



THE MOST INTERESTING TOURIST TRAILS



OF THE BABIA GÓRA REGION





THE BABIA GÓRA REGION is one of the most beautiful and interesting areas in the Beskid Mountains. In its southern part, in the Polish-Slovakian borderland, there are the Żywiec Beskid Mountains with the Babia Góra Range and its highest peak of Mount Babia [Babia Góra] (1,725 m above sea level), called “the Queen of Beskid”, the Polica Range (the Polica Mountain, 1,369 m above sea level), and the Jałowiec Range (the Jałowiec Mountain, 1,111 m above sea level). The northern part of the Region consists of the Makowski Beskid Mountains with the Koskowa Mountain Range (866 m above sea level) and the Little Beskid Mountains [Beskid Mały] with the Leskowiec and Łamana Skała Range (the Leskowiec Mountain – 918 m above sea level, the Łamana Skała Mountain – 929 m above sea level). The area, densely covered with forests, situated in the basin of Upper Skawa River, is perfect for various types of tourism and recreation: hiking, cycling, horseback riding and skiing. Every season of the year has its own specificity in the region, thus it is worthwhile to visit the area not only in summer or winter, but also in autumn with its full spectrum of colours in the local forests or spring with its mellow green colour of the fields, meadows and pastures.

Getting to the Region of Babia Góra is easy. The motorists can use the national road E-7 running along the eastern peripheries of the county, leading to the border crossing in Chyżne, the national road No.28 Wadowice – Przemyśl or the regional roads: No.946 Żywiec – Sucha Beskidzka and No.956 Biertowice – Zembrzyce, a convenient variant of getting to the Babia Góra Region from Cracow.

The main towns of the county have a reliable bus and minibus connection with Cracow. The capital of the county also has direct coach connections with Zakopane, Nowy Sącz, Katowice, Cieszyn, Krosno, Warsaw and Wrocław.

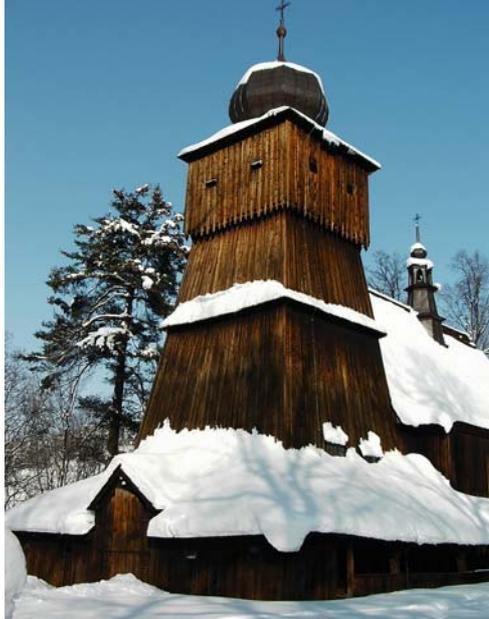
Tourist travelling by rail can get off at the railway junction in Sucha Beskidzka, since all trains to and from Zakopane stop there. Most trains also stop at Maków Podhalański and Jordanów.



NINE communes creating the County of Sucha and the Babia Góra Region – i.e. Budzów, Bystra–Sidzina, Jordanów (the town and the commune), Maków Podhalański, Stryszawa, Sucha Beskidzka, Zawoja and Zembrzyce – attract tourists with a dense network of marked trails and routes leading through picturesque mountain ranges. Dozens of educational paths have also been prepared, allowing for a better penetration of local nature. The richness of the Beskid

Mountain nature is proven by the following facts: establishing the Babia Góra National Park, in 1997 incorporated into the UNESCO international network of biosphere reserves, establishing two natural reserves in the Polica Mountain Range and the Little Beskid Landscape Park, embracing north-western peripheries of the Babia Góra Region. Large areas of the Slovakian part of the Babia Góra Region also have a status of natural reserves.

The area of the county is incorporated into the following tourist trails: the Małopolska (Lesser Poland) Trail of Wooden Architecture (e.g. wooden churches in Lachowice, Łętownia and Zawoja, open-air museums in Zawoja Markowa and Sidzina, the 'Rzym' Inn in Sucha Beskidzka etc.), the Małopolska Papal Tourist Trail following the traces of Pope John Paul II, the Carpatian Railway Tourist Trail, the Małopolska Fruit Trail (in Zawoja, where blueberries are the regional speciality) and the snow-shoe trails in the area of Zawoja and Sidzina marked in 2007 (snow shoes are rented in special centres).



THE REGION of Babia Góra offers delicious, local cuisine and varied accommodation ranging from inexpensive youth and mountain hostels, agro-tourist farms to pensions and hotels. Particular communes of the county attract tourists with an interesting cultural offer of folk festivals and local events characteristic for the region. The county boasts numerous magnificent monumental buildings, e.g. the castle and park complex as well

as the church-monastery complex in Sucha Beskidzka, the renaissance fortress mansion in Wysoka and the buildings belonging to the wooden architecture trail mentioned earlier. It is worthwhile to spend at least several days in the region to get to know its beauty. Convenient transfer to neighbouring Slovakia is an additional asset of the tourist offer of the Sucha County. Trans-border trips are possible thanks to numerous marked tourist trails, the Polish-Slovakian educational path, bicycle trails etc. More information on accommodation and cultural offer of the region: www.powiatsuski.pl and www.orawa.sk The Babia Góra Region is also a perfect starting point for the trips to other tourist attractions of Lesser Poland (Małopolska): the city of Cracow, Wieliczka (salt mine), Zakopane (the Tatra Mountains) and Auschwitz.



Six most interesting proposals for hiking trips as well as horseback-riding and bicycle trails in the Babia Góra Region are described below.



 ŚLESZOWICE (approx. 400 metres above sea level)
 Groń Jana Pawła II (890 metres above sea level)
 the Leskowiec Mountain (918 metres above sea level)
 Targoszów (approx. 550 metres above sea level)
KRZESZÓW (approx. 450 metres above sea level)

Total time – approx. 4 hrs 30 min.

