









Introducing Podkarpackie

Discover the captivating region of Podkarpackie (Subcarpathia), an untrampled destination in the Carpathian Mountains of southeastern Poland, where wide-open wilderness, vivid ethnic cultures, slow provincial charm and an innate love for the land converge to create a unique and authentic travel

Enriched with a rich tapestry of Slavic ethnic groups like the Lemkos, Boykos, Pogorzans, and Dolinians, Podkarpackie possesses a vibrant multicultural past. Despite the tumultuous history that has shaped this horderland, the region proudly preserves its colourful folk customs, crafts, cuisine, and other

For travellers seeking outdoor adventure, the region's green rolling landscapes present an array of opportunities. Hike through the untamed highland beauty of Bieszczady Mountains, set sail on the pristine waters of Lake Solina, and kayak down or cycle alongside the serene San River.

Amidst this breathtaking scenery, you'll uncover charming villages, ancient wooden churches, cultural treasures, craft galleries and living heritage sites where the past becomes tangible. Soak in the rustic charm of Sanok and step back in time at the Museum of Folk Architecture, explore the mysterious monastery ruins in Zagórz, and gaze out on the beguiling silhouette of the Bieszczady Mountains from forest observation towers. Marvel at the grandeur of Łańcut Castle and the charming townhouses of Przeworsk and Jarosław, before embracing the allure of Przemyśl with its remarkable fortification system.

This combination of peaceful, pristine landscapes, rich cultural roots and rustic, romantic wonder are what make any visit to Podkarpackie so unique and unforgettable. For more inspiration, visit iyp.me/podkarpackie by scanning the code below. Now, as the local slogan 'Rzuć wszystko i jedź...' goes, drop everything and go to Podkarpackie!

Publisher: IYP City Guides Sp. z o.o. Sp.k., ul. Karmelicka 46/51, 31-128 Kraków tel. +48 606 749 676, poland@inyourpocket.com, iyp.com.pl

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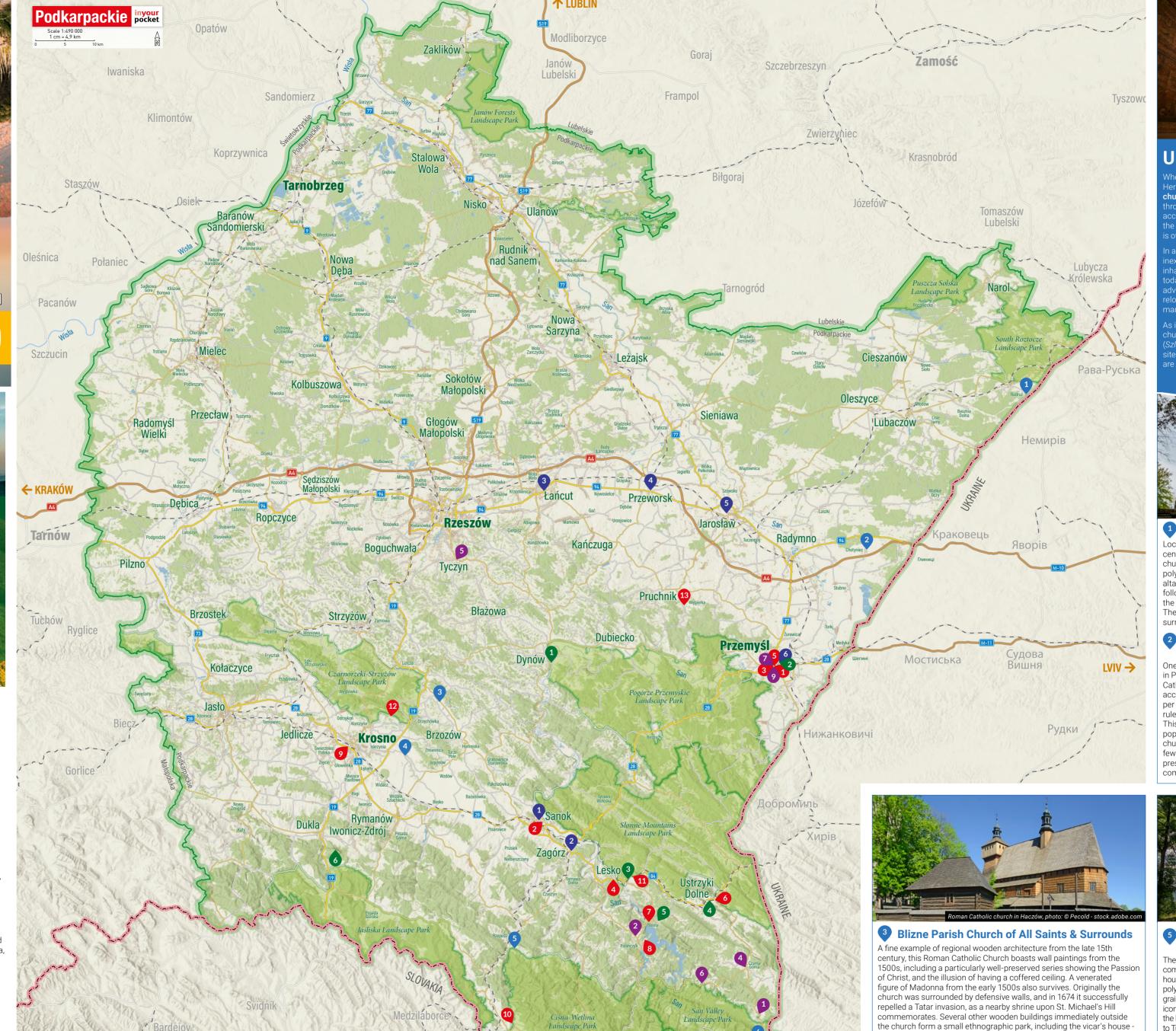
UNESCO Sites

