

Memory in Tourism

GUIDEBOOK

Traces of World War II in Lower Silesia





Lokalna Organizacja Turystyczna
Agglomeracja Wałbrzyska

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Wałbrzych 2024

Dear Visitors,

Guidebook “Memory and Tourism – Traces of World War II in Lower Silesia” is the outcome of the evaluation of the conference under the same title, held on 29 November 2024 at Książ Castle in Wałbrzych. The event was organized within the framework of the project of the Local Tourist Organization of the Wałbrzych Agglomeration, co-financed by the budget of the Lower Silesian Voivodeship.

The conference initiated a much-needed discussion on education conducted in places connected with the history of World War II in Lower Silesia, which are already or will in the future become tourist destinations.

In this guidebook, we draw your attention to both well-known and less familiar sites where you will encounter the harsh and painful history of the 20th century.

We also invite you to visit the website www.turystykawojenna.pl, where the transcripts of the conference presentations are available.

We will be grateful for any comments, suggestions, and reflections regarding tourism activities carried out at sites of remembrance and places connected with World War II. Feedback can be sent to: lot@lotaw.pl.

The next conference in this ongoing series on war tourism will take place in autumn 2025.



Photos provided by:
Zamek Książ w Wałbrzychu sp. z o. o.



KSIĄŻ CASTLE UNDERGROUND TOURIST ROUTE

The seven sites of the Riese Project

Site:

Wałbrzych, 1 Piastów Śląskich Street – 50 meters
under the Honorary Courtyard of Książ Castle.

Located in Wałbrzych
64.5 km from Kłodzko
80.9 km from Wrocław

The site during World War II:

One of the sites of the Third Reich's most secret
project – 'Riese'. During the war, it was a place of
forced labor for prisoners from the German
concentration camp and forced labor camps.

The site today:

Książ Castle Underground Tourist Route

Visitor Information:

The site is open all year round, except on 1
November. Visitors can see, among others:

- half a kilometre of the underground tourist
route with vast concrete corridors, technical
rooms, and a hall known as the "safety
chamber";
- a lift shaft buried in the 1960s, once intended
for an evacuation elevator from Adolf Hitler's
planned headquarters at Książ Castle.

Opening hours and ticket prices:





Photos provided by:
Zespół Pałacowo-Hotelowy Jedlinka



JEDLINKA PALACE

Porcelain Palace

Site:

Jedlina-Zdrój, 8 Zamkowa Street

11.6 km from Wałbrzych

44.9 km from Kłodzko

75.8 km from Wrocław

The site during World War II:

Headquarters of Organisation Todt, which managed the construction of the "Riese" Project

The site today:

Jedlinka Palace and Hotel Complex

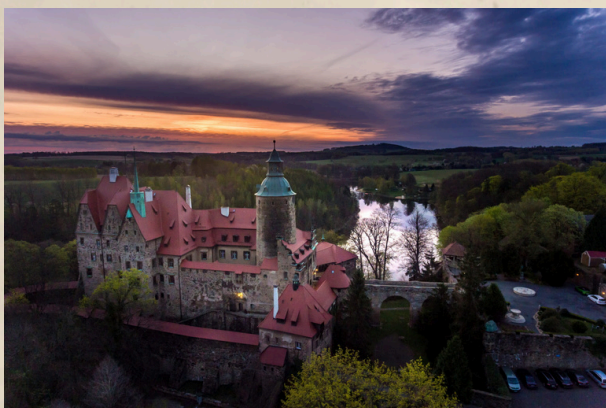
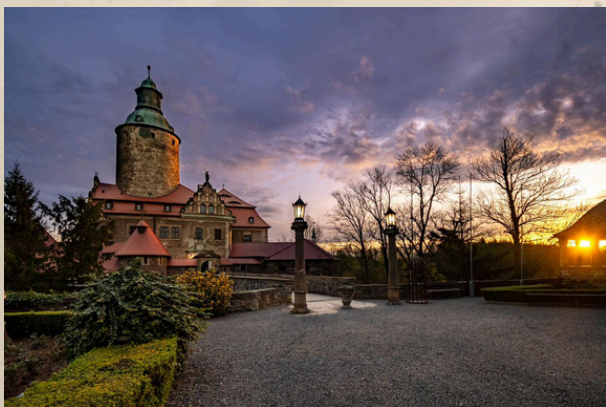
Visitor Information:

Jedlinka Palace is open to visitors all year round. The tourist route includes, among others:

- Ballroom decorated with genuine gold leaf
- Residential chambers
- Heraldic chamber
- World War II chemical shelter (located in the undergrounds)
- Replica of staff carriage no. 10252 Bln from the special train "Amerika"

Opening hours and ticket prices:





Photos provided by:
Zamek Czocho



CZOCHA CASTLE

Castle of Secret Passages

Site:

59-820 Leśna, Sucha

102 km from Wałbrzych

41 km from Kłodzko

146 km from Wrocław

The site during World War:

Some theories suggest that during World War II Czocha Castle hosted an Abwehr school for cryptographers. To this day, however, this has never been confirmed.