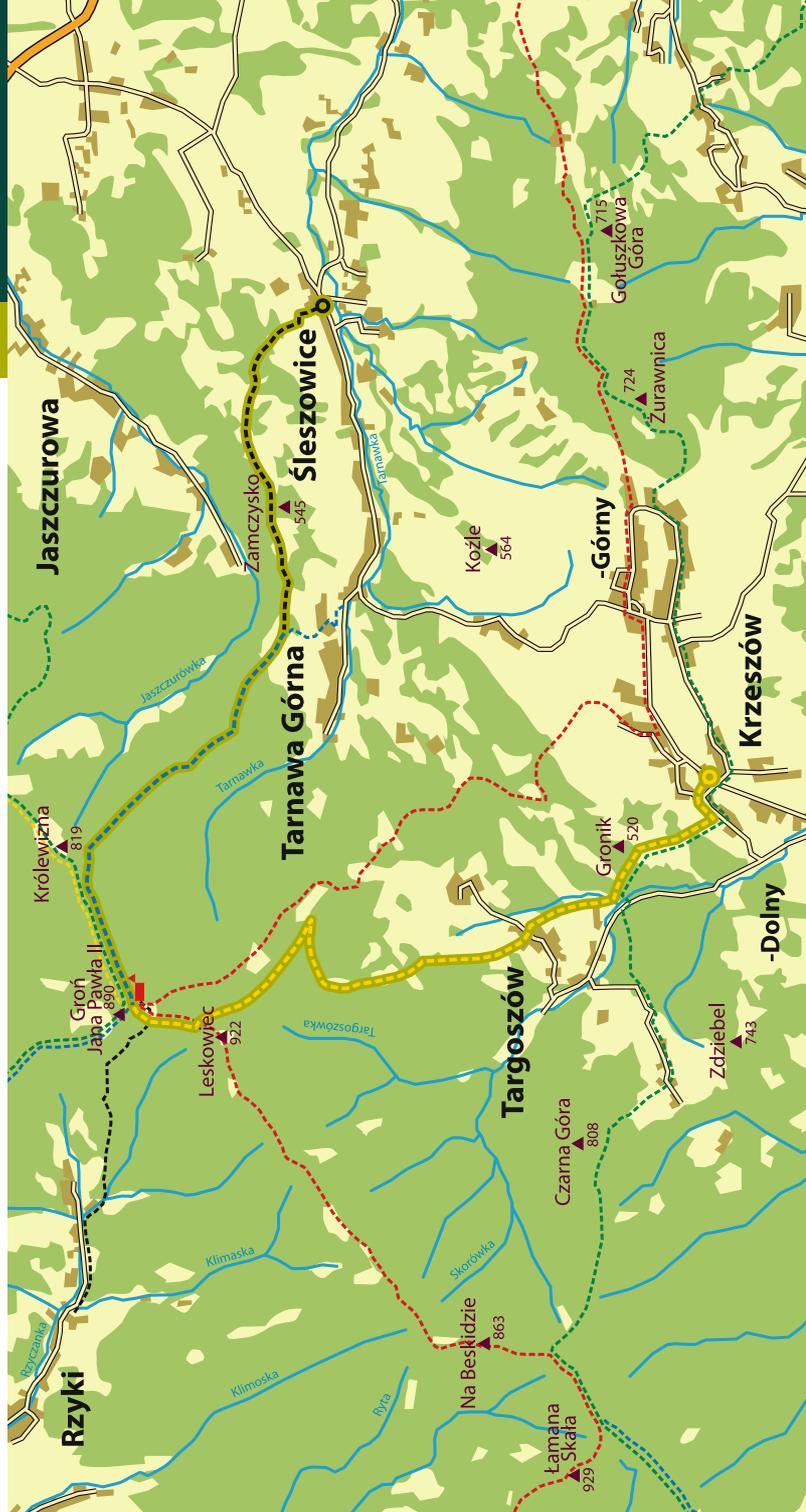
A trip to one of the favourite peaks of Pope John Paul II. Picturesque views from the John Paul II Crest and the Leskowiec Mountain.

THE TRIP starts from the bus stop in the centre of Śleszowice, next to the little chapel with the picture of the Black Madonna of Częstochowa and the inscription commemorating the meeting of local people with the then-bishop Karol Wojtyła (the future



Pope John Paul II) in 1959. The route then follows the black trail signs and leads along a narrow asphalt road among the houses. As soon as the village has been left behind there is a beautiful viewing point of the mountains surrounding the valley of Tarnawka and, slightly further, of the steep slopes of the Królężnica Mountain at the foot of which the village of Tarnawa Górna is situated. Next the route crosses the strap of a pine forest and runs along a ridge with several buildings. Then the route, as well as the ridge, turns left and runs along a convenient road from which the beautiful panorama of the Żurawnica Range, the Jałowiec Mountain, Mount Babia and Mount Pilsko (further on the left side) as well as of the area of the upper part of the Jaszczurówka Valley (further on the right side). Finally, the route reaches the place, in which the black trail is joined by the blue trail leading from the last bus stop in Tarnawa Górna. The route continues along the blue trail signs through a spruce forest, where the path becomes considerably steeper and after a while it reaches a perpendicular ridge with a broad road. The route turns right and continues along the road among a beautiful Carpathian beech forest. Finally, the route reaches the main ridge of the Little Beskid with the yellow and green trail signs. Next the route turns right and follows the signs of the three trails to reach the "Pod Leskowcem" PTTK tourist hostel after a while. It is worth spending a few minutes to climb the panoramic John Paul II Crest, next to the Mountain Sanctuary of the Queen of Mountaineers erected in the years 1993–95.

There is a beautiful view of the northern slopes of the Little Beskid Mountains, the Bliźniaki Range, the nearby villages of Ponikiew and Chocznia as well as the town of Wadowice, and further the Highlands of Wieliczka and Silesia.





Having descended from the John Paul II Crest the route continues westward from the tourist hostel following the yellow trail signs and crossing the Bargłowa Pasture. A bit further on, the yellow trail enters a forest and turns left. Nevertheless, it is worthwhile to follow the red trail signs straight ahead to reach the top of the Leskowiec Mountain with a spectacular panorama of the Jałowiec Mountain Range with Mount Babia in

the background, the Polica Range in the Żywiec Beskid Mountains, the Koskowa Mountain Range in the Makowski Beskid and also, with favourable weather conditions and good visibility, the Gorce Mountains, the Wyspowy Beskid Mountains, the ranges of Lubomir and the Łysina in the Makowski Beskid Mountains, the Silesian Beskid Mountains and even the Tatra Mountains. From the Leskowiec Mountain the route descends following the yellow trail signs southwards and after a longer steep section it reaches the first houses of the village of Targoszów, passed from the right sight, and then the route crosses some fields with a nice view of the Żywiec Beskid Mountains with its highest peak of Mount Babia as well as of the nearby Żurawnica Mountain (on the left) and the Czarna Mountain (on the right). The route goes through the settlements of Rola and Wiczorki, the latter situated in the Targoszówka Valley. In the valley, next to an interesting 19th-century little chapel erected by the miners exploiting iron ore in this area, there is a junction of local tourist trails and educational paths.

The proposed route follows the yellow and green trail signs, along a small brook. Then the route crosses the brook and ascends to a small ridge called Gronik, where another miner's chapel is erected. Slightly further the route begins its descend to the village of Krzeszów, initially along a narrow path, later along a narrow road through the fields and a little coppice, then it turns left into an asphalt road leading to the main road through the village and finally to the Krzeszów Dąb bus stop.

Transport to Śleszowice and from Krzeszów:
buses or minibuses.



BIENKÓWKA (approx. 390 metres above sea level)
the Koskowa Mountain (866 metres above sea level)
MAKÓW PODHALAŃSKI
(approx. 370 metres above sea level)

Total time – approx. 5 hrs.

