre is a painting showing Saints Nicholas, Benedict and Anthony. At the sides, in the niches, there are sculptures of St. Peter and St. Andrew. The altarpiece terminates with a sculpture of *Salvator Mundi* (Saviour of the World). The oldest element of the church interior is a gothic stone baptismal font (1522), resembling a chalice in shape. On the southern wall of the chancel some fragments of a polychrome decoration from the late 1800s have survived.

The main section of the church of St. Michael the Archangel in Binarowa ❹ was erected around 1500. It comprises a nave (with the Chapel of Guardian Angels added to it on the north side), a chancel and a tower. All the church sections are shingled, which lends to the building's harmony and unique charm.

Covered with low ceilings, the interior simply stuns the visitor with the colours and richness of the polychrome decorations, executed in the sixteenth and seventeenth centuries ❺, the oldest being the paintings on the nave and chancel ceilings made with special templates known as *patrons*. The chancel walls are adorned with a series of 21 scenes of the Passion. In the nave, the eye-catchers are mainly the large scenes of the Last Judgment ❻, the Crossroads of Human Life and Lessons in Good Death.

The most interesting church interior items include gothic sculptures of the Virgin Mary and Saints Catherine, Barbara, Dorothy and Margaret placed in the altarpieces and a stone baptismal font with the bowl featuring upturned-lily decoration. The left side altarpiece features a miraculous painting of the Virgin Mary (1600s), supposedly donated by King John Casimir.







## Most beautiful Orthodox churches

Just like Roman-Catholic churches, also the oldest and most interesting Lemko churches in Kwiatoń, Owczary and Brunary have been listed by UNESCO.

The church in Kwiatoń ❶ was probably erected in the seventeenth century. It is considered to be a classic and the most beautiful example of the north-western sacral Lemko architecture in Poland. It comprises a nave, a narrower chancel and a porch hidden under the tower. The walls, roofs and domes are shingled, which makes the building spectacularly scenic. The church interior features a polychrome decoration of 1904. Between the nave and the chancel stands an iconostasis of the early twentieth century. The wall of the altarpiece in the nave features fragments of a much older iconostasis of the 1600s ❷. The most precious items inside the church include two altar retables of the eighteenth century shown on the nave walls. In the middle of one is Our Lady, Hodegetria-style, and a magnificent icon showing the Lament in the middle of the other.

The church in Owczary ❸ was erected in 1653, as evidenced by an inscription on the lintel of the western portal. The dominant force in the structure is a tall and relatively wide tower erected above the porch with its walls slightly narrowing. The nave and the chancel are covered with splendid tiered tent roofs. The interior polychrome decoration was made in 1938. The iconostasis of the 18<sup>th</sup> century features icons dating, among others, from as early as 1712 and 1756. At the southern nave wall stands an altarpiece devoted to St. Nicholas of the 1700s ❹. In the middle, in a deep niche, there is an image of the patron saint and scenes from his life. At the opposite nave wall stands another altarpiece, also from the eighteenth century, with a painting of the Virgin Mary with the Child of the 1600s. In the chancel at the wall stands a small altarpiece with an icon of Teaching Christ from 1664, probably a part of an earlier iconostasis.

The church in Brunary ❺ was erected in the late 1700s. Its later reconstruction and extension brought changes to the structure as its shape became disproportionately long. Inside, there are polychrome decorations of the eighteenth, nineteenth and even twentieth centuries. The baroque iconostasis ❻ dates back to the latter half of the eighteenth century. In the nave, at the rood wall, there are two side altarpieces of the eighteenth century. The left one features the Pietà in a large open-work. In the middle of the right altarpiece there is the Transfiguration painting, and the Last Supper in the termination. On the southern wall of the nave hangs a large nineteenth-century painting of Our Lady of Protection. Under Mary's protective coat flock various social classes (clergy, kings, and beggars). Other interesting items inside the church include a beautiful pulpit of the 1700s decorated with figures of saints and small columns as well as an organ-loft supported on two posts.







