



# Sulfur Mining Trail in Swoszowice



The city to love, too good to leave!



## Swoszowice



The post-smelting spoil tip „Karol”

Miners' chapel



Thinking about contemporary Krakow and its historical and geographical images, it is worth exploring the southern outskirts of the city with the Royal Gem in Swoszowice, famous for its sulfur mining and healing waters. Among the many historical interesting facts and unique places in Swoszowice, the valley of the Wilga River is an enclave of natural greenery, a place of habitats for animals and plants of many protected species.

The oldest surviving document mentioning Swoszowice comes from the reign of Casimir the Great, and the beginning of the golden age dates back to the times of Jadwiga Andegaweńska, who, as legend has it, traveled from the Hungarian Buda through Swoszowice for her coronation at the Wawel Castle. She visited the Swoszowice farm while touring the kingdom in 1395 and the then heir Piotr of Swoszowice was her personal secretary and his wife Dobrochna – a court lady. King Władysław Jagiełło also visited Swoszowice and was the first to consider swimming in numerous Swoszowice therapeutic ponds.

Sulfur has accompanied us since the dawn of time. Wincenty Kadłubek mentioned it for the first time, introducing the legend of the slaying of the Wawel Dragon. Historical sources indicate the vicinity of Krakow, specifically Swoszowice near Krakow, as a place where, at the turn of the 13th and 14th



United Nations  
Educational, Scientific and  
Cultural Organization



Historic Centre of Krakow  
inscribed on the World  
Heritage List in 1978

Organizacja Narodów  
Zjednoczonych  
dla Wychowania,  
Nauki i Kultury

Historyczne Centrum Krakowa  
wpisane na Listę Światowego  
Dziedzictwa w roku 1978

century, monks collected sulfur from stones for medicinal purposes. Soon, the first sulfur mines in Poland were launched in Swoszowice, probably as early as in 1409, as the sulfur from Swoszowice was used as an essential component of gunpowder for the bombardiers used during the Battle of Grunwald. The development of artillery led to the release of the privilege of extracting this mineral for the townspeople of Krakow in 1415 by King Władysław Jagiełło, who established the first sulfur mining enterprise in Poland, i.e. a mining company. Over 30 miners worked in the mine, even at a depth of 15 meters. Five or six steel workers processed the extracted ore in the smelters located nearby. In the Old Polish period, approximately 300 thousand tons of sulfur was mined. It was used, among others for medicinal and military purposes. It was used by the Tatars in the decisive phase of the battle of Legnica probably already in the 13th century. The kites with flaming sulfur they released caused a panic among the more numerous knights of Henry the Pious. Income from sulfur was allocated by King Jagiełło to the foundation of the Krakow academy, the Faculty of Law, and King Sigismund the Old allocated income from sulfur mining from Swoszowice for the purchase of gold for the construction of the burial chapel at the cathedral. In 1598, King Sigismund III donated a lot of money (income from sulfur mining) to the Jesuits' foundation to build the Peter and Paul church. The miners of that time, Krakow burghers, built the wonderful tenement houses around the market square in Krakow which we can still see today using the income from, among others, the sulfur mining from Swoszowice. A special royal office was created, similarly to the salt mining in Wieliczka and Bochnia, for the sulfur mining in Swoszowice "Bachmistrza" and the weight measure of "Wiadrunek", i.e. a bucket of sulfur which went to the then owner of Swoszowice, the Lateran monastery of Kazimierz. The King exchanged it for a salt block which shows that sulfur was of great value.

Sulfur may have been one of the reasons for the transfer of the capital from Krakow to Warsaw. King Sigismund III Vasa conducted experiments, among others with the use of sulfur, together with the then famous alchemist Michał Sędziwo. In November 1595 they failed to control the chemical processes and set off a fire. The fire consumed the interior of one of the wings of the Wawel Castle. As a result, Warsaw became the new royal residence.

The wife of King Jan III Sobieski, Maria Kazimiera, known as "Marysieńka", was to add sulfur to cosmetics. "Apparently, thanks to this, she kept her beautiful complexion until old age."

As early as in the Old Polish language, as states Prof. F. Kiryk, the saying was: "Bez Swoszowic, Bochni i Wieliczki nie warta Polska łojowej świczkzi" ["Without Swoszowice, Bochnia and Wieliczka Poland is not worth a tallow candle"] to accurately reflect the society's belief in the exceptional significance for the state of the sulfur production centers in Swoszowice near Krakow.

