

Jędrzejów is situated close to the international road E77, some 37 km from Kielce. The monastery was founded by the Wrocław bishop Janik Jaksa and his brother Klemens in 1140. It was raised near the Biała Nida river-head as the 21st branch of Morimond Abbey (France) and received the name of Morimondus Minor. Its construction was completed in 1149. The Jędrzejów abbey was the first one to be established on the Polish territory.

A settlement of Brzeźnica was soon initiated by the Cistercians; its name derived from the little river running across the settlement. Some time later they changed the name into Jędrzejów, or Andreovia – St Andrew's Way. Such name was given to it in order to show their devotion to St Andrew the Apostle, patron of the East. The status of the monastery in Jędrzejów was raised to that of an abbey in 1149. The Cracovian (Kraków) bishop Wincenty Kadłubek consecrated the new church of the Assumption of the Holy Virgin Mary, patroness of the Cistercian order, in 1210. In 1447, towards the end of the Middle Ages, Mikołaj Odrowąż of Rembiszyce was nominated the abbot of the

Due to its spirituality and comprehensive cultural and economic activities, the Cistercian order greatly influenced the cultural face of Europe in the 12th and 13th centuries. The Cistercians established an important link between Poland and Western Europe. The monasteries built on the Polish territory were affiliated with two centers in France: Clairvaux and Morimond. The abbeys were founded by dukes, nobles and highly positioned clergymen. Twenty-six monasteries were set up from the mid-12th till the late 13th century. The Cistercians are known as white monks because they wear white frock with black scapular and a cotton belt round their waist.

Jędrzejów abbey. He is the author of important remodeling works: the monastery building was thoroughly reshaped, and the church – modernized. Cloisters were added to the monastery, the Romanesque church acquired many Gothic elements, and a separate building for abbots with hospice was constructed. Eminent artists from Cracow (Kraków) were invited to carry out works: Wit Stwosz, a sculptor, and two goldsmiths, Mikołaj Kregler and Mikołaj Breimer. Much dilapidated 12th century parish church was replaced with a new Gothic building, today devoted to the Holy Trinity. The Cistercian order was dissolved in 1819, and a war hospital was arranged in the former monastic buildings. The last Cistercian, Wilhelm Ulawski, died in 1855. The ministrations were taken over by the Reformati fathers. Jędrzejów lost its municipal rights in 1870, and the Reformati fathers had to leave the monastery for supporting the national uprising of 1863-64. A seminary for teachers was organized in the former monastic buildings by the tsarist authorities in 1872. The Cistercians returned to Jędrzejów in 1945. It became a priory in 1953, and its status was raised again to that of an abbey in 1989.

The first diocesan Eucharistic Congress was held in the parish of Blessed Wincenty Kadłubek in 1934.

Wincenty Kadłubek was the best-known monk in the monastic family of Jędrzejów. Before entering the monastery, he gave up his position of the Cracovian bishop. It's believed that the fourth volume of his *Chronica Polonorum* (Polish Chronicle), an important source of knowledge about the history of the Polish state, was written in Jędrzejów.

