

**Maleniec** The village of Maleniec upon River Czarna is located 24 km west of Końskie. It occupies an important place in the history of Polish industry. In Maleniec survived a 200-year-old complex of rolling-mill and nail-presses founded by Jacek Jezierski, castellan of Łuków, in 1784. Considered very modern at that time, the plant was visited by king Stanisław August Poniatowski in 1787. The castellan gave a banquet on that occasion. Owners of the plant changed a few times during the subsequent years and the ironworks was often modernized; its production profile was altered as well. The final decision about its closing down was taken in 1967. The crew moved to a newly built factory of farm tools. In the same year, the whole complex of the old plant was recognized as the industrial heritage site and put on the list of the Historical Monuments Register of the Kielce voivodeship. The complex included a hydro-electric power system, production buildings, lodgings for the factory staff and the so-called castellan road. Well-preserved elements of the plant equipment are the following: the complete production line of sheet mill and farm tools manufacturing, mill bay, nail and spade pressing room from 1839, unique machines, and water wheels.

When the Maleniec plant was closed down, the process of deterioration soon started: the wooden roof was rotting away, water wheels and wooden water runners were also decaying. It was quite a coincidence that a group of students of the metallurgical department from the Silesian Technical University was touring along the Trail of Old Foundries and came to Maleniec. When they saw the spectacular site going into ruin, they decided to restore it to its former splendor.

**Old Ironworks**  
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[www.maleniec.powiat.konskie.pl](http://www.maleniec.powiat.konskie.pl)

**Sielpia Wielka** is situated some 40 km from Kielce and 10 km from Końskie. The Museum of the Old Polish Industrial Region, a branch of the Museum of Technology in Warsaw, is a unique monument of industrial heritage in Europe. The museum is housed by the rooms and bays of the former ironworks. The ironworks was put into operation (1842) as part of the national project of industrialization initiated by Stanisław Satszic in 1815. Unfortunately, it was closed down in 1921 – the ironworks was not competitive enough when compared to the output of the Dąbrowskie Industrial Basin. The plant was powered by water provided by the artificial reservoir constructed on River Czarna. The whole production equipment of the old ironworks was manufactured in the early 19th century and included a pioneer prototype of water turbine designed by the French engineer Philippe de Girard, system of rolling mills, and two huge water wheels of which only one survived. This biggest in Poland metal water wheel (9 m in diameter) is put into operation in summer and early autumn. The site is open to visitors. During World War II the Germans destroyed almost all facilities and the plant became a ruin. However, a few items such as the big water wheel, geared flywheel for powering rolling mills, and one working roll survived. But in 1956 the Museum of Technology took the ruined plant under its wings and the reconstruction started to become in 1962 what we call today the Museum of the Old Polish Industrial Region. Also at that time began the action of collecting old machines and mechanisms from industrial plants of the Kielce region.

The museum exhibition in Sielpia Wielka includes an original wa-

The former Metallurgical Plant was the first one in Poland to be enlisted as the industrial heritage site in the register of historical monuments in 1934.

ter wheel made of cast iron and approximately thirty machine from the mid-18th century and the beginning of the 19th century: turning lathes, planers, multiradial drilling machines, presses, and 150-year-old English machine tools saved from many closing down industrial establishments. In addition to those, also hydrotechnical equipment, administration building, lodgings for workers and a school building survived. Another element of the museum possessions is a collection of artistic and applied iron casts.

Since 2000, the main celebrations of the tourist and scientific event known as **Kuźnice Koneckie** (Końskie Foundries) have been held on the premises of the Museum of the Old Polish Industrial Region.

**Museum of the Old Polish Industrial Region**  
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**Stara Kuźnica.** In Stara Kuźnica upon Młynowska River stands the only Poland's original old wooden forge with the water system from the 18th century. Its machinery is composed of a huge hammer striking the anvil 60 times per minute, wooden box bellows, hand-operated metal plate shears, forge furnace and other forging tools. Representing the type of hammers imported to Poland at the turn of the 17th century, the pressure hammer is a rare item of industrial heritage from the early 19th century. Next to the wooden building of the forge stands the mechanism damming up water and powering the hammer and bellows. It has a gate with wooden trough feeding the water wheel with water. The forge has retained its original spatial arrangement. Old tools and mechanisms are located in a wooden shingle-covered shed imitating the original construction. The old mechanical forge in Stara Kuźnica is temporarily put into operation for educational purposes.

The first records of the forge date back to the 17th century. The bast furnace was built in 1860, and it was in operation till 1893. The forge facilities include a water supply system, dyke, outlets, and two overshot water-wheels. There are also old box bellows and a wooden hammer.

**Old Mechanical Forge**  
Stara Kuźnica 46,  
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**Starachowice.** The city of Starachowice spreads out in the Kamienna River valley, 60 km from Kilece. It's surrounded by the remains of the former vast Świętokrzyska Forest.

The first blast furnace was constructed in 1789, on the initiative of the abbot of Wąchock, Rupkiewicz. In 1815, Stanisław Staszic designed a plan of the industrial development in the Kamienna River valley that included a chain of foundries along the river. Some 25 years later, three charcoal-fired bast furnaces were put into operation on the area of Starachowice. The construction of a new ironworks with a coke blast furnace started before the end of the 19th century. It stayed in operation for the next 70 years.