Sulfur mining in Swoszowice was closed in 1884. In 1882, the last head and miners founded a primary school in Swoszowice from their own income, where the tax house once stood near the buried shaft. It is the heritage and memory of the mining traditions of Swoszowice until today. For centuries, Hungarian, Czech, German, and Borderland settlers settled in Swoszowice, creating a community that, despite the turmoil of war, has survived to this day. Former mining families, Jewish merchants, peasants and landowners are depositaries of the cultural heritage of this unique place, teeming with life and still developing, drawing on our beautiful pages of history.

The health resort there is one of the most important con-temporary showpieces of Swoszowice. It functioned as a therapeutic center as early as in 1795, and the modern nature of this place was provided by Professor Feliks Radwański. He built bath houses and a pump for healing water from the main spring in 1810. He also founded the first spa park in Swoszowice, older than the Krakow Planty of which he was also the founder.

The picturesque Swoszowice stretching from the railway station cut by the Wilga valley, spa buildings, mining heaps, now being enclaves of greenery, through two peaks, "Łysa Góra and Siarczana Góra", to fort 51½ Swoszowice with a museum of military affairs and sports facilities are a small homeland with cultural differences grown on centuries of history that is still being discovered.

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## Siarczana Góra (*Mons Sulphureus*) Sawiczewskich Street near Fort Swoszowice, the seat of the Military Affairs Museum

GÓRA SIARCZANA (1422 Mons Sulphureus, 1483 Minera seu Mons Sulfureus) a mountain with sulfur mines, today called Siarczana Góra, 8 km SE from the center of Krakow. The name is historical, it used to be a separate village and commune – the area between Sawiczewskich Street (the top of the Mountain) and Siarczanogórska and Moczydło Streets at the foot of the mountain. Sulfur – the gold of alchemists – was mined in Swoszowice for almost 500 years. It was the largest sulfur mine in Europe and the only one in Poland before the partitions. Sulfur has accompanied us since the dawn of time. Wincenty Kadłubek mentioned it for the first time, writing down the legend of the slaying of the

Wawel Dragon. Sulfur might have been one of the reasons for the transfer of the capital from Krakow to Warsaw. King Sigmund III Vasa and the famous alchemist back then, Michał Sędziwoj conducted experiments, among others with the use of sulfur. In November 1595, they failed to control the chemical processes and started a fire; as a consequence, the fire consumed the north wing of the Wawel Castle; four months later, the king decided to move his court to Warsaw. Queen Marie Casimire Louise de La Grande d'Arquien (“Marysieńka”) was to use cosmetics containing sulfur, thanks to which she kept her beautiful complexion until old age.

In 1415, King Władysław Jagiełło issued the first mining privilege “Super querendis mineris sulfureis et aliorum metallorum” for the townspeople of Krakow: M. Pellifici and N. Scolteto and their companions. It gave them the right to search for and exploit sulfur and other raw materials in Swoszowice, “Where sulfur is found.”

Góra Siarczana – view of Krakow



The mines and steel mills were closed in 1884. In 1917, the company Polskie Zakłady Siarkowe in Swoszowice was established for a short time, but extraction was eventually abandoned, because the explantation was too expensive. During the over 500-year history of sulfur mining – “gold” – as it was called by alchemists, over 600 shafts were drilled in Swoszowice. Historical records show that in some periods more than 600 people used to work in sulfur mining in Swoszowice, which at that time was a great potential for Krakow and the surrounding area. In the first half of the 19th century, it was the largest sulfur mine in Europe. It satisfied the needs of 90% of the Austrian Empire, also exporting sulfur to other countries. The area of the mine field (actually 3 fields) from 1807 to 1881 was similar and amounted to approx. 170 measures, i.e. over 308 ha, and an additional 95 ha in the vicinity, rented by the Austrian authorities to protect the mine against possible competition. The mine operated on three horizons, it had about 30 shafts, the maximum depth of the shaft was 60 meters. It is estimated that Swoszowice mines produced a total of approximately 200,000 tons of sulfur when they existed.

statue of Marshal Piłsudski at the Military Affairs Museum



## Building “Kamienica”

of the Sulfur Mine Administrator, Mining and Metallurgical Board in Swoszowice – at the corner of Myślenicka Street and Merkuriusza Polskiego Street