The site today:

Czocha Castle – Hotel & Spa Complex

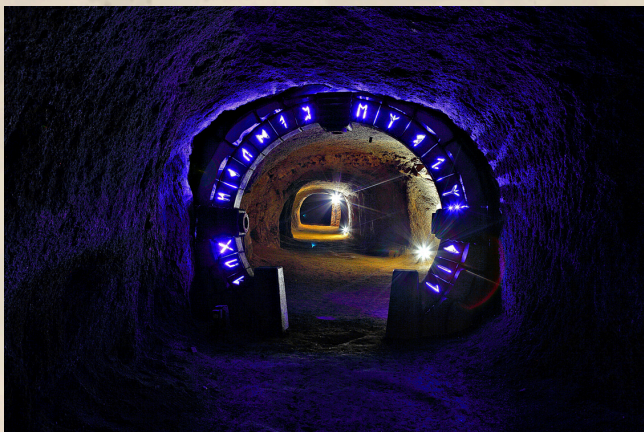
Visitor information:

Czocha Castle is open to visitors all year round. The tourist route includes, among others:

- Knights' Hall
- Marble Hall
- Castle Treasury
- Library Hall
- Prince's Hall with a trapdoor leading to the dungeon
- Daughters' Chamber

Opening hours and ticket prices:





Photos provided by:
Time Gates – Bramy Czasu



TIME GATES

Site:

58-500 Jelenia Góra, 3 Chełmońskiego Street

57,6 km from Wałbrzych

102 km from Kłodzko

113 km from Wrocław

The site during World War II:

A shelter designed for 6,000 people, with a network of tunnels that were meant to connect to the Fellsenkeller Restaurant.

The site today:

The largest underground complex in the Karkonosze Mountains – today a unique center of science and entertainment, featuring an underground tourist route.

Visitor Information:

The underground Time Gates route is open throughout the year. Visitors can explore the mysterious tunnels only in guided groups, ensuring both safety and fascinating storytelling. Themed tours are available – focusing either on history or on science.

Opening hours and ticket prices:





Photos provided by:
Fundacja Lubiąż



LUBIAŹ MONASTREY

the former Cistercian Abbey

Site:

56-100 Wołów, Plac Klasztorny 1

65,4 km from Wałbrzych

121 km od Kłodzko

52,6 km od Wrocław

The site during World War II:

An underground weapons factory where components for the V1 and V2 rockets were produced. During the war, it became a place of forced labor for prisoners from German concentration camps and forced labor camps.

The site today:

A historic monument accessible for tours.

Visitor Information:

Lubiąż Monastery is open all year round. The tour of the site includes, among others:

- Abbot's Dining Hall
- Prince's Hall
- Church of the Blessed Virgin Mary
- Summer Refectory

Opening hours and ticket prices:





Photos provided by:
Projekt ARADO



Project ARADO

Hitler's Lost Laboratory

Site:

58-400 Kamienna Góra, la Lubawska Street

24,2 km from Wałbrzych

67,6 km from Kłodzko

95,8 km from Wrocław

The site during World War II:

A complex of underground tunnels intended to house the design offices of the ARADO company (responsible, among others, for constructing the Ar 234 Blitz jet bomber and the Arado 555 aircraft) as well as armaments factories. A site of forced labor for prisoners from German concentration camps and German forced labor camps.”

The site today:

Underground Tourist Route

Visitor Information:

Along the underground tourist route, visitors will discover unique exhibits, including parts of the V1 missile and the V2 rocket, fragments of the Enigma cipher machine, and elements of a radar.

Opening hours and ticket prices:







Museum of Prisoner-of-War Camps

the great escape

Site:

68-100 Żagań, 45 Lotników Alianckich Street

149 km from Wałbrzych

206 km from Kłodzko

162 km from Wrocław

The site during World War II:

“A complex of two prisoner-of-war camps: Stalag VIII C for ground forces enlisted men and Stalag Luft III for Allied air force officers (RAF & USAAF). Prisoners of Stalag Luft III devised a daring escape plan that went down in history as THE GREAT ESCAPE. On 24 March 1944, 76 prisoners fled through a 100-meter-long tunnel called HARRY, but only three regained their freedom. Fifty escapees were executed on Hitler's personal orders. This event later became the basis for the 1963 feature film The Great Escape.”

