

Bałtów

The town of Bałtów is located some 12 kilometers north-east from Ostrowiec Świętokrzyski in the valley of River Kamienna running through the Bałtów Plateau.

Millions years ago dinosaurs roamed through the Kamienna River valley and left there their well-visible trail on the lime bed-rock. The JuraPark Bałtów was set up nearby and it attracts lots of tourists every year.

Touring the park is like traveling throughout our planet's history from the Cambrian period till the present times. Reconstructed dinosaurs and other animal groups are the greatest attraction of the park. Thanks to the boards with descriptions of individual animals and geological epochs, the tour of the park becomes an interesting lesson of geology and natural history of the Earth. The trails of dinosaurs from the Świętokrzyskie Mountains, bone fragments and teeth of dinosaurs from Morocco as well as remains of other extinct animals once living on our planet can be seen in the **Jurassic Museum** displaying over 300 petrifacts from Poland and the world.

Bałtów 150 million years ago

During the Jurassic period the area of Bałtów was covered by a warm sea, home to anthozoans, brachiopods, bivalves, snails, echinoids, and ammonites. Fossils discovered in Wólka Bałtowska let scientists suppose that there was a land not far away with the shoreline similar to that of the present-day Florida. Dinosaurs walked along the white carbonate beaches leaving behind them prints of their big paws. White rock outcrops visible around and in the village of Bałtów are remains of the former sea body. They contain many fossils, mainly of stenothermal anthozoans.

Studying the fauna of the former geological periods, we eventually reach the present-day equestrian center Kraina koni and the **Zwierzyniec Bałtowski** animal park, where on the area of nearly 100 acres a wildlife habitat was created. Touring the park in a specially adapted school-bus visitors can safely observe such wild animals as Dybowski's deer, graceful fallow deer, curious mouflons, dignified herd of Scottish cattle, various subspecies of chamois as well as sheep, donkeys, tarpans (Polish horses), alpacas, and llamas.

The Zwierzyniec Bałtowski animal park borders directly on the **Bałtowska Pętla** hiking trail, biking trails and professionally maintained **skiing slopes** suitable even for experienced skiers.

Rafting down the Kamienna River on rafts managed by the locals in folk costumes is another attraction of the stay in Bałtów. This 4-km-long trip begins at the foot of the hill topped with the Drucki-Lubecki palace and ends at the Przy Młynie landing place.

Built in the 19th century, the **Stary Młyn** (Old Mill) is powered by water and still functioning. All elements of the mill equipment are in perfect operational state. An old miller who knows all secrets of the facility takes visitors around.

The neoclassical palace (119th c.) of the **Drucki-Lubecki family** is surrounded by a park arranged in the 18th century and containing many old trees recognized as nature monuments. Prince Aleksander Drucki-Lubecki lived in the palace before WWII. The whole family had to leave the property when the Red Army troops entered Poland. The estate was nationalized. Since then the palace has been devastated and cannot be toured.

The Church of Our Lady of Sorrows from 1697 is another noteworthy historical monument in Bałtów. The present church was erected on the foundations of the first wooden temple from the 11th century, which was consumed by flames. Totally remodeled in the early

20th century, the **Church of Our Lady of Sorrows** acquired quite a new layout. A big door was made in place of the former high altar, while in place of the former entrance a new presbytery with high altar were constructed as well as two sacristies and two chapels. Two new towers, each of 36.5 meter-high, were erected. Of the original church only side alters, baptismal font and a Baroque pulpit were preserved.

In the park near the palace there is a ruined **chapel** from 1786 built in place of the former, burnt down church. The list of historical monuments in Bałtów can be supplemented by a wooden **chapel of St John the Nepomuk** (19th c.) and a **cemetery** (19th c.) with a mausoleum of the Drucki-Lubecki princely family.

