

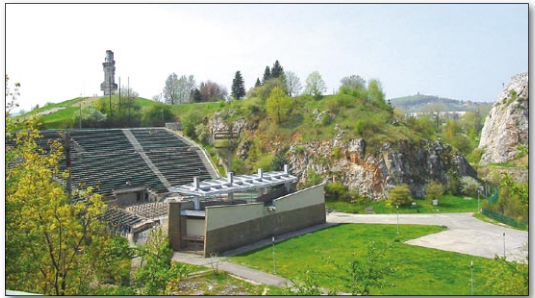
Geological Wonders



Kadzielnia Reserve in Kielce

Kadzielnia is a widely recognized landmark in Kielce. It is a hill 295 m high located in the south part of the city. On the slopes of the hill there once grew plants used for making incense which gave the hill its name. Since the 18th century limestone was extracted here for building and sugar industry. The excavation was stopped in 1962 and the area was turned into a recreational place with walking lanes and vantage points. In the excavation site there was created an amphitheater with 5000 seats. It was finished and opened to the public in 1971 during the 9th anniversary of the city.

The limestone in Kadzielnia is plentiful in fossils of corals, marine invertebrate, cephalopods and cuirassier fish. Kadzielnia is famous for its mineral Karst and Karst phenomena such as shelters, funnels and caves. There are 26 caves and 16 of them are in the protected Geologists' Rock.



Geopark Kielce

ul. Szymanowskiego 6, 25-361 Kielce, Phone (+48 41) 367 66 54, www.geopark-kielce.pl

Piekło (Hell) Rock Reserve near Niekłań



The reserve is a part of a mainly pine-tree forest approximately 200 years old. Among the trees there are sandstone rocks of varied shapes: mushrooms, chimneys or pulpits. The rock sculptures spread out for about 1 kilometer and they are up to 8 meters high. The rocks were shaped in the process of erosion and airing and also because of the heterogeneity of its layers. In the crevices of the rocks there can be found a very rare kind of fern – the Forked Spleenwort, a relict plant from the end of the Ice Age. Among other more popular plants there grow orchids and club mosses. In the area there is also an example of a very powerful spring which is the beginning of the Kamienna River.

To get to the reserve you need to turn north at Odrowąż off of route 42. Right after Niekłań Wielki, in Kaluża village, there is a small parking from which it is only 1.5 km to the reserve.

Raj (Paradise) Cave Reserve

The cave was discovered in September of 1964 by students from the Geological Institute in Cracow. The wonderful dripstone forms – stalactites, stalagmites, columns and hangings, make it one of the most beautiful caves in Poland. Research shows that over 40 thousand years ago the cave was inhabited by the Neanderthal. The whole length of the already examined passages is 240 meters, out of which 150 meters is accessible to the public. Visitors walk along a man-made tunnel sightseeing the rooms of the cave: the Entrance, the Rubble, the Columns, the Stalactites and the High Room. The cave was created in heavily karstified Devonian limestone. At the bottom of the cave there are dripping bowls with so called cave pears.

Raj (Paradise) Cave Reserve

26-060 Chęciny, Phone (+48 41) 346 55 18
www.jaskiniaraj.pl



Skorocice Reserve



It is about 850 meters long and 80 meters wide rocky ravine made of gypsum. The walls are approximately 8-13 meters high and some are in the form of cliffs with visible gypsum crystals. In the area of the reserve there are 35 caves and shelters. The longest of them is Skorocicka Cave of 352 meters. There are also other Karst forms: clubs, bridges and cavities. River Maskalisa runs along the whole ravine in some parts going under the ground. The slopes and the bottom of the gorge is covered with rich greenery. The first to bloom is the Spring Pheasants Eye and then other rare plants: the Feather Grass and the Woolly Milk-vetch. What is unique about this reserve is cicadas and huge spiders resembling Goliath birdeater tarantulas.

To get to the reserve you have to turn at Latanice off of route 766 Busko-Zdrój – Wiślica.

Pieprzowe Mountains Reserve in Sandomierz

The Pieprzowe Mountains make the eastern end of the Świętokrzyskie Mountains. They spread out for about 1 kilometer along the Wisła River ravine near Sandomierz. They are made of Cambrian rocks in color resembling pepper which gave the mountains their name. The Pieprzowe Mountains is a reserve where numerous rare and interesting plants find their asylum. Among others there is the Dwarf Cherry, the Woolly Speedwell, and a kind of the Yarrow plant - *Achillea setacea*, which can be found only in this reserve. The Pieprzowe Mountains is the biggest aggregation of wild roses in Poland – out of 25 species, 12 grow right here. It is best to sightsee the reserve going along the red tourist route.

Polish Tourist Country-Lovers' Society (PTTK)

Rynek 12, 27-600 Sandomierz

Phone (+48 15) 832 23 05, www.pttk-sandomierz.pl



Gołoborza (rocky rubble fields)



A characteristic feature of the Świętokrzyskie Mountains landscape is rocky rubble areas, so called gołoborza, which can be found on the northern slopes of Łysogóry and the Jeleniowskie Range. They were created in the process of rock decay in the Ice Age. The biggest gołoborze on the northern slope of Łysa Góra is named after Roman Kobendza, a scientist who was the first to describe plants of Łysogórskie gołoborza. The rubble as well as the wide panorama can be watched from a specially built vantage point. Smaller gołoborze is near the top of Łysica Mountain at the red tourist route.

Świętokrzyski National Park

ul. Suchedniowska 4, 26-010 Bodzentyn

Phone (+48 41) 311 51 06

www.swietokrzyskipn.org.pl



Tourist Information Centre
 25-033 Kielce, ul. Ściegiennego 2, Phone (+48 41) 348 00 60
 informacja@swietokrzyskie.travel
 www.swietokrzyskie.travel



Marshal's Office of the Świętokrzyskie Voivodeship
 25-516 Kielce, Al. IX Wieków Kielce 3
 Phone (+48 41) 342 15 49, fax (+48 41) 344 52 65
 www.sejmik.kielce.pl