(text: edited by the Museum of Prisoner-of-War Camps in Żagań)

The site today:

Museum

Visitor Information:

The museum is open all year round. The exhibition route features highlights such as a replica of Barrack No. 104 and a reconstruction of a prisoner-of-war chamber

Opening hours and ticket prices:





Photos provided by:
Dariusz Gdesz

“Mausoleum Memorial”

Site:

58-301 Wałbrzych, on the northern slope of the Niedźwiadki Hills

in Wałbrzych

56,8 km from Kłodzko

82,6 km from Wrocław

The site during World War II:

The structure, built in 1938, was originally intended to commemorate the Silesians who had fallen in defense of the Third Reich, as well as those who died while working in the mines. Later, however, it became known as ‘Hitler’s last temple,’ as it was believed to have hosted ceremonies of admitting candidates into the ranks of the SS. The site has therefore become associated with the darkest aspects of Nazi history.

The site today:

Currently not developed for visitors.

Visitor Information:

The site is situated in an open public space.



Photos provided by:
portal doba.pl



Telecommunication Bunker

Nazi Communication Center

Site:

58-100 Świdnica, 8-10 Tołstoja Street

20,9 km from Wałbrzych

61 km od Kłodzko

54,2 km od Wrocław

The site during World War II:

An underground telecommunication bunker that once served as the communication center of the Third Reich. During World War II, it was marked on German military maps as the relay station Schweidnitz I.

The site today:

A private building in which some of the original equipment has been preserved, including:

- gas-tight doors
- carbon air filters
- power generator
- compressor
- air tanks

Visitor Information:

The site remains in private hands. At the time of this guide's release, it is not open for interior visits.



Photos provided by:
legnica.naszemiasto.pl



Gestapo Headquarters

execution wall

Site:

59-200 Legnica, 18 Daszyńskiego Street

68,3 km from Wałbrzych

125 km from Kłodzko

76,3 km from Wrocław

The site during World War II:

Headquarters of the Nazi secret police – the Gestapo. A site of brutal interrogations of detainees, who were most often deported from here to German concentration camps. Executions were sometimes carried out directly on the premises of the Gestapo headquarters. A specially designated place, known as the ‘Execution Wall,’ was used for this purpose.

The site today:

Today the building is privately owned. The preserved execution wall still shows bullet holes and inscriptions, believed to have been carved by those held here during World War II.

Visitor Information:

The site remains in private hands. At the time of this guide’s release, the interior is not open to the public.



Photos provided by:
Podziemne Miasto Osówka



Osówka Underground City

one of the sites of the Riese Project

Site:

58-340 Sierpnica, 29d Świerkowa Street

27,4 km from Wałbrzych

39,5 km from Kłodzko

90,8 km from Wrocław

The site during World War II:

One of the sites of the Riese complex – the most secret construction project of the Third Reich, built in the final stages of World War II. A network of concrete corridors of unknown purpose, consisting of both underground and above-ground sections. Its level of completion is the most advanced among all known parts of the Riese complex. The site was built with the forced labor of prisoners from German concentration camps and forced labor camps.

The site today:

The site features an underground tourist route open to visitors.

Visitor Information:

Open to visitors throughout the year, the site can only be explored with a guide to ensure safety. Guests may choose from several themed tour routes.

Opening hours and ticket prices:





Photos provided by:
Sztolnie Walimskie



Walim Underground

Rzeczka Underground Complex

Site:

58-320 Walim, 26 3 Maja Street

18,3 km from Wałbrzych

39 km from Kłodzko

76,8 km from Wrocław

The site during World War II:

The site known as the Walim Adits is one of the elements of the Nazi 'Riese' project, forming the Rzeczka complex. It consists of a network of underground tunnels and halls of unknown purpose. The construction of the site was carried out with the forced labor of prisoners from German concentration camps and forced labor camps.

The site today:

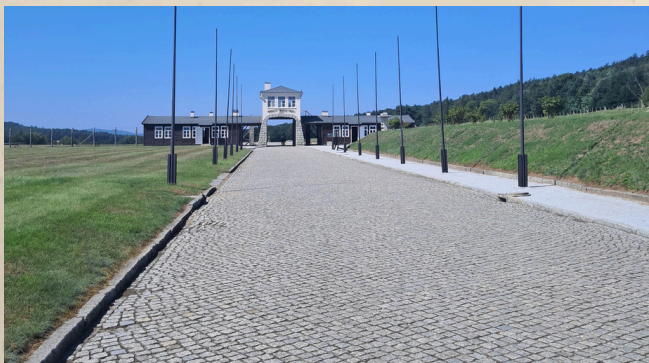
A site with an accessible underground tourist route

Visitor information:

Open throughout the year, the site can only be explored with a guide to ensure visitors' safety.