In 2000, the Jan Pazdur Ecomuseum of Natural History and Technology was established on the premises of the former foundry. The museum has a variety of collections, but its star exhibit is the blast furnace complex from the late 19th and early 20th centuries. It shows the old production line and one of the world's biggest steam-power machine, which was displayed during the Exposition Universelle (World Fair) in Paris in 1998.

The exhibition displays items of automobile and arms production technology of the Starachowice Industrial Plant. There is also a rich col-

The only Europe's well-preserved complex of old ironworks can be visited in the Museum of Natural History and Technology in Starachowice.

lection of paleontological exhibits including petrified foot-prints of dinosaurs.

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**Samsonów** is a little locality with important industrial traditions situated in the area of the Old Polish Industrial Region. The production of iron in Samsonów is connected with the foundation of the Michałowska forge in the late 16th century. It was located a few hundred meters north from the ruins of the blast furnace. The Samsonów ironworks derives its name from Łukasz Samson, who managed the ironworks in 1594. It was reshaped many times by subsequent owners and produced cannons, cannon balls and side-arms. The blast furnace plant known as Huta Józef of which ruins are still visible was built in the years 1818-1823 on the initiative of Stanisław Staszic. That modern facility could produce about 800 tons of pig-iron annually. The water from River Bobrza was the main source of energy for all machines. It ran through a vaulted canal to reach the water wheel (7 m in diameter) that transmitted its energy to pumps and bellows pushing air into the furnace and other forging tools. The wheel was replaced with a steam-engine in 1829, and a special blast air heating stove was installed. The air was heated by the furnace itself while running inside and around it through special canals. Destroyed by fire in 1866, the Samsonów ironworks was never rebuilt. In the central part of the ruin stands the blast furnace and a Gichta tower from which the furnace was charged. There are also remains of the former pattern-shop, drying room, casting house and enamel shop.



Old ironworks in Maleniec



Museum of the Old Polish Industrial Region in Sielpia Wielka



Museum of the Old Polish Industrial Region in Sielpia Wielka



Jan Pazdur Ecomuseum of Natural History and Technology in Starachowice



Huta Józef – the old ironworks in Samsonów

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www.zagnansk.pl

**B**obrza is located in the powiat of Kielce and close to the national road number 74. Its industrial traditions go back to the 16th century, when the first forges were put into operation. Poland's first metallurgical furnace was built here in the years 1610-13. Its production included cannons and cannon balls. The construction of the biggest Poland's blast furnace complex was started in the 1820s. Five blast furnaces were planned plus a huge retaining wall above them to support an elevation on which other buildings were to be erected. The implementation of the project was halted never to be recommenced by the collapse of the November Insurrection (1830-31). Today visitors can admire the imposing ruins of uncompleted buildings, which were adjusted for recreation and tourist purposes in 2005. Noteworthy is the huge retaining wall (500m long, 5m thick, 15m high in places) built in order to solidify the mountain slope from the top level of which the furnaces were to be charged. At present, tourists can tour the remains of the blast furnace, workers' lodgings



Ruins of the uncompleted blast furnace plant in Bobrza

and the retaining wall. There is also a well-preserved pond in which water was kept for industrial purposes.

**Tourist Information Center in Miedziana Góra**  
**Gminna Biblioteka Publiczna**  
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tel. +48 41 303 11 01  
www.miedziana-gora.pl

**N**ietulisko Duże is located between Starachowice and Ostrowiec Świętokrzyski. The rolling mill of small shapes and sheets in Nietulisko Duże is what remained of the plant built in its district known as Nietulisko Fabryczne. It was the last link of the whole chain of iron factories located along River Kamienna. Built in the years 1834-46, the factory was a carefully planned urban and industrial complex with managerial staff and workers' lodgings and water supply system composed of a network of canals. The factory was destroyed by the flood in 1903.



Retaining wall in Bobrza

The most interesting for visitor are the ruins of the rolling mill with fragments of the arched wall on the ground floor. Of particular value is the well-preserved old water supply system. It has a specially designed device for filling the main reservoir with water as well as a few sections of floating and navigable canal.

**Municipal and Communal Office in Kunów**  
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**R**ejów is a quarter of the city of Skarżysko-Kamienna. The plant was constructed upon River Kamionka, a tributary of River Kamienna, in 1770. In 1836, on the site of the old plant, a new blast furnace was built. It was designed by engineers Stanisław Wysocki and Fryderyk Lampe. It has form of a truncated cone on a square foundation. Canals, foundries for big casts and shell casting as well as lodgings for factory staff and workers were constructed at the same time. The plant was partly destroyed by the flood of 1839. The blast furnace stayed in operation till 1901. It's partly reconstructed at present and the Museum of the White Eagle was arranged in the building of the Rejów railway station master.

**White Eagle Museum**  
ul. Słoneczna 90  
26-110 Skarżysko-Kamienna  
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**Regional Tourist Information Center in Kielce**  
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Ruins of the rolling mill in Nietulisko Duże



Blast furnace plant in Starachowice

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HIGHLIGHTS OF  
THE ŚWIĘTOKRZYSKI  
REGION

INDUSTRIAL HERITAGE