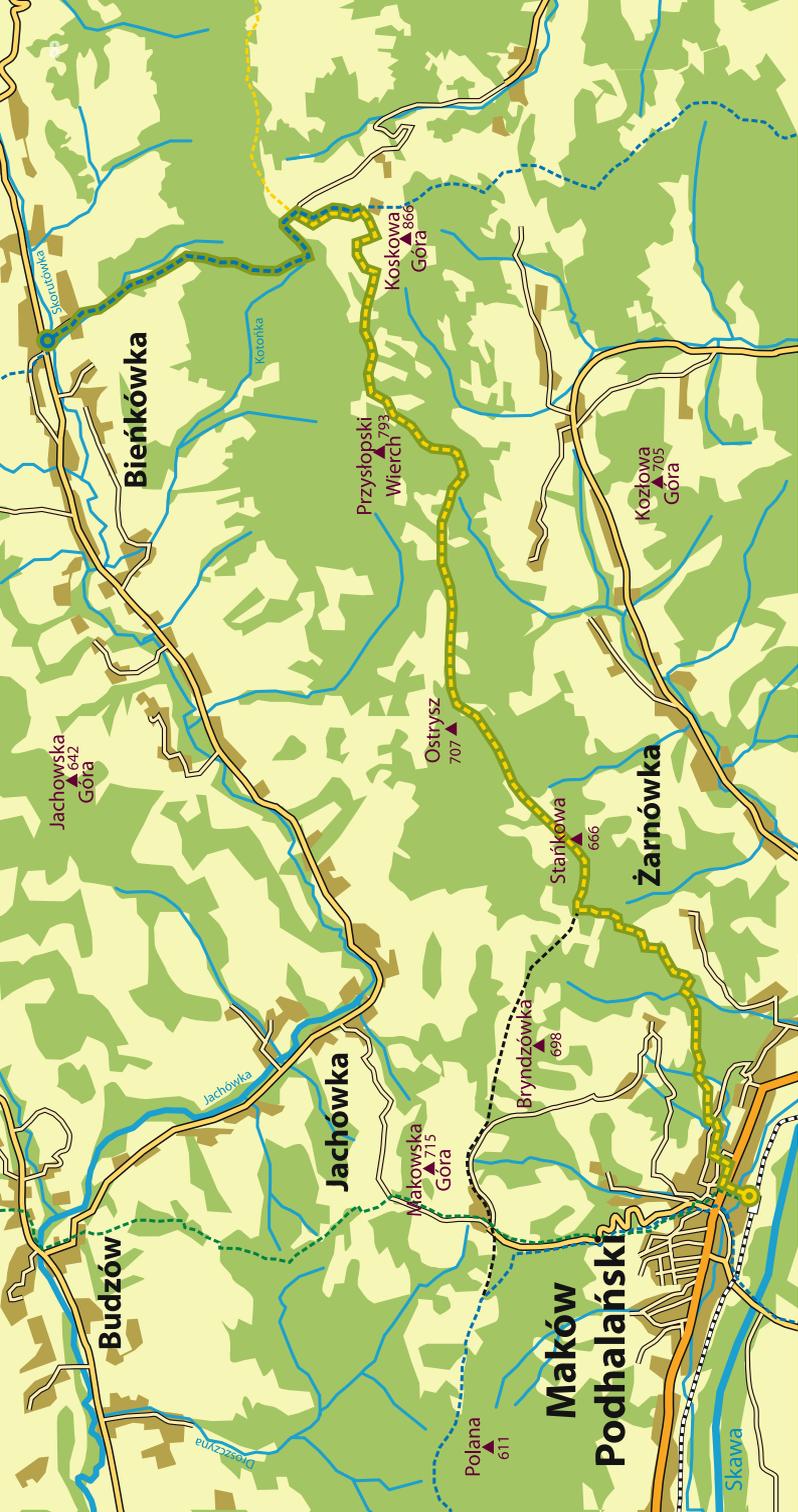
A pleasant, leisurely trip mostly leading along easy paths of the ridge of the Koskowa Mountain Range. Beautiful panorama in all directions from the top of the Koskowa Mountain and its surroundings.



THE TRIP BEGINS from the bus stop in Bienkówka. The route then follows the blue trail signs southwards, crosses the Skorutówka brook and a cluster of trees above some farmer's buildings, reaches the fields and continues along a path, crossing a little coppice on the way. The route reaches the lower boundary of the forest on the Koskowa Mountain slope. There is a beautiful view of the Skorutówka Valley and the Babica Mountain Range from the upper section of the fields. In the forest the trail is initially steep but soon it becomes relatively easy. While wandering along a slightly ascending forest duct, tourists can admire magnificent tall beeches growing among coniferous trees. Finally the route turns left into a perpendicular, broad road and leaves the forest behind. In this open area in the vicinity of the Koskowa Mountain peak, there are two crosses (one made of wood, the other made of stone) and a beautiful little chapel with a folklore figure of the Christ Collapsing Under the Weight of the Cross. The route continues for a few minutes along the yellow route signs, passing the buildings of the 'U Koska' Settlement. The peak of

the Koskowa Mountain (left from the trail) offers a breathtaking panorama of the Babia Góra Mountain Range, the Polica Range, the Gorce Mountains and the eastern part of the Makowski Beskid.





Tourists can also admire the panorama of the Jałowiec Range, the Little Beskid Mountains, northern part of the Makowski Beskid and the Wieliczka Highlands from the northern side of the peak (near a cell-phone transmitter).

The route descends from the peak following the yellow trail eastward, along the main ridge of the Koskowa Mountain. A convenient and easy road passes several heights of the range (Przysłopski Wierch, Ostrysz and Stańkowa) and forest clearings with views of Mount Babia and the Polica Range (south) and the Babica Range, the valley of Bienkówka and Jachówka, and further, of the Marcówka and Budzów area (north).

Finally the route reaches a bifurcation of trails. The black trail leads straight on towards Bryndzówka, but the suggested route continues along the yellow trail, which turns left from the ridge. Sometimes the route down the hill is steep. It passes the place commemorating the soldiers of the Polish underground army, who died in this area during the World War II, next it crosses a picturesque mountain brook and reaches the fields above the town of Maków Podhalański. During the ascend, tourists can admire the views of the mountains surrounding the town (i.e. the Jałowiec Range, the Polica Range and Mount Babia slightly further). The route finishes at the bus station or the railway station in Maków Podhalański.



Transport to Bienkówka: buses and minibuses.





STRYSZAWA ROZTOKI

(approx. 600 metres above sea level)



the Jałowiec Mountain (1,111 metres above sea level)



the Przysłop Pass (661 metres above sea level)

SUCHA BESKIDZKA

(approx. 365 metres above sea level)

Total time – approx. 5 hrs 15 min.

A relatively easy trip along the ridge of the Jałowiec Mountain Range. Beautiful views from the trail, especially the view of the massif of Mount Babia and the Polica Mountain Range. From the Jałowiec Mountain top the view of the Pilsko massif in the Żywiec Beskid Mountains and of the Silesian Beskid Mountains.



