

Vanishing professions Traditional track of Podlaskie Voivodeship folk handicraft

Information about routeTrack of Podlaskie Voivodeship folk handicraft came into existence in 1994 on the initiative of Ethnographic Department of Podlaskie Museum in Białystok. It is aimed at protection of the most interesting workshops and centres of folk art, which cultivate centuries-old art's and handicraft's traditions in our region, and making them available to tourists and connoisseurs of folk art. Folk art tradition in Podlasie, rich and lasting until recently, is cultivated nowadays only by few workshops, worth visiting. The traditional track of Podlaskie Voivodeship folk handicraft leads along the western line of Knyszyn Primeval Forest, through Czarna Wieś Kościelna (smithy and potter's workshops), Zamczysk (wooden spoons' production), Janów and nearby villages: Wasilówka and Nowokolno (unique double-wrapped weaving workshops). Characteristic products made in mentioned centres are highly valued in whole country and abroad.

Workshops are visited by thousands of tourists from Poland and from abroad every year.

Project of ethnographic route:

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Workshops of traditional folk craft are located along the line of Knyszyn Primeval Forest and they constitute the track of Podlaskie Voivodeship folk handicraft. Many connoisseurs and folk art enthusiasts often meet at this is unique place.

All workshops are given a recommendation of the Ethnographic Department of Podlaskie Museum in Białystok.

This is an exceptional opportunity to visit craftsmen' workshops cultivating centuries-old traditions.

Artists offer:

- demonstrations of folk production,
- apprenticeship,
- traditional products made in workshops.

Centres are available from Monday to Saturday, after phone arrangement.

Smithy and potter's workshops in Czarna Wieś Kościelna, wooden spoons' production in Łapczyn, unique double-wrapped weaving workshops in Janów, Nowokolno and Wasilówka as well as sculpture's workshop in Sokółka are at tourists' disposal.

A. Smithery:

One of the most active smiths' workshops in Podlasie joins traditions of folk and artistic smithery.

Smith's workshop:

1. Mr Mieczysław Hulewicz

Czarna Wieś Kościelna, 4a Sosnowa Street

Telephone: (085) 7109089

B. Pottery:

Grey-ceramics:

Czarna Wieś Kościelna – one of the last grey-ceramics centres functioning in Poland. Potter's workshops cultivate the 18th century's handmade pottery tradition.

Potter's workshops:

1. Mr Bolesław Piechowski

Czarna Wieś Kościelna, 27i Piękna Street

Telephone: (085) 7109074

2. Mr Mirosław Piechowski

Czarna Wieś Kościelna, 27a Piękna Street

Telephone: (085) 7109134

3. Mr Jan Kudrewicz

Czarna Wieś Kościelna, 19 Sosnowa Street

Telephone: (085) 7109085

4. Mr Adam and Mr Paweł Piechowski

Czarna Wieś Kościelna, 29 Piękna Street

Telephone: (085) 7109023

5. Mr Stanisław Mosiej

Czarna Wieś Kościelna, 69 Piękna Street

Telephone: (085) 7109080

C. Wooden spoons' production:

The last such workshop is in Zamczysk – the village specialising in wooden spoons' and ladles' production since the 19th century. Archaic techniques using hand-tools are preserved in this workshop.

Wooden spoons' production workshop:

1. Mr Mieczysław Baranowski

10 Zamczysk

Telephone: (085)7109321

D. Double-wrapped weaving:

The double-wrapped weaving centre in Janów - the only one which cultivates an original technique of double-wrapped weaving in whole Poland. In small country workshops, on manual looms, weavers create wool materials with a unique beauty.

Weavings:

1. Mrs Teresa Pryzmont

Janów, 9 Wasilówka

Telephone: (085) 7216364

2. Mrs Alicja Kochanowska

Janów, 3 Nadrzeczna Street

Telephone: (085) 7216036

3. Mrs Filomena Krupowicz

Janów, 50 Sokóleńska Street

Telephone: (085) 7216128

4. Mrs Ludgarda Sieńko

Janów, 8 Sokólska Street
Telephone: (085) 7216174
5. Mrs Helena Malewicka
Janów, Nowokolno
Telephone: (085) 7216062
Chamber of Weaving

Municipal and Communal Culture Centre in Janów, 14a Białostocka Street. Permanent exposure of local weavers' materials. Here you can receive further information about separate workshops (daily from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m., telephone: /085/ 7216142).

E. Sculptor's Workshop

Mr Piotr Szałkowski, member and of many years' standing president of the Folk Artists Association, Agency in Białystok.

He forms folk sculptures on subjects of religion, the Bible, village (figures of inhabitants in their everyday work) and nature (birds).

His works occur in museums' collections as well as in Polish and foreign private ones.

Sculptor's Workshop:

1. Mr Piotr Szałkowski
Sokółka, 22 Mickiewicza Street
Telephone: (085) 7115332

Approach:

1. An access road No 18 from Białystok to border crossing in Kuźnica Białostocka. Exit on the 21st km into the road leading to Czarna Białostocka, then to Czarna Wieś Kościelna. Next, by Chmielnik (exit to Zamczysk), Niemczyn, Sitkowo, Białousy to Janów (55 km) and Sokółka. In Czarna Wieś Kościelna, after visiting Smith's workshop (owned by Mr Mieczysław Hulewicz), potter's workshops (owned by Mr Jan Kudrewicz as well as Mr Bolesław and Mr Mirosław Piechowski) are worth seeing as well. Turning aside from the main road in Chmielnik, you can reach Zamczysk (2 km), where is wooden spoons' production workshop, owned by Mr Mieczysław Baranowski. Walking a dirt road from Zamczysk to Niemczyn (about 600 meters) you can reach the early medieval castle called 'Zamek'. Return to the main road by Chmielnik.

2. You should visit the Chamber of Weaving in Municipal and Communal Culture Centre in Janów, 14a Białostocka Street. Permanent exposure of local weavers' materials is presented there. You can also receive further information about separate workshops (daily from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m., telephone: /085/ 7216142). Local weavers' workshops are famous and really worth visiting.

3. There is a sculptor's workshop (owned by Mr Piotr Szałkowski) and an exhibition of folk art in the Chamber of Folk Artists Association in Sokółka (22 Mickiewicza Street).

4. A road No 19 from Białystok to Augustów and then to border crossings in Ogródniki and Budzisko. Exit on the 38th km near Korycin into the local road No 672 leading to Janów (18 km). From Janów to Chmielnik (19 km) (exit to Łapczyno and Zamczysk) and further to Czarna Wieś Kościelna (5 km).

5. A local road No 673 from Sokółka (a road No 18) to Sokolany (8 km), then to Janowo

by the local road No 672 (18 km), Zamczysk (19 km) and Czarna Wieś Kościelna (5 km).

6. Return from Sokółka to Białystok by Tartar track through Bohoniki and Kruszynian

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