

TOURIST INFORMATION





ZOOV/EF Awards²⁰¹⁵ award winner gold Agroturystyka & Camping Forteca Anna & Mathijs van Dijk Ul. Wrodawska 12 58-211 Uciechów

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Table of contents

1. Who are we?	3
2. Campsite map	
3. Camping rules & regulations	
4. Forteca Restaurant	
5. Cycling -and walking paths	
6. Tourist information	
Surroundings	
Monuments & Castles	
Historic cities and culture	
Gardens and museums	
Groceries and market	
7. Useful information	
payment options	
traffic in poland	
• toll	
our partners/important addresses	
car repair in poland	
overnight day trips	
wifi at the campsite	
refueling / charging car	
8. Polish language	
9. Toll and Route	

Who we are

We are Anna & Mathijs van Dijk and have been living in the village of Uciechów since 2005 with our daughter Jaśmina, born 2010.

We would like to tell you how we got here.

In 2003 this piece of land was for sale, but our minds weren't pointed in this direction because Mathijs was still busy with his studies and we were actually more concerned with moving to London where Mathijs would do an internship.

Nevertheless, it was an attractive offer and after Anna's father represented us at the auction of the former sandpit, we suddenly owned a small lake with 4 hectares of land.

The site was a typical sand excavation site; there were still old excavators, unfinished buildings, the terrain was difficult to walk through. With a little imagination, we could develop part of the site into a very simple campsite. It was important that the water was clean and that we saw perspective in this venture. We just tried it and with a positive view we looked at whether it would be profitable and whether we would enjoy living here. Eventually it turned out to be a good choice.

The first major job was clearing the site using an old excavator from the village. We removed a lot of construction waste and made the site accessible around the lake. Very slowly we were able to classify camping spots and make plans for sanitary facilities, restaurant, playground and access to the water. On the site was an old workshop with a pit, we converted this workshop into a canteen / restaurant in 2005. This way we could gradually start with the catering industry, which in turn generated some extra income.

The first years were quite difficult, financially and physically. It was hard work, but because we saw that the campsite and restaurant were developing more and more, this gave motivation for the next projects.

Over the years, the site has expanded to 8.5ha and has been developed in its entirety. The restaurant can accommodate 120 guests, we have 8 guest rooms and 90 camping spots. The log cabins and chalets ensure that we can also accomodate guests who do not want to camp but who do want to stay at a campsite.

We offer our guests a complete package of tourist information through this app. There is plenty to do outside the campsite, which makes a visit to our campsite even more interesting.

After several years of minor maintenance of the sanitary facilities, we thoroughly tackled the main building in 2023 and we can say that Camping Forteca guarantees a high standard in terms of hygienic and comfortable sanitary facilities which is one of the most important aspects at a campsite.

In the future we want to remain a cozy family campsite, where different nationalities feel at home.



Campsite Map

The camping site is quite spacious, because of the hilly location around the water you have a wide choice of where to place your tent or caravan.

You can also enjoy a nice walk around the lake, we have provided swing benches and you will also get a good idea of the location of the campsite on the viewtower.

The orchard provides a rustic experience at the campsite, which is especially nice in spring. From there, camping spots have an unobstructed view of the Sleza massif.

The lake on our site is the biggest attraction. Not only can you swim in it (at your own risk), but it also provides a soothing experience due to a range of animals such as swallows and frogs that inhabit the banks. Look at how pure the water is... this is due to the sand bed through which the water cleans itself.

For the kids there is a playground, ping pong table, football field, but they can also enjoy themselves in the canteen. We have a communal campfire spot on the shore of the lake, but you can also make a small fire on the spot (if not a nuisance).

We try to maintain the grounds as well as possible, so you can expect that the grass is always cut short, the trees are nicely trimmed, in order to create a park-like atmosphere.

Our goal is to let you enjoy your holiday in a pleasant environment, surrounded by nature, but with the comfort of good sanitary facilities and facilities to make your stay as pleasant as possible.





- 1. Entrance gate
- 2. Parking
- 3. Reception / Restaurant
- 4. Chamber Hall
- 5. Guest rooms
- 6. Camping

- 7. Sanitary facilities
- 8. Wooden Cottage
- 9. Mobile homes
- 10. Beach volleyball
- 11. Orchard
- 12. Camping

- 13. Playground
- 14. Watchtower
- 15. Beach
- 16. Pergola with benches
- 17. Sauna
- 18. Pier / pedal boats

Camping Rules & Regulations

We have no real rules, we assume everyone's common sense. Although we have written down a number of points that you can take into account during your stay.

- 1. Swimming in the lake is entirely at your own risk, keep an eye on your children. No matter how well they swim, unexpected situations can occur, such as a cramp, or panic about a fish swimming by.
- 2. Do not dive under the jetty or under the pedal boats.
- It is better not to drink tap water from the tap, it can give you diarrhea at worst. So it is better to buy
 mineral water. The water is suitable for brushing teeth or for cooking.
- **4.** Garbage is collected every Monday and Friday around 8:00 am, if you have garbage please make sure to dump it at the bins at the gate at the back of the site. Please make bottles, etc. small!
- 5. We recycle glass, cardboard and plastic, bins are placed at the washing-up area of the sanitary building. Other waste can be placed in the small gray waste bin next to the sinks. We collect this regularly.
- 6. Please leave toilets and showers clean, we do our utmost to keep the sanitary facilities clean, but we also need the cooperation of our guests. After washing up, clean the well, throw away food leftovers, then wipe it with a cloth. After visiting the toilet, if necessary, use the brush next to it, rinse dirt into the drain after a shower, etc. etc.
- 7. We do not use shower tokens, but this does not mean unlimited showering. Especially for the youth; use your common sense and don't abuse it.
- 8. If a fuse blows, call Mathijs. When using an extension cord, please use a power strip, this prevents a fuse from blowing and is safe for your environment.
- 9. The use of electric heaters is permitted when it is cold, use common sense: no more than 1 heater, do not use it in the awning.
- 10. Electric outside/patio heaters are prohibited
- 11. The electricity rate is calculated for normal electricity consumption per camping pitch (lights, refrigerator, water heater, chargers in the caravan/tent/folding trailer), but air conditioning is not calculated. If you want to use this, please let the reception know and we will set a fair individual rate.
- **12.** In principle, music is allowed in the caravan/tent, as long as it does not disturb anyone. Some guests prefer to listen to the birds and insects or just to nothing and we like to respect that. Our preference is the sound of singing birds.
- **13.** There is a bread and bun service. You can indicate this on the list (door of the sanitary building) from 15:00-22:00. The rolls are ready in the restaurant until 10:00, you can grab what you ordered yourself.
- 14. The restaurant is open from approximately 12:00 (closed on Mondays). The kitchen is open until 20:00.
- **15.** In case of prolonged rain, please leave the car in the central parking space (at the entrance) to prevent mud formation.

- 16. Campfires may be lit in the central campfire spot on the water or in other places that are in any case not too close to tents/caravans. Firewood: if it's gone it's gone, so use it sparingly. If the wind blows strongly, no campfires may be lit.
- 17. Only use dead trees/branches for the campfire. Do not cut trees or branches yourself. Bags of firewood are also available for purchase.
- **18.** Pedal boats are available for hire, so ask at the bar. Please don't go there by yourself. We don't like climbing out of the water via the pedal boats, that's what the stairs are for. Oh yes...of course please don't crash into the jetty or the other pedal boats.
- 19. After 22:00 it should be quiet on the campsite. Until then, no one should be bothered by each other.
- 20. Please keep dogs on a leash (without exception) and walk outside the campsite, don't forget the poop bag. Some children are afraid of dogs, we have to take this into account, even if they are so sweet. Dogs are allowed to swim in the lake as long as it does not disturb other guests (watch out with small children). Unfortunately, dogs are not allowed in the restaurant.
- **21.** The chemical toilet can be emptied directly in the cellar of the wooden house at the entrance. The toilet bowl is used for emptying and the shower for rinsing
- **22.** Private consumption is of course possible on the camping pitches, but we cannot allow it in the restaurant or on the terraces. Incidentally, we also do takeaway menus such as salad or fries with dinner...service to the tent.
- **23.** Fishing is not allowed in the lake.
- **24.** Do not let your children play in the bushes because of ticks. A quarter of the ticks in this area are infected with Lyme and/or TBE virus. Always let us know if you have or have had a tick.
- **25.** Our brick BBQ is only used for organized BBQs. The menu and rate is indicated on the door to the showers. You can register at the bar.
- **26.** You can check out the evening / day before, after payment you can simply drive off the campsite. The daily rate starts from arrival from 12:00 until the day of departure until 11:00. If you want to stay longer, we charge a half day rate until 6:00 PM, after which you pay the normal rate.
- 27. If you temporarily leave the campsite during your stay for a trip to, for example, Krakow or Prague, the full camping rate will be charged.
- **28.** You can eat and drink on account, so you do not always have to have money with you, but please pay per day.
- **29.** In order to keep the rates as favorable as possible, we ask you to pay cash in Polish zloties, possibly in euros at an average exchange rate, if there is no other option, you can also pay by card, but this is unfavorable for your finances and also the us. There can not be transferred via bank transfer.
- 30. You get a discount with your current ACSI-card. The ACSI Clubcard discount is valid from 1 April to 30 June and again from 01 September to 01 October. Discounts do not apply to accommodations. Discounts cannot be combined.

We do everything we can to provide you with a successful holiday. You give us the opportunity to further develop our campsite by leaving a positive review on, for example: eurocampings.nl, our profile on google, camping.info.

Forteca Restaurant

The restaurant serves as a dining area, canteen and reception. So when you arrive at the campsite you can sign-up at the bar in the restaurant.

The restaurant on the campsite is a godsend if you don't feel like cooking. We offer you a menu of dishes that we prepare fresh ourselves. We try to make a special every day (in the main season) with mainly Polish specialties.

You can also go for, for example, a cup of coffee with fresh apple pie or an ice cream. We also provide lunch and breakfast. Please make a reservation for breakfast.

The kitchen of the restaurant is open in high season from Tuesday (4:00 PM) to Sunday evening 8:00 PM, from Wednesday approximately 12:00 PM to 8:00 PM.

Due to the fact that our waitresses and waiters do not always speak English very well, you can only order at the bar with us and take the drinks to the table, so that the orders come through better and we can serve you faster. Around 18-18:30 is rush hour, so if you don't want to wait too long, come a little earlier or later. We only reserve tables for larger groups (> 10 people).

If there is enough attendance and good weather, we organize a BBQ every Friday in the main season. The menu will then hang on the door of the sanitary facilities, you can register with Mathijs or on the list. If it is someone's birthday or if you have something else to celebrate, we would be happy to organize your party, please let us know in advance. We can order cake from the local bakery (at least 3 days in advance).

Bread & buns

We have a bread service at the campsite, we get the buns from the local bakery. There is a choice of white and brown bread, white and brown buns.

