

Jurassic Park in Bałtów





A guide-book "Kielce Voivodeship" from 1973 describes Bałtów as "...a picturesque Kamienna ravine in the Ilżeckie Foreland; Sunday destination for Ostrowiec Świętokrzyski inhabitants. In its church some of the equipment comes from the 17th-18th century. There is a former Druckich-Lubeckich palace from the 19th-20th century"

Nowadays Bałtów is also known as a prosperous tourist resort which originated in the discovery of dinosaurs' reminiscence, which led to the idea of building the Bałtowski Jurassic Park. It was opened in 2004, it covers the area of about 3 ha and is located on a "Spring Island" between the Kamienna River and its old river-bed.

The most interesting feature of the park are 50 life-size figures of dinosaurs standing along the sightseeing route. There are also brief descriptions of the geological eras and the dinosaurs. The exhibition is nicely fitted in the natural greenery. In the park there is also the Jurassic Museum with the main groups of fossils, famous paleontology sites in the world, the exhibition of fossils from Bałtów area and dinosaurs fossils found in the Świętokrzyskie Mountains. For the youngest visitors there is a big

playground with not only swings and slides but best of all with a dinosaur's skeleton buried in the sand, giving the kids the opportunity to be archeologists for a while. Art classes for children are organized during which they can paint figurines of dinosaurs and ammonites.

Near the park there is a hundred years old, still workig water mill which is open to visitors. For those interested in horse-riding, there is "Kraina Koni" Horse-Riding Center with 30 horses and ponies. There, they also organize local trips by gypsy buggy.

Another Bałtów highlight is a raft voyage down the Kamienna River winding between the wooded hills. It is 4 km long and takes about one and a half hour. The landing-place is not far away from the Jurassic Park. Horse carts run on the road along the Kamienna River so those who take part in the raft adventure can ride them to go back to their cars left at the starting-place of the voyage. Individual cayakers can also rent equipment and on sunny days tourists can use the swimming area.

In Bałtów there are tourist routes leading to rocky shelves, caves and vantage points. The most recommended are the nature and the historical routes. The newest attraction is the 40 ha big safari with elks, fallow deer, lamas and sheep. The animals can be seen travelling on a special bus, jeep or a horse cart.

It is also worth seeing the church with the 17th-18th century furnishings and the 19th-20th century Druckich-Lubeckich palace. In front of the palace there used to be a tall gate with the following enscription:



*Lord! Those who come here,
What they wish for us, let them
have it too.*

Near Bałtów there are two nature reserves: "Modrzewie" and "Ulów" which are valued for their precious forest accumulations.

In the winter there are two ski lifts: 340 m and 570 m long. The slope is artificially snowed and lit. There is a ski service, food court, and a ski school.

Baltowski Jurassic Park

Open: April-October

27-423 Bałtów 8a

Phone (+48 41) 264 14 20,

(+48 41) 264 12 93

www.baltowskipark.pl

Rafting

Seasonal: April-October

Reservations by phone:

(+48 41) 264 12 93,

(+48 41) 264 10 22

e-mail: turystyka@baltow.info

Old Mill

Open daily

Reservations by phone:

(+48 41) 264 11 29,

(+48 41) 264 14 20,

(+48 41) 264 14 21

"Kraina Koni" Horse-riding Center

Open all year:

Tuesday-Sunday 10am-7pm

27-423 Bałtów 170a

Contact with the instructor:

(+48) 500 029 904

Świątokrzyska Train

Reservations:

(+48 41) 264 14 20

"Dolina Gadów" – "Reptile Valley"

Open: April-October

Mon-Fri 9am-7pm

Sat-Sun 9am-8pm

Reservations:

27-423 Bałtów 15,

Phone (+48) 514 908 336

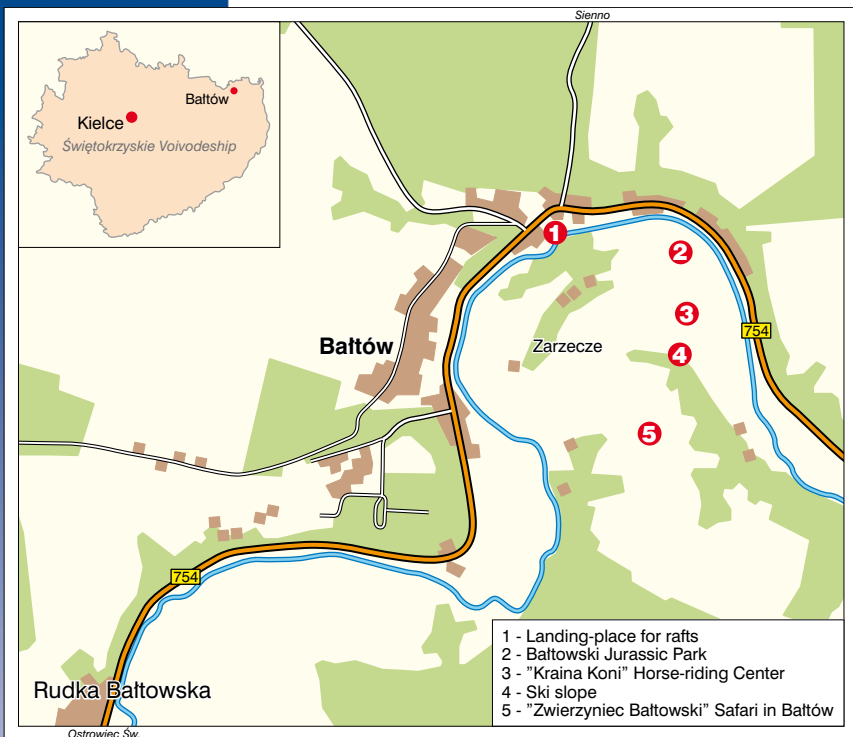
e-mail: info@dolinagadow.pl

www.dolinagadow.pl

Ski slope

Phone (+48 41) 264 14 20





Tourist Information Centre

25-033 Kielce, ul. Ściegiennego 2, Phone (+48 41) 348 00 60
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