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Lipnica Murowana, Easter Palm Competition



We provide thorough and up-to-date information on Tarnów region tourist attractions and facilities.

Our commercial offer includes:

- tourist maps and guides
- budget accommodation in 1,2 or 3-bed rooms
- bike rental
- conference facilities and equipment rental



First written information about towns from the Tarnów region comes from the beginnings of the XII century. In surviving documents we can find names of local villages such as Tarnów, Ciężkowice, Lubaszowa and Tuchów. In the XIII century Wojnicz is already a town, home of the Wojnicki Castellan, who rules one of the biggest districts in Poland of the first Piasts.

XIV century is an era of intensive development. In the Tarnów region new cities of Tarnów, Ciężkowice, Rygllice, Tuchów and Żabno are created. Numerous privileges, bestowed by King Kazimierz the Great as well as location along major trade routes greatly influence their growth. Middle ages are a time of the greatest prosperity for the towns of the region. The right of organizing fairs is bestowed on additional cities. Unquestionable leader are Ciężkowice which were allowed to conduct 5 fairs. How important were these, can be best illustrated by a decision of king Zygmunt August from the year 1518 which abolishes a week long fair in Zakliczyn, which was the main competition to Czchów.

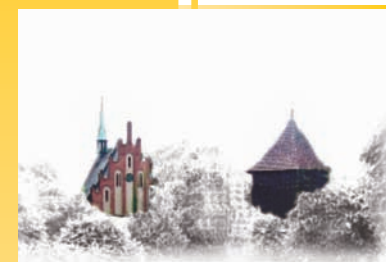
Number of different craft guilds start to appear in the cities. With time they began to „specialize” and concentrate on specific crafts. In this way Czchów becomes the second largest weaving center in Małopolska.

End of an era of rapid development of Tarnów region falls on the end of the XVII century. Hand in this had invasions of foreign armies, including the Swedes and Hungarians, epidemics, sicknesses and famine brought about by crop failures. Devastated cities still did not regain their grandeur. Weak signs of development were muffled at first by partitions of Poland and later on by both world wars.

Only after 1989, did the local governments, chosen in free elections, begun a systematic work on revitalizing these towns. Towns and cities of the region are becoming more citizen and tourist friendly. Tourists are especially enchanted by local architecture, climate and folklore.



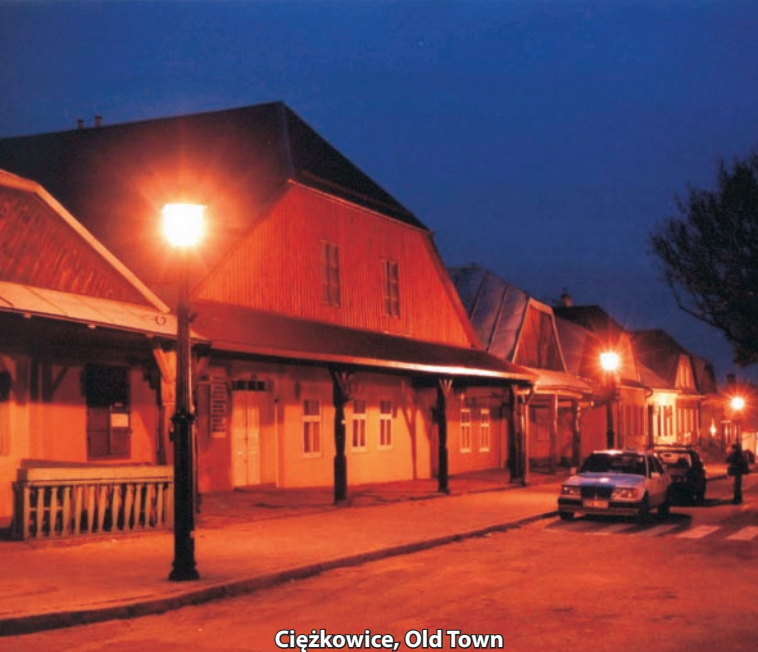
## SMALL TOWNS CHARM



TARNÓW REGION TOURIST GUIDE



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Ciężkowice, Old Town



Ciężkowice, „Stone City”



Lipnica Murowana, Easter Palm Contest

Oldest information about **Ciężkowice** can be found in the document issued by Bishop Idzi confirming property of the Tyniecki monastery, dated 1123-1125. Settlement received city rights in 1348. These were granted by king Kazimierz the Great in a location act. Till this day, a medieval layout of the city is still in tact, with a spacious rectangular city square and streets running out from its corners. Specific climate of Ciężkowice is created by brick and wooden houses with arcades from the XVIII and XIX century. These are buildings with a rib structure on a foundation constructed from local sandstone and with saddle roofs, supported by wooden columns which create characteristic arcades. These along with a located in the middle of the city square, XIX century brick city hall with an internal courtyard and clock tower add a characteristic charm to the city. When visiting Ciężkowice, it is hard to miss one of the kind natural reserve „Stone City”. On 15 ha of land different rock formations, created from the local Ciężkowice sandstone can be found. These were given by nature different odd shapes and forms. Thrown on the side of a hill small and large rock formations create an illusion of an old city.