In the high season you can pick up your bread and buns in the restaurant. They are ready on the table, you can take what you ordered yourself and put them in a bag, it is better to bring your own bag. The sandwich list can be found on the door of the main sanitary facilities.

You can pick up the bread in the main season from about 7:00 AM - 10:00 AM. If it happens that the restaurant is not open in the morning (exceptionally) then the sandwiches / buns are on the gazebo.

Cafeteria

The restaurant also serves as a canteen. You can read a book or play a game. We have a number of shelves of books that you can borrow/exchange. You can take the books with you if not finished.



Bike and hiking trails

The cycle path network in this area has improved enormously in recent years. Many country trails have been paved, so many new cycling routes have been created.

Mathijs has a detailed map of the municipality of Dzierżoniów on loan on which we can map out routes together, but below I also set out a number of routes for you. The routes are suitable for normal city bikes. The landscape is sloping but not steep.

If you want to mountain bike, there are already a number of beautiful routes through the Dębowa Góra (oak height) 2 km away. By bike you can also drive to the Slęza reserve, the top can be reached by bike (for advanced) and MTB routes are indicated.

From Bielawa there are a number of MTB routes to do, which are well marked. There is also a map with the routes of more than 500 km in total, the so-called Strefa MTB Sudety.

The most extreme routes can also be ridden at the Fort 'Srebrna Góra'.

Mountain bikes can also be rented from the company Dobraintegracja, ask Mathijs

Route 1

Dzierżoniów (12,5km) - functional and relaxing

For a short cycling tour, shopping or a visit to the city.

Cycle from the campsite on the dirt track to the old road

Drive to Uciechów on former 384.

Cross the crossroads straight ahead and take the last road in Uciechów on the right.

Past the silos you will get on the bike path to Dzierżoniów.

You will arrive at the district heating building, go straight ahead.

Then second roundabout left to the center (continuous straight ahead)

From the center drive back via Ząbkowicki street – Okrzei Street – Cicha Street (hospital) and then via Relaksowa between the vegetable gardens towards Uciechów. You will end up on the road between Uciechów and Dobrocin. You turn left there and then you will see the campsite again.

Route2

Rural option 1 (19km) - a break by bike

Drive down the dirt track via the old road 384 to Uciechów.

At the crossroads turn right towards Jazwina.

Then left in Jazwina (follow sign Świdnica) – Kiełczyn – Tuszyn – Włoki.

In Włoki you turn left onto the cycle path to Uciechów and you have made the circle.

Route3

Rural option 2 (26km) - short cycling tour

From the campsite, drive along the asphalt road to the new ring road 384.

Cross over towards Dobrocin and turn left just past the forest on the cycle path.

Continue to the village of Roztocznik through the castle, drive in the direction of Sleza mountain to the village of Kołaczów.

Here you cross road 384 again.

Continue to Stoszów – Słupice

Turn left in Słupice to Uliczno.

From Uliczno drive to Jazwina and from there back to Uciechów

Route 4

Urban route Dzierżoniów – Pieszyce – Bielawa (31km) - - an afternoon of cycling.

From the campsite, drive via Uciechów on the cycle path to Dzierzoniów.

At the second roundabout in Dzierzoniów, go straight ahead towards the business park, cross the railway and at the end of the road turn left. Here you will reach the main road Dzierżoniów – Pieszyce. Follow the cycle path to Pieszyce. In Pieszyce, see the castle (parallel to the main road) and visit the ice cream parlor (Kościuszki 25) for the best ice cream in the region.

Then drive towards the mountains, drive via 1-maja street and a gravel path to Bielawa. You will arrive at the artificial lake in Bielawa. Here are benches and a wooden jetty for a nice view.

Drive through the town towards the center via the kasztanowa - lipowa - and drive all the way to the end of the 1 maja street. Exit Romana Biskupa Street and turn left and ride the bike path along the 384 back to Dzierżoniów.

Drive via Ząbkowickie – Cicha – Relaksowa street and then the vegetable gardens to Uciechów.

Route 5

Bomentuin route (43km) - a whole day away by bike.

Cross the new road from the campsite and cycle to Dobrocin. Then follow the signs Byszów. Follow the road all the way through Gilów and the forest to the E67.

Cross the E67 and drive to the center of Niemcza, from the center follow the signs 'Wojsławice – Arboretum'.

This is a nice stop at the park, you can get a coffee and walk around.

After this you can go back the same way (30 km) - or you can continue via Podlesie to Przerzecyn Zdrój. Here you cross the E67 again. You drive via the Kwiatowa road to Piława Górna.

In Piława turn the first road to the right and via Kosmińska street you drive back to Gilów. You will arrive at the cowsheds of Danone. Here you turn left onto the road back to Uciechów.

WALK AROUND!

There is plenty to do for the recreational walker. Crossing the new ring road there is a large area on the east side of the campsite where many country paths and ruts have been asphalted. Beautiful routes can be set out with the map of the municipality of Dzierżoniów. It is also good to walk to the town of Dzierżoniów on the new cycle path. For walking the dog we recommend to walk out of the dirt track and cross the old road straight, after this is a nice country track towards the soccer fields/playground in Uciechów. You can turn right halfway and walk towards the forest (in Kołaczów) and make a circle.

HIKING

The Owl Mountains are an excellent place for walking (hiking). The top of the Owl Mountains is the Great Owl 'Wielka Sowa'. There are several routes to the top.

Short route: you drive by car to the town of Rzeczka, you can park next to the restaurant 'Karczma pod Sową' (50°39'43.6"N 16°27'56.6"E). The walking route to the Great Owl takes about 1 hour (5.5 km) back and forth.

Medium route: you park the car in the parking lot of Przełęcz

Jugowska (50°39'21.2"N 16°31'34.3"E). The route takes about 2 hours and 30 minutes back and forth and is 10.5 km long.

Long route: The route starts at the Przełęcz Walimska and you walk to the top via the signs. Park the car in the parking lot (50°41'53.3"N 16°28'27.8"E). The route is 18km back and forth and takes about 3.5 hours.

Also in the Slęża reserve there are some nice hiking trails to the top.

Route Tapądła: From the parking lot in Tąpadła (50°50'45.8"N 16°41'56.5"E), for example, you can take the yellow route up and back via the blue route. The blue route is a bit rocky. The round trip takes about 2 hours and 15 minutes and is 6.5 km long.

You can also just take the yellow route back (easy to walk, then it takes about 1.5 hours.

Route Sobótka Zachodnia: From the parking lot near the restaurant Szczere Pole (50°53'31.3"N 16°44'27.3"E). From here the yellow route goes up via 'Pod Wieżycą'. The trip takes about 3 hours back and forth and is 10 km long.

Route Radunia: From the parking lot in Tąpadła, take the route to Radunia on the south side of the parking lot. The tour takes 2.15 hours and is 11 km long. You arrive at the mountain Radunia, a slightly lower mountain than the Slęza mountain.



Tourist information

Campsite Surroundings

1. The Riese Project

The Projekt Riese was the code name of a large-scale and secret construction project of Nazi Germany in Lower Silesia designed by Albert Speer.

Since the discovery of an armored train hidden in a tunnel near the town of Wałbrzych, the project has become world news. Yet little is known about this project due to the fact that the Nazis wanted to keep things a secret. In August 2015 the news came out that a Polish and German amateur treasure hunter found the legendary train. Radar images clearly show that something is hiding in the mountain at km-marker 61.1 of the train track from Wrocław to Wałbrzych. People speculate about military equipment or Jewish gold and jewelry or perhaps the missing Amber Room from St. Petersburg. So far nothing has been found, in 2016 they searched with large equipment but without results.

The Riese project involved a network of several underground structures (tunnels and chambers) that are probably connected to each other. You can view these tunnels in various places, such as in Walim, Głuszyca-Osówka or Włodarz. For tourists, the complex 'Osówka' in Głuszyca is the most interesting because explanations are not only given in Polish. It is best to take the historical route, this route takes 1 hour. (50°40'10.2"N 16°25'04.3"E)

The Riese project consisted of a number of Arbeitslagern (AL), translated into Polish, these are Walim, Osówka, Soboń, Jugowice, Sokolec and the largest; Wlodarz. Associated objects were the Fürstenstein Castle (Książ) and the Jedlinka Palace. Książ Castle, according to some, should become the headquarters of the Führer, the corridors should lead to an underground storage for missiles and military equipment. There should be access to this from the castle. Although large parts of the tunnel have been found, after the Red Army came to 'liberate' Poland, many of the entrances have been blown up and have not yet been discovered.

The enormous work of excavating the tunnels was done by forced laborers of the 'Schlesische Industriegemeinschaft AG'. In, among others, the concentration camp 'Gross Rosen' (dependance of Sachsenhausen) in Rogożnica. Jews, but also prisoners of war and insurgents, were forced to work. Prisoners of war and Jews were housed in 5 other camps in the vicinity of the Arbeitslagern.

To get an idea of the scale of this project, it is wise to first visit the Gross Rosen concentration camp in Rogoznica, then the Osówka complex in Głuszyca. Książ Castle focuses more on the history before the Nazi occupation, but also shows the tunnels under the complex (partially accessible).

The Włodarz complex, together with the Mölke museum, is also well worth a visit for a good impression of the project.

Książ Castle: 50°50'33.8"N 16°17'35.0"E Gross Rosen: 50°59'53.0"N 16°16'31.8"E Osówka: 50°40'10.8"N 16°25'05.0"E Włodarz: 50°42'06.5"N 16°25'11.3"E Mölke: 50°37'40.8"N 16°29'38.5"E



2. The Owl Mountains

The Giant Mountains (Sudeten) stretch 250km from the German-Czech-Polish border along the Polish-Czech border. The area is divided into smaller regions, including the Owl Mountains, which stretch over 35km between Wałbrzych and Bardo. The highest point is the 'Great Owl (Góra Sowa)' with 1015m.

There are two owl species: the eagle owl and the tawny owl. There is also a wide variety of game that lives in the forests, such as mouflon red deer, roe deer, wild boar, badgers, but also vipers and grass snakes.

But not only the natural beauty of the Owl Mountains makes this area unique, there are countless underground tunnel systems, former Arbeitslagern and Ksiąz Castle to visit. The Owl Mountains became world famous because of the turmoil surrounding the Nazi-era 'gold train' between Mokrzeszów and Wałbrzych. More about this in the chapter 'Riese project'.

The Owl Mountains are ideal for walking (see walking-hiking). The view from the top of the Great Owl is breathtaking. You can climb the white tower and view the valley with binoculars. On a nice day you can see the towns of Świdnica, Dzierżoniów and Bielawa with the Ślęża massif in the distance. If you are coming from 'Przełęcz Jugowska' (50°39'21.2"N 16°31'34.3"E) towards the Great Owl you will come across the new viewing platform. On weekends you will see many Polish families making campfires on the top of the mountain and bringing their own sausages to roast.