## Unique natural attractions

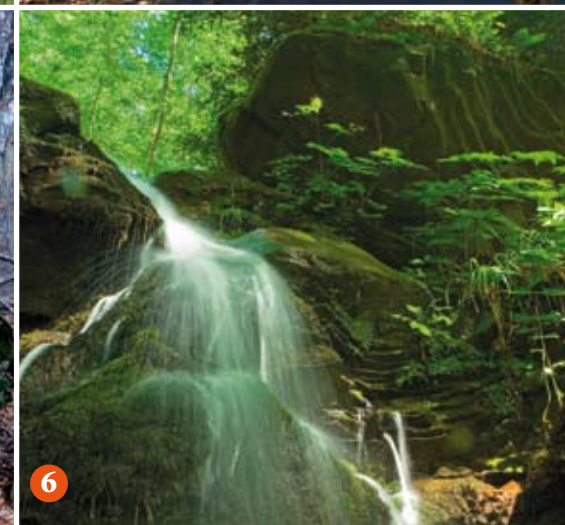
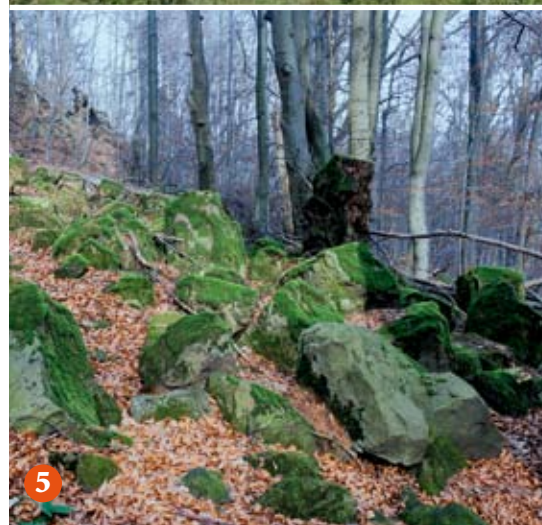
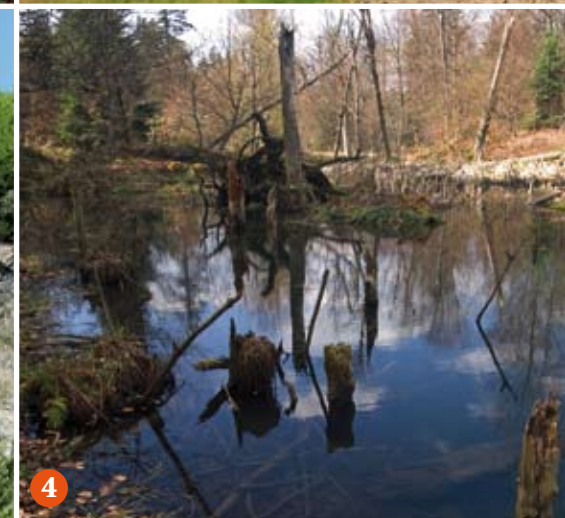
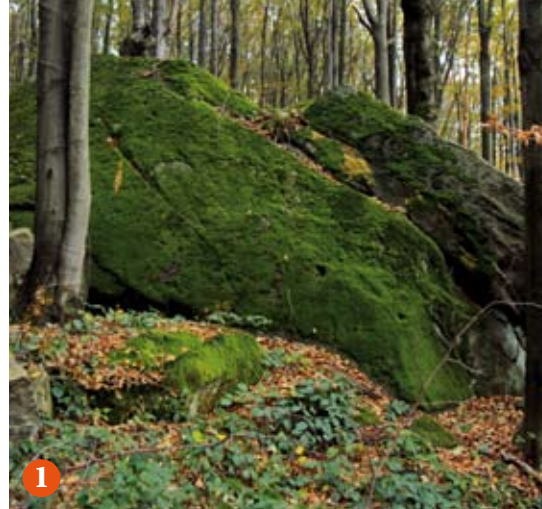
Thanks to its location in the Beskid Niski and Pogórze Ciężkowickie as well as partially the Magurski National Park, Gorlice County is highly attractive in terms of natural attractions. Almost 40 per cent of the area is covered by forest. There are many protected plants like hart's-tongue fern, ostrich fern, February daphne, dwarf carline thistle, monkshoods and orchises. Wildlife is equally rich: those in luck may spot a lynx or a wildcat and such birds as the black stork, spotted eagle or Ural owl. There are many lesser horseshoe bats which inhabit such locations as the old church in Ropa or one in Łosie.

Another natural attraction is the sanctuary of Kornuty <sup>1</sup> in the range of Magura Wątkowska. It is made of rocks of Magura sandstone, scenically scattered across woodland slopes. Set up after the Second World War, the sanctuary boasts the largest cave in the Beskid Niski called Mroczna with nearly 200-m-long corridors. It is a winter shelter for bats. The fastest route to the sanctuary is to follow the yellow trail from Bartne.

Over Szymbark rises Mount Maślana <sup>2</sup>. On its southern slope, in the valley of the Szklarki stream is the largest landslide in the Polish Carpathians. It covers almost 50 hectares and has numerous hollows, knolls and faults. The largest calamity here came in after torrential rain in 1913, when huge expanses of woodland, arable land and households were destroyed. One local curiosity is a shallow lake of circa 50 m in length, popularly called the Morskie Oko (Sea Eye) of the Beskids, referring to the largest lake in the Tatras. There used to be more similar lakes yet they dried up in the course of time. The best access to the landslide area is from a Szymbark hamlet called Łęgi.