Tourist Information Center in Bałtów, Bałtyk Club

Bałtów 55, 27-423 Bałtów, tel. 41 264 12 93,

www.baltow.info

JuraPark Bałtów

27-423 Bałtów 8a

Information and reservation: tel. 41 264 14 21,

tel./fax 041 264 14 20

www.juraparkbaltow.pl

Krzemionki,

The locality of Krzemionki is situated some 8 km north-east of Ostrowiec Świętokrzyski.

In 1922, a geologist Jan Samsonowicz discovered here Europe's biggest mining fields from the Neolithic period, where striped flint was extracted in the years 3900-1600 B.C. This kind of flint is found in Poland only in the Świętokrzyski region near such localities as Krzemionki, Ożarów, Iłża and Śródborze.

Striped flint belongs to semi-precious stones and is willingly used by jewelers who set it in silver. It's become fashionable in many countries and is considered as stone providing energy, power, and having medicinal properties. It's often called the stone of optimism.

There are many hypothesis explaining how the flint came into being. One of them says that it originated from huge colonies of dead marine sponges that lived in the Jurassic seas. While the organic remains were decomposing, the silicone dioxide was released and it assumed a concentric shape round the crystallizing core.

General admiration and respect for the perfectly preserved mining surface landscape and the structure of its underground parts make Krzemionki an exceptional site. The former mines of striped flint are protected and acquired the status of the archaeological and natural reserve. They may soon be put on the UNESCO list of world cultural heritage. More than 700 shafts were identified on the territory of the reserve. They are interconnected by a network of radially running galleries. The average depth of a shaft is 5-8 meters, while the deepest ones reach 11 meters.

The Krzemionki mines are an excellent pre-historical example of how the technology developed in the ancient times. The former shafts are still in good shape in spite of the fact that they were made a few thousand years ago. Axes and other tools manufactured by miners were such good quality that they were delivered to localities situated more than 660 kilometers away from the mines. Following the **underground tourist route** visitors can learn how the striped flint was extracted, and in the workshops built above the ground tourists can see how it was worked.

The tour begins in pavilion number 3. It contains a reconstructed workshop and the construction of a shaft and its roofing is also demonstrated. From pavilion number 2 visitors reach the level of chamber mine workings passing through the Zenon pit. Later on visitors move through a gallery hewn in solid rock to arrive to the ventilation and evacuation shaft at the depth of over 11 meters. It shows visitors the geological profile of the Krzemionki mines. From the ventilation shaft they proceed to a perfectly preserved chamber mine that demonstrates the top achievements of the European mining skills dating back to the Neolithic period. Passing through its partly cleaned workings tourists reach chamber and chamber with pillar mines as well as the Big Chambers left by lime kiln workers active here in the early 20th century. Miners from the Neolithic period left here the famous drawings made with the use of charcoal. The exit from the underground tourist route brings visitors to the pavilion located above the Stefan shaft and leads them on to the parking near the museum. On the way to the parking lot visitors can still see former shaft funnels and mine spoil-heaps. Only guided tours are allowed on the territory of the reserve. A tour takes approximately one hour and a half.

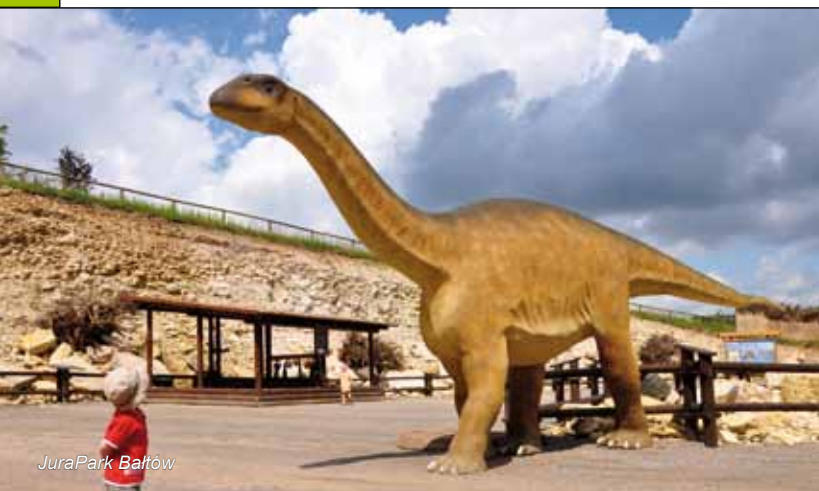
Museum and Archaeological and Nature Reserve