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Once called “Kamienica”, it was the seat of the last administrator of the mine and sulfite smelter – C.K. mining counselor – Stanisław Mrowec, who lived there at least from December 1874 until 1885 (... a man in his prime, an energetic, talented miner and technician ...). He lived there with his wife and children. The collapse of the mine caused great impoverishment of the local population and migration. The building was put up for sale in 1885, bought by August Porębski (1853–1930) of the Szreniawa coat

building „Kamienica”



of arms, a merchant, councilor of the city of Krakow and a social activist. The building was being passed into the hands of local landowners and entrepreneurs many times. In the fall of 1940, it was bought by Zdzisław Grzymek of the Grzymała coat of arms, a landowner from the Poznan Region, a member of the District Council of Nowy Tomyśl (together with his wife Helena née Bunsch); he lived there until his death with his wife and four daughters. The headmaster of the school in Swoszowice, Franciszek Hypta, in defense of

Z. Grzymek's wife and his children, was shot dead by bandits looting houses in the village on January 19, 1945. After the death of Z. Grzymek, his heirs sold the building in 1958 to the National Council in Swoszowice (formerly the Swoszowice Commune) and then it was transferred to the resources of the Commune Cooperative in Swoszowice. It is currently in private hands. There is a second administrative building nearby, at Myślenicka Street, which was owned by the former Mining and Metallurgical Board in Swoszowice. It was sold after the closure of the Plant in 1885. In the interwar period, it was purchased by Włodzimierz Hanasiewicz (1880–1957), a mining engineer. In 1913 he married Adela Wojnarowicz,

a landowner and they had two sons, Juliusz and Leszek. In 1922 he became the head of the Mining Office in Tarnowskie Góry, in 1923 a mining engineer in Żupa Solna in Wieliczka, and after the war the President of the Higher Mining Office in Krakow. He was a very famous and respected figure. Until his death, the "Dworek" estate in Swoszowice was first leased to the Sitkiewicz family, then to the Schmidt family, and in the fall of 1945 the Bieroń family, related to the owner, as Adela Wojnarowska was Ludmiła Sewerynowa Prus Lisicka née Wojnarowicz's sister. She settled in this property in Swoszowice until her death (1955) with her daughter Kazimiera and her husband and son Krzysztof Bieroń.

view from above – Merkursza Polskiego Street



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## The post-smelting spoil tip "Karol"

Merkurysza Polskiego Street /  
intersection with Stawisko Street

In the second half of the 19th century a spoil tip, called "Karol's spoil tip" was piled up, was located here the mining shaft and smelter. It is one of the few remaining spoil tips. In over five hundred years of the operation of the sulfur mining industry in Swoszowice, sulfur smelters were built next to mining shafts. On June 19, 1861, a meeting was held with Piotr Rittinger, a mining counselor from Vienna, on the construction of the so-called IV sulfur melting

plant, which, according to the design of the builder Karol Schwarz, was to replace three older smelters (Wilhelmina, Teresa and Jan). At that time, the fourth "Karol" smelter was launched, named after its designer Karol Schwarz, but it did not improve the sulfur sales. In 1874, the administrator of the mine, Stanisław Mrowec, attempted to extract sulfur, and then attempted to melt sulfur with steam. For this purpose, a special apparatus was built at the "Rudolf" shaft. In 1875, after many attempts, the production of carbon disulphide, used for rapeseed oil cleaning, wool washing, stearin production, and phylloxera control, was started in the Swoszowice smelter. This compound was produced by mixing sulfur with charcoal and treating it with steam. It was stored and transported in glass or tin cans. The production of sulphide periodically increased from 600 hundredweight in 1875 to over 2,000cwt in 1882. Troubles of the mines

the post-smelting spoil tip "Karol"



and smelters with the sale of sulfur and sulphide resulted in a reduction in the number of working days, compulsory holidays, and dismissals of workers for a couple of quid a month commissions, limitation of ore extraction from 1876 and finally liquidation of production in 1884. Until the 1980s, remains of the smelter buildings on the spoil tip. An interesting fact is that on the 500th anniversary of the Battle of Grunwald in 1910, the Circle of Rural Housewives from Swoszowice, together with the headmaster of the school, Florian Kotowski, built a mound called "Grunwaldzki on its top". "Góra Grzymkowa" was another name used in the period when Zdzisław Grzymek was the owner of these lands.