Charming Towns

Active Tourism

Regional Tastes

Gifts & Souvenirs



Interior of the Church in Blizne, ©Rafał Czepińsk

UNESCO World Heritage Sites

hurches and tserkvas (Orthodox churches), which can be found hroughout southeastern Poland and western Ukraine. Places of worsh count for all six of the UNESCO sites found in Podkarpackie, though e actual number of stunning wooden churches throughout the regio

ny found ways to return to their homeland in the following decades

ns, the UNESCO list is not the only to laud Podkarpackie's . You'll find many more on the Wooden Architecture Route



1 Radruż Orthodox Church of St. Paraskeva

Located just metres from the Ukrainian border, the sublime 16thcentury tserkva in Radruż is one of the oldest wooden Eastern Orthodox churches in Poland. Strikingly, in the nave and the chancel, the original polychrome decorations and iconostasis have survived, as have original altars from the 1700s. When the local population was forcefully expelled following World War II, the building lay dormant until its restoration in the 1960s, during which eight 'shilling' coins from 1665 were found. The complex includes a wooden belltower, two stone outbuildings, a surrounding stone wall from 1825 and two historic cemeteries.

2 Chotyniec Greek Catholic Church of the **Nativity of the Most Holy Mother of God**

One of the oldest and finest examples of wooden religious architecture in Poland, the tserkva in Chotyniec was built around 1600. The Greek Catholic community here was so large that one service could not accommodate everyone, but church rules forbade more than service per day; the second chapel was a cheeky way of getting around this rule and having a second service at the same site, but 'different church.' This second chapel even had it's own iconostasis. Following post-war population shifts, the building was briefly used as a Roman Catholic church; it was reclaimed by Greek Catholics in 1990 and is one of the few tserkvas in use in Poland today. The interiors have mostly been preserved, including a large 1735 polychrome of the Last Judgement complete with winged demons.



5 Turzańsk Greek Catholic Church of St. Michael the Archangel

The history of this Greek Catholic church is directly tied to the Lemko community that built it in 1801-03. The architecture is typical of Lemko houses of worship, and Lemko iconography is evident in the interior polychromes, which depict Christ visiting a Lemko family, a Lemko sowing grain and other scenes. There is also a mountain landscape painted over the iconostasis. Following the mass deportations of Lemkos after World War II, the building was adopted by a Roman Catholic parish. When Lemkos returned to Turzańsk in 1963, they reclaimed it and it is still an active Lemko place of worship today. Outside you'll find a 3-storey wooden belltower from 1817, and a small cemetery nearby.