The Ropa River gorge in Łosie is known as the Pieniny of Gorlice <sup>3</sup>. Here, the river flows winding between narrow and steep woodland slopes of Kiczera-Żdżar and Ubocz. In places the gorge reveals scenic rocks arranged in layers. In one of the slopes, there is a 25-m-long cave in a former quarry. The gorge is currently closed off at the top by a dam on Klimkowskie Lake.

The land of Gorlice has many other natural attractions such as small landslide lakes in Radocyna <sup>4</sup>, an old quarry on Magurycz <sup>5</sup>, used by a stone masonry centre in Bartne (much appreciated in the nineteenth and twentieth centuries), the sanctuary of Jeleń Góra featuring a site of hart's-tongue fern, and numerous caves (e.g. in the slopes of Ostry Wierch and Stożek). Well worth seeing is also a beautiful waterfall on Wołosiec stream <sup>6</sup>.







# Manor house and palaces

The land of Gorlice also features many surviving monuments of lay architecture, of particular interest being residential and defensive structures. A defensive manor in Szymbark, a manor in Jeżów and palaces of Siary and Zagórzany are known across the country, true gems of unique historical and architectonic value.

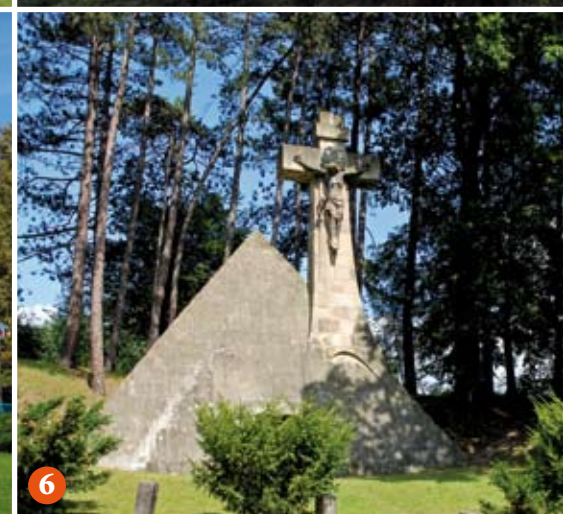
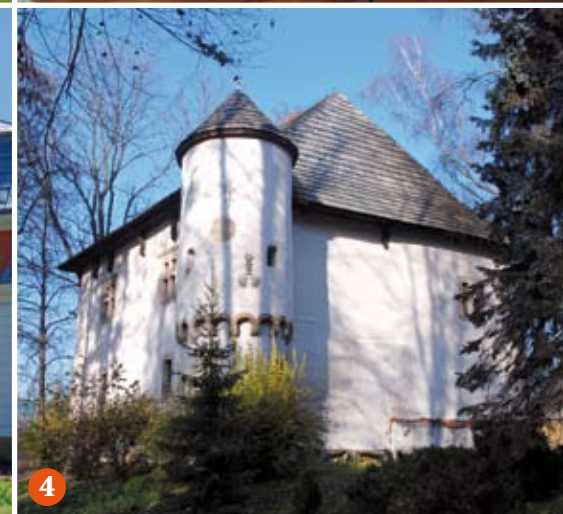
The beginnings of the defensive manor in Szymbark ❶ ❷ can be traced back to the first half of the 16<sup>th</sup> century, its current Renaissance form dating to the late 1500s and the early 1600s. It presently houses the Conference and Exhibition Centre of the Museum of the Karwacjan and Gładysz Manors in Gorlice and is accessible to visitors. The two-storey building was built of stone and brick, on a rectangular plan, with square alcoves in the corners. A Renaissance attic catches the eye, below which is a decorative arcade frieze with sgraffito ornamentation. The manor is considered a gem of Polish Renaissance defensive architecture.

The palace in Siary ❸ was erected in the early twentieth century by Władysław Długosz, an oil industrialist, later Minister for Galicia and Senator of the Second Republic. This masonry work is eclectic in style, with some elements of Art Nouveau and one of the prettiest examples of residential architecture in South Poland. Its unique and inimitable appearance is due to its irregularity, extensive multi-surface roofs, contrasting colours on the facade, tall windows and rustications. The palace is surrounded by a park with many alleys, flowerbeds, and a pergola. The picture is complete with numerous sculptures and a pond with an isle with a sculpted group of Neptune.