the post-smelting "Karol" soil tip



## Topiarnia street

intersection with Merkuriusza Polskiego street

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The name Topiarnia refers to the sulfur melting plant in the smelters that existed in Swoszowice. In the over 500-year period of sulfur mining in Swoszowice, sulfur smelters were built next to mining shafts. Further technical progress allowed for the installation of a steam engine operating the drainage pumps in 1802. Another modern steam engine was attempted to be installed in 1836, when a project was developed to equip one of the mine shafts with such a machine. However, when it was sent to the *cyrkułowy* [district] engineer Bretschneider for an opinion, he found that it would be beneficial if such a machine was used both for extracting sulfur and for drawing water from the mine, and because there was no such model, the project failed. In the fall of 1836, Leopold Hombesch, assistant professor of the Mining and Saline Inspection in Wieliczka, at the same time a surveyor – headmaster, prepared a very detailed color plan of the area of the Mining and Metallurgical Plant. The sulfur melting plant is also clearly marked as "Schmelz-Hutte", along with its administrative and warehouse buildings. At that time, it was a large mining and processing plant in full bloom, employing about 300 people. On October 13, 1857, the management of the mine informed the superior authorities that the Machine Factory "ks. Salm" in Blansko (later called "Ostrava joint-stock society") announced its readiness to deliver the ordered steam engine within 9 months. During this period, the Plant needed 360 fathoms of hard coal from Jaworzno to burn the sulfur ore furnace, which was transported to the Vistula and to Podgórze through the Przemsza River, and from there it was transported by carts to Swoszowice. That year, 4 large iron pots were ordered in the smelter in Węgierska Górka for clarification of the smelted sulfur. On June 19, 1861, a meeting was held with Piotr Rittinger, a mining counselor from Vienna, on the construction of the so-called IV sulfur melting plant, which, according to the design of the builder Karol Schwarz, was to replace three older ones ("Wilhelmina", "Teresa" and "Jan").



In the over 500-year period of sulfur mining in Swoszowice, sulfur smelters were built next to mining shafts.

They managed to launch the fourth “Karol” smelter, but this did not improve the sulfur sales. In 1874, the administrator of the mine, Stanisław Mrowec, attempted to extract sulfur, and then attempted to melt sulfur with steam. For this purpose, a special apparatus was built at the “Rudolf” shaft. In 1875, after many attempts, the production of carbon disulphide used in the cleaning of rapeseed oil, wool cleaning and stearin production started in the Swoszowice smelter. This compound was produced by mixing sulfur with charcoal and treating it with steam. It was stored and transported in glass or tin cans. The production of sulphide periodically increased from 600 hundredweight in 1875 to over 2,000 cwt in 1882. Problems of the mines and smelters with the sale of sulfur and sulphide finally resulted in the liquidation of production in 1884.

◀ one of the sulfur smelting sites, Topiarnia Street

▼ Merkuriusza Polskiego Street



## Miners' chapel

Merkurysza Polskiego Street

Built in the second half of the nineteenth century, similar in shape to the so-called lanterns of the dead, commemorating the victims of mining accidents. The 1870s brought several tragic accidents in the mine. On November 6, 1872, at four in the morning, the carter Michał Machajski, coming to work, fell into the open compartment of the "Rudolf" shaft and died on the spot.