Smolnik Greek Catholic Church

which predates 1699 and today holds the parish museum, the organist's

First built in the 1450s or '60s, this is the oldest and largest wooden Gothic

church in Europe. The nave and chancel walls are stunningly decorated

with polychrome paintings dating from 1494 - probably the oldest in

Europe. Inside visitors will also see many original church furnishings,

including a late Gothic sculpture of the Holy Mother and Child, a 16th-

Pietà from 1400 (the original is in the brick church next door). Outside

lies a small wooden granary, and make sure you see the barn mural by

can also be seen nearby at Haczów 540 and Haczów 443.

century stone baptismal font, a 17th-century altar, and a copy of a Gothic

Arkadiusz Andrejkow only 100m away at Haczów 601; additional murals

4 Haczów Parish Church of the Assumption

house from 1866, and a 19th century granary.

of the Blessed Virgin Mary

of St. Michael the Archangel Built in 1791, the church in Smolnik displays an archaic style of construction used by the Boyko ethnic group, and is one of only four such buildings surviving today. In 1951 the local Boyko community was forcibly relocated, their houses dismantled and the abandoned tserkva used as hay storage. The church interiors were whitewashed, sadly destroying the original wall paintings, and many furnishings were also lost. Restoration works took place in 1969-73 using only traditional, manual methods, meaning no mechanical tools. Upon completion, religious functions returned to the building and are ongoing, presently under Roman Catholicism. Nearby to the tserkva lies a cemetery.



Sanok

Zagórz

Sanok's charm lies in its rich blend of natural beauty, history and multiculturalism. Perched above the San River Valley, Sanok offers a gateway into the Bieszczady Mountains, with plenty of gorgeous views, hiking trails and cycling paths to entice outdoor enthusiasts. The town itself dates back over 1000 years and was a favourite of Polish royalty, who kept a residence here; today Sanok Castle houses a massive collection of religious iconography, and a gallery devoted to the dystopian visions of native son, Zdzisław Beksiński. Sanok society was composed of Poles, Jews, Lemkos and other ethnicities from the medieval period up until World War II, after which the Jewish population had been wiped out and non-Poles were forcibly exiled. Today the Museum of Folk Architecture preserves the pre-war wooden architecture, artefacts and daily traditions of these people in a 38ha open-air park that should be at the top of any itinerary. Finally, the Oil & Gas Industry Museum chronicles the area's importance in the early development of the oil industry in the pre-electric age. No town in Poland better encapsulates the unique culture of the Carpathians than Sanok, so don't skip your chance to visit.

Located on the Osława River just 6.5km south-east of Sanok, on the

way to Ustrzyki Dolne (32km), the sleepy little town of Zagórz is an easy

diversion between the two, even if you're travelling by train. The small

which comprises an area of 1.75 hectares atop Mariemont Hill. Dating

from the 1700s, the complex is a rare example of a fortified monastery

and was the site of the last battle of the Bar Confederation, resulting

in its destruction during a siege by the Russian Army. Today a ruin, the

complex's remnants offer a fun outing for urbex explorers, and one of

surrounding region. A recreation of a monastic garden with paths and

informational placards has been established next to the ruins, and an

glasses, while also getting a multimedia rundown of the site's history.

the observation towers has been rebuilt, providing fine panoramas of the

adjacent building also now houses the Foresterium Culture Centre, where

you can check out the site as looked in the 18th century via virtual reality

town's primary attraction is the Monastery of Discalced Carmelites,



Przeworsk

Nestled between Łańcut and Jarosław, Przeworsk is an under-theradar gem with a fascinating history and much to offer visitors. Built upon a round hill, a fortified Slavic settlement existed here in the 10th century, but anthropologists will know the town for lending its name to 'Przeworsk culture' - an Iron Age material culture prevalent from the 3rd century BCE to 5th century CE. Granted a town charter in 1394, Przeworsk was a private town changing hands between some of Poland's most famous noble families - Tarnowski, Ostrogski and Lubomirski - until the 18th century. The 'Pshevorsk' Hasidic movement also has its origins here, before its local decimation during WWII. Sights in Przeworsk today include the 15th-century Town Hall, with great views from the observation tower. **Lubomirski Palace** and its surrounding park are a wonderful place to explore, as is the adjacent Firefighting Museum, and the town's 'living' open-air ethnographic park. Przeworsk also operates a scenic narrow-gauge railway during the summer.