THE TRIP begins from the last bus stop in Stryżawa Roztoki and follows the yellow trail signs along the valley of the Uporny Brook. After crossing the brook over a small bridge next to a beautiful waterfall (on the left), the route passes by an apiary, then for a few minutes it continues along the fields and through a forest to reach a broad road on the slope. The route crosses the road and ascends across the southern slopes of the Jałowiec Mountain, passing

a magnificent, 300-year-old spruce called 'Siłosław' (unfortunately nowadays almost completely withered). As the route is joined by the blue trail signs, it turns left and follows them to the peak of the Jałowiec Mountain with a picturesque Trzebuńska Pasture with a beautiful panorama of the Żywiec Beskid (Mount Babia, the Mędralowa Mountain, Mount Pilsko, the Romanka Mountain, the Lachów Crest) and of the Silesian Beskid Mountains with Mount Skrzyczne and Mount Klimczok as well as the Żywiec Dale slightly further.





From the peak the route follows the yellow trail signs westward for more than two hours along the main ridge of the Jałowiec Range. It is mostly a convenient, gently descending forest path, which initially leads through the Opaczne Pass (there is a private mountain hostel slightly below the trail), then it passes the Kołędówki Pass (a junction with the green trail from Stryżawa Matusy to Zawoja Centrum) and after a while it reaches the peak of the Kiczorka Mountain. While descending from the peak towards the Przysłop Pass, tourists can initially admire beautiful views on the south side, especially the magnificent massif of Mount Babia and the Polica Range, and later on also the Makowski and the Wyspowy Beskid Mountains. In the Przysłop Pass, the route crosses the road Stryżawa – Zawoja and follows the red trail signs, initially along an asphalt road, among the settlements scattered on the southern slope of the Magurka Mountain. Then the route encircles the peak from the east and the north to descend into a forest, where it encounters the blue trail (on the right) from Maków Podhalański. Next the route leads to the beginning of an asphalt road in the peripheries of the Górne Podksiężę Settlement that belongs to Sucha Beskidzka. The route descends further southwards (partly it is very steep) across the fields and a forest to reach an open slope with a beautiful view of the Jasieli Mountain, Lipska Mountain and the centre of Sucha Beskidzka. Then the route passes by the 19th-century choleric cemetery (thus the Polish name of the slope – Cholerne) and reaches the buildings of the town. Finally the route passes by the Higher School of Tourism and Ecology and the 'Monttis' Hotel to reach the Mickiewicz Street and the Railway Station in Sucha Beskidzka.

Transport to Stryżawa: buses from Sucha Beskidzka.

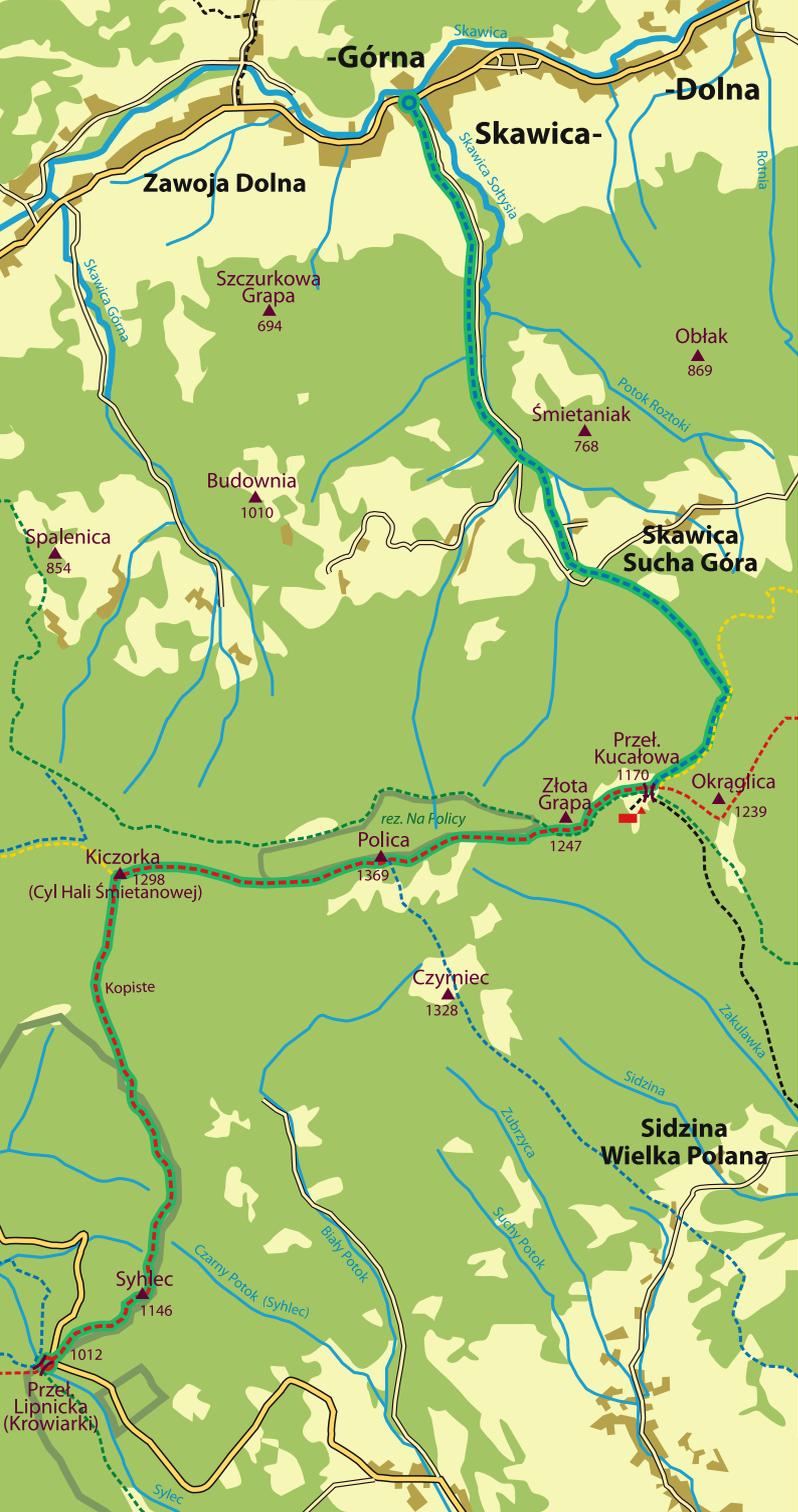


-  **THE KROWIARKI PASS**
(approx. 1,012 metres above sea level)
-  **the Kiczorka Mountain** (1,298 metres above sea level)
- the Polica Mountain** (1,369 metres above sea level)
- Kucałowa Pass** (1,170 metres above sea level)
- SKAWICA GÓRNA** (approx. 470 metres above sea level)
- Total time – approx. 5 hrs.**

The trip along the ridge of the Polica Mountain Range. A pleasant PTTK mountain hostel in the Krupowa Pasture and beautiful panoramas from the Kiczorka Mountain, the Polica Mountain and the area of the Kucałowa Pass.

FROM THE KROWIARKI PASS the route follows the red trail signs of the Main Beskid Mountain Trail heading north. The starting point is next to the inscription commemorating the last hiking trip of Cardinal Wojtyła on the 9th September 1978 before going to the conclave to Rome. The suggested route is similar to the route of the future Pope, however it leads in an opposite direction. The trail initially enters a forest and ascends to the peak of the Syhleć Mountain. Next it descends along a short, steep path and along a passage between the Syhleć and the Główniak Mountains. The route continues through the forest along an easy path, reaching several heights of the Główniak, Wyżni Syhleć and Brożki mountains (not clearly marked in the terrain) and finally it reaches the peak of the Kiczorka Mountain (Cyl Hali Śmietanowej), where the yellow trail to Zawoja begins. It is worth going several metres to the left to be able to admire a beautiful view of the nearby massif of Mount Babia.