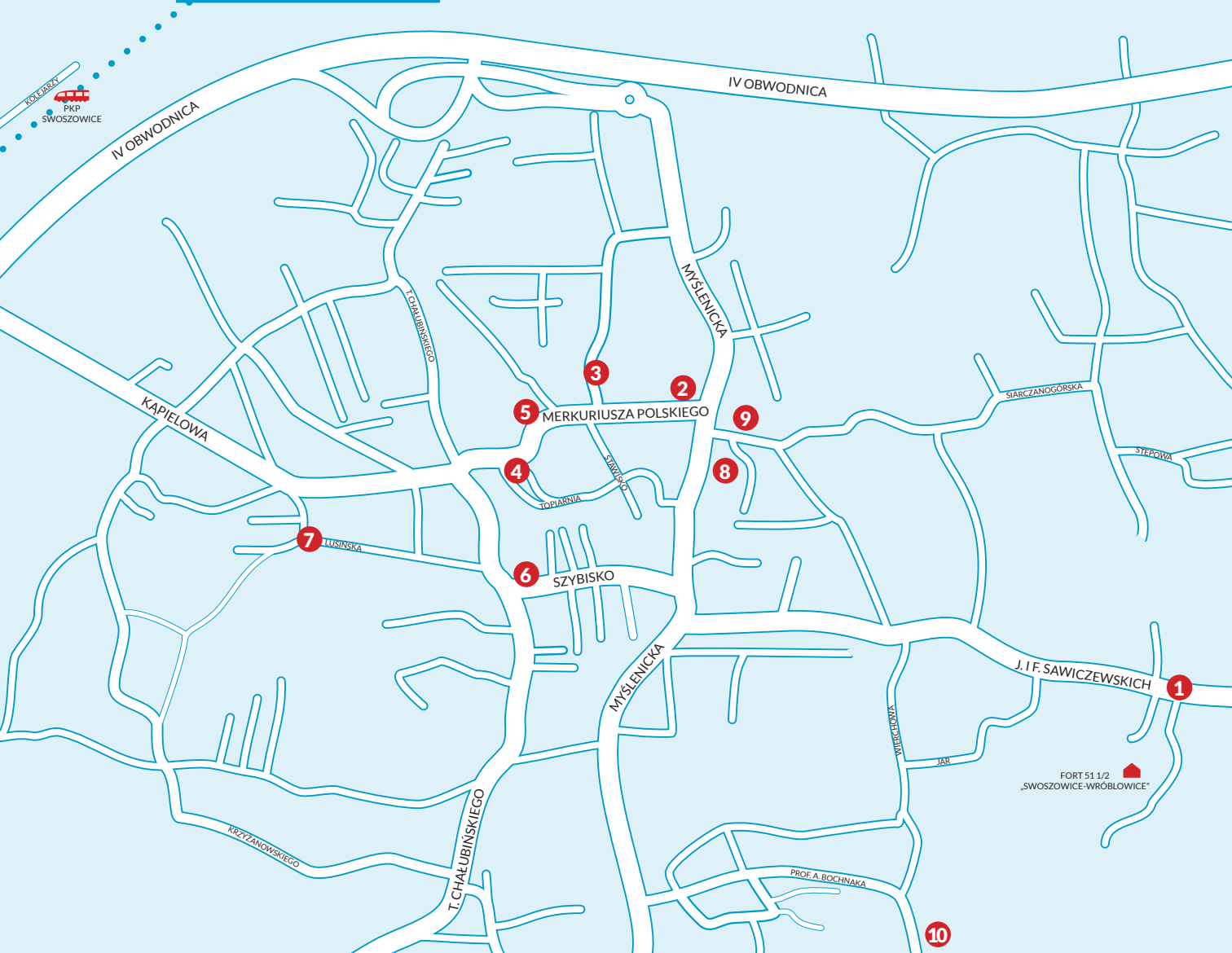
According to the report of the district mining inspector Ireneusz Stengel of November 29, 1872, it could have been the fault of Adam Tomala who left the door to the shaft compartment open at night. In the same shaft, on January 31, 1874, the pumping officer Walenty Karwia died, he fainted and was poisoned with gas, and on the night of May 23-24, 1875, as many as 5 miners were poisoned with "sulphate hydrogen" in the "Rudolf" shaft. On December 11, Kacper Książek was killed during the "recreation of sulfur to be taken out". The death of eight miners in three years and in the same shaft proves that the mine management was conducting overexploitation, not caring about the miners and their safety.

This hypothesis is confirmed by the fact that in the nearby Jadwiga shaft, on March 13, 1875, Michał Fraś, a miner died, and on February 16, 1878, Michał Guzik. In 2008, the miners' chapel that was crumbling into ruin after World War II, was renovated thanks to the efforts of Primary School No. 43. It cultivates the traditions of sulfur mining in Swoszowice.