The history of the defensive manor in Jeżów ❹ can be most likely traced back to the 1400s and in the following century it was reconstructed and extended, e.g. in 1544, a fact communicated on a plaque above the entrance. The house once hosted the artists Artur Grottger and Stanisław Wyspiański. The two-storey work of masonry, the manor was built on a rectangular plan with a tower-alcove in a corner. Fragments of late-Renaissance polychrome decoration have survived inside.

The palace in Zagórzany was built by Tadeusz Skrzyński in 1834-1839. Its style is neo-gothic, it has four wings, a large courtyard, tower and terrace. After the Second World War the building was falling in ruin, now the current owner is having some renovation work done. Close to the palace is the original tomb of the Skrzyński Family shaped like a pyramid with a cross ❺. Among others, Aleksander Skrzyński, Prime Minister of the Second Republic in 1925-1926, rests here in peace.

Numerous manor houses have survived in Gorlice County, e.g. in Ropa, Bystra ❻, Szymbark, Kwiatonowice and Libusza.







# Royal town of Biecz

Situated on the Ropa River, Biecz was for many centuries the cultural and economic centre of the region. The town held also important judicial and administrative functions – since the 14<sup>th</sup> century it was for instance the seat of an extensive county which in the 1600s comprised 11 towns and 264 villages. Town and district courts operated here and Biecz had the right of the sword, i.e. to deliver and execute death penalty.

Royal and princely guests have been to Biecz on many occasions. Władysław the Short would come here (and even contemplated a temporary transfer of the capital from Krakow), as would Casimir the Great, Queen Jadwiga and - a staggering 22 times - Władysław Jagiełło. It was here that Marcin Kromer was born in 1512 a geographer, historian and diplomat whose fame went beyond the state borders, a secretary to King Sigismund August, a Warmian bishop and the author of a history of Poland.

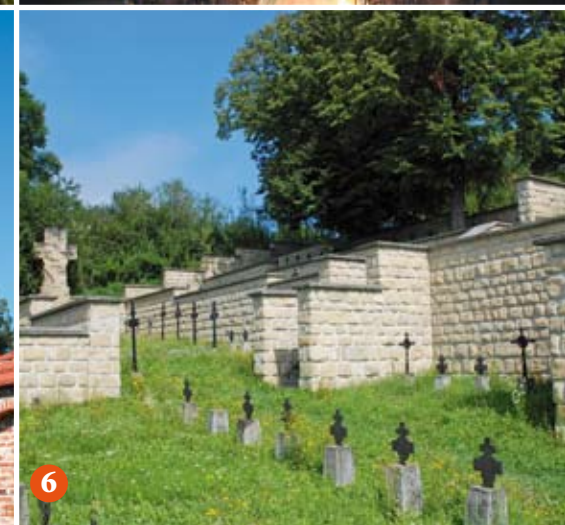
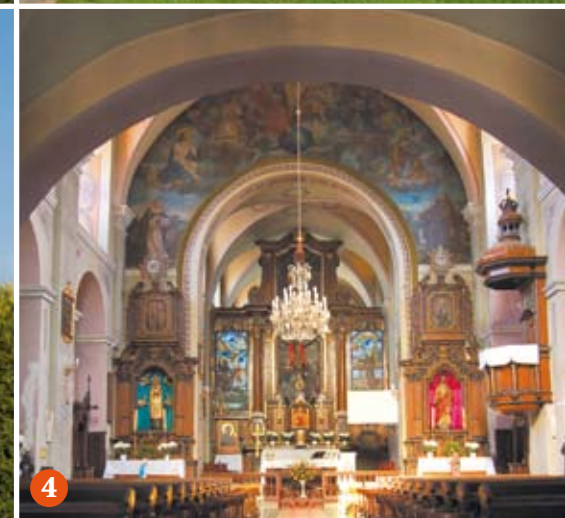
The town's high standing translated into prestigious buildings thanks to which it is a true museum of architecture of various periods. The most beautiful monument in Biecz is the late-gothic stone and brick Corpus Christi Church ❶. Its interior features such items as a 14<sup>th</sup> century crucifix, a baptismal font of 1459, late-gothic and Renaissance stalls, and Renaissance tombstones of Piotr Sułowski and Mikołaj Ligęza. The main altarpiece features gothic representations of the Dormition of the Virgin and the Coronation of the Virgin as well as a late-Renaissance painting of the Descent from the Cross. Next to the church rises a gothic belfry and fragments of defensive walls with Smith's Tower, currently hosting a museum exhibition.

On the market square stands a town-hall ❷ built in 1580. It is a masonry work decorated with sgraffito and crowned with a baroque dome. Sigismund the Old's eagle can be seen on its wall, as well as the coats of arms of Marcin Kromer and the Ligęza Family, and memorial plaques devoted to A. Mickiewicz and John Paul II. The town-hall tower is accessible for tourists.