You can also walk a relaxed route from the Jugowska parking lot to the Kalenica, this is a large platform where you have a nice view over the Sudeten foreland.

In addition to the various hiking trails, there are more attractions in the Owl Mountains. The surroundings of the Lubachów Bystrzyckie Lake are worth a visit, as is the Grodno Castle overlooking the reservoir. The lake is dammed by a 44m high dam built in 1911. You can walk across the dam just past the restaurant Fregata (50°45'25.4"N 16°26'01.1"E)



3. The Venice Park near Sulistrowiczki

Sulistrowiczki is a picturesque village surrounded by Ślęża and Radunia, where you can visit the 'Park Wenecja' - established in 1914 in the valley of the Sulistrowicki Potok. Two stylish gates lead up from the road - unfortunately both badly damaged. Two ponds, a waterfall complex and many old trees have been preserved in the park. The second part of the English-style park is located on the other side of the road in the Volunteer Training Center of the Wrocław Episcopate. On the edge of the meadow east of Potok Sulistrowicki is the well-known "fountain of life". Next to the source is a statue of the Madonna. You can tap canonized spring water here.



4. The Ślęża massif

The hills that you see on the west side of the campsite belong to the Ślęża massif, one of the most characteristic natural features in the Lower Silesia province. The Ślęża mountain is the hump that towers above the landscape at 718 meters. The name Ślęża (pronounced Slenza) is derived from an old Slavic word meaning wet and damp place. In autumn and spring, the top of the mountain is often covered in fog and mist, so the name is apt. It is somewhat imaginable, but this hill is officially an extinct volcano, although the entire Sudeten region has many extinct volcanoes, this is not so special, but it is a nice fact.

In the 6th century, this mountain was a sacred place for the Hathen and Lusatian tribes. The mountain was also considered sacred by Christian-era populations.

Mount Ślęża was the sanctuary of the ancient inhabitants of this area. They have left enigmatic sculptures and stone circles on the mountain. There is an archaeological (primitive) park in Będkowice (50°52'19.8"N 16°45'01.7"E) where huts and a watchtower have been reconstructed, and burial mounds can also be seen. The 50ha reserve is surrounded by earthen walls. There was a settlement on that spot from the 8th to the 13th century.

A well-known attraction in the Ślęża reserve is the wooden chapel in the village of Sulistrowiczki (50°50'45.2"N 16°43'35.0"E). The small church was built in 1999 in the style of the 'Górals' from the Tatra Mountains. The church is decorated with wood carvings and stained glass windows. Two Ślęża bears serve as a platform for the altar. At 100 meters from the church (across the road) there is a well, called the Holy Swierada Well of Life in Polish, where you can get free water from a well, under the watchful eye of a statue of the Virgin Mary on a pole. The water is crystal clear and excellent to drink, also very healthy due to the various minerals. The source is poorly marked, it is hidden in the woods across from the church.

During a day trip to Ślęża you can first climb up to the top of the mountain (Tąpadła route). Don't forget to climb the restored watchtower behind the church. Here you have a view (in clear weather) over the Sudeten Foreland, the high mountain in the distance is the 'Sniezka' in the Karkonossen, Wrocław, Lake Mietków. The church itself has been recently renovated, the building dates back to the 12th century when it was built as a monastery for the Augustinians, now based in Wrocław.

You can then visit the little chapel in Sulistrowiczki to quench your thirst at the source of life after the visit. After this you drive to Będkowice for a visit to the archaeological reserve (don't expect too much). The Slęża is a must for mountain bikers, there are several routes to do, excellent for improving your fitness.



5. Wambierzyce the 'Silesian Jerusalem'

The town of Wambierzyce is a well-known place of pilgrimage (50°29'24.1"N 16°27'18.8"E). A miracle happened in the 11th century on the place where the basilica stands; a blind man - Jan from Radków - suddenly regained his sight after praying under an old linden tree and in honor of this miracle a stone altar was erected under the large linden tree, after which a wooden chapel was built in 1263. The wooden chapel was replaced in 1512 by a church, which over time, after being destroyed during the Thirty Years' War, was expanded into a basilica. The Madonna of Wambierzyce has been called the 'Queen of Families' by Pope John Paul. The 11 chapels are built in the shape of an oval 'beech' to represent the cloister of Jesus. To see the basilica, 57 steps have to be climbed. The first 9 represent the choirs of angels, then 33x the age of Jesus at the time of crucifixion and then another 15x, the age of the virgin Mary at the time of virgin conception.

The town is nice to drive by and take a walk. I myself notice that many people laugh a bit about the sacred character of this place, but Wambierzyce is very important in Polish culture and it is one of the most important pilgrimage places in Poland.



6. Lake Bystryckie near Zagórze Śląsk

Also called Lubachowskie Lake, located in the municipality of Walim, is an extremely charming place in the Owl Mountains. It is a reservoir surrounded by the villages of Zagórze Śląskie, Michałkowa and Lubachów. The dam on the lake was built in 1911 to prevent flooding in Silesia. The stone wall, 220 m long and 44 m high, is a dam that forms Lake Bystrzyckie, on which a beautiful suspension bridge is mounted. The dam is now a monument. A walk along it gives a beautiful view of the reservoir and the valley of the river Bystrzyca surrounded by mountains. It is an interesting sight, especially as it is adjacent to the mystical Grodno Castle, which is accessible to tourists. Within a 30-minute drive is the Riese complex, a main attraction of the Owl Mountains.

There is no parking at the dam, a visit to the dam is free. You can have lunch or coffee at 'Fregata' - highly recommended.



7. Lake Bielawa

Lake Bielawskie advertises itself as "Beach in the Owl Mountains" and this is an accurate term, as for visitors there is a large sandy beach with lifeguards, kayak, paddle boat and SUP rental, as well as a pier leading to the island. For families with children, there is a modern outdoor swimming pool with water playground and paddling pool. A wake park was also opened here a few years ago, something for those who love adrenaline. If you don't feel like swimming, you can just enjoy it. There is a minibar, playgrounds and a lit fountain. A walk around the lake is doable.

A nice option if you want to see how the Polish people enjoy their leisure time.



8. The 'Cavern Mountains' and the 'Wandering Rocks'

The translation of these rock outcrops sound like they're straight out of a Lord of the Rings movie, and frankly the area is quite spectacular too. Good for small children. Less suitable for the somewhat stockier fellow man due to the tight passages.

Despite its low height, the rock formations of Szczeliniec can be seen from a distance. Some formations have nicknames, because with a little imagination you can recognize figures/animals in them. With names such as camel, mammoth, elephant, chicken, monkey, dog, turtle, owl or grandpa's chair, these formations appeal to the imagination. There is a walking route with 665 steps that leads to the top of the reserve, on the north side you can follow the Pasterki route. The park is easily accessible. Even in July there is sometimes snow in the caves. You can park the car at the large parking lot (paid) in Karłow (50°28'31.1"N 16°20'15.7"E). From there the routes start, the route to the top takes about 2 hours round trip. Szczeliniec Mały is a smaller reserve but not accessible to tourists.

The Wandering Rocks (Błędne Skały) is a spectacular labyrinth of rocks not far from Szczeliniec. The route is not recommended for people with claustrophobia (or overweight). You crawl, as it were, through the caverns and rocks, some of them are very narrow and therefore difficult to pass. The route takes about 35 minutes, but allow an hour for it, at the beginning of the route there is also a beautiful viewpoint with a view of the Czech Republic.

There is a paid parking lot right at the start of the route through the lost rocks. To get here you have to drive up a narrow road (from the 387) where at the beginning there is a barrier that allows traffic to pass every half hour. You can also park in Karłów, but then the trip is longer and takes 3 hours to and fro. It can get quite busy on weekends and holidays.



9. Rafting in Bardo 'Ski Raft'

Bardo 'SKI-RAFT' rafting is a very suitable form of active recreation. If you are looking for attractions in the Sudetes in Lower Silesia or in other regions of Poland, this offer is a hit. The pontoon rafting route passes through the Bardzki Gorge on Nysa Kłodzka, considered one of the most beautiful places in the country. Each season welcomes tens of thousands of tourists who want to experience an unforgettable adventure and visit the Ketel Mountains. Attractions await at your fingertips. Pontoon rafting along the Bardzkie Gorge is a fascinating journey through the five meanders of the Nysa Kłodzka River. You will sail through an ancient valley, between colorful meadows and high rocks, enveloped in a lush forest, which has been growing for centuries on the slopes of the Bardzkie Mountains. In addition to breathtaking views, rafting participants will have the chance to take photos of the fascinating inhabitants of this beautiful area - herons, grebes, roe deer and... wild boars! And if you're lucky, you might even see a mouflon! In Bardo you can also visit the Blessed Virgin Mary Basilica. This church was built in 1686 and is characteristic of the town of Bardo.

The town of Bardo is a village along the E67 and is very striking because of the large basilica, which is clearly visible from the road. The town is rurally situated on the river Nysa Kłodzka from where rafting excursions are organized. The company Ski-Raft (Skalna 1, Bardo) organizes rafting and kayak trips, through the campsite you get a 10% discount. You can make a reservation at Mathijs. The trips take around three hours, depending on the water level in the river. Bring water shoes and plenty to drink and eat. If you want to sail down the river a little faster, rent a kayak (1 and 2 persons).



10. Survival/Line Park 'Skalisko

In a dense forest near Złoty Potok, on an area of more than 7 hectares, there are attractions that will give you a unique experience. This park of lines is based on acrobatic passages between trees, such as: balance bridges, rope passages, net passages, sky surfing, Tarzan's jump, ziplines - descents on ropes with a total length of 1050 meters and many others.

The participants complete the prepared route on their own. The difficulty of the individual sections varies from very easy to gradually increasing. Installations that are too difficult can be skipped. A special route for children has been set out in the park. Everyone will find something for themselves here according to their strength and abilities. People using the park's rides are provided with individual equipment and undergo mandatory training in navigating the route. While walking through the attractions, each participant is attached to a special rope (called the "lifeline"), which prevents falls from a height. Instructors guide participants' movements along the routes and are always available to assist if needed. They offer attractions for: children (minimum height 140 cm with arms up), adults and seniors.

The climbing park (good to combine with a visit to the gold mines in Złoty Stok) is a fun activity for young and old. The youngest kids, from 6 years old, can take the squirrel and owl trail, older kids 6-11 can choose from 5 trails, from 16 years there are also 5 trails, of which the 'Tyrolka Super Gigant' is for advanced riders.

The climbing park is open every day from 10:00 to 20:00. Reservations are not necessary, only for larger groups.

11. The gold mines of Złoty Stok

Contrary to appearances, there was once a "gold rush" not only in the Wild West. This precious metal was also mined in Poland, in Złoty Stok, in the Middle Ages. During a visit to the gold mines we feel like gold diggers from the past!

A visit to the underground tourist route starts from the Gertrude Shaft. The name of the shaft comes from the name of the wife of one of the miners who left the mine galleries in search of her missing husband and never returned. Apparently, the sounds of her footsteps can be heard here to this day!