miners' chapel ▶



# Swoszowice



## Sulfur Mining Trail in Swoszowice

- 1 - SIARCZANA GÓRA
- 2 - "KAMIENICA" BUILDING
- 3 - "KAROL" POST-SMELTING SPOIL TIP
- 4 - TOPIARNIA STREET
- 5 - MINERS' CHAPEL
- 6 - SZYBISKO STREET
- 7 - SHAFTS NAMED "ELŻBIETA" AND "PIOTR"
- 8 - A FOLK SCHOOL IN SWOSZOWICE
- 9 - "SWOSZOWICE" AMMUNITION BUNKER
- 10 - THE PARISH CHURCH IN WRÓBLOWICE - THE ALTAR OF ST. BARBARA

## Szybisko Street

near the health clinic

This street owes its name to the once numerous mining shafts here. Today, you can see spoil tips being the only relics of the former mining industry on both sides of the road. In this part of Swoszowice, the landscape of the hills is a remnant

Szybisko Street



of the sulfur shafts and smelters existing here until 1884, operating under the name C.k. Zakład Górniczo-Hutniczy. “Halnie” is another name for the spoil tips, of which many have survived in this area and the name for the nearby street – Podhalnie has been derived from. During over 500 years of sulfur mining – “gold” – as it was called by alchemists, over 600 shafts were dug in Swoszowice and several hundred spoil tips were erected, named after the birth of representatives of royal families, e.g. Kunegunda (daughter of Jan III Sobieski), or Ferdinand and Rudolf – heir to the imperial throne in Austria, after distinguished guests and celebrities of that time, e.g. the Director of Wieliczka Saliny and an outstanding geolo-gist, Józef Lill von Lillenburg, PhD – the Lill shaft. In the first half of the nineteenth century, it was the largest sulfur mine in Europe, it satisfied the needs of 90% of the entire empire, as well as exporting sulfur to other countries. In the second half of the 19th century, the Hauke shaft was 16.1 m deep, the Jakob shaft – 18.4 m, and the Michał shaft was the deepest – 66 m and the Rudolf shaft – 60 m. Swoszowice mine shafts used names, for example: Michał, Rudolf, Jadwiga, August, Jan, Rajmund, Piotr, or surnames such as Ehrenfeld, Kuczkiewicz.

Shafts were named: Michael, Ferro, Erdman, Edmund, Maria-Anna, Russegger, Blagay, Laurentz, Sofia, Alois, August, Barbara, Raimund, Johan, Hainrich, Ignatz, Hauke, Jakob, Geramb and marked on the map of the Swoszowice mine from 1852. Smaller or later ones were: Homayr, Jarostaw, Ferdynand, Neu Francisci, Piotr, Elżbieta, Kunegunda, Jadwiga, Rittinger, Hocheder, Rudolf, Maxmillan. An earlier map dated 1846, developed by Ludwik Emanuel Hrdina, apart from the shafts, also showed spoil tips, having their names as well. Several of them had German terms, two of them had names of the owners of Swoszowice: Ehrenfels and Lowenmuth, and other names included: Francisci, Michael, Lille, Josef, Maxmilian, Ferdinand, Barbara, Anna, Fridrich, Mathias, Nicolay, Karol, Teresa, Johan, Leopold, Catherine, Maria, Stefan, Louis, Fortunatus, Antoni.

## “Elżbieta” and “Piotr” shafts

Lusińska Street near the spa park - the last operating sulfur mine shafts in Swoszowice from 1917

Many factors caused the collapse of the sulfur mine in Swoszowice, among which the following are worth mentioning: overexploitation, decreasing ore resources, an increase in production costs, e.g. prices of wood necessary in the mine to protect pavements and shafts, shafts flooded by subsoil water. The interests of the mine were also harmed by competition, the resumption of sulfur production in Sicily, as well as a less expensive method of obtaining sulfur from