Krzemionki near Ostrowca Św.,

27-400 Ostrowiec Świętokrzyski

tel./fax: 41 262 09 78

www.krzemionki.pl



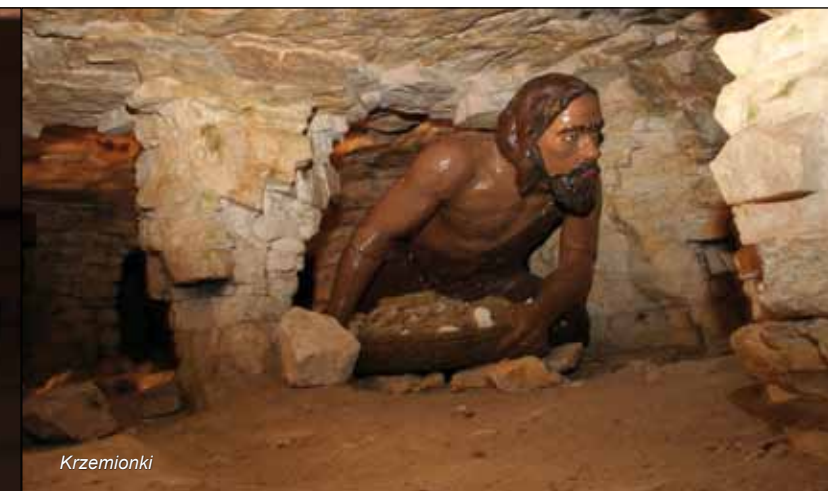
JuraPark Bałtów



Equestrian Center Kraina koni in Bałtów



Zwierzyniec Bałtowski Animal Park



Krzemionki



Striped flint

Ostrowiec Świętokrzyski,

The town of Ostrowiec Świętokrzyski ranks second in the Świętokrzyskie voivodeship. It borders on a large expanse of the Iłżycka Forest in the north and on the uplandish territory of the Opatów region in the south. In its 400-year-old history tradition intermingles with modernity.

The historical monuments in Ostrowiec Świętokrzyski range from sacral buildings, sites connected with wartime dramatic events, to industrial heritage constructions and unique installations of the old ironworks.

The cityscape is dominated by the collegiate church of St Michael the Archangel founded by prince Janusz Ostrogski in 1614. It was remodeled after the invasion led by prince George II Rákóczy of Transylvania and consecrated again in 1672. During the interwar period of the 20th century the church was provided with Baroque appearance according to a project designed by Stefan Szyller. Its main nave was raised and extended. Lateral naves as well as a burial chapel, sacristy and a church tower were added. A new stone high altar was built by Józef Jamroz in 1944.

The Baroque church of St Stanisław the Bishop from the late 16th century is also worth a visit. Erected in the Denków quarter in 1581, it was founded by Stanisław and Kaliksta Michowski. The wooden church was dismantled in 1691 and a new brick church in Baroque style was built on the Latin cross pattern. The late-Baroque high altar contains a picture of the Holy Virgin Mary with Child from the turn of the 17th century as well as pictures featuring St Barbara and St Stanisław.

In the same quarter of Denków is located a cemetery with neoclassical chapel of the Kotkowski family. Noteworthy monuments of architecture include the building of the Polish Post from the 1920s, a bit neglected building of the railway station raised in the 1880s, and city residences from the turn of the 19th century (ul. Siennieńska 14 and 37, ul. Wardyńskiego 26).

In the south-western quarter of the city Częstocice stands an interesting palace of the Wielopolski family (late 19th c.) surrounded by a old park. It now houses the Historical and Archaeological Museum.