First written mention about **Tuchów** comes from the year 1105. It can be found in a document, in which pope’s legate informs about the fact that Tuchów, which was its name at the time, was given to the Benedictine abbey by the wife of Władysław Herman. In 1340 Kazimierz the Great granted Tuchów city rights. Major influence on this decision were great profits derived from a salt mine located in Tuchów. When city rights were granted boundaries of the city square were drawn up and in the middle a city hall was erected. This setup is still evident till this very day. Modern Tuchów is mainly a biggest, in the Tarnów Diocese, place of Blessed Virgin worship. In the Redemptorists’ monastery we’ll find a painting of the Blessed Virgin of Tuchów, which is known for many miracles. It was considered to be miraculous already in 1641. July holiday of the Blessed Virgin launches a week long church fair which draws in over one hundred thousand visitors from the whole country every year.

**Zakliczyn**, a town on the Dunajec River valley, was first known as Opatowice. First mention of it comes from 1215. Today’s name was taken on in 1558, when Spytek Jordan, owner of the close by Melsztyn, took it over from Benedictines from Tyniec. Zakliczyn was designed in a form of a spindle on an east-west axis, with a spacious rectangular city square and extending side streets from each corner. City architecture, was primarily wooden constructed on 9 pillars. This construction provided walls complete freedom from the roof, which in turn allowed for further uninhabited design of the building’s layout without invasion into roof’s construction. Three external pillars make up an arcade, supporting extended beyond sidewalks eaves. Several of such houses from the XIX century can still be found on Mickiewiczza and Malczewskiego streets, including „under the scale” house which houses the local museum. When in Zakliczyn one has to participate in traditional fairs, which have taken place every Wednesday for 600 years.

In the fork of Uswicza river and Górzeński stream lays **Lipnica Murowana**. Oldest written records which talk about it come from 1325. In accounting books, a payment of 3 grzywny is made by the priest from the Lipnik Parish. King Władysław Łokietek, bestowed it with city rights in 1326. Till this day a medieval layout of the city, with a circular city square and streets running from each corner has been kept. In the center, single storey wooden arcade houses survived. In fact buildings make up most precious historical monuments of Lipnica Murowana. The most precious treasure of the town is an almost entirely preserved wooden, gothic style St. Leonard’s church. As the legend says, Christian temple was constructed on the place of an old pagan worship in the year 1141. Since the XV century, it has not been changed in any way, not including necessary maintenance and conservation works. Original architecture and furnishings give the church unique value. Recognizing the unique value of the temple in Lipnica Murowana, commission of the World Cultural and Natural Heritage, added the St. Leonard’s Church to a UNESCO

World Heritage List on the 5th of July 2003. When visiting Lipnica Murowana, one has to remember the traditional, known world wide, competition for the biggest Easter palms.

First written sources which talk about **Czchów**, and pertain to years 1208-1218 can be found in the calendar of the Krakow Chapter, which notes that Bishop Wincenty Kadłubek bestows the Krakow Chapter, with tax income from Czchów. Located on the „Hungarian trail”, settlement was home to the royal customs station, even before it was granted city rights. These were bestowed by Prince Leszek Czarny at the end of the XIII century. In 1355, Kazimierz the Great bestowed Magdeburg laws on the city. Till this day, original architecture with wooden arcade houses from the XVIII and XIX centuries survives. In the south-eastern corner a gothic church of the Birth of the Blessed Virgin Mary from 1346 still stands. It showcases roman elements and precious „Via Crucis” frescos. Czchów’s biggest attraction are ruins of a XIV century castle with a restored defense and viewing tower.

**Wojnicz** is a city which grew from a trading settlement located near the castellans castle, which was the center of Wojnicz Castellan’s power from XI/XII century, one of the biggest at the time in Poland. City rights were bestowed on Wojnicz by Prince Bolesław Wstydlivy before the year 1277. It was changed into Magdeburg law by the King Kazimierz the Great in 1349. Especially worth visiting are fortifications from the XI/XII centuries called „Castellans Dikes” which used to protect the castellan’s castle located on the Dunajec River. Gothic Saint Laurence Parish Church with interior decorated with baroque polychrome of Jan Neydörf from 1768; Saint Laurence’s Church bell tower and an assistant church of Saint Leonard’s from the XV century are also worth visiting.