• Kayaking on the San River

Scenic and undemanding, the San River is perfect for kayaking trips, and eatures well-organised riverside areas for large groups to take a rest. Conveniently-placed campgrounds in Słonne, Chyrzyna and Krasiczyn also make the San ideal for multi-day float trips.

Water Team (www.waterteam.pl) organises trips between various points along the 82km of river from Krzemienna to Wapowce.

Consider planning your trip around some of the attractions along the route. Interested parties can connect with the region's Jewish community/heritage at the Centre for the History of Polish Jews in Dynów (ul. Łazienna 70); a rarity in PL today, the centre includes a synagogue, mikveh, kosher kitchen and guestrooms, and is just metres from the riverside. The San's biggest attraction, however, is the Renaissance Palace in Krasiczyn; dating from the turn of the 16th/17th century, the palace features incredible sgraffito on the exterior walls, is surrounded by a lovely park, and also hosts a restaurant, wine cellar and hotel. Lastly, ending the trip in Krzemienna puts you quite close to Fort VIII 'Łętownia' - part of the massive Przemyśl Fortress complex.



4 Ustrzyki Mountains Summit Hike

Hike the five peaks (all under 1000 metres) surrounding Ustrzyki Dolne the regional capital of Bieszczady. Are you up to the challenge

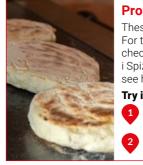
Organiser Bieszczady Centre for Tourism & Promotion; Rynek 16, Ustrzyki Dolne

Head here for maps and info. Take a picture of yourself atop all 5 peaks and they'll give you a certificate celebrating your accomplishment.

Sites

This ambitious hike starts in Ustrzyki Dolne and connects the summits of Kamienna Laworta, Mały Król, Holica, Gromadzyń and Orlik, from which there is a trail back to Ustrzyki Dolne. That said, the peaks can be done individually, and in any order. The 5 Summits route actually connects many short hikes along a multitude of trails with different colours, and it's best to create your own route based on your own ability. In that sense, it's more of a hiking challenge than an actual trail.

While in Ustrzyki Dolne check out the Museum of Milling (ul. Fabryczna 12, www.mlynbieszczady.pl), where you can learn about the history of grain production, participate in culinary workshops making local specialties like proziaki (sodabread rolls) and cabbage soup, or have a hot, hearty meal in the adjoining tavern (Karczma w Młynie).



Proziaki (Sodabreads) These flat soda bread rolls are a local delicacy.

For the most authentic and theatrical experience check out Manufaktura Domowa Piekarnia Spiżarnia on the Przemyśl Market Square and ee how it was done back in the day.

Try it here: Manufaktura Domowa Piekarnia i Spizarnia Rynek 6, Przemyśl

Like potato pancakes but with pickled cabbage

added to the dough, this savoury dish tastes

much better than it sounds. There are a lot of

variations, but seek out the ones with garlic

Fuczki (Sauerkraut Pancakes)

Restauracja Dominikańska

Plac Dominikański 3, Przemyśl

Rynek 22, Sanok

Try it here:

Try it here:

Cuda Wianki

Rynek 5, Przemyśl

Karczma w Młynie

Stodoła Bistro

Glinne 64



hand-made souvenirs, including a fantastic array of bowls, candlesticks, pendants, earrings and more. They also have smaller ceramic souvenirs like magnets with over 100 animal designs that are typical of the region. 1 Lutowiska 7

Galeria u Bojków

Located at the Boyko Museum, this gallery has a selection of local hand-made ceramics, made in their own workshop. There are also paintings wooden sculptures and embroidered shirts and tablecloths with Boyko motifs, as well as books about Bieszczady, hand-made jewellery and much more. Also available is Boyko-style coffee with spices (you simply must try). 2 Myczków 46

Galeria - Kawiarnia Dzika Szyszka



An arts and crafts shop with a difference in

pretty Wetlina. There's a wide range of locallymade handicrafts and ceramics, including ceramic angels, jewellery inspired by local history, embroidery and clothing/fabrics with local folk motifs and handmade prints of Bieszczady icons ike wolves and lynxes. Monika, the owner, also orews great coffee, so order up!

