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„STEAM Time – Solve UNESCO Crime”

Jaslo, Poland



Salt Mine in Wieliczka



The historic Salt Mine in Wieliczka is the only site in the world where mining has continued since the Middle Ages. Lying on nine levels, its original excavations (pavements, slipways, operating chambers, lakes as well as lesser and major shafts) stretch for the total of 300 kilometres: reaching the depth of 327 metres they illustrate all the stages of the development of the mining technology over time. On 8 September 1978 the mine was inscribed on the 1st UNESCO World Heritage List. The Salt Mine in Wieliczka has always aroused great interest. Already in the 14th century, as the site of salt production, it used to be shown to the privileged visitors of the royal court; later as a vast underground labyrinth of chambers and passages it was admired for its specific charm and mystery. At the end of the fifteenth century, the first tourist expeditions to the mine began. In the early 20th century, another tourist attraction was added, namely, the Chapel of the Blessed Kinga, with its walls decorated with scenes from the Bible, shown in magnificent relief, and carved by miners-sculptors. The chamber is lit by chandeliers made from crystalline salt. The dimensions of the chapel are as imposing as the beauty of the interior decoration. The height of the chapel is 10 metres, its length 54 m, and the width 15 m. The mine has nine levels up to the depth of 327 m, approximately 300 km of galleries and nearly 3 thousand chambers. On the fifth level of the mine, 211 m underground a sanatorium has been working for forty years where mainly respiratory system illnesses and allergies are treated.



Cracow



For a period of over more than five centuries and a half, from 1040 till 1596, Cracow was both the royal seat and the capital city of Poland, later, when it no longer performed capital functions, it remained a scientific and cultural centre significant for Poland. Fortunately, subsequent historical war-clouds left the city's enormous monuments untouched. Registered by UNESCO into the list of the World Heritage, Cracow's historic centre – the Old City with Wawel, Kazimierz and Stradom – gathers the most significant monuments of Polish history: approximately 3 thousand of architectural ones and museums without which it is not possible to touch upon art history in Poland. The Old City preserved its medieval layout, with an exception of the fact that the former battlements were transformed into a green strand of the afforested Plants, testified to by the impressive Barbican, St. Florian's Gate and three towers. The centre is taken up by the Main Marketplace, laid out in 1257, four corners of which give rise to three streets that subsequently intersect like on a chessboard. It is one of the biggest marketplaces of medieval Europe, surrounded with antique tenement-houses and palaces, the city-hall tower dating back to the 14th century in the middle and two lines of stalls of the 13th century, included into the renaissance structure of the Sukiennice (Cloth Hall). A trumpet signal given out from a soaring tower of St. Mary's Church, behind which there is the Small Town Square, announce midday every day, as was the case a number of centuries ago, not only to Cracow, but also, through the radio – to the whole of the country. The Old City monuments include, among other things, Collegium Maius, presently housing the Jagiellonian University museum, whose tradition dates back to 1364. The Wawel Hill with a renaissance castle and an arcaded courtyard housing the National Art Collections towers over the Old City. The castle's period interiors contain collections of old weaponry, paintings, and the famous Arras tapestries, manufactured in Dutch workshops in the late 16th century. In the gothic cathedral crypts several Polish kings' ashes lie. Stradom, reached on descent from the Wawel Hill, had been an ancillary handicraft settlement since the 14th century, while Kazimierz was a district of Cracow Jews, a centre of Jewish religion, science and culture, famous both in Poland and Europe. Destroyed during the Second World War and depopulated by Holocaust, the district is currently subject to profound restoration works.

The Carpathian Troy



The place where the Open-Air Museum was established is one of the most important archaeological sites in Poland, of exceptional importance for the knowledge of the prehistory of the whole Central and Eastern Europe. More than 160 thousand monuments have been discovered here, including dishes, ceramic, flint and stone, bone and horn products, as well as bronze and iron ones. Many of them are unique monuments, considered to be magnificent works of old art and craftsmanship. One of the first strongly fortified settlements known in Poland was discovered in Trzcinica, which was established at the beginning of the Bronze Age, over 4000 years ago. It was also here that the first settlement in Poland of the Carpathian culture of the Otomani-Füzesabona, characterized by clear Mediterranean influences, was discovered, dating from 1650-1350 BC. Due to the importance of this discovery, its chronology and clear influence of southern Europe, this place was called Carpathian Troy.



Bóbrka

The Ignacy Łukasiewicz Petroleum Industry Museum at Bobrka is the world's unique heritage park. In the second half of the 19th century, on this tiny piece of Polish soil, petroleum industry was born, giving great impetus to the development of the modern industrial era. It is unquestionable that the father of this industry was Ignacy Łukasiewicz, the Polish citizen. The idea originated as early as the end of the 19th century, however, its realization was commenced only in 1960, when the Museum Guardian Committee was set up, on the Millennium of the Polish Statehood. Expositions of oil mining, gas industry, refining industry and distribution of oil products are located on about 20 hectares of fenced area. Of the historical objects illustrating the origins of the Polish petroleum industry, the following are worth special mention: Obelisk commemorating the Bóbrka oil plant establishment, erected by I. Łukasiewicz in 1854, two operative hand-sunk oil wells, called "Franek" and "Janina", as well as a number of remnants of similar facilities dating from 1854 –1880 and eight wooden buildings from the 19th century. In the restored administrative building, built by I. Łukasiewicz, one of the largest collections of kerosene lamps in Poland is presented. Next to the house surrounded by a park there is a bust of Ignacy Łukasiewicz placed on a marble plinth.



Haczów



The Church of the Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary and St. Michael the Archangel with a log structure. Its walls were formed by beams joined at the corners to the so-called castle. Thanks to that the church could be built without using nails. Built in the second half of the fifteenth century, the church in Haczów served the villagers for hundreds of years. It was an exceptional place for them, mainly because of the miraculous Gothic Pieta (over 600 years old!), which is said to have been brought by the waters of Wisłoka. The miraculous statue of Our Lady of Sorrows is still of particular importance to the congregation from Haczów and the pilgrims who come here. The interior comes from several periods. Particularly noteworthy is the Gothic polychromy from the end of the fifteenth century with scenes from the Old and New Testament, with images of saints and the monumental figure of St. Christopher. The church in Haczów, which is more than half a millennium old and considered until recently to be the oldest in Poland, is an extraordinary witness of history. And the tangible evidence of this reputation are engraved inscriptions, which can be found on the external walls of the church, such as the one from 1771 informing about the flood with a marked level to which water reached. The church in Haczów is the largest Gothic wooden church in Europe. The interior is decorated with a unique figural polychromy from 1494, most probably the oldest polychromy of this type in Europe.