In the first part of the mine there is an exhibition of mining tools, minerals, furnaces and an eighteenthcentury cart. You can also see how arsenic was made here (from the arsenic ore mined here), which circulating stories say was used to poison Napoleon, and enter the Treasury, where bars are collected to represent the 1,000 years of gold mined here. symbolize.

The next leg of the journey is the Walk of Death, where, according to legend, miners convicted of stealing gold were pinned to the rock. You can meet the Troll who guards the mine here and finally go down the 8 meter long slide to the Museum of warnings, notes and summons with various funny prohibition and order signs.

Then you can go to the Black Mine in Złoty Jar. Among other things, there is a tunnel that opens on the Czech side of the border, but the biggest impression on tourists is made by Poland's magnificent underground waterfall, 8 m high. The tour ends with a ride on the Underground Orange Tram over a 300-meter stretch.

Opening hours of the Zloty Stok Gold Mine: Summer season (1.04-31.10) 9:00-18:00: Last entry at 5:30 PM

Reservations are not necessary, only with larger groups. Unfortunately, children under the age of 7 are not allowed to sail the boat.



12. The Coal Mining Museum in Nowa Ruda

The underground tourist route in the area of the former "Piast" minefield of the "Nowa Ruda" mine in Nowa Ruda shows the rich, more than 500 years old history and tradition of coal mining in the Nowa Ruda region, the oldest coal mining industry in Poland.

Nowa Ruda itself is a typical place of decaying glory, after the closing of the mines there was a high level of unemployment which has made the town run down and not really interesting to visit. But luckily the coal mine museum is a nice attraction!

The tourist route shows:

- the "Museum" building with halls full of exhibits from all areas of underground mining, and with the original control room as the central point of information and mine management.

- a historic architectural and industrial complex of coal mine and refractory slate, dominated by shaft and rotary kilns, unique on a world scale, used for roasting refractory slate for more than 100 years.
- underground mining pits with a length of approx. 700 m, secured with mining support.
The attraction of part of the route is a ride on an authentic mining track!

A tip for a day out. Drive to Wałbrzych station and take the train (szynobus) to Nowa Ruda (Przedmieście). You drive on the old coal railway, which is now one of the most idyllic railway lines in Poland, over high viaducts, three tunnels and two bridges through a beautiful landscape. You arrive just before the museum by train. The museum is open every day from 09:00 – 16:00. Obozowa 4, Nowa Ruda. Ask Mathijs about the current departure times or take a look at www.rozklad-pkp.pl



12. Mini Euroland in Klodzko

The Miniature Park Minieuroland is a park laid out on 20ha of land with currently more than 40 miniatures (more than 100 models are planned), modeled after famous buildings from all over the world, especially Europe and Lower Silesia, including Kłodzko and its surroundings.

In the beginning, the whole thing can seem a bit shoddy, also because there is not really a structure behind it, so you suddenly walk from a local miniature scrapyard to the miniature St-Peters basilica. Still, it is worth a visit, especially with small children who have a large playground at their disposal.

Between the neatly laid out walking paths we admire miniatures of objects from antiquity, made with great care and attention to architecture. Surrounded by a hilly landscape - refined and unique more than 500 species of trees and shrubs, imported from the best plant nurseries from the Netherlands and Belgium - admire world-famous iconic buildings, such as the Dresden Zwinger palace complex, the Parisian Arc de Triomphe and many others, but also the Wrocław Town Hall, or a huge model of the Kłodzko Fortress, designed with great attention to every detail.

Reservation is not necessary. Open every day.



Monuments and castles

1. The castle Książ - Furstenstein

The third largest castle in Poland is 35 minutes away from the campsite just past Świdnica and near Wałbrzych. Like Grodno Castle, the castle was built by Bolko I as part of Piast defense line from 1288. The castle was owned from 1509 to 1941 by the prosperous Hochberg family, of which Bolko VI Hochberg von Pless was the last heir - died in 2022. His grandmother, Princess Daisy (last resident) is perhaps the most famous family member due to her beauty and descent from an aristocratic English family, but also her work for wounded soldiers at the front and charity in and around the town of Wałbrzych, such as the construction of an orphanage, several hospitals and help for working mothers. You can compare her to Lady Diana of her time.

The castle has received many noble guests such as the Prussian King Frederik Wilhelm III with Queen Louise, John Quincy Adams, Winston Churchill, the Polish King Czatoryski, the Russian Tsar Nicholas I Romanov.

After Princess Daisy divorced her husband, she returned after 12 years to the castle where she lived until 1941. Then the Nazis came and the NSDAP seized the castle and established the 'Todt' department (of Nazi engineer Fritz Todt) here. From that time, the construction of the Riese project has started and the castle has become part of this huge project.

Today Książ is in good condition, in December 2014 a fire raged in the roof which damaged the Maximilian Hall. Now nothing of this can be seen. The castle is open every day from 10:00 AM to 5:00 PM. There are various tours to do. A must is the tour 'the path of Daisy' that shows the castle, but also the terraces, the park, the burial chapel of the Hochberg family and a viewpoint.

Tours last from 30 minutes. -140 min, but make a reservation first. You can also visit the castle without a guided tour, you do not need to make a reservation. Outside the castle you can also visit the stud farm and the palm house.



2. The Grodno Castle in Zagórze Śląsk

The Grodno Castle in Zagórze Śląskie in Lower Silesia was established in the 13th century, during the reign of Bolko I, Duke of Świdnica, along a trade route passing through the Bystrzyca Valley. During the reign of Bolko II in the 14th century, the castle was expanded, which consisted of a defensive tower, two stone buildings, a gate tower, wooden farm buildings and a courtyard surrounded by a defensive wall. In the 16th century, during the Renaissance, Grodno was considered one of the most beautiful residences in Silesia.

Interesting detail is that in a dungeon of the castle is hidden the skeleton of Chatelaine Margaret, who has starved to death because she was locked in a bricked-up dungeon by her father after pushing her bridegroom off the tower. The White Lady sometimes seen at the castle seems to be young Margaret...

Entrance to the castle

Grodno Castle can be entered from the village side or from the Bystrzyckie Lake side, via a suspension bridge that leads over the reservoir (path left behind the bridge). – the Green Route – the Piast Castles Route

You cannot park directly at the castle, so you have to walk a bit.



3. The Palace of Marianne of Orange

It may be hard to imagine, but the Dutch princess, Marianne van Oranje, has had a great influence in the region. In the 19th century, the princess moved from The Hague to the town of Kamenz (now Kamieniec Ząbkowickie).

Here she built a large summer residence for her family. She was unhappily married and had a relationship with a coachman. Yet she lived in this palace for a long time. After her divorce she returned and her son inherited the residence. The residence was built in 33 years. Besides the construction of this palace, the princess has also been active in the region with the financing of several orphanages and spas, but she was also active in road construction and mining. She was popularly called 'Dobra Pani' - the good woman - because of her work for the poor and sick.

The palace can be visited every day from 9:30 AM - 5:00 PM. Tickets can be purchased at the 'Cafe' of the Palace at 9 Zamkowa Street.

We also recommend a walk through the park where the mausoleum of the descendants of the princess was built.



4. The Silver Mountain Fortress and Bastions

The fortress 'Twierdza Srebrna Góra' (Silverberg Fortress) from 1765 was built by order of the Prussian King Frederick II, as part of several bastions and fortresses in the region of Świdnica, Bardo and Kłodzko to defend this area against the advancing Austrian army . At the time, there was room to house 4000 soldiers and the fort was one of the largest forts with 299 casemates (embarrassments) and 54 ammunition magazines. The fortress consists of 6 fortifications of which Donjon is the largest, followed by Ostróg.

The fortress was the only fortress to withstand Napoleon's attack on Silesia in 1807. In 1800, the then American ambassador to Germany, John Quincy Adams (later American president) visited the fort. The fort was in operation until 1867, after which it was used as a training ground until the war in 1939 where the fort was used as a prison for Polish, Russian, French, Belgian, Greek and Finnish prisoners of war. It has been a tourist attraction since 1965.

Nowadays there are plenty of activities to undertake such as shooting with an automatic rifle, really an experience not to forget where can you shoot with a real AK-47?

Or take a zipline down 570 meters through the woods and over the historic walls, there's a little train – the Fort Fan Express (weekends only) to see the grounds, there are tours by guides dressed as Prussian soldiers, exhibition of army equipment and a beautiful viewpoint on the 'crown of the Donjon'.

Mountain bike trails have been set out around the fort. You can cycle there from the campsite or park your car on the north side of the fort and let off steam. Please note: the routes are for advanced riders and quite steep.



5. The Seven Ponds Castle

The renaissance castle 'Uroczysko Siedmiu Stawów' is located between the Lower Silesian fields and forests and is currently a luxury hotel and spa. The beautifully renovated 16th century main building of the castle is very impressive. You can have (haute-cuisine) dinner or lunch there. The castle is a short distance from the campsite and you can cycle through the woods to it.

You can walk or cycle along a marked route along the seven ponds on the estate.



6. The Castle of Pieszyce

Pieszycki Castle, also called the Versailles of Silesia, is the largest baroque castle in this part of Poland. Its conversion and renovation is one of the largest private investments of this type in Europe, both in terms of scale and care, and the quality of the facade and interior finishes.

Since 2000, the castle has been the private property of Stanislaw Hajduk, an American millionaire with Polish background. More than 70 million zloty of his own money has been invested in the total renovation of the castle and the park.

This colorful person has put this castle back on the map for decades to come.

You can view the castle from the outside, because the castle is a national monument, it must be set up for visitors once a year.



7. Ruins and churches of Dzierzoniów and surroundings

Dzierżoniów and the surrounding area have a turbulent history. Over the centuries, Poles, Czechs and Germans have lived here. Their influence on the Dzierżoniów region had an impact on the ongoing political and social changes. They are preserved in architectural monuments.

In the vicinity of our campsite you can visit the following monuments (also good to do by bike)

- 14th century Neo-Gothic palace with park and pond in Dobrocin
- A Renaissance palace built from the 19th century in Roztocznik

- Church of St. George in Dzierżoniów in 1159.

- The Rutika Synagogue in Dzierżoniów is one of the few surviving Jewish synagogues in Lower Silesia that survived Kristallnacht.

- The construction of city defense walls in Dzierżoniów started at the end of the 13th century. About 70% of the fortifications have been preserved and can be seen at various places in the city.

- The church in Oleszno - it is a three-aisled church made of granite.

- The ruins of the palace in Ostroszowice - ruins of the palace from the 18th century, built on the site of an older defense complex

- The ruins of the castle in Owiesno - construction from the 14th century.



Historical towns and culture

1. Dzierżoniów

The town of Dzierżoniów is 4km from the campsite and is the nearest town where you can go for all your necessities. You can cycle to the town via the cycle path that runs parallel to the main road. Cycle towards the large grain silos and you will automatically end up on this path.