Regional art gallery run by Róża and Krzysztof

only. A good place to pick up a unique and eye-

catching gift, there are traditional Bieszczady angels, ceramics, wood art, clothing with patterns nspired by local Boyko culture, religious icon art,

Franczak which showcases art from local artists

sculptures and so much more. They also organise

3 Wetlina 171

Galeria Barak



Hreczanyki (Meatballs)

Podkarpackie-style meatballs of minced pork mixed with buckwheat, these little round morsels are best enjoyed when they come slathered in creamy dill sauce.

Try it here:

Restauracja Dominikańska
Plac Dominikański 3, Przemyśl

raight from Podkarpackie's numerous

reshwater reservoirs, whether baked, grilled

smoked or pan-fried, trout is typically served

whole and filled with herb butter. Sublime.

Wędzarnia i Smażalnia Pstrąga

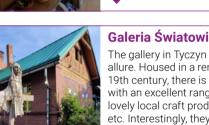
6 Karczma w Młynie ul. Fabryczna 12, Ustrzyki Dolne

Karczma Solina Solina 38A

Pstrąg (Trout)

Try it here:

4 Czarna Górna 88



Galeria Światowid

The gallery in Tyczyn has a pan-generational allure. Housed in a renovated building from the 9th century, there is something for everyone with an excellent range of hand-made artwork, lovely local craft products and herbal concoctions etc. Interestingly, they also organise many local events, including concerts, lectures on herbal medicine and art workshops for younger kids.

Grunwaldzka 56, Tyczyn



Bałabuch (Savoury Pastry)

'Regionalny Przysmak

ul. Zdrojowa, Polańczyk

A bałabuch (sometimes 'bałabuszek') is a buttery, onion seed-encrusted roll filled with potatoes, cabbage (our prefered choice) or buckwheat groats. Accompanied by a dollop of sour cream and a mug of barszcz (beetroot soup), it doesn't get much better when it comes to a light, savoury

Podkarpackie has a bountiful array of locally-

produced goods and products - from honey, jams

and small batch alcohols to ceramics and natural cosmetics - that make lovely gifts or mementoes.

As you travel the region, try to support small local

This small, locally-owned and operated brewery

in Bieszczady is surely one of the coolest places

their commitment to the environment and local

community, they offer not only great beers, but

Thanks to a warming climate and improving

conditions for grape cultivation, winemaking

has begun to flourish across Podkarpackie and

small local wineries in the region offer tours and

much of southern Poland. What's more many

also regional snacks and a range of local products.

Tours of the brewing process can also be arranged

in the region and worth dropping in for a visit

to their bar and shop. Priding themselves on

Try it here:

5 Cuda Wianki Rynek 5, Przemyśl

Regional Products

ousinesses any time you can

Manufaktura Nalewek

Bieszczadzkie Smaki

Smolnik 9

Ursa Maior Brewery

(prebooking required)

tastings in English.

Widokowa Winery
Kombornia 802B

Wegierka 99A

Stecki Family Winery

11 Uherce Mineralne 122A

Wineries & Enotourism

ul. Czajkowskiego 55, Krosno

Bieszczadzka Polana Apiary

This local apiary has 80 hives and specialises in natural multifloral honey (miód wielokwiatowy). Owner Daniel Mikrut welcomes walk-ins, so stock up on this delicious nectar while you can. If you're nice, you might even get a peek behind the scenes at the busy bees and their equally busy keepers. Polana is also a great spot from which to explore the surrounding scenery.

6 Polana 10

Bosz Bookshop

A small bookstore specialising in regional

literature and local guidebooks (some in English). They also do a fine trade in souvenirs ike magnets, cuddly toys, key rings, inen bags, mugs, pens etc. For art buffs, they sell reproductions by famous artists like Tamara Lempicka and local hero Zdzisław Beksiński (born in Krosno).

7 Kościuszki 7, Przemyśl



🌠 Krywula

n Cisna, there's a lovely little craft shop and art gallery called Krywula run by Justyna Płoucha. Inside you'll find a range of original souvenir ideas: jewellery, hand-made and hand-painted traditional clothing, ceramics, homemade toffees (krówki), preserves, honey, herbs, natural cosmetics, regional beers and so much more. They also provide accommodation.