path on the Trail nearby the Elżbieta and Piotr mine shafts



pyrites in Hungary, a reduction in transport tariffs for foreign sulfur, as a consequence of the conclusion of a trade treaty between Austria and Italy, pursuant to which the duty on imported Sicilian sulfur was reduced. Pursuant to the decision of the Mining Authority in Krakow of December 4, 1888, Swoszowice obtained a protection district, excluding the interference of digging sulfur tunnels at a distance of 1000 meters from the main spring of Zdrój and a mining protection zone in the 10 km range. Only when the protection area was suspended by the mining authorities by the decision of the Mining Authority in Krakow in 1916, Piotr Mączyński, Eng. and Elżbieta Sternschuss-Staniewski, co-owner of the Bathing Plant in Swoszowice, received 68 mining lands for exclusive use. The last mining shafts in Swoszowice were named after them. These lands for exclusive use were located in the commune of Swoszowice, Opatkowice, Wróblowice and Lusina and they covered an area of approx. 20 km<sup>2</sup>. Then, the rights passed to the sulfur consortium that had been established. The last attempt to restore sulfur mining in Swoszowice took place in 1917, when a consortium was established called “Polskie Zakłady Siarczane w Swoszowice”. The consortium was composed of Piotr Mączyński, Eng., Oskar Smreker, Eng., “Montana” Mining Society and a mining bank in Berlin. The purpose of the consortium was to resume mining works in Swoszowice. At that time, two shafts, Piotr and Elżbieta, were built near the former shafts (in the area of the present spa park on both sides of Lusińska Street). The Elżbieta shaft, at a depth of 29 meters, encountered a deposit containing 25% of sulfur, it had not properly been discovered because a strong outflow of sulfur water had been encountered. The Piotr shaft was dug, at a distance of 60 m from the Elżbieta shaft, but at a depth of 28 m, the works were stopped until devices were installed that would overcome a significant outflow of sulfur water, reaching 800 liters per minute. The next stage of the work was to connect the two shafts in order to obtain ventilation, and then the deepening of the Piotr shaft the Piotr shaft to a depth of 60 m was planned in order to obtain a second sulfur deposit. However, this did not happen. After this period, no one tried to revive the mining reconstruction in Swoszowice. The last research, drilling in the years 1952–1954 was carried out in Swoszowice to the maximum depth of 114 m.

## Folk school in Swoszowice

currently the National Education Commission  
Primary School No. 43

The school was founded in 1882 at the initiative and efforts of the last administrator of the sulfur mine in Swoszowice, C.K. Stanisław Mrowec, the Mining Councilor. On the Sunday of the Rosary, October 2, 1882, the local parish priest from Wróblowice, Father Maciej Wiczorek, consecrated the folk school in Swoszowice. The generosity of the miners of the Mining and Metallurgy Board in Swoszowice is well evidenced by the fact that in 1872, at the urging of the mining counselor Stanisław Mrowiec, they transferred 1100 Austro-Hungarian guildens in bonds to establish a school there. In the year when the school was established – 1882 – thanks to interest, the sum increased to 1,403 Austro-Hungarian guildens and 62 cents, and in the first year of operation of the facility, miners donated 2,900 Austro-Hungarian guildens and an additional 149 Austro-Hungarian guildens and 20 cents for school supplies. The school was located in a post-mining building (the mine caretaker's apartment with an adjacent orderly room, along with a stable, cellar, sheds and warehouses, and a garden – all with an area of 1 morgen). In the mentioned building, there

was a kitchen and a room where the teacher lived. From 1895, the rooms served as a classroom and a school office. The school was to serve four communes: Swoszowice, Siarczana Góra, Wróblowice and Kurdwanów. According to the School Chronicle kept on an ongoing basis from 1882, in the first year of the school's operation, 80 students studied there, in the second year – 130, and in the years 1887/88 there were already 270 students enrolled in full-time education and 60 students of complementary education. The administrator of the mine, Stanisław Mrowec, was not only the initiator but also the organizer of the school. He sat on the Local School Council until at least 1885. His wife used to fund awards for students at the end of the school year: "skirts, jackets, clothes for boys". Water for the school was taken from the "tenement house" owned by Mrowiec – his children also attended there. To this day, the School has cultivated the traditions and history of sulfur mining in Swoszowice, among others in remembrance that we owe the school to the miners and that mining traditions are promoted and maintained among students. One of the cultivated customs is the jump over a leather apron. Whoever starts fourth grade, jumps over the leather apron and then the school accepts them as an older student. It is an ancient mining tradition, a ceremony for admitting newcomers to the mining caste by the elders. It is characterized by getting girdled with the leather apron and jumping over it in accordance with the mining tradition.

Folk school in Swoszowice



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## “Swoszowice” ammunition bunker

Gunpowder House - corner of Myślenicka  
and Siarczanogórska Streets.