From the Kiczorka Mountain the route descends along another passage and later it ascends to the peak of the Polica Mountain for about an hour. The trail runs along the main ridge of the Polica Range (the former Polish–Hungarian border, during the World War II – the border between the German-occupied Poland and Slovakia; it is also the European watershed naturally dividing the catchment areas of the Baltic Sea and the Black Sea). Finally the route reaches the peak, passing by the cross commemorating the underground army fighting against the Nazis and the victims of the plane crash on the 2nd of April 1969. The peak offers a beautiful view of Mount Babia, Orava and the nearby peak of the Czyniec Mountain (the blue trail starting in this place leads to the latter mountain top).

The suggested route continues along the red trail signs and reaches a large forest clearing with beautiful panoramas of the Makowski Beskid, the Wyspowy Beskid and the Gorce mountains as well as of the nearby peaks of the Polica Range. Soon the trail enters another forest, in which it encounters the green trail from Zawoja (on the left). It is a borderline of the Z.Klemensiewicz 'Na Policy' nature reserve of a precious spruce forest. The route follows the red and green trail signs through the forest and it reaches an open area of the Kucalowa Pass, an important tourist trail junction. It is worthwhile to climb the open peak of the Jasna Mountain with a beautiful panorama of the Beskid Mountains, Orava and the Tatra Mountains. The trail on the right leads to the PTTK mountain hostel in the Krupowa Pasture, where tourists can take a rest.

From the Kucalowa Pass the route initially follows the blue and yellow trail signs, traversing the slopes of the Okraglica Mountain (its peak is on the right). After several minutes the yellow signs turn and break away towards Juszczyń, whereas the suggested route follows the blue trail along the so-called 'Gibasowa droga' path. Among trees tourists can appreciate the beautiful views of the Jałowiec Mountain Range. Finally the route reaches an asphalt road in the Sucha Góra Settlement belonging to the village of Skawica. Tourists can cover the distance of several kilometres to the centre of Skawica walking either along the convenient road or along a shortcut following the blue trail signs.

Transport to the Krowiarki Pass: private car (car park available in the vicinity of the Pass). In the high season, there is a bus service from Sucha Beskidzka directly to the Pass in the morning hours. In the low season, tourists can get to Zawoja Policzne using the regular bus and minibus service and then on foot to the Krowiarki Pass following the blue trail signs (approx. 1 h 15 min).

Return from Skawica: buses or minibuses.





THE KROWIARKI PASS

(approx. 1,012 metres above sea level)

Mount Babia (1,725 metres above sea level)

the Brona Pass (1,408 metres above sea level)

Markowe Szczawiny (1,180 metres above sea level)

ZAWOJA PODRYŻOWANA

(approx. 650 metres above sea level)

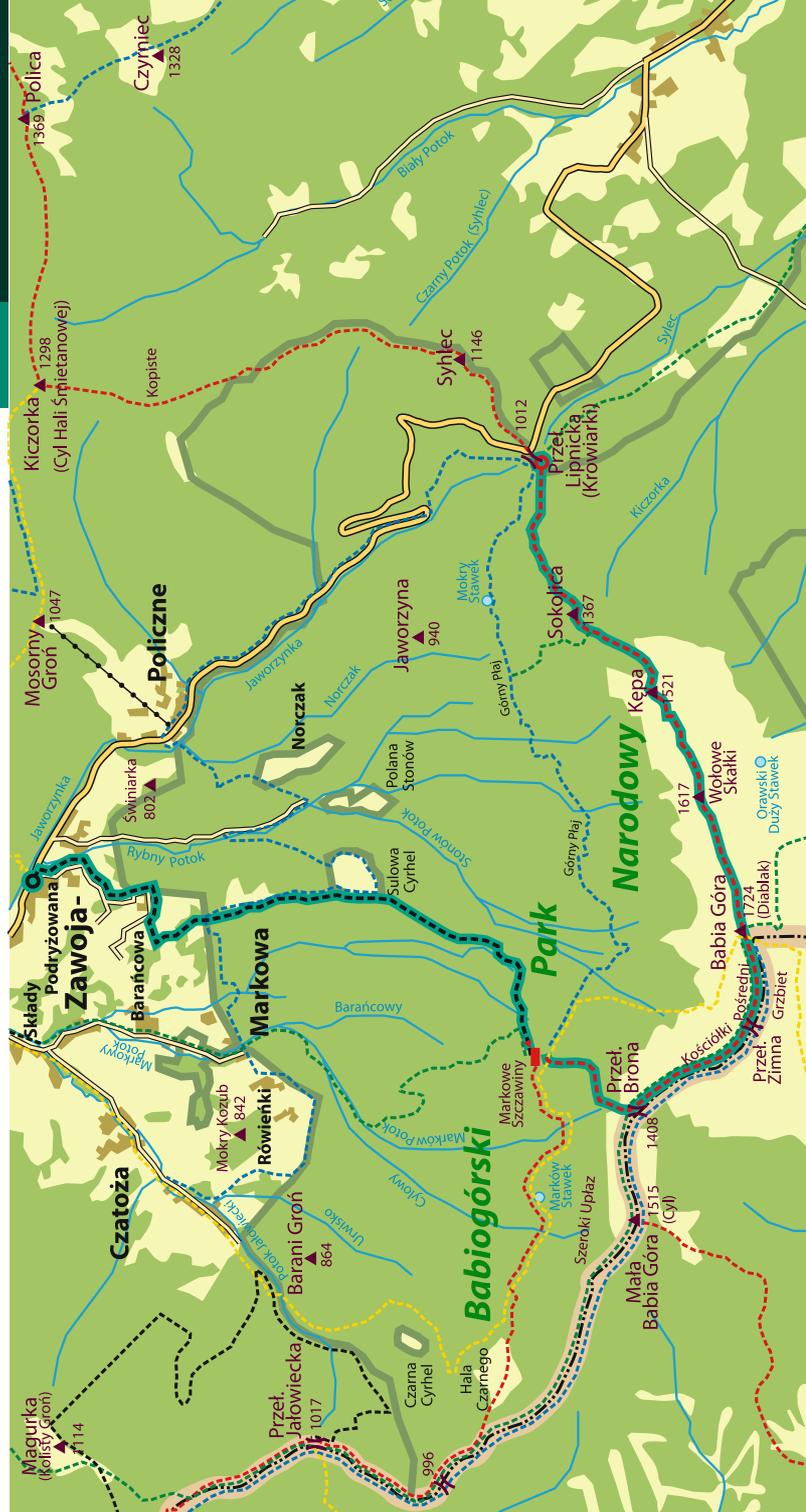
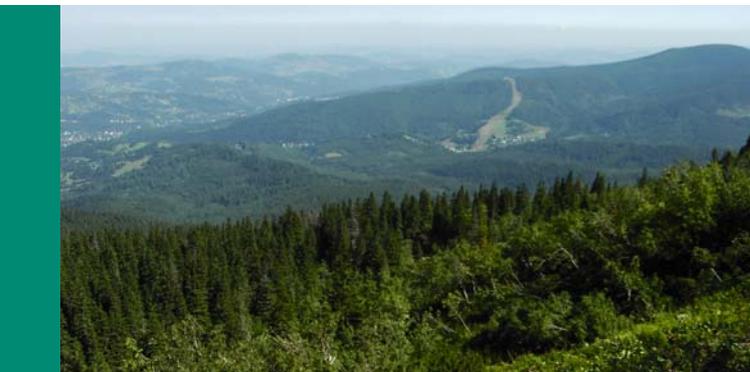
Total time – approx. 5 hrs 30 min.