8 Cisna 92A

Tourist Info Centre in Przemyśl

In addition to a super-friendly and

nformative staff, this tourist info centre offers a range of unique gifts and souvenirs, including magnets, hand-painted postcards, hand-painted cups, stained glass art, and locally-designed t-shirts. There are also Englishanguage guidebooks, photo albums and more. Make it your first stop in Przemyśl.

9 ul. Grodzka 1, Przemyśl

§ Łańcut

his service to the king. The town was then consecutively owned by the Polish aristocratic families of Stadnicki, Lubomirski, and Potocki until 1944. Its close proximity to regional centre Rzeszów, means it gets its share of visitors - and rightly so. The town is well-known throughout Poland for **Łańcut Castle** - the 17th-century grand aristocratic palace at its centre. The castle complex and park includes a wonderful **museum** of horse carriages, a stunning Orchid Garden, and the largest collection of **Orthodox icons** (over 2000) in Poland. Łańcut is also notable for its 18th century **synagogue**, but better known for its distillery, established in the 18th century and still in operation today as **Polmos Łańcut**. Visit the distillery museum - located in a Neoclassical manor house from 1883 and surrounded by a beautiful park - to learn the history of the site, its production, and the Polish vodka industry in general.

Łańcut is a quaint, picturesque town, which was granted rights by

Casimir the Great back in 1349 and given to Otto Pilecki as a reward for



Jarosław

Przemyśl

Although Jarosław may boast fewer attractions, it is undoubtedly one of the area's most beautiful and charming towns. Dating back to the 11th century, like Przeworsk, Jarosław was a private town of Polish nobility, and became an important trade centre and river port during the 16th and 7th centuries. In 1656 the invading Swedish Army was defeated here in the Battle of Jarosław, however the city's importance would diminish as it was pillaged just 50 years later during the Great Northern War.

Full of well-preserved Gothic, Renaissance and Baroque architecture, an evening walk around the cobbled streets and arcaded townhouses of the compact **Old Town**, lined with cafes and restaurants, is worth the trip. The gravitation point is the **Market Square**, with its magnificent Town Hall alluding to former glory days. Visitors can also explore the chambers beneath it on multiple **underground routes**. Home to incredible Roman Catholic and Greek Orthodox **churches**, Jarosław also had a large

It's not difficult to fall in love with this eastern border town set upon

With handsome townhouses, immaculate churches, steep, winding

several hills along the San River at the foot of the Carpathian Mountains.

lanes and a bounty of interesting historical sites, Przemyśl boasts both

small town charm and a rich cultural heritage to explore. Must-see sites

include the sloping Market Square, the impressive Przemyśl Fortress

ruins ringing the centre, **Zniesienie Hill & Tatarski Mound** with their

vegetation, and even the grand and gorgeous train station - arriving

by which will have you in awe from your very first glances. Fascinating

Bells & Pipes - set in a historic clock tower with great views of the city.

Quirky monuments also abound, beginning with the Bears of Przemyśl

and the Good Solider Šveik. Active tourists will find many wonderful

opportunities for hiking, cycling, river recreation and even skiing in

winter. Get exploring and see all this wonderful town has to offer!

museums include the **Underground Tourist Route**, and the **Museum of**

stunning panoramas, Casimir Castle set upon a hill amongst lush

Jewish community, survived today by two synagogues



2 Przemyśl Fortress Cycling Routes

One of Europe's largest defensive complexes at the start of the 20th century, the Ring Fortress of Przemyśl comprises dozens of forts upon the hills surrounding the city, all connected by bike paths. The majority of these forts were deliberately destroyed before being surrendered to the Russians after the Siege of Przemyśl - one of the longest and most brutal battles of WWI. As such, many lie in overgrown ruin today, making a visit all the more intriguing.

Organiser

Pick up free maps from the Tourist Info Office on Przemyśl Market Square (ul. Grodzka 1). Bikes can be rented from Azymut (ul. 3-go Maja 30, www.azymut.bike, tel. (+48) 16 677 70 88)

visit the Przemyśl Fortress Museum (ul. Katedralna 6)

3 Bieszczady Railway Bikes

from 5.5km/50mins to 12km/90mins.