Further on from the centre is a Franciscan church and monastery ❸ ❹ built in 1645-1663. The baroque church holds seven altarpieces and gothic metal doors from an old castle with images of Polish eagles.

In order to know more about the culture and history of the town and the area one just cannot afford to miss the Land of Biecz Museum with exhibits shown in two places. In terms of architecture, more interesting is the Renaissance house of the Barian Rokicki Family called the House with a Tower ❺ due to its connection with a gothic defensive tower. It showcases exhibits related to the history of pharmacy. On view are also old musical instruments and a presentation on the history of craftsmanship.

Other attractions in Biecz include a gothic hospital erected after 1395 on the foundation of Queen Jadwiga, a castle hill, and a few First World War cemeteries ❻.







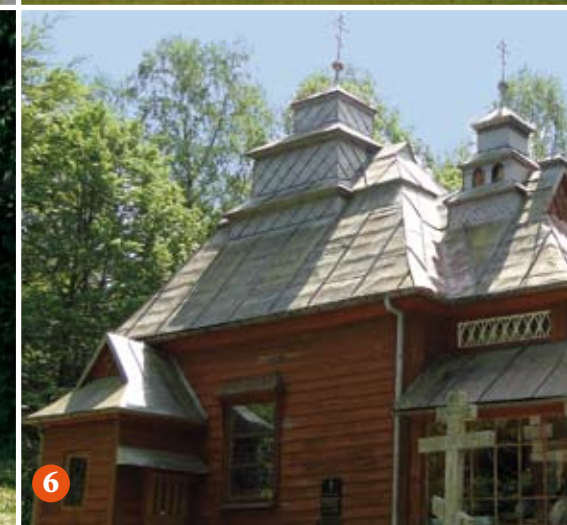
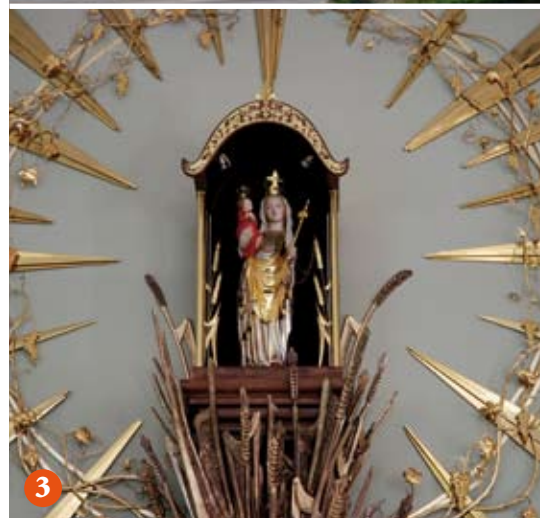
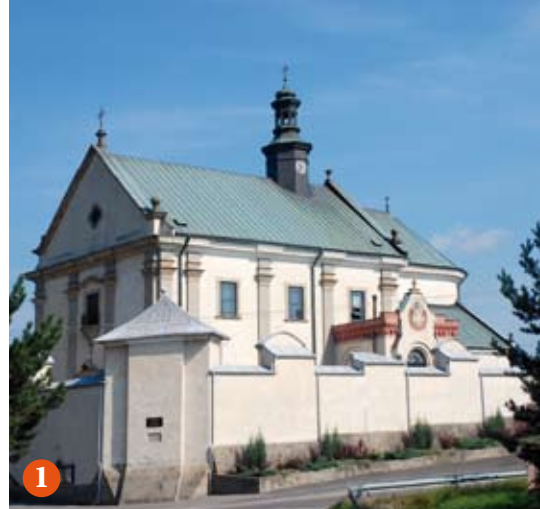
# Sanctuaries and pilgrimages

The land of Gorlice has for long been traversed by many pilgrimages of Roman Catholics, Greek Catholics and Orthodox believers going to places of religious cult. The pilgrims thus come to pray before the miraculous paintings of the Virgin Mary in Binarowa and Staszówka, as well as Flagellated Christ in Gorlice. Still larger crowds come to Kobylanka, Lipinki and Holy Mount Jawor.

The best known pilgrimage destination is Kobylanka ❶ ❷. The miraculous painting of Crucified Christ was brought from Rome by Jan Wielopolski in 1681. Soon after, first reports of its healing powers appeared. The news travelled fast and pilgrims started flocking to Kobylanka to be healed. In the period of the Partitions, pilgrims gathered at the image to pray for God's grace not just for themselves but also their fatherland. The cult of Jesus of Kobylanka remained equally strong after the Second World War despite various repressions from the authorities. Also today large numbers of pilgrims come to Kobylanka, particularly when Pentecost indulgence is granted and in September for the Feast of the Exaltation of the Holy Cross. Annually, the sanctuary receives around 30,000 persons.