Dzierżoniów is a medium-sized city of 35,000 inhabitants and has an important regional function. The city provides a lot of employment because the business park is well developed with mainly companies from the car and aviation sector. The town has an attractive center with a number of cozy coffee shops, a home-made ice cream parlor and some shops. The city is surrounded by a medieval city wall, in the town hall of Dzierżoniów you can request a route that can be walked through the center via the walls.

Dzierzoniów is named after Jan Dzierżon, the man was a beekeeper who discovered Partenogenesis (asexual reproduction) in bees. In honor of his work, the city of 'Reichenbach' was renamed Dzierżoniów in 1946.

The city is characterized by three high towers on a hill. Two of the towers are churches: Saint George Church (św. Jerzy) and Holy Mother Mary Church (Maryi Matki Kościoła). The smaller tower is the town hall. The entire city center was once surrounded by a city wall from the late 13th century.

Dzierżoniów is best known in Poland for the radio/television factory 'Diora', which supplied all of Poland and the former eastern bloc with radios and televisions. However, the factory closed 30 years ago and has now been demolished. You will now find McDonalds and Bricomarche on that spot.

From an economic point of view, Dzierżoniów is doing very well nationally. There is low unemployment and the area is well developed. There are regular bus and train services to Wroclaw. The road surface has been largely renewed and cycle paths have also been constructed through the city and the surrounding area.

There are a number of annual events in Dzierżoniów such as the honey market at the end of August, sometimes there is a fair on the grounds near the stadium.

There is a market (clothing, food, tools, plants) on every Tuesday, Thursday and Saturday. Tuesday there is a very small market with only a few stalls. Please note: the market is open from 06:00 - 12:30.



2. Świdnica

With 60,000 inhabitants, Swidnica is one of the larger cities in the region. The city is 22 km from the campsite. A beautiful city known for the Protestant Unesco Peace Church, the Red Baron and the monthly antiques market. You can also visit the tourist information point on the market square (Węwnetrzna 2) where you can get more information.

When visiting Świdnica you can admire the Gothic market square, but just outside the central square is the almost 4 centuries old Church of Peace, which is on the Unesco monument list.

The church, built in 1655, consists entirely of wood, no nail or screw has been used. A condition for building a Protestant church in the Catholic Habsburg kingdom was that the building could only be built from unsustainable materials such as wood, straw and clay. Thanks to special techniques and special architecture, we have succeeded in constructing a building that has withstood the test of time despite the weak materials. The church is open from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. and 3 p.m. to 5 p.m. Monday through Saturday. Sunday from 3:00 pm to 5:00 pm

Every first Sunday of the month there is the large antique market of Świdnica. This market is one of the oldest and largest antique markets in Poland where antiques, memorabilia and relics have been traded for 30 years. In good weather it can be very busy and difficult to park. If there is no space in the center, park at 'Galeria Swidnicka', the shopping center you will encounter when you enter Świdnica. It is advisable to set off early, around 9:30 am it is already guite busy. The market lasts until about 13:00.

You may have heard of the Red Baron. This German aviator (Manfred von Richthofen) was a hero during the First World War because he shot down 80 planes in France in his bright red Fokker Dreidecker before he himself was shot dead by a machine gun from the ground. He lived in Świdnica from the age of 9 until he started his army career at the age of 21. The parental home is now inhabited by several families, it looks impoverished. A commemorative plaque (ul. Sikorskiego 19) is the only reminder of the Red Baron, the mausoleum erected in 1945 in the Sikorski park opposite the house is no longer recognizable. Recently, the chic hotel/restaurant 'Czerwone Baron' opened in a side street near the parental home.

For militaria enthusiasts there is an open-air museum in Witoszów Dolny (Muzeum Broni Świdnica') where you can see MiGs and Russian tanks up close. You can drive in a tank for a additional fee.



3. Ząbkowice Śląskie

A smaller town east of Dzierżoniów. It is worth visiting the Leaning Tower in the city center, the tower is one of many in Poland, which is currently a viewpoint. You can visit the impressive ruins of a Renaissance castle or the town hall with a high tower towering over the market square and the old town. There are also the medieval city walls and the equally old church of St. Anna to visit.

Funny detail, the German translation of the city is -Frankenstein, although historically this city has nothing to do with the main character from Mary Shelley's book. Yet here and there you will find gadgets related to the legend of Frankenstein.



4. Wrocław

The city of Wrocław has enough sights to offer to write a separate tourist information about it. It is difficult to describe all the attractions, but you can read the most important ones in this app.

To start with: Wroclaw is pronounced as - Wrotswaf, the hashtag #WrocLove is also popular. The center of Poland's third largest city Wrocław (Breslau) is located 55km north of the campsite. The city has 630,000 inhabitants. Wrocław has a rich history that stems from the fact that over the centuries the city has been in the hands of the Germans, Habsburgs, Prussians and the Poles. When founded, the city of Vratislavia was hereafter called Preßlau, Breslaw, Breslau, Wrocisław and finally Wrocław. Wrocław is the administrative and cultural capital of the province of Lower Silesia and was also the European Capital of Culture in 2016. There are many attractions in Wrocław, from museums to the aqua park and zoo. Below is a summary of the main attractions:

RYNEK (Market Square) -The Rynek is the medieval pedestrian market square in the center of Wrocław. The central part of the Rynek includes the new and old town hall and a number of patrician houses. The old town hall is built in Gothic style and was built in stages over a period of 250 years from the 13th century. The town hall clock is the oldest in Poland dating from 1368.

Around the Rynek are 60 patrician houses built for nobility and wealthy merchants. Of these, 'Pod Gryfami' is the most decorated with four pairs of animals representing family crests. A second smaller Rynek is attached to the main Rynek and is called Plac Solny, this is a trendy area with many nightlife options. On the Rynek (south side) you will find the tourist information office at number 14. Here you can, among other things, get information about the gnomes that are hidden all over Wrocław. There are quests and walking maps that follow the trail of the gnomes. Why gnomes you might ask. This is because in communist times, gnomes were a sign of resistance to communism. As an initiative of the 'orange alternative', gnomes were painted on the walls, often under slogans of the communist party, in order to help the anti-communist resistance movement.

OSTRÓW TUMSKI (Cathedral Island) - The Cathedral Island (ostrów tumski) is the oldest part of Wrocław. Around the Holy Martin Church, 1500 people settled on the river Oder in the 11th century. The island with two church towers, an auditorium and the seat of the prince was initially a defensive structure with a residence for Bolko I, but in 1315 the island was sold to the Catholic Church and this has remained so. The island was often a refuge for political opponents who hid from the judiciary. The island can be recognized by the two church towers that tower over Wrocław.

Saint Elizabeth Cathedral is open to visitors, here you can climb the tower for a view of the city, in good weather you can also see the Ślęża mountain. The Tumski Bridge and Pokutnic Bridge are photogenic locations on the way from the Rynek to the Dom Island.

PANORAMA RACŁAWICKA - This painted canvas measures 15x114m and is the only one of its kind in Poland. It depicts the battle of April 4, 1794 near the town of Racławice, where the Polish army led by General Tadeusz Kościuszki defeated the Russians. The canvas first hung in Lwów/Lviv (nowadays Ukraine) but was moved to Wrocław after the war. There it was not exhibited again until 1985 in a building specially built for the canvas, the 'Mała Rotunda' (Little Roundabout). One can admire the canvas from a platform, explanation via headphones also in English.

AULA LEOPOLDINA - The Aula Leopoldina of the University of Wrocław is a representative room entirely decorated in Baroque style within the Academy Building at this university. The Aula Leopoldina is a good example of a 'Gesamtkunstwerk', ie a perfect interplay of a certain building and art style in one place or in one room. The Aula Leopoldina is located in the west wing of the Baroque-style Academy Building of the University of Wrocław, on the first floor. Like the auditoriums of other universities, this space also has a primarily representative function, with academic ceremonies predominating. For example, honorary doctorates are awarded, the opening of the academic year takes place every year and conferences are held, among other things. Concerts, including as part of the Wratislavia Cantans festival, have often been given here, but since the reopening of the bomb-destroyed Oratorium Marianum (the Music Hall) in the same complex in the 1990s, which was restored to its former glory this activity has mainly shifted to oratorio.

The Aula Leopoldina suffered only limited damage during the Second World War, although the Academy Building itself was hit in many places by Russian bombs: the cracks in the vaults caused by explosions could be repaired relatively easily. For example, there is now an entirely baroque hall, with numerous wall and ceiling paintings, furniture in style and also many ornaments (usually executed in white marble). The Aula Leopoldnia, like the oratory, the mathematics tower and an exhibition space, are open every day from 10:00-16:00. address: plac Uniwersytecki 1, Wrocław.

AQUAPARK - For a rainy day, the modern Aquapark in Wrocław is a godsend. The park, with its wave pool, slides, outdoor pools and children's pools, is a great place for the whole family. There is also a section with restaurants and sauna, jacuzzi. If you are going with the family, buy a family ticket. Address: Borowska 99, Wroclaw. Avoid on Sundays....it can be extremely busy.

ZOO - The zoo in Wrocław is a large zoo with 33ha. The opening of the zoo was in 1865. Currently, the zoo houses almost 8000 animals of 1082 animal species. A fairly new attraction is the 'Afrykarium' which opened in 2014, this is an oceanarium where the ecosystem in the ocean is presented. During your walk you will come across many playgrounds and kiosks / restaurants for consumption. On the banks of the Oder you can buy a ticket to take the tour boat to the Ostrów Tumski. You can get out and visit the island there or return to the zoo. The cruise is a nice change during the zoo visit.

Opening hours 09:00 -17:00. address: ul. Wroblewskiego 1-5 Wroclaw.

HALA STULECIA, MULTIMEDIAL FOUNTAIN, JAPANESE GARDEN - Opposite the zoo entrance is the Hala Stulecia (also called Jahrhunderthalle, Ludowa or Centennial hall). This building was designed by the famous architect Max Berg in 1911. Since 2006, the building is on the Unesco list.

The reason for the construction of this object was the centenary of the written appeal 'An mein Volk' of the Prussian king to fight against Napoleon. An exhibition was set up for this in the form of the world exhibitions at the time. The building was revolutionary because it had the largest concrete span in the world at the time. Many historic moments have taken place in the hall, such as an important speech by Hitler, a visit by the Polish pope in 1997 and a concert by Paul Anka in the communist era. In 1948 the 96m high needle was placed in front of the building.

Behind the hall, in the direction of the Szczytnicki, is the elypse-shaped 640m long 'Pergola' on the pond with the multimedia fountain. This is a beautiful spectacle of light and sound when the fountain is spectacularly illuminated in the summer.

Next to the complex of the hala Stulecia and the multimedia fountain is the Japanese garden. The garden was set up on a small scale at the time of the exhibition in 1909-1913. The main sponsor was the Hochberg family (see Książ Castle). One can admire, among other things, a Japanese pagoda and various trees and plants are originally from Japan. The bridge over the pond is a photogenic location.