Sites

Like the handcars of old, these passenger-powered 'rail bikes' are a safe

and memorable way to see the countryside while getting some exercise.

Each car has two front seats with pedals and a bench in the back which

Mineralne 62A) according to a fixed schedule. Routes and distances vary

Bieszczady's 'Line 108' has been called PL's most beautiful railway. Trips

while taking in the lovely mountain scenery. When it's time to turn back,

While in Uherce Minerlane, don't miss the Bieszczady School of Crafts

(www.ginacezawody.pl), where you can learn about the old trades of the

Ursa Maior Brewery (www.ursa maior.pl) is also obligatory for local craft

region and take part in calligraphy, pottery or baking workshops. The

beer and regional products. Both have great gift shops.

begin in Uherce Mineralne, passing through tunnels and over bridges

guides lift the heavy carriages off the track and turn them around!

seats 2 adults/3 children. Perfect for families and railway buffs.

Bieszczadzkie Drezyny Rowerowe (www.drezynyrowerowe.pl).

Trips depart from the train station in **Uherce Mineralne** (Uherce

for one, we recommend the northern route, which is less strenuous; at 33.7km it takes about 6hrs to complete, assuming you stop to explore each site along the way. Noteworthy forts in better condition include Fort VIII 'Letownia,' Fort XI 'Duńkowiczki' and Fort XV 'Borek.' One of the route's final stops is the 308-hectare **Arboretum in Bolestraszyce**. This gorgeous historical complex includes a fort, botanical garden, park museum and manor house where the painter Piotr Michałowski lived and worked in the mid-19th century. Before setting out you may also want to

There are two cycling routes - north and south. If you only have time



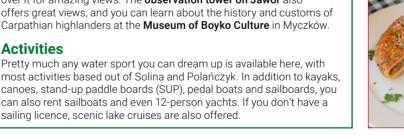
5 Make a Splash at Lake Solina

This lovely lake in the heart of Bieszczady is just as popular as the mountains that surround it - even more so with holidaymakers simply looking for rest and relaxation. Created in 1968 by damming the San River, this is Poland's largest artificial lake at 22km2, and offers an array of water sports, wild beaches, vacation vibes and gorgeous scenery.

While the shores around the waterside villages of Solina, Myczków and the mini-health resort of Polańczyk are quite developed, other parts of Lake Solina are completely untouched. Family attractions (rope parks, water parks, etc.) are plentiful, as are restaurants serving freshly caught fish. The dam in Solina is quite an engineering marvel and worth a visit; the largest dam in PL, you can walk across it or take the 1.5km cableway over it for amazing views. The **observation tower on Jawor** also offers great views, and you can learn about the history and customs of Carpathian highlanders at the Museum of Boyko Culture in Myczków.

Activities

Pretty much any water sport you can dream up is available here, with most activities based out of Solina and Polańczyk. In addition to kayaks canoes, stand-up paddle boards (SUP), pedal boats and sailboards, you can also rent sailboats and even 12-person vachts. If you don't have a



One of the perks, if not the very point itself, of reaching a summit. is the consider these towering options.

6 Cergowa

Cergowa is a forested peak just southeast of Dukla, whose iconic silhouette is a symbol of the region. The peak is 716m and the tower which resembles an oil drilling tower - another 22m. To see these superb panoramas, take the red trail from Nowa Wieś, or the yellow trail from Dukla. If you choose the latter you'll pass the 'Golden Well' (Złota Studzienka) - a chapel with a natural spring said to have healing powers.

34m tower stands atop Jeleniowate peak (907m above sea level) and offers sweeping vistas. The hike only takes about 40mins from the start of the trail, and on the way you'll pass the haunting Brenzberg Forester's Lodge, where 74 Poles were massacred in 1944. There is also a terrace for observing beaver a short distance down the road from the trailhead.



'Lookout' for these Observation Towers

great views you get from the top...unless there aren't any. That's where these observation towers come in, lifting you above the treeline to look out over majesty of the land in all directions. If you're planning a hike,

7 Muczne Deep in Bieszczady, just a stone's throw from the Ukrainian border, this