In Lipinki ❸ near Kobylanka, there is a sanctuary of Our Lady Assumed in Heaven, where a 14<sup>th</sup>-century gothic sculpture of the Virgin Mary is worshipped ❹. Over the course of history, the statue known today as Our Lady of Lipinki have moved around – it was originally in Męcina Wielka, and then in two churches in Lipinki. In 1972 it was affected by a fire in the church. Meticulously reconstructed, it now graces a splendid new shrine. In 1980, Bishop Jerzy Ablewicz crowned the statute at a ceremony attended by more than 100,000 of the faithful.

The history of the sanctuary on Mount Jawor rising above Wysowa-Zdrój goes back to 1925, when one of the Lemko women returning from Slovakia saw the Holy Virgin. Appearing yet again, the Virgin asked for a chapel ❺ to be built there, which was done in 1929. With time, the site became an important destination for many pilgrimages of Orthodox believers and Greek Catholics who received abundant graces here. Key feasts take place on the feast of Sts. Peter and Paul, when thousands of the faithful head from Wysowa-Zdrój carrying crosses, which are then dug next to the chapel ❻. Crowds also come on the fifth Sunday after Easter, when water from a nearby spring is blessed and then taken home.







# Leisure and recreation

Gorlice County offers leisure opportunities for all. The mild elevations of the Beskid Niski ❶ are ideal for treks but also cycling trips and horse-riding, with more than 300 km of walking trails of different length and difficulty. The most often visited peaks include the highest point in the Beskid Niski Lackowa as well as Magura Małastowska, Jaworzyna Konieczniańska, Kozie Żebro, Rotunda, Magura Wątkowska, and Mount Maślana. After a strenuous mountain trek one can rest at a PTTK shelter at Magura Małastowska or a PTTK flock master's hut in Bartne.

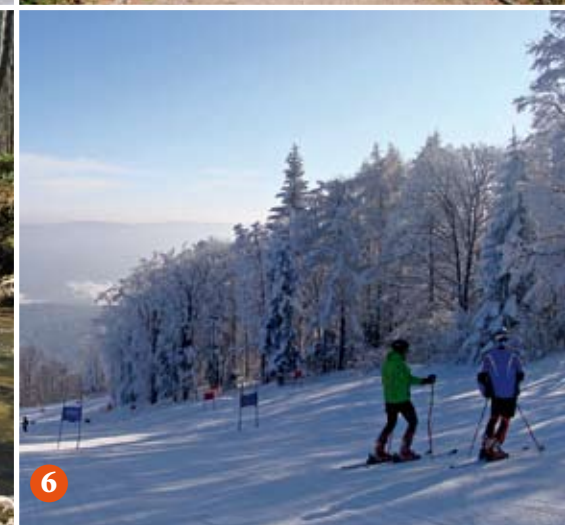
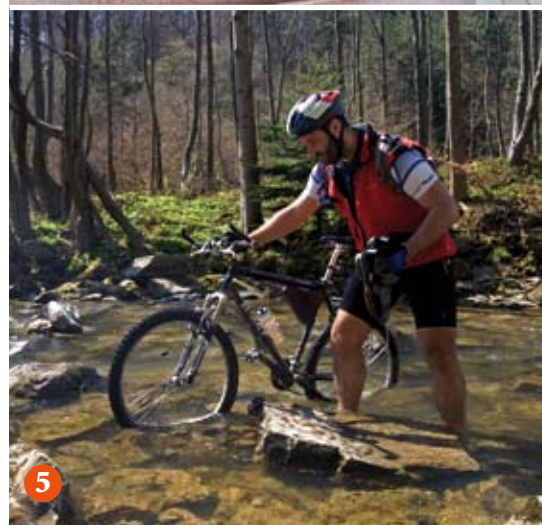
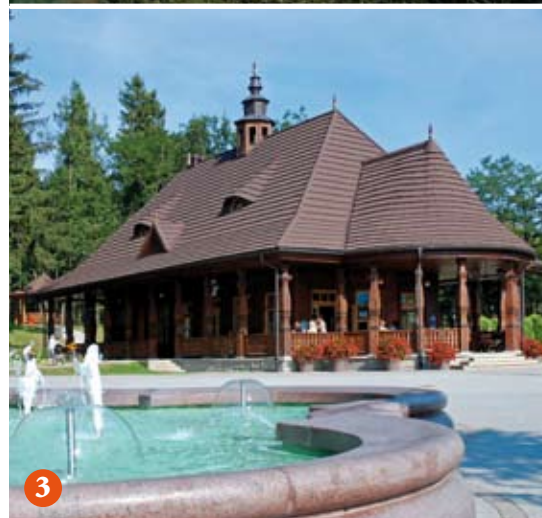
Cyclists will be tempted by many gravel roads and forest trails ❷. A trip may be arranged at will, yet the most interesting spots lie on several signposted cycling trails. These are mainly sections of the Carpathian Cycling Trail – Royal Cycling Trail, Cross-Border Cycling Trail, Multicultural Cycling Trail, and the Wine Cycling Trail. The Petroleum Cycling Trail, in turn, helps the visitor become familiar with the most interesting sites related to that industry.