BOTANICAL GARDEN - The Botanical Garden (Sienkiewicz 23) was founded in 1811 by the University of Wroclaw as a research garden for academic purposes, today it is a beautiful attraction for the visitors and residents of Wroclaw.

The garden houses a huge collection of trees, shrubs and plants, is beautifully landscaped with water features, fountains, bridges and statues. The collection includes rhododendrons, irises and conifers, the park is in a good state of repair. An additional advantage is that the garden is located on the edge of the old center with a beautiful view of the monumental churches. This garden is therefore highly recommended for plant connoisseurs, but the ordinary garden enthusiast will also enjoy a visit to this park.

SHOPPING

If you just want some cultural shopping, Wrocław is the place to be. The city has several major shopping centers: Magnolia Park (Legnicka 58) Factory Outlet (Graniczna 2) Wroclavia (Sucha 1 - near Central Station) Galeria Dominikanska (plac Dominikanski 3) Pasaz Grunwaldzki (plac Grunwaldzki 22) Park Handlowy Bielany (Czekoladowa 9) You can park your car safely at all these shopping centres.

Every Sunday there is a large market with all kinds of items, from furniture to tools (new and second-hand) just outside the center of Wrocław in a former marshalling yard behind the Świebodzki station. (Robotnicza 1).

PARKING AND PUBLIC TRANSPORT - For a visit to the Rynek and from there to the Ostrów Tumski, it is best to park behind the opera building (Modrzejewskiej 2). If there is no space here, you can park at the Galeria Dominikańska. At the ZOO and the Hala Stulecia there are new parking areas opposite the entrance of the zoo. You can walk to the zoo via a footbridge.

You can go to Wrocław by bus, the best is to take the bus from Dzierżoniów (Dzierżoniów – Łagiewniki – Jordanów – Kobierzyce – Wrocław). One-way travel costs next to nothing

You can also take the train to Wroclaw. The ride takes about 1:20h and is fun to do. You drive via Świdnica, Żarów, Mietków to Central Station Wrocław (Główny). The fare is around 20.00 zł one way. Ask Mathijs for the current schedule or visit www.rozklad.pkp.pl - Dzierżoniów Śląski-Wrocław Główny.



5. Kłodzko

Kłodzko is a beautifully situated town in the Lower Silesian Voivodeship, in the sloping Kłodzko Valley, on the Nysa Kłodzka River and its tributaries. This place is an excellent base for trips to the surrounding mountains and to other very interesting towns in the valley, such as Kudowa, Polanica or Bystrzyca Klodzka. It is also close to the Stołowe Mountains National Park with the famous Cave Mountains.

Kłodzko is one of the oldest towns in the region, it received city rights around 1275, but the greatest flourishing took place in the 16th century.

The city has a beautiful old town. You will find charming alleys here, lost between somewhat neglected buildings. The central part is a beautiful and well-kept market square with a town hall and a tall Marian column.

Religious monuments in Kłodzko include the Gothic Parish Church of the Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary (Kościelny Square) and the Church of Our Lady of St Maarten with the Franciscan Monastery (Franciszkański Square).

Nearby, on Wita Stwosza Street, you can see the impressive Gothic bridge over the river Młynówka, with beautiful sculptures. This is the oldest Gothic bridge in Poland. On the south side of the bridge you can enjoy a nice cup of coffee on a terrace.

It is also worth seeing the Museum of the Glatzer Land

(Łukasiewicza street) to learn about the history of the city, the institute is located in the baroque Jesuit boarding school.

Kłodzko Castle is inextricably linked to the history of the town of Kłodzko, already in the 9th century there was a stronghold surrounded by wooden and earthen fortifications and in the 12th century a viscounty was established in Kłodzko. Later the castle turned into a residence consisting of living quarters, a chapel and the Church of St. Wenceslaus and St. Martin.

In the middle of the 16th century, the fortress in Kłodzko was expanded with a middle and lower castle, which, together with the castle and the fortifications, were supposed to defend the region. Further strengthening of the border took place in the years 1690-1702, when 3 bastions were built: Jabłonki, Ludmiły and Wacława. They formed a so-called crown work that protects the castle from the north and east.

Later, additional fortifications were built, a system of corridors was built. The fortress in Kłodzko, like those in Koźle and Świdnica, were the largest fortresses in Silesia.

With the change in warfare, the role of these fortifications declined, until their expansion was halted at the end of the 18th century. During World War II, a prison for Nazis was set up here, along with a court and an execution site.

Klodzko Castle (Twierdza Kłodzka) is the main attraction of Klodzko. You can visit the labyrinths of the castle every day from 9:00-16:30. The tourist route takes 1.5 hours, the labyrinth also about 1.5 hours. You can also choose 1 of the attractions to visit.



6. Polanica & Duszniki Zdrój

POLANICA ZDRÓJ

This town, just north of Duszniki Zdrój, is, like Duszniki, a former spa as a result of the spring water that gushes out of the surrounding rocks in several places in the town. In the 1830s and 40s, the town developed into a well-known spa. First there were wooden 'bathrooms', later converted into true spas and sanatoriums.

A walk along the river Nysa Kłodzka will take you to the Monastery Hill where you can enjoy the view. The town has a pleasant atmosphere, especially with many German seniors who buy the spring water from the sources of Wielka Pieniawa (Grosser Sprudel) and Goplana (Charlottensprudel) in the Dom Zdrojowa (well house).

An attraction for the kids is the 'Tor Saneczkowy Góralka'. This toboggan run has a length of 450 meters. An experienced tobogganer can reach speeds of up to 40 km/h, yet the track is suitable and safe for all ages.

On the same site is a professional playground 'Jungla'.

The tourist train 'Polanica Express' runs through the town and is a nice way to see the city.

DUSZNIKI ZDRÓJ

This little town is known as the 'Chopin Town'. Already in the 17th century, Duszniki was known as a spa in what was then Prussia. This was due to the beneficial spring water. Soon sanatoria arose where people could bathe in the spring water and heal from all kinds of (lung) diseases. The 16-year-old Frederik Chopin was often ill since childhood, he had a special diet and was under the constant supervision of a doctor who sent him in 1826 with his mother and sisters to Prussian Duszniki. During his stay, the young composer gave two concerts, the proceeds of which were donated to the local orphanage. These two concerts were the first 'foreign' concerts by Chopin, who originally came from Polish Żelazowa Woli.

In honor of the stay of the world-famous composer, a well was named after him (Pieniawa Chopina) and since 1946 the International Chopin Concerts (around August 10) have been organized, including in the Chopin House. These concerts are world renowned and attract the very best pianists.

The paper museum is now located in the old paper mill, where you can see historical passports, banknotes and medieval documents with watermarks. In addition, there are techniques and equipment to admire that are used to make paper.



Parks and Museums

1. The tree garden 'Arboretum' in Wojsławice.

You can say that this unique 'dendrological collection' of trees and shrubs, all in a beautifully landscaped park, is one of the main attractions of the area.

On a beautiful day in May or June it seems like you are walking in the garden of Eden, but avoid the weekends because it can be very busy.

The park is 15 km from the campsite.

An arboretum is the Latin name for a tree garden or a collection of trees in a park. In the village of Wojsławice, near Niemcza, you can visit one of the most beautiful tree gardens in Poland. Definitely not to be missed in the spring when the park is in bloom.

The park has existed since the 18th century (then still a 'romantic garden'), only since 1880 has the park been developed into an arboretum with different types of trees and plants. Currently the park has the largest collection in Europe of rhododendrons as well as lilies (Hemerocallis).

The founder of the arboretum was the well-known dendrologist Fritz von Oheimb at the time. After his death, his son took over his activities, but after the war in 1946, the German family had to leave Poland. The park has fallen into disrepair and some plant and tree species have not survived. Since 1988, the park has been managed by the Botanical Department of the University of Wrocław and has been restored to its former glory, the park has even been expanded. Every year the park is visited by thousands of visitors, especially on weekends the parking lot is full of buses from all over Poland. It is recommended to climb up the hill and near the sundial

You can park your car well in front of the park. The park is quite large at 63 hectares and has an extensive network of hiking trails, but there are also benches everywhere or there are free spaces with lawns. There is a new playground for the kids and small-scale catering at the entrance of the park.

If you want to go there by bike, this is also possible, you can park the bike at the security guard and visit the park with peace of mind. After your visit, drive back via Niemcza-Gilów-Dobrocin, or follow the route that is written out at the cycling routes.



2. The Japanese Garden in Wrocław

The garden is one of the most popular places to walk and relax. Original plants, interesting layout of the space, this park is ideal for photo shoots or romantic encounters. You can admire the Japanese gazebo and bridges.

One of the attractions of the place is a pond with giant carp and other species of fish. The Japanese Garden regularly hosts tea brewing shows, concerts and outdoor events.

The Japanese garden was created on the occasion of the World Exhibition organized in 1913 in Wrocław. The initiator of the construction was Count Fritz von Hochberg, who employed the Japanese gardener Mankichi Arai. This Fritz comes from the noble family who owned, among other things, the Ksiaż Castle.



3. Botanical Garden in Wrocław

The Botanical Garden in Wrocław was founded in 1811. Today you can admire almost 12,000 plants here. The original garden occupied about 5 hectares of plots after the demolished fortifications around the city. The first director ordered seeds and seedlings for 427 plants.

The Wrocław Botanical Garden developed dynamically. In 1816, two thousand plants were grown there and the acreage also grew. Today, on almost 7.5 hectares, there are about 11.5 thousand. plants and their varieties, including mountains, rocks, water, mud, and even tropical and subtropical plants. The Botanical Garden has the rank of a separate institute of the Faculty of Biological Sciences of the University of Wrocław, the Museum of Natural History operates there, and the Botanical Garden itself is registered as a historical monument.

The garden is open daily.



4. The Gross Rosen concentration camp

Lower Silesia has been one of the most heavily damaged provinces in World War II. Not only was the city of Wrocław bombed to pieces by the Nazis, but they also developed 11 Arbeitslagers in the region, of which Gross Rosen was the largest. The Riese project was to become Hitler's showpiece, Ksiąz Castle a residence of Hitler. You can say that they had big plans for this region, the population suffered enormously from this. Even after the war, this continued with massive population movements. A number of good books have been written about it, such as Laura Starink's book: 'German roots' or '764 days' by Margreet Lenstra. Margreet Lenstra has even been to Camping Forteca once during research for her book.

The Gross Rosen labor camp is located just outside the village of Rogożnica.

Gross Rosen was founded in 1940 as a branch of the KL Sachsenhausen. The prisoners were mainly Jews, Poles and Russians. The purpose of the camp was to provide forced laborers for the surrounding quarries. The camp was known to be very tough, due to the long working days in the quarries. Many forced laborers were also put to work digging the tunnels for the Riese Project. In 5 years, 40,000 people lost their lives on the camp or in the quarries. The greatest number of deaths occurred during the evacuation, where some spent weeks on the road to other camps until liberation.