It was built in 1913–1914 according to a typical military design developed before 1913. It is a stone and brick structure with a steel and concrete ceiling, covered with a sheet metal. The bunker has one large storage room illuminated with two windows. They were divided by a brick partition wall into a vestibule and a proper chamber. The partition wall has a shooting hole to protect the entrance. Kerosene lighting was used there, lamps were placed in wall niches with glass doors. The entrance to the bunker was closed with double armored doors and a grating made of steel bars

on a frame made of sections, windows were protected by armored shutters. The facility is covered with earth from the front and sides. The bunker is in good condition. During the World War I, weapons were stored there as supplies for the nearby forts of the Krakow fortress. After the war, it was used as a warehouse for the Peasant Self-Help shop in Swoszowice, ice blocks and meat were stored there.

The Swoszowice sulfur was used in artillery and for the production of gunpowder. In the 19th century, the recipients of the local sulfur included soda and match factories, and especially the army. Until 1864, the artillery used to buy 1120 cwt annually – sulfate ore in hundredweight [1 cwt = 50 kg], to produce gunpowder. The mine’s register from 1807/8 frequently highlights correspondence with the Imperial-Royal Military Board. Black powder consisted of dust-ground components: sulfur, charcoal and potassium nitrate (KNO<sub>3</sub>).

“Swoszowice” ammunition bunker



## The Parish Church in Wróblowice – the Altar of St. Barbara

Bogdanowskiego Street 14

Swoszowice belonged to the parish of the Transfiguration of Our Lord in Wróblowice in the years 1805–1982. In the first half of the nineteenth century, miners from the Mining-and Metallurgy Plant from Swoszowice founded the altar of St. Barbara with the accessories of the chapel at the parish church in Wróblowice. The chapel, together with the altar and all accessories (“a lamp, 6 large candlesticks, 2 tin candlesticks, an altar cross, all clad in Vienna”) were being supported by their own contributions. To this day, a mining altar with a painting of St. Barbara has been present on the side wall of the main nave of the present parish church.

In the iconography, St. Barbara is portrayed in a long tunic and coat, with a crown on her head, sometimes wearing a bonnet. She holds the chalice and the Host (symbol of the Eucharist) in her hand as well as the sword from which she died. Legend has it, just before her death, the angel brought her Holy Communion.

St. Barbara is the patron of, among others, miners and steel workers, an apostle during storms and fires. St. Barbara is also the patron of the AGH University of Science and Technology in Krakow. The liturgical memorial in the Catholic Church is celebrated on December 4. On the day of remembrance of the Saint, the traditional mining festival – Barbórka, is celebrated.



◀ Saint Barbara's chapel near the parish cemetery  
the Parish Church in Wróblowice ▶







Barbara of Nicomedia, Saint Barbara – a virgin, martyr living in the 3rd century, one of the Fourteen Holy Helpers, a saint of the Catholic and Orthodox Church.

the Altar of St. Barbara

## Tourist Information Centres

Tourist Information Centres offer succinct versions of guidebooks, containing practical advice, telephone numbers and addresses, and maps of the city centre with tourist routes marked.

Recently, the traditional routes, operating for quite a long time, have been complemented by new proposals of walking tours in the city that are focused on landscape or historical values, and which make reference to the events of the past few decades.

[www.infokrakow.pl](http://www.infokrakow.pl)

### **ul. św. Jana 2**

phone: (+48 12) 354 27 25  
jana@infokrakow.pl

### **Wyspiański Pavilion**

pl. Wszystkich Świętych 2  
phone: (+48 12) 354 27 23  
kontakt@krakowstory.pl

### **ul. Szpitalna 25**

phone: (+48 12) 354 27 20  
szpitalna@infokrakow.pl

### **Zgody 7**

Osiedle Zgody 7  
tel. (+48 12) 354 27 14  
zgody7@infokrakow.pl

## Important Numbers

### Emergency numbers

Emergency number (from mobile phones): 112

City guard: 986

Emergency service: 999

Fire brigade: 998

Police: 997

### 24h medical info:

phone: +48 12 661 22 40 (24 h)

Descriptions of all tourist routes  
can be found on Krakow website:



[www.krakow.pl](http://www.krakow.pl)



Swoszowice mining stamp



Folk school

### Text

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### Photos

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Department of Tourism

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**Historic Centre of Kraków**  
inscribed on the World  
Heritage List in 1978

**Historyczne Centrum Krakowa**  
wpisane na Listę Światowego  
Dziedzictwa w roku 1978

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