Horse-riding is offered at various centres (e.g. the “Połonina” stud farm in Hańczowa, the “Ośława” horse village in Wysowa-Zdrój and “Końska Dolina” in Izby), agritourism farms, and primarily the “Gładyszów” Hucul Stud Farm in Regietów, the world's largest breeding centre for that horse breed.

Those who enjoy water fun cannot miss Klimkówka ❸, an artificial lake resulting from the impounding of the Ropa River waters by a dam. The lake is around 4.5 km in length and has a surface of 306 hectares. In summertime, Klimkówka is full of pedal boats, kayaks, boats and sailing vessels. There are also many fans of surfing, windsurfing and recently of kitesurfing, whose popularity is rising.

The spas of Wysowa-Zdrój ❹ and Wapienne ❺ are gaining popularity, too. In Wysowa-Zdrój, the favourite walking place for health resort visitors and holidaymakers is the Spa Park, with an amphitheatre and Mineral Water Well-Room. There are many accommodation options of various standard as well as health-resort and treatment facilities offered by the “Uzdrowisko Wysowa” S.A. enterprise. In Wapienne, guests will find hotels, mountain huts complete with bathroom and toilet facilities, two outdoor swimming pools, tennis courts, sports and recreational pitches, as well as a gym with a fitness unit and a jacuzzi.

Gorlice County is also a perfect option for winter recreation. The Beskid Niski is ideal for cross-country skiing. There are also several downhill skiing centres, the largest being Magura Małastowska ❻, with a four-person chair lift (1071.5 m) and 1,400-m-long skiing piste.







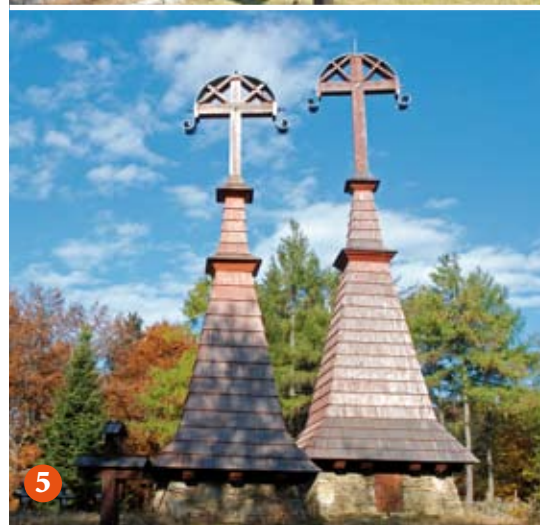
# Military cemeteries

A characteristic aspect of the Gorlice land scenery is its many military cemeteries from the First World War as the county saw much fighting back then. The largest military operation known as the battle of Gorlice took place in the first days of May 1915. On both sides, around 300,000 soldiers participated (including 220,000 for the Central Powers and 80,000 of Russian troops). On 2 May, the troops of the Central Powers began an offensive which resulted in the breaking of the defence lines of the Russian, forcing them to go back and progressively lose the areas previously won.

Once the war was over, the Austrians started to build cemeteries where soldiers of many nations fighting on both sides were laid to rest together (e.g. Poles, Russians, Germans, Austrians, Hungarians, and Jews). The cemeteries were supposed to be dignified monuments to the fallen but also a symbol of the victory and glory of Austro-Hungary and their construction was executed carefully and pedantically. The design was entrusted to such known artists as Dušan Jurkovi, Hans Mayr and Jan Szczepkowski. Although each cemetery has its own design and character, they do share some features, mainly the central section featuring a chapel, a cross, an obelisk and a stone wall. The cemeteries also have got a compositional axis, sometimes in the form of a major path. The graves are typically arranged in rows and bear wooden, stone and cast-iron crosses or tombstones. Each grave used to be encircled by a stone wall (sometimes with metal elements), a wooden enclosure or a fence with an elegant entrance (like a gate or a wicket).