The easiest climbing route to the highest peak of the West Beskid Mountains, recommended to amateur tourists. The famous, most beautiful panorama in the Beskid Mountains from the top of Mount Babia.



THE ROUTE begins from the Krowiarki Pass and leads south along the red signs of the Main Beskid Mountain Trail through a forest on the northern slopes of the massif of Mount Babia. The trail ascends gently through the area of the Babia Góra National Park and approximately after an hour it reaches a plane terrain, the so-called Sokolica, with a beautiful view of the upper parts of Mount Babia and its steep northern slopes. Tourists should be extremely careful at Sokolica, since approaching the edge of the rocky plateau is dangerous, as there is a deep precipice there.

The route continues along the red trail signs, leaving behind the place where the green trail turns right and breaks away towards the so-called Górny Płaj path linking the Krowiarki Pass with the Markowe Szczawiny clearing. The suggested route ascends a little more gently along the ridge of Mount Babia and allows to observe the changing layers of flora: after leaving the sub-alpine forest behind, tourists can observe groups of dwarf mountain pines (higher they are getting lower and become rare) and finally the alpine layer in the highest parts of the mountains.





The route runs through a series of heights of the ridge, among which the Kępa and Wołowe Skalki heights are most important, and finally it reaches the Diablak peak copula covered with rock rubble.

The peak of Mount Babia is regarded as the best viewing point in the whole Beskid Mountains. The Tatra Mountain Range dominating above the Podhale and Orava planes with the glittering waters of the Orava Lake are especially beautiful. The panorama also

embraces dozens of mountain tops in the Żywiec, Silesian, Makowski, Little and Wyspovy Beskid Mountains, as well as the Gorce Mountains, the Pieniny Mountains and numerous mountain ranges in Slovakia. On the peak there are two obelisks: a recent Slovakian obelisk devoted to John Paul II and the 19th-century obelisk commemorating the visit of archduke Joseph Habsburg

The route descends from the peak along the red trail signs, initially through the area covered with huge rocks and stones (tourists should be very careful here!) and then along a convenient ridge path through the so-called 'Churches' [Kościołki] (the legend suggests that there used to be a church in this place, but the earth opened and swallowed it, which was a punishment for the sins of the local villagers). The route descends further along the Polish–Slovakian border, initially gently and then steeply to reach the Brona Pass, dividing Mount Babia from the Little Babia Mountain. Here the route turns right leaving the ridge and the border behind and continues through a forest to reach the clearing of Markowe Szczawiny after a while. There used to be the oldest mountain hostel in Poland in the West Beskid Mountains built already in 1906. Currently a new building is under construction here. From the Markowe Szczawiny clearing the route descends towards Zawoja following the green and black trail signs until it reaches the bifurcation, from which it follows the black trail (on the right). The path is long, partly steep and it leads across the Dejakowe Szczawiny clearing, where tourists cross the potapprox. The route continues along the ridge of the Stary Groń Crest, across another large clearing called Sulowa Cyrhla and soon it crosses the borderline of the Babia Góra National Park leaving the forest behind. From the area above the buildings of Zawoja there is a beautiful view of the Jałowiec Range (on the left) and the nearby parts of the Polica Range (on the right). Finally the route reaches the Podryżowana Settlement and a narrow asphalt road leading to the Jaworzyna Valley, the main road running through the village and the bus stop in the vicinity of the Podryżowana Settlement.

Transport to the Krowiarki Pass: private car (car park available in the vicinity of the pass). In the high season: a regular bus service from Sucha Beskidzka to the Pass in the morning hours. In the low season: buses and minibuses to the Zawoja Policzne bus stop and further on foot to the Krowiarki Pass following the blue trail signs (approx. 1 h 15 min.).

Return from Zawoja Podryżowana: numerous buses and minibuses.



ZAWOJA MARKOWA

(approx. 1,012 metres above sea level)



Markowe Szczawiny (1,180 metres above sea level)

Mount Babia (1,725 metres above sea level)

Hwiezdosław Gamekeeper's Cottage

(886 metres above sea level)

SLANA VODA (750 metres above sea level)

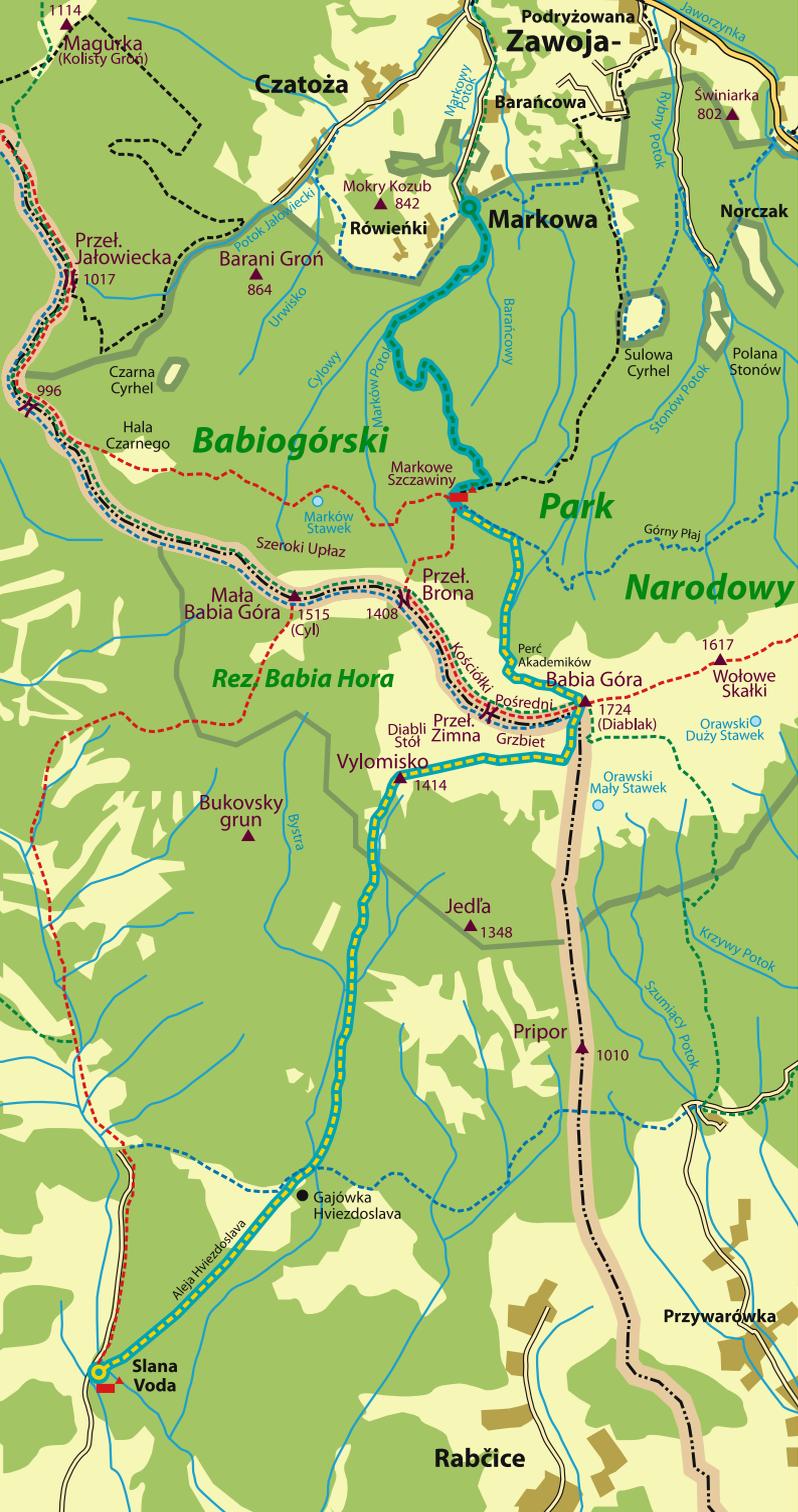
Total time – approx. 6 hrs.