The camp has a museum with remains of the camp (tools, clothing, etc.). The history is also described in detail here. The grounds of the camp can be visited, here you can see the foundations of the prison blocks, the crematorium, communal kitchen, execution wall, gallows and the original fence.

The site is open every day, the museum can be visited first, through headphones you will receive a English explanation.



5. The Railway Museum in Jaworzyna Śląsk

The museum is located on the historic locomotive depot from 1908 with an area of more than 2 hectares with preserved original rail infrastructure, locomotive shed buildings and technical equipment. Collections of more than 120 railway vehicles from 1880 to the 1970s. A visit to the museum takes place, among other things, by means of a unique ride on the so-called "Steam Route" on the museum grounds.

If you are a fan of everything that has to do with trains, then this museum is a must. You will come across equipment here that you will not find anywhere in Europe, the Russian influence is also visible here.

Open daily in high season from 10:00 AM to 6:00 PM



6. The military open-air museum in Świdnica.

Just outside Świdnica in Witoszów Dolna is the only private military museum in Poland.

The exhibits date back to the time of the Second World War. We can see objects like rifles, pistols, revolvers, mortars, trench mortars, submachine guns here. Some of the objects collected are unique in the country. You can admire tanks, planes, armored cars and cannons. The RW-31 radar station also faces the museum grounds.

The museum also has a didactic department, which gives lectures on weapons and militaria, in Polish, of course. The number 1 attraction is the museum shooting range, where you can practice shooting short, machine and pneumatic weapons!

Besides shooting with real weapons you can also drive a real tank! Something to never forget! (at extra rate) Open every day in high season from 10:00 AM - 6:00 PM.



7. Town Museum Dzierzoniów

If you want to learn more about the local history, this museum is worth a short visit. The history of the city of Dzierżoniów is presented in the museum through documents, photographs and cartographic documents.

Dzierżoniów Municipal Museum is located in the former villa of factory owner Hermann Cohn. The eclectic building with predominantly Neo-Renaissance elements was completed at the end of the 19th century. You can still see the stairwell with stained glass, paneling and richly decorated ceilings. The museum presents the history of the city, cartographic collections of individual maps of the Duchy of Świdnica from the 17th and 18th centuries, panoramas of the city, a reconstructed bourgeois lounge from the late 19th century, panoramas of the city, a reconstructed bourge from the late 19th century, decorated in Neo-

Renaissance style, the Owl Room, creative elements of traditional rural household habits, archeology of the region, former carpentry workshop and an exhibition with interactive elements, dedicated to the radio factory "Diora", for which Dzierżoniów was once famous.



8. The museum 'The Hilbertus Mill' in Dzierżoniów

The mill was built around 1840 by the Hilbert family and was owned by them until the end of the Second World War. In the 1930s, the mill was expanded and radically modernized. It was equipped with electric propulsion. The mill was one of the largest of its kind in Lower Silesia. After World War II, it was under the administration of the Red Army for the first 10 years, and then it was used by various state-owned companies. Without modernization and major changes in equipment, the mill was still working until the end of 2016. It has been completely preserved and shows the level of development of the milling technique from the 1930s.

The Hilbertmolen is open to visitors, but please call first.

On weekdays, a visit to the Hilbert mill is only possible for organized groups (min. 8 people) only after prior reservation on telephone number 0048 885 204 500



Groceries and daily necessities

If you need to do some shopping, you can go to the nearest town Dzierżoniów, which has many supermarkets, such as: Kaufland, Lidl, Intermarche, Aldi, Netto, Biedronka and the Polish Dino. If you need things for some odd jobs, visit the BricoMarche or Mrówka. If you need clothes and shoes, in the center of town, as well as next to Kaufland and MacDonald, there are many shops and boutiques, including children's stores, where you can buy essentials. On Tuesdays, Thursdays and Saturdays there is a market with a very wide range (a small market on Tuesdays). We invite you to visit the town square and the surrounding shops, including souvenir shops.

Sandwiches and bread are available at our campsite, which you can order via the "Broodjeslijst" at the sanitary facilities, or directly from Mathijs.

Useful information, WiFi & important adresses. Recommendations for daytrips

1. PAYMENT OPTIONS

Do you want to save money and not pay unnecessarily high exchange rate / transaction costs? PAY CASH!! On a holiday in Poland, this can save up to 20% of your total holiday budget.

Take euros/pounds with you and exchange them in a local exchange office - so not at the border or a big city. Banks charge ridiculously high costs when withdrawing zloties from the 'wall', firstly you get an unfavorable exchange rate, secondly there are transaction costs. Debit cards in a store are slightly cheaper, but there are also unnecessary costs involved.

If you want to pay with a debit card, you can pay with a debit card (maestro/cirrus) or credit card (visa/mastercard) in most places in Poland. There is a reasonable density of ATMs, usually in the center of a medium-sized city.

NOTE: If you still want to use a debit card, choose the option 'PLN' - the Polish currency - pay in the local currency, this really saves about 10-15% on the amount. The option 'pound or PLN' is only requested from 100.00 zł - sometimes your transaction is automatically completed, then you unfortunately pay in euros.

NOTE: it often happens that people feel cheated when it comes to the exchange rate: when you convert from pounds to zloty, the average exchange rate is calculated. So not the buying or selling rate, but a rate that is in the middle (never matches the rate on conversion sites or displays in the exchange office). This has to do with the exchange rate risks and fluctuation of the zloty against the euro.

Bargaining is 'not done' in Poland, just like in the UK. You can only try to haggle when purchasing larger quantities. Tipping is common in restaurants and taxis, but if you don't, no one will get angry, tips are generally small, but it is not appropriate to give groszes (the 'red' coins) for example, because that looks inferior. So give at least 2 zlotys.

In Poland you pay with the zloty. 100 grosze make up 1 zloty. The word zloty means - gold.

PAY FOR THE CAMPSITE

We do not ask for a deposit for a place on our campsite, we assume that your reservation is serious and that you will eventually arrive according to your reservation. When booking via email: info@campingforteca.nl or info@agroturystykaforteca.eu you will receive a confirmation in a pdf file. You do not necessarily have to bring this because you will then be in the reservation list.

For a reservation of an accommodation we ask for a deposit of 50% of the overnight stay amount. You can pay the overnight stays for camping and accommodations at the end of your stay - one day in advance. It may happen that there is no time just before departure, because Mathijs is absent and that

2. TRAFFIC in POLAND

The number 1 rule: 0.00000% alcohol behind the wheel, you have a beer / wine and you are stopped, this has far-reaching consequences. High fines and above 000.5% even arrest and a stay of 1 day in a cell.

You will notice that people in Poland have a different driving style. A bit more bravura and more risky ;). Here's what you have to take into account on the road in Poland:

- animals on the road, especially in the evening you may encounter deer, boar or dogs on the road

- deep holes and potholes on rural roads/mountain areas (especially watch out when it is dark). Through roads is ok.

- signage is not optimal

- during rain mud on the road, by the agricultural vehicles.

- always lights on during the day (fine = 100.00 zloty)

- short exits, short insertion lane

- many agricultural vehicles on the road

– at a speed of more than 50 km/h in built-up areas, your driving license can already be recovered (max. 40 km/h).

- Especially within built-up areas, the police are very strict in the regulations.

again: in Poland you are absolutely not allowed to drive after alcohol. The rule is 0%. When checked, your car can be removed from the trailer, fines start at 7200.00 zł, plus costs for translation, collection of driver's license, depot storage of the car and in case of higher promillions, a 24-hour period in confinement.
 If you are exploring the area by bike, always avoid through roads, there are plenty of B-roads that you can take with little traffic. Cycling is not allowed on so-called provincial roads 'drogi wojewódzkie'. After sunset you are required to wear reflective clothing while cycling.

PARKING

In Dzierzoniów and similar towns you can park safely everywhere. There is paid parking in the center, just outside it you can park here and there for free. You can safely leave your car in villages and medium-sized cities. In larger cities it is advisable to park your car in a parking garage or paid parking spaces (with barrier) because there it is riskier to simply park your car on the street.

In the event of a parking fine, you do not have to be alarmed, you can usually pay the amount due at the parking office, otherwise the fine will be around 30 zloty (approx. 7 euros).

3. TOLL

Important information for the heavier combinations (motorhomes and larger cars with family caravans): in Poland you pay toll on the highway.

Is your empty weight of car-caravan or camper more than 3.5 tons?... then you have to pay toll. Fines for driving without toll are around 350.00 euros.

The easiest way to pay toll is to buy an 'e-bilet autostradowy' right at the border. For example, you can purchase this ticket at the Orlen gas station. Do you want to go on holiday well prepared and not have to look for a gas station at the last minute?...install the app: e-TOLL PL BILET

You can use the interactive map to indicate which route you want to take on the highway. The costs are calculated automatically and you can pay by credit card.

4. OUR PARTNERS/IMPORTANT ADDRESSES

- Bakery, mini supermarket & ice cream parlor Włodek in Uciechów, Piastowska 29
- CIT, tourist info point: City Hall (promotion dept.) Rynek 1, just past iron gate, Dzierżoniów
- IT Świdnica (info point) Wewnętrzna 2, Świdnica
- Dzierzoniow Train Station Sienkiewicza 18, Dzierzoniow
- Car maintenance/repair Carvit Pieszyce, Kościuszki 44, Pieszyce, Garaż nr 3, Kopernika 11, Dzierżoniów
- Tyres/Wheels Serwis Opon Czarnecki, Andersa 6a, Dzierżoniów
- Car dent removal/painting Autotech, Diorowska 20, Dzierżoniów
- Spare parts for caravan Dandis, Podwalna 11, Dzierżoniów
- Gas refill (propan-butan) Turgaz, Kośminska 38, Piława Górna
- Camping Gaz bottles / outdoor sports Skalnik, Bogusławskiego 45, Wrocław
- Ladies Hairdresser/Manicure/Pedicure Nefretete, Krasickiego 38, Dzierzoniów
- Hairdresser (without appointment) Śmiechowicz, Świdnicka 21, Dzierżoniów

- Hairdresser (with appointment) U Maćka, Rzeźnicza 3a, Dzierżoniów
- Fitness, sauna, workout Piękni i Zdrowi, Parkowa 4h, Dzierżoniów
- Coffee house (best coffee in Dzierż.) Palarnia El-Kawa, Piłsudskiego 11d, Dzierżoniów or Makulatura across El-Kawa.
- Ice cream parlor (best ice cream in region) Cukiernia Jankowska, Kościuszki 25, in Pieszyce
- Vet Aavet, Brzegowa 81d, Dzierżoniów
- Hospital Szpital Powiatowy, Cicha 1, Dzierżoniów
- Family doctor Pro Vita, Kopernika 11, Dzierżoniów
- Police Komenda Policji Dzierżoniów, Ząbkowicka 57

5. CAR REPAIR IN POLAND

We notice that many people want to use a good car mechanic who can fix up your car for a low rate. This is partly true, of course, the rates are lower in the UK, especially when it comes to the small service or the replacement of worn tires.