Worth a visit is also the post-industrial area of the Old Ironworks as well as the former sugar factory of Częstocice, workers lodgings in the lower town, and the wooden factory church of the Holy Heart of Jesus erected in the Zakopane style in the years 1931-32. The church is located on the regional itinerary of the Timber Architecture Trail.

**Tourist Information Center
in Ostrowiec Świętokrzysk**

Municipal Culture Center
ul. Siennieńska 54, 27-400 Ostrowiec Św.
tel. 41 247 65 80, www.um.ostrowiec.pl

Historical and Archaeological Museum
ul. Świętokrzyska 37, 27-400 Ostrowiec Św.
tel./fax 41 265 36 51
mh.ostrowiec@wp.pl, www.krzemionki.pl

PTTK Branch Office in Ostrowiec Świętokrzyski
tel. 41 265 38 22
e-mail: ostrowiec@ptt.org.pl
www.ostrowiec.ptt.org.pl

Ćmielów,

The little town of Ćmielów is located some 10 km east from Ostrowiec Świętokrzyski, on the boundary of the Iłżeckie Foothills and the Sandomierz Plateau. It sits on the Kamienna River with a tributary of River Przepaść.

Ćmielów is famous for the production of the highest quality porcelain. The Porcelain Factory AS Ćmielów produces porcelain ware with the use of original models and moulds that survived together with the worldwide known traditions of the Ćmielów porcelain products. A logo of Ćmielów Exclusive is now found on the newest products of the Ćmielów factory: porcelain jewellery items. They are all hand-made and hand-decorated. The Live Museum of Porcelain was established on the factory premises in 2005. This unique institution not only displays the factory products, but also let visitors participate in the process of production as well as offer them a chance of making a finished items themselves.



Porcelain Museum in Ćmielów

The originality of the Ćmielów figures is carefully protected with a pink, quadrangular mark made of a specially prepared porcelain paste. Each figure has its own certificate of authenticity with a unique number, date of production and its author's name.

Those who visit the museum can follow the stages of the production process, see a collection of contemporary porcelain figures, watch a film about Ćmielów projected in an old 22-meter-long kiln, and enjoy many other attractive aspects of the tour. There is also a rich gallery of porcelain sculptures offered for sale.

In addition to the factory and the museum, visitors can see the ruin of the castle once belonging to the chancellor Krzysztof Szydłowiecki. It is situated upon the Kamienna River and was raised in the years 1519-23. The castle premises can be divided into two sections: the castle proper erected on an island and the buildings at the foot of the castle with a tower gate. Only a fragment of the walls remained of the castle proper. Of the buildings at the foot of the castle only the tower gate joining an administration outbuilding are still there. Reconstructed in the early 19th century, this part of the castle housed a brewery. Remains of some earthen bastions are still distinguishable.

Porcelain Factory AS Ćmielów
„Żywe Muzeum Porcelany”
(Live Museum of Porcelain)
ul. Sandomierska 243, 27 - 440 Ćmielów
tel./fax 15 861 20 21
www.as.cmielow.com.pl

Tekst: ROTWS
Photographs: A. Drzewiecka, P. Pierściński, Archiwa: JuraPark Bałtów,
Fabryka Porcelany AS Ćmielów

Publisher:
Regionalna Regional Tourist Organization (ROT) of the Świętokrzyskie Voivodeship, ul. Ściegiennego 2, 25-033 Kielce,
(Bldg of the Voivodeship Culture Center, Room 36), tel. 41 361 80 57
www.rot.swietokrzyskie.travel



THE ŚWIĘTOKRZYSKIE VOIVODESHIP
Project of the Promotional Campaign for the Świętokrzyskie Voivodeship co-financed
by the European Union Regional Development Fund.



**HIGHLIGHTS OF
THE ŚWIĘTOKRZYSKI
REGION**



**BAŁTÓW, KRZEMIONKI
OSTROWIEC ŚWIĘTOKRZYSKI, ĆMIELÓW**



Historical and Archaeological Museum in Ostrowiec Świętokrzyski



Bałtów Switzerland