A beautiful trip revealing the Polish and Slovakian countenance of 'the Queen of Beskid'. Between Markowe Szczawiny and Mount Babia the route leads along the so-called 'Perć Akademików', one of the most spectacular and the most difficult trails in the Beskid Mountains, with climbing staples and chains in some parts of it, thus recommended to skilled and experienced tourists.

THE TRIP begins from the last bus stop in Zawoja Markowa. The route immediately enters the Babia Góra National Park and follows the green trail signs along a wide forest road through the so-called Pośredni Bór forest. The trail ascends along the Marków Brook Valley, then it crosses the brook and continues up the slopes of Mount Babia. It is a steep path, especially in its final section. The route leaves the little forest clearing called Kolistka Polana and meets the black trail from Zawoja Podryżowana. Both trails head towards the clearing of Markowe Szczawiny, an important junction of tourist trails with the PTTK mountain hostel. Near the hostel the suggested route turns left and initially follows the blue and yellow trail signs along the so-called Górny Plaj, a convenient forest road traversing the northern slopes of Mount Babia. After approximately a quarter of an hour the route turns right and continues along the yellow trail signs leaving the Plaj forest road and the blue trail behind. The route ascends through a spruce forest, approaching the valley of the Szumiąca Woda Brook. The steep path continues along the brook, passing by its spring and after a while it reaches the picturesque Sucha Kotlinka dale in the vicinity of the upper borderline of the forest. The most interesting part of the trip begins here, leading along the so-called 'Perć Akademików' trail. The route climbs up among bushes and dwarf mountain pines to a little rock shelf with climbing chains (tourists should be very careful here!). Slightly further there is another height

of the slope (with climbing staples and chains) and then another steep climb leading to the treeless region covering the top parts of the massif. Finally the route passes by a small altar with the figure of the Madonna Queen of Mount Babia placed in a natural cavity of the rock and it reaches the peak of 'the Queen of Beskid'.

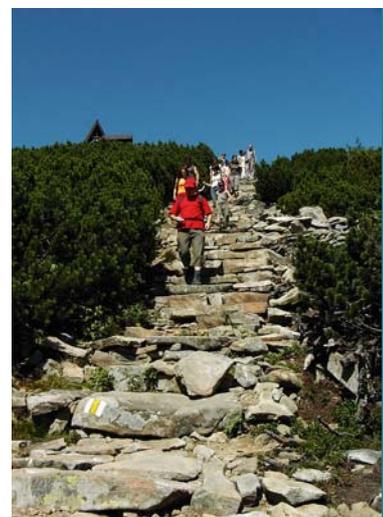




Then the route crosses the national border on the Diablak Mountain and continues along the Slovakian yellow trail. Initially the trail descends dramatically, then it turns right, gently traversing the southern slopes of Mount Babia among the groups of dwarf mountain pine. After a while the route reaches the upper borderline of the forest and enters the Uściarska clearing with a beautiful panorama. In the clearing there is an interesting outcrop of sandstone called the Devil's Table [Diabli Stół]. The path down is steep but it soon changes into a wide road which crosses the borderline of the Slovakian 'Babia Hora' nature reserve. The route crosses a wide slope road and continues along a steep passage until it reaches a bridge above a small waterfall on the brook. From that place the route gets easier. Finally it reaches a narrow asphalt road and a pasture with the so-called 'Hviezdoslav Gamekeeper's Cottage', a museum devoted to Slovakian writers: a poet Pavel 'Hviezdoslav' Országh and Milo Urban. The route continues along the picturesque Hviezdoslav Avenue following the yellow trail signs. It takes less than an hour to get to the tourist hostel in Slana Voda, the settlement belonging to Oravska Polhora.

Transport to Zawoja Markowa:
buses and minibuses.

Return from Oravska Polhora:
private car via the border crossings
in Korbielów or Lipnica Wielka.



HORSEBACK-RIDING TRAILS



THE WHOLE AREA OF THE BESKID MOUNTAINS is perfect for the horseback riding tourism, no wonder then that it was exactly here that the Polish Tourist Country-Lovers' Association (PTTK) demarcated the Trans-Beskid Horseback Riding Trail. It is the longest mountain horseback trail in Poland (600 kilometres) and it runs from Brenna in the Silesian Beskid Mountains to the village of Wołosate which is situated at the very end of the Bieszczady Mountains in south-eastern Poland. The trail takes tourists along the southern peripheries of the Sucha County, from the Gluchaczki Pass (830 m above sea level) along the state border to the Klekociny Pass (864 m above sea level) and further on through Zawoja to the Krowiarki Pass. In the recent years the local horseback-riding centres together with the County District Authorities undertook intensive actions aiming at the establishment of horseback riding trail network in the Babia Góra Region, which will facilitate mountain horseback riding tourism.



At present the process of marking the trails is underway. Out of 210 kilometres of marked trails in the county, 167 kilometres have been marked so far. The "Bór" Sport Club in Toporzysko is particularly active in the process. Even today tourists can ride from the village of Tarnawa Dolna via the Lipska Mountain to Sucha Beskidzka and then through Zasypnica, Przysłop, Zawoja towards the Mosorny Crest, Cyl, along the Polica Mountain Range, then through Zubrzyca Górna (in the County of Nowy Targ), Spalenica to Toporzysko and on to Jordanów. The trail has numerous local loops and branches taking tourists along the most beautiful areas of the Babia Góra Region.