Modern Gorlice County features over 80 graveyards cmentarzy. Most are not just graves of soldiers but true works of art, the most beautiful being cemetery no 123 in Łuźna on Pustki Hill ❶. It is situated on a slope. Between the quarters with graves of soldiers of various nationalities charming alleys wind and stone steps leading to a wooden chapel rising above the rest. Individual quarters feature stone monuments with ancient and national elements. Well worth a visit are the cemeteries no 118 in Staszów ❷ (with four tall pylons), scenic graveyards on Małastowska Pass ❸ (no 60), in Gładyszów (no 55) and on Rotunda ❹ (no 51) with wooden towers, in Sękowa (no 79 and no 80 ❺) or finally the monumental item on Mount Cemetery in Gorlice ❻ (no 91).

Cemetery visiting has been made easier thanks to the Trail of the Eastern Front of the First World War in Małopolska Region.







# Bobowa, lace-making capital

Bobowa ❶ has a very long history, it existed as early as the first half of the 14<sup>th</sup> century. Its first known owners were the Gryfita Family. One of them, Zygmunt Gryfita Bobowski, led a banner military unit in the battle of Grunwald. Thanks to the privileges granted in the 15<sup>th</sup> and 16<sup>th</sup> centuries, the town became an important centre of craftsmanship and trade; it was also the capital of a deanery.

In 1732, Jews were brought to Bobowa in order to stimulate trade. The Jewish community expanded and before the Second World War accounted for nearly a half of the town's population. In the late 19<sup>th</sup> century, Salomon ben Natan Halberstam settled in Bobowa and it was thanks to him that the town became an important centre of Hasidism in Poland. Currently, the tomb of the tzadik at the Bobowa Jewish cemetery draws crowds.

In 1889, the Town was completely ravaged by a fire, with nearly 300 houses burnt down, including the historical arcades on the market square. In 1934, Bobowa lost its town status, which it regained on 1 January 2009.

Bobowa is famous for lace-making whose traditions goes back to the mid-1800s. In 1899, the National Lace-making School was even set up here. Each October, the town hosts the International Bobbin Lace Festival bringing together artists and lovers of the craft from across Europe. Traditional methods of bobbin lace production are carefully preserved and passed on to new generations. Year on year, lace goods from Bobowa become increasingly sought-after ❷.

The town is also famous for its many historical monuments. The church of St. Sophia was erected in the fifteenth century. This small single-nave church is made of stone and covered with a shingled roof. As for architectonic details, gothic portals are of note, in particular the western one featuring characteristic tier arrangement ❸. Some fragments of medieval polychrome decoration have survived, as well as a late-gothic painting of St. Sophia with daughters in the main altarpiece.

The parish Church of All Saints ❹ was erected at the turn of the 14<sup>th</sup> and 15<sup>th</sup> centuries. The main altarpiece is neo-gothic and the side ones neo-baroque (20<sup>th</sup> century). The painting the Crucifixion by Jacek Malczewski can be seen on a chancel wall. Other interior fittings – pulpit, pews, confessionals and a baptismal font – come from the 18<sup>th</sup> to the 20<sup>th</sup> centuries.

The origin of the wooden-masonry synagogue goes back to the mid-1700s. After the Second World War it was used by a Complex of Vocational Schools. The festive re-consecration took place on 1 July 2003. The most beautiful interior fittings include the richly decorated altar cabinet casing ❺. The synagogue is accessible for visitors.

Other attractions in Bobowa include a manor of the Długoszowski Family, a Jewish cemetery, a chapel with a statue of St. Florian from the turn of the 18<sup>th</sup> and 19<sup>th</sup> centuries as well as a sculpture of a lacemaker ❻ on the market square.



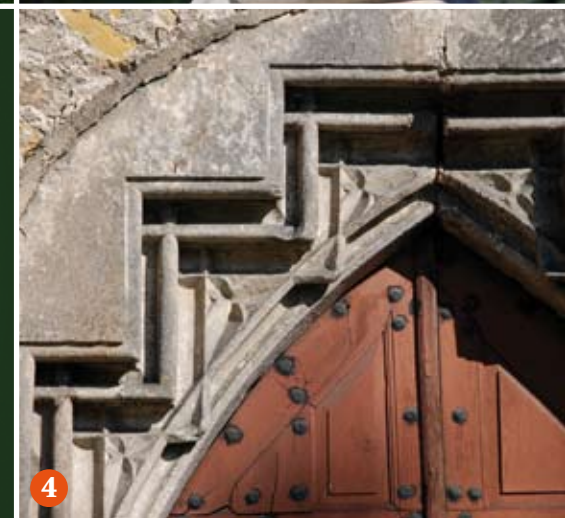
❶



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