Opening hours and ticket prices:





Photos provided by:
Arleta Szkwarek

Gross-Rosen

German Nazi concentration and extermination camp

Site:

58-152 Goczałków, 26 Ofiar Gross-Rosen Street

31,4 km from Wałbrzych

87,8 km from Kłodzko

68,6 km from Wrocław

The site during World War II:

A German Nazi concentration and extermination camp. It is estimated that during World War II around 120,000 prisoners were held here, of whom approximately 40,000 were murdered.

The site today:

Gross-Rosen Museum in Rogoźnica

Visitor Information:

The site is open to visitors all year round. On the grounds of the museum, you can see, among others:

- the camp gate
- the guardhouse buildings
- the field crematorium
- the foundations of camp barracks
- the Execution Wall

Opening hours and ticket prices:







ROZTOKA CASTLE

Grundmann's hideou

Site:

58-173 Roztoka, 3 Zamkowa Street

24,7 km from Wałbrzych

81,3 km from Kłodzko

70,2 km from Wrocław

The site during World War II:

During World War II, the castle served as one of the depots of Professor Grundmann, the chief conservator of monuments in the Silesian Province. It became a hiding place for evacuated treasures, including collections from the Prussian State Library and some of the most valuable works of the Museum of Fine Arts in Wrocław.

The site today:

A historic castle and park complex open to visitors

Visitor information:

Open throughout the year, the site currently offers tours exclusively for organized groups. Individual visitors will be able to explore the site starting from the second quarter of 2025.

Opening hours and ticket prices:





Rząsiny Palace

Luftwaffe experiments

Site:

59-620 Rząsiny, 73a

98,1 km from Wałbrzych

138 km from Kłodzko

130 km from Wrocław

The site during World War II:

In World War II, the palace became a site of experimental research and specialized training designed to support the Luftwaffe.

The site today:

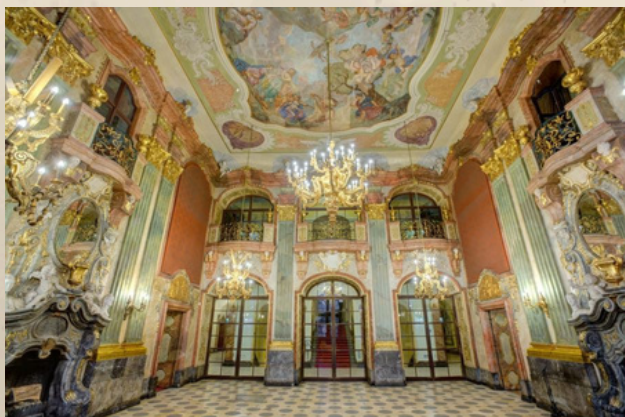
Accommodation facility

Visitor information:

The site can be visited as part of an accommodation booking, and it also features a museum section inside

Opening hours and ticket prices:







Książ Castle

Hitler's secret headquarters

Site:

58-306 Wałbrzych, 1 Piastów Śląskich Street

in Wałbrzych

64,5 km from Kłodzko

80,9 km from Wrocław

The site during World War II:

Książ Castle was planned to become the seat of the Third Reich's Ministry of Foreign Affairs, complete with private apartments for Hitler. To realize this vision, the castle was remodeled, while beneath its courtyard, one of the seven Riese underground complexes was carved into the rock.

The site today:

A historic site open to the public, offering access to its terraces, underground tunnels, mausoleum, and a Palm House situated just 2 km from the castle.

Visitor Information:

The site is open to visitors all year round, except on 1 November. The castle's tourist route includes, among others, the following highlights:

- the Baroque Maximilian Hall
- the apartments of Princess Daisy von Pless
- three floors of castle chambers
- the castle terraces

Opening hours and ticket prices:





Photos provided by:
Fundacja "Krzyżowa"
dla Porozumienia Europejskiego

Krzyżowa

a meeting place of the German opposition

Site:

58-112 Grodziszczce, 7 Krzyżowa Street

24,5 km from Wałbrzych

55 km from Kłodzk

57,8 km from Wrocław

The site during World War II:

This was the meeting place of the anti-Nazi German opposition group, the so-called 'Kreisau Circle,' which stood against Hitler. At the Krzyżowa estate, owned by Helmuth James von Moltke, the group developed concepts for Germany's post-war political order.

The site today:

The International Youth Meeting Centre – a site that commemorates the historic Mass of Reconciliation, when Polish Prime Minister Tadeusz Mazowiecki and German Chancellor Helmut Kohl exchanged a symbolic sign of peace.

Visitor Information:

The Krzyżowa estate complex welcomes visitors throughout the year.

Opening hours and ticket prices:



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