Longer horseback rides in the Beskid Mountains and along the Polish-Slovakian national border can be planned on the basis of the network of horseback riding centres listed below.



HORSEBACK RIDING CENTRES:

The "Bór" Horseback Riding Club (Klub Jazdy Konnej "Bór")
Toporzysko 454 – Folwark, 34-240 Jordanów, tel: +48 18 2873832; www.toporzysko.pl

The "Dyzma" Horseback Riding Centre (Ośrodek Jazdy Konnej Dyzma)
34-222 Zawoja Widły 151, tel: +48 33 8773404; www.zawoja.pl/konie

The Hucul Horse Farm (Stadnina Koni Huculskich)
Tarnawa Dolna 335, 34-210 Zembrzyce, tel: +48 32 2198795, 505 314 243; www.leskowiec.stadniny.pl

The "Drwałówka" Agro-tourist Farm (Gospodarstwo agroturystyczne Drwałówka)
Grzechynia 647, 34-220 Maków Podhalański, tel: +48 33 8747059; www.drwalowka.pl

The Makowska Mountain Horseback Riding Centre (Ośrodek Jeździecki Makowska Góra)
os. Jurki 1, 34-220 Maków Podhalański, tel: +48 604 082 209



BICYCLE TRAILS

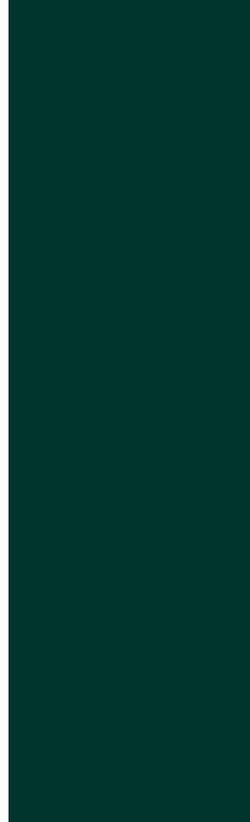


THE LONG-DISTANCE BICYCLE AMBER TRAIL (Budapest – Cracow – Gdańsk), which is a part of the Greenways Trails, crosses the County of Sucha. From the Slovakian side it runs to the Krowiarki Pass, and next along asphalt roads through Zawoja Centrum, the Przysłop Pass and Stryżawa to Sucha Beskidzka. In the capital of the county the trail crosses the Skawa River and continues along the east bank of the river to Zembrzyce, Marcówka and along the ridge of the Chełm Mountain and to the village of Stryżów.

As part of Polish-Slovakian cooperation the “Babia Góra Loop” project is being implemented, i.e. a bicycle trail around the highest peak in the West Beskid Mountains. Its total length is approx. 72 km, out of which approx. 18 km on the Slovakian side. Last year a new hiking-cycling tourist border crossing at Moczarki – Oravská Polhora was opened, which allows an easy access to the Slovakian bicycle trails near Mount Babia for the biking tourists. In the east the loop crosses the border on a tourist border crossing at Przywarówka-Oravská Polhora. On the Polish side the trail runs across the following commune areas: Lipnica Wielka, Jabłonka, Zawoja, Maków Podhalański, Stryżawa, Koszarawa, and Jeleśnia. The target objective aims at making the loop available via liaison trails leading from each of the remaining communes situated in the Babia Góra Region. Ultimately, a coherent local system of bicycle trails will be created on both sides of the border with a possibility to connect the system with the EuroVelo European cycling routes system and the Greenways trail network. In 2007 the Local Activist Group called “Podbabiogórze LGD” commenced works on the Leader+ Project aiming at the design of the eco-museum bicycle trail called “The Babia Góra Region Tourist Attractions and Local Products Trail,” which will take tourists to some interesting places associated with the cultural heritage of the region.



Several local bicycle trails with a varied level of difficulty were also prepared on the territory of the Sucha County. Planning the bicycle escapades one should remember about the mountainous character of these trails and consider the varied levels of difficulty. Cycling lovers will certainly find the detailed maps of the explored areas very useful.





Sucha Beskidzka:

1. Zamkowa Street – Jasieli – hr. J. Tarnowskiego Street – Zamkowa Street (4 km; the yellow trail signs).
2. Zamkowa Street – Bacowie Settlement – Koźle Settlement – Błądzonka – Batalionów Chłopskich Street – hr. J. Tarnowskiego Street – Zamkowa Street (8.4 km; the blue trail signs).
3. Zamkowa Street – Market Square – Kościelna Street – 3 Maja Street – Podksiężę – Magurka – Bielasy Settlement – Grzechynia – Za Wodą Settlement – Zarębki Settlement – Sumerówka Settlement – Nad Skawą Street – Piłsudskiego Street – Market Square – Zamkowa Street (21.7 km; the orange trail signs).
4. Zamkowa Street – Market Square – Kościelna Street – 3. Maja Street – Podksiężę – Magurka – Zawoja Zakamień (9.9 km; the green trail signs).
5. Zamkowa Street – Market Square – Kościelna Street – 3. Maja Street – Podksiężę – Magurka – Zawoja Przysłop – Stryszawa Huciska – Stryszawa – Role Settlement – Mickiewicza Street – Market Square – Zamkowa Street (21.7 km; the purple trail signs).

Maków Podhalański:

1. Market Square – Makowska Góra Settlement – Jurki Settlement – Market Square (approx. 5 km; the yellow trail signs).
2. Market Square – Makowska Góra Settlement – Bryndzówka – Przysłopski Wierch mountain – Koskowa Mountain – Żarnówka – Głowackiego Street – 3. Maja Street (approx. 20 km; the red trail signs).
3. Market Square – Makowska Góra Settlement – Za Górą Settlement – Polana Settlement – Maków Dolny – Za Wodą Settlement – Grzechynia – Maków Podhalański Railway Station (approx. 10 km; the blue trail signs).



Zawoja:

1. Zawoja Centrum – Zawoja Smyraki – Zawoja Przysłop – Zawoja Marszałki (11 km; the blue trail signs).
2. Zawoja Wełcza Forester's Lodge – Zawoja Kołędówka – Zawoja Skupnie – Zawoja Wełcza (8.5 km; the red trail signs).
- 2a. Zawoja Kołędówka – Zawoja Wełcza (3 km; the yellow trail signs).
3. Zawoja Wełcza – Zawoja Za Polaną Settlement – Zawoja Widły – Zawoja Wełcza (10 km; the green trail signs).

The Communes of Bystra Siedzina and Jordanów:

1. Jordanów Railway Station – Wysoka – Góra Ludwiki Mountain – Toporzysko – Commune Authorities Office in Bystra – Jordanów Railway Station (21.3 km; the red trail signs).
2. Commune Authorities Office in Bystra – Siedzina Jarominy – Siedzinka Mała – Toporzysko – Commune Authorities Office in Bystra (33.3 km; the green trail signs).

Stryszawa:

Three new bicycle trails are currently being prepared (substituting the existing ones).





Publisher:

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Printed by:

Grafikon

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ISBN 978-83-926414-6-9



The project is co-financed by the European Union as part of the Interreg IIIA Poland – Slovak Republic Program, and by the Polish state budget as part of the Beskid Mountains Euroregion microprojects.