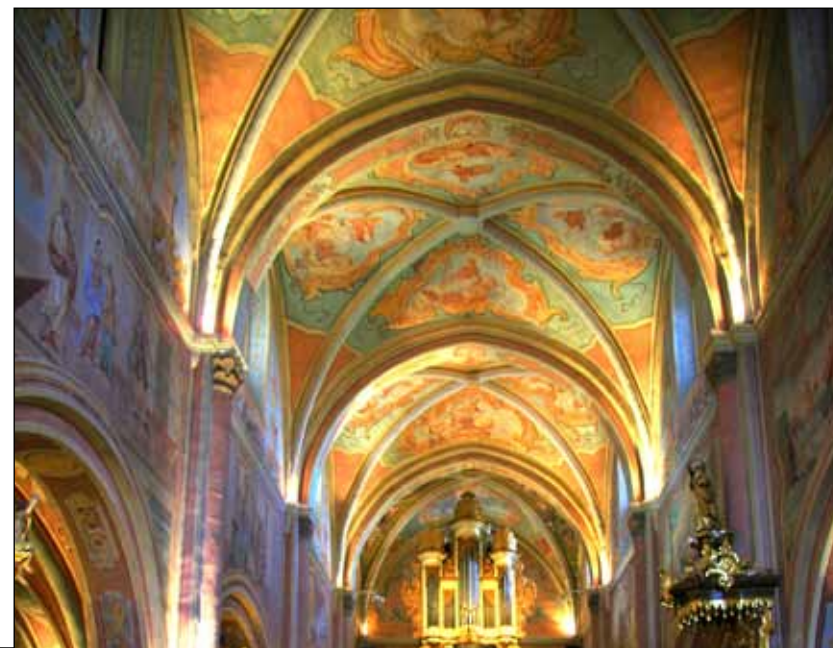
Sanctuary of Blessed Wincenty Kadłubek

ul. Klasztorna 20, 28-300 Jędrzejów, tel. +48 41 386 23 08, www.cystersi.pl

Tourist Information Center in Jędrzejów Muzeum im. Przypkowskich

Pl. T. Kościuszki 7/8, 28-300 Jędrzejów, tel. +48 41 386 54 89
www.muzeum.jedrzejow.pl

Wąchock upon the Kamienna River is located 5 kilometers from the town of Starachowice. Pride of the place is Poland's best-preserved Romanesque monastic church devoted to the Holy Virgin Mary and St Florian. The monastery was delegated by the Abbey of Morimond in Burgundy, France. The abbey was probably founded by the Cracovian bishop Gedko of the Grifit family in 1179. In the early 13th century, the Cracovian bishop Iwo Ordowąż brought an Italian construction workshop of master Simon to Wąchock. The builders started to raise a three-nave basilica with transept and side-chapels in the presbytery. At the same time, they began the construction of the square monastery building around the cloister garth.



Baroque organ – the monastery in Jędrzejów

A rule of the greatest possible simplicity was an obligation in the construction of Cistercian buildings. The church was made of gray and reddish-brown stone blocks alternately laid to form striped surface.

The monks painstakingly restored the monastery after two Mongol raids. The church acquired Gothic appearance in the 15th century, and a century later an abbatial palace was erected next to it. In the 1640s, the monastery was remodeled in Baroque style. Two corner towers were added to the western wing as well as a tall one in the middle of it. Today it serves as a belfry.

In 1656, the army of prince George II Rákóczi of Transylvania turned the town and its environs into ruin. The monastery lost its treasury, precious objects and rich archives. The tsarist authorities disbanded the order in 1818. The Cistercians returned to Wąchock in 1951, and the restoration of the precious monument of architecture was undertaken by the order and the state administration.

The Cistercians played an important role in the economic life of Wąchock. The monks busied themselves with breeding, flour-milling, mining and metallurgy. The Wąchock abbey was granted privilege of prospecting for ores in the princedoms of Kraków and Sandomierz. Foundries built at that time later started the development of the Old Polish Industrial Zone.

The Cistercians supported military efforts of the January Uprising (1863-64) insurgents under generals Marian Langiewicz and Dionizy Czachowski by offering them shelter in the monastery premises. They also rendered aid to the partisans of Hubal, Ponury and Nurt during World War II. Major Jan Piwnik alias Ponury was buried in Wąchock in 1988. His remains were successfully brought home from Lithuania after a long period of fruitless endeavors. The celebrations turned into an important patriotic manifestation. In 1991, a



Cistercian church interiors in Wąchock

national memory room was opened in the monastery premises, and four years later the Pantheon for Commemoration of the Polish Underground State 1939-45 was created.

A unique collection of mementos from the times of national uprisings was the basis for the creation of the Cistercian Museum located next to the monastery gate.

The church in Wąchock is a three-nave basilica with transept and presbytery with identical side chapels imitating the Tuscanian architecture style. Its naves are topped with cross-ribbed vaults. Many elements of the former monastery are well-preserved. For example, in the eastern wing,



Decorative elements – the monastery in Wąchock

there is an armarium (small monastic library for current use), chapter house, common working room, dormitory on the upper level, and refectory decorated with sumptuous Romanesque stone-works in the wing. The chapter house with cross-ribbed vaults

supported by four pillars with richly ornamented capitals is considered the most beautiful Romanesque interior in Poland.