Please note that your car may be lost for a longer period of time, which can reduce your holiday pleasure. It is also the case that people are generally not very strict with agreements regarding the duration of the repair, so it can be disappointing if you suddenly have to wait three or four days longer for your car. Always agree on a target price before having the car repaired. There are no fixed rates, so don't be surprised if the price is disappointing afterwards without clear agreements.

Apart from these risks, it is also the case that you cannot return to the garage for warranty.

From experience we can say that a car is usually repaired properly, but you have to weigh the risks. It is also important to have good full insurance in the event of a car breakdown, preferably with the option of a replacement car and a towing arrangement.



6. OVERNIGHT DAY TRIPS

Krakow & Auschwitz - Many of our guests would also like to visit the city of Krakow and/or Auschwitz. This can be done very well from the campsite. Krakow is 280km away, Auschwitz is 240km. We have been cooperating with the low-cost hotel Residence Tournet in the center of Krakow for a few years now. For example, you can first visit Auschwitz, then drive to Krakow, check in and drive back to the campsite the next day after visiting the city. Double rooms are reasonably priced, including breakfast, children up to 12 years stay for free, pets are allowed. See the hotel's website: http://www.nocleg.krakow.pl/en. You can book through Mathijs or book directly through booking.com.

Prague - Another popular day trip is the city of Prague in the Czech Republic. It takes about 3.5 hours via Nachod, for the part of the highway you need a vignette that you can buy at the petrol stations at the border. Hotels and guesthouses can be booked in abundance via, for example, booking.com

Energylandia – Zator - The largest brand new amusement park in Poland is a 3-hour drive from the campsite between Katowice and Krakow. There are 30 attractions, from extreme rollercoasters to a fairytale park and a water park. You buy 1 ticket for everything, so bring your swimsuit. The park is located near the town of Zator. There are chalets for rent or guest rooms, you can book here on your own.

7. WIFI AT THE CAMPSITE

You can log in to 'forteca-restauracja', 'camping', or 'pokoje'. There is no password.

The incoming internet signal is distributed over the various access points. This allows you to send messages (Whatsapp, etc.), but sharing movies and larger files becomes difficult.

There are a number of solutions for this:

1. You can use your data bundle within the EU (including Poland) at no extra cost until your limit is reached. You will receive a text message about this when you cross the border.

2. Buy a local prepaid SIM card, costs are relatively low. For example, you can go to the shop 'MediaExpert' or to a telephone shop in the center of Dzierżoniów. Please note: do not choose 'Orange' or 'T-Mobile' as provider - there is no coverage on the camping site.

You have to register yourself with passport number.

3. You can also buy worldwide GBs in advance on ebay.co.uk, for example, that also work in Poland.

4. Buy a MiFi router, costs are around 50 euros, here you can distribute the signal over different devices with 1 SIM card.

8. REFUELING / CHARGING CAR

Euro 95 E5 (Benzina bezolowiowa 95) is readily available in Poland. This is indicated as Pb95 with a line through it.

E10, petrol with 10% bioethanol, is not yet available in Poland, but is expected to be introduced in 2024. **Superplus 98 E5** (Benzina bezolowiowa 98) is also readily available.

Diesel is indicated as ON (Olej Napędowy), here you have a choice between the normal or the 'ecological version'.

If you have a car on LPG, don't forget to bring a filling nipple. In Poland you need an LPG filling nipple Italy (dish) as an adapter for an LPG installation with a regular bayonet connection. Incidentally, LPG filling nipple Europe (ACME) is required in Germany. LPG (LPG, Gaz, Autogaz) is available at more than 4500 filling stations. See www.mylpg.eu for a map and an overview of refueling locations.

CHARGING ELECTRIC / HYBRYD CARS

Poland has about 3000 charging points. For comparison: The UK has about 42.000 For an up-to-date overview of the locations of charge points, visit www.chargemap.com or search for charge points via, for example, the Chargemap app (IOS and Android).

Of course, charging your car falls outside the regular camping rate for electricity. It is therefore forbidden to simply charge your car via an electricity pole on the campsite.

You can charge your car at a rate of 3.00 zl for a Kwh (about 0.60 eurocent). This is measured via an energy meter. Please indicate in advance that you want to charge your car and then we can calculate the costs in a fair way.



Polish language - the basics & social habits

1. THE POLISH LANGUAGE

It is very difficult for tourists to speak even a little Polish. That is because Polish belongs to the West Slavic languages of the Indo-European language group.

It is also very difficult for Poles to speak a 'western' language because the languages belong to other language groups, so it is just as difficult for a Pole to speak English as the other way around, please understand.

BASIC WORDS It's tricky but you can still give it a try, it will definitely give you a smile :)

Below are a few words that you may need during your visit to Poland:

Dzień dobry (dzjen dobre)= Good day Cześć (chest) = Hi (only for youth/children or informal contacts) Do widzenia (do vidzenia) = goodbye Przeprasam (pseprasham) = sorry / apology Proszę (prosje) = please Dziękuję (dzjenkuje) = thank you Jak sie masz? (yeah she mash)= how are you? Ile to kosztuje? (as written)= how much does that cost? Jestem tutaj na wakacjach = I am here on vacation (jestem tutaj after vakatchag) Nazywam się ... (nazyvam sje) = my name is Bardzo mi miło = pleasant (bardzo mi miwo) Pan / Pani = sir / madam Gdzie jest ..? (gdzje jest) = where is ...? Zgubiłem drogę (zgoebiwum droke) = I have lost my way

Polish uses the Latin alphabet, but uses so-called 'diacritics'. These are characters that are written above or below the letter, just like the 'accent aigu' in French, for example Polish letters and combinations with pronunciation:

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k = -W (antilian accent -w)

\dot{C} = -tsssj

\dot{O} = pronounce as -oe

U = -oe

A = pronounce as - ohw

\xi = pronounce as - ejw

CH = - soft G

W = -V

IE = pronounced as -je

RZ = pronounce -sshh

SZCZ = pronounce as - shztu (indes)
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SZCZ = pronounce as - shztu (indescribable, this is a sound without comparison in English) example: the city of Szczeczin is pronounced as Sztetsien.

2. SOCIAL HABITS AND BEHAVIOUR

In Poland, a lot of attention is also paid to forms of courtesy. If an adult doesn't know each other, it's always Pan and Pani (Mr. and Mrs., synonym for -Sir/Madam). If people know each other, when they were young, or if they want to appear 'popular', you can tutor. However, the limit of switching to -you is much higher than in the UK.

Another form of behaviour is shaking hands and kissing:

In Poland you always shake hands with the woman first and then the man, this is a habit that really determines whether you are seen as polite or not. You will also see a Polish man waiting for the moment until you greet the woman first.

Men also shake hands when they meet or strangers who address each other also shake hands. So in Poland you shake hands much more than in the UK

A married woman in Poland is greeted at a formal meeting/date with a hand kiss, which is generally given by 'hanging' just above the hand and not touching the hand with the lips.

Polish men give priority to women, this is a habit that is still practiced even by the young generation. If you are in mixed company, this is something to watch out for, because giving yourself first access is considered anti-social behavior in Poland.

If you feel it is polite to kiss someone on the cheek when greeting, then in Poland they give two kisses, if you want to add a third kiss, as is customary in the other countries, you probably give a kiss in the air. Men don't kiss each other on the cheek - except among relatives, so not like in Italy or Spain.

Of course people understand that there are different cultures, but especially shaking hands and letting women go first can make the difference in how the foreigner is perceived and how a relationship develops further.



Toll and Route

TOLL on highways: Important INFO for all drivers!

- Combinations with a combined weight above 3.5 tons pay toll on all highways, this can be done by buying an 'e-bilet' at Orlen petrol stations at the border or via the app: e-TOLL PL BILET. For more information look at: Toll in Poland | ANWB (chapter 'heavy vehicles') en: How do I register
- Passenger cars under 3.5 tons also pay toll, but not on all highways. The A4 from the German border to Wroclaw has no toll obligation. From Wroclaw (Bielany) to the east (Katowice - Rzeszów) you have to pay toll. You can also do this via the app: e-TOLL PL BILET, or via the site: https://etoll.gov.pl/en/ If you find out that you should have paid toll, but have not done so, then there is nothing to worry about. You can still pay tolls until the third day after driving on the highway.

Camping Forteca is located near the town of Dzierżoniów (3 km away) in southwestern Poland, about 15 minutes from the Giant Mountains. We are located just outside the built-up area of the village of 'Uciechów' in the 'Powiat Dzierżoniowski'.

ATTENTION: When setting up your navigation choose the option Uciechow - Dzierzoniowski !! NOT --> Uciechow - Odolanów, you will then arrive in another town 160 km northwest.

Driving in Poland is almost identical in terms of rules as in other European countries, but please note: 0.000% alcohol behind the wheel (read our info in 'practical information') It is mandatory to have your car lights on all day.

TRAVEL DIRECTIONS

Driving from the UK you can take the border crossing at Gorlitz or Forst/Cottbus. The big advantage of Gorlitz (Zgorzelec) is that the highway is of very good quality.

Note: Once you leave the A4 motorway at the KOSTOMŁOTY exit turn off your navigation as it sends you through small back roads through the Sleza reserve. This is shorter in kilometers but very uncomfortable with a caravan. Or temporarily set your navigation to 'Zarów' instead of your final destination, so you will be guided around this nature reserve.

ATTENTION: The A4 at Cottbus-Forst is being refurbished, for season 2023/2024 take the border crossing at Gorlitz!!!

From the highway take the exit "Kostomłoty" onto the number 5, drive towards Jelenia Góra. Your navigation recommends taking the exit 'Udanin' or 'Jawor', but this is a detour and uncomfortable through village centers and old roads.

So...., take the Kostomłoty exit, watch out: this is an illogical exit, take it easy and orient yourself to your priority position!! Drive a bit on (old) road no. 5. A few hundred meters past the town of 'Osiek', turn left towards Żarów and Świdnica. You then drive past the towns of Mięlecin and Łażany until you reach the new ring road along Żarów. Follow the signs Świdnica.

Once you have arrived in Świdnica, follow the signs to Dzierzoniów. In Dzierżoniów follow the signs Wrocław and after 3km past the city border you will arrive in Uciechów.

We have two access roads: you can turn off the ring road in Uciechów and come out on the old road 384 at Forteca. Or you drive a little further and turn directly in Uciechów from the ring road and you will see the campsite in front of you.

The Google route planner coordinates are as follows: 50°45'20"N 16°41'40"E If you still cannot find the campsite, give us a call and we will be happy to explain it to you. 0048 725 48 8000.





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