Cistercian Museum – Monastery in Wąchock

ul. Kościelna 14, 27-215 Wąchock,
tel. +48 41 275 02 00
www.cystersi.pl



Romanesque chapter house in the monastery in Wąchock



Cistercian monastery in Wąchock



Cistercian monastery in Jędrzejów

Koprzywnica is located in the Koprzywnianka River valley and not far from the city of Sandomierz. Its fame is due to the former residence of the Cistercian order. Both the church and remains of the monastery constitute a stop-over on the European Cistercian Trail. They were founded by Mikołaj Bogoria in the 12th century. It's assumed that the first group of monks arrived in 1185. The whole monastic complex was remodeled many times throughout the centuries in accordance with new architectural styles.

The abbey in Koprzywnica constitutes one of the best examples of the Romanesque architecture in Poland. It shows much resemblance to the original building in Clairvaux, France. Out of the Romanesque and Gothic buildings of the abbey only the church survived. This three-nave basilica devoted to the Holy Virgin Mary and St Florian

The cult of fire was practiced in the environs of Koprzywnica during the times preceding the Christian era. The son-et-lumière spectacles are organized by the local fire brigade on the site where once stood the pagan temple. The procession is headed by the parish priest. Firemen follow the priest and each of them blows sprayed kerosene in the direction of a torch in order to produce a few-meter-long column of fire. And the whole event is held at night of the Holy Saturday.

was raised on the Latin cross plan. It has a late-Baroque facade, but the interiors retained many elements from the 13th century as well as rare paintings and other sacral art objects. The building itself as well as the interior layout, construction system and architectural details are original.



Cistercian complex with the church of the ascension of the holy virgin mary and st florian in Koprzywnica

The Romanesque church was erected of stone blocks; the top parts are made of Gothic brick, but the sacristy, chapel, western facade with church porch and the ave-bell belfry were constructed later in Baroque style. The Gothic frescoes and cross-ribbed vaults embellish church interiors. The alters, stalls, and richly ornamented confessionals were made in the 17th and 18th centuries. The high alter contains a painting (1646) by Bartłomiej Strobel showing the Ascension of The Holy Virgin Mary with St Florian and St Bernard kneeling below.

The side alters and stalls (early 17th c.) were donated by the contemporary abbot Zbigniew Ossoliński. The pulpit kept in the Regency style was manufactured ca. 1730.

Only the eastern wing of the monastery survived till the present times. The most important part of it is the Romanesque chapter house with the cross-ribbed vault supported by two pillars of which one has an original capital. Now the chapter house contains a lapidarium. The window openings in the eastern wall are also original. The remaining part of the monastery wing is not in use.



Interior of the cistercian church in Koprzywnica

The Cistercian order was dissolved in 1819. The church became a parish house of God in 1821. Next to the church and monastery stands the former abbots' house founded by abbot Zbigniew Ossoliński in the years 1615-20. It's known under the name of the abbot's manor house.

St Florian Roman-Catholic Parish
ul. Krakowska 76, 27-660 Koprzywnica
Tel.+48 15 847 62 02
www.kuprzyszlosci.pl



Eastern monastery wing in Koprzywnica

Regional Tourist Information Center in Kielce
ul. Sienkiewicza 29, 25-007 Kielce
tel. +48 41 348 00 60
www.swietokrzyskie.travel
informacja@swietokrzyskie.travel



Late-romanesque keystone in the northern nave

Photograph: Anna Drzewiecka
Text: Regional Tourist Organization (ROT) of the Świętokrzyskie Voivodeship
Publisher: Regional Tourist Organization (ROT) of the Świętokrzyskie Voivodeship, ul. Sciegiennego 2, 25-033 Kielce, (Bldg of the Voivodeship Culture Center, Room 32), tel. +48 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



CISTERCIAN TRAIL