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Tarnów - Blessed Virgin Mary church called „church by the Burek”



Wooden architecture that at one time could be found everywhere and was considered to be a symbol of parochialism, is coming back to graces. Today we are again discovering advantages of wood as a building material. It is natural, healthy, economical and classically beautiful. Wooden buildings have something more, something that makes them exceptional they have a soul. Visiting them, especially the older buildings, is an experience, not only aesthetical but also mystical. Exceptional impressions deliver wooden churches.

We would like to invite you for a trip along a trail of wooden architecture in the Tarnów region.

Our ancestors built wooden huts, inns, mansions and churches. Oldest of these surviving buildings, most of which are religious buildings, come from the beginning of the XV century. In the Tarnów region, boundaries of which are determined by the Raba and Wisłoka rivers in the west and the east we'll find tens of wooden churches. These are a wonderful monument to the importance of tradition and religion.

Youngest of these, come from the 1920's of the XX century. Most of these are buildings erected in a framework technique, with one nave and high roofs made of sheet metal or shingles. In majority of them we will find a tower on the west side. They also have characteristic arcades, called Saturdays, which were used by pilgrims for shelter.

Wooden churches were built in places where there was a lack of stone. The basic material was larch. In Małopolska, almost exclusively a framework wall structure was used. It relied on stacking specially prepared wooden beams on top of each other, joined at the corners. When at the end of the XIII century, a gothic era begun in Poland, next to Romanesque churches, new, much more ornate in form and décor, gothic churches began to appear.

Development of brick gothic architecture had a major impact on the form and style of wooden churches built in the XV century. The most characteristic element of these structures are closed, three sided presbyteries, gothic portals and window frames. Roofs were also enriched and because of that they became more complicated. Gothic tradition resisted trends from the renaissance. Wooden churches in the gothic style were built even in the XVIII century.

Surviving wooden architecture in the Tarnów region includes churches, manor houses as well as architecture of picturesque small towns.

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



## WOODEN ARCHITECTURE



TARNÓW REGION TOURIST GUIDE



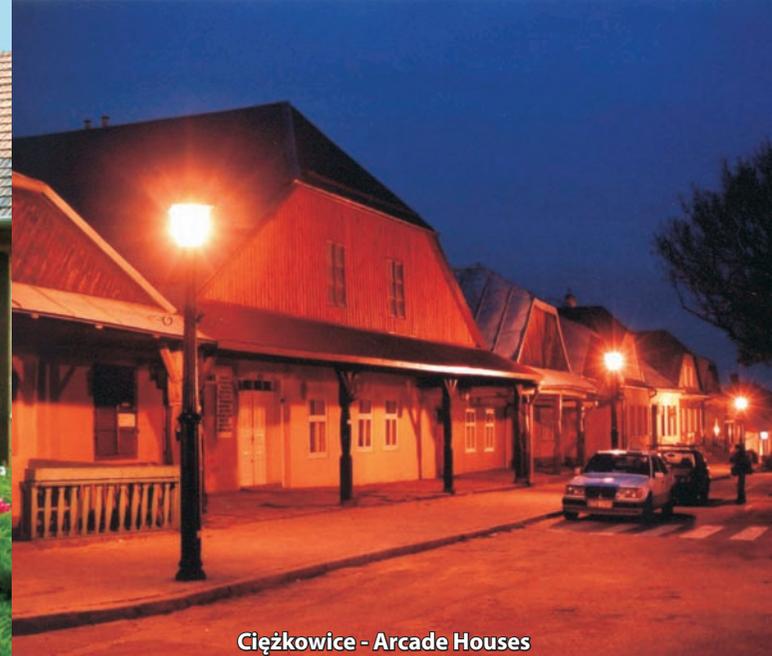
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Zawada - St. Martin Church



Wierzchosławice - House of Wincenty Witos



Ciężkowice - Arcade Houses

## Churches

The most important monument of the religious architecture in the Tarnów region is, listed on a UNESCO World Heritage List, saint Leonard's church in Lipnica Murowana. According to a legend it was built on a site of ancient pagan worship. The only thing saved from this old structure is a Pillar of Świątowid. Currently it supports the altar of saint Leonard. By the decision of UNESCO, a copy of the altar was placed in the church in order to protect it from destruction. The original is currently one of the most precious exhibits in the Tarnów Diocese Museum.

Another precious monument is, in the Tarnów neighboring Skrzyszów, saint Stanislaw the Bishop's church. This temple was built in the XVI century and was founded by Jan Amor Tarnowski. It is considered to be one of the biggest and most beautiful examples of wooden architecture in Małopolska.

In Tarnów itself, there are two churches which are made entirely of wood from the XV and XVI centuries. Beautifully decorated interiors contain original furnishings. Blessed Virgin Mary church, also called the „church by the Burek” is home to a painting of the Blessed Virgin with a Child, known for many miracles. In the Holy Trinity church we can find a painting with a rare depiction of Holy Trinity in a Pietas Domini style which shows dead Christ resting on the knees of God His Hather.

Zawada contains the church of St. Martin that was built in the XV century and then reconstructed a few times during the late Gothic period, which is evident in the structure's design.

Jastrzebia contains the parish church of St. Bartolemew the Apostle, built in the early XVI century. Inside the church you can view the late Baroque style altars, pictures, sculptures, a stone Renaissance-Baroque baptismal font, and a Gothic bell dated between the XV and XVI centuries.

## Manors

Wooden manor houses in the Tarnów region are precious architectural monuments as well as teachers and witnesses of Polish history.

House of Wincenty Witos in Wierzchosławice, a place of annual pilgrimages of people from all over Poland, was converted into a museum of three time Polish Prime Minister, creator of the first folk university. Till this day, almost all of the equipment and original furnishings of the house, which was a witness to the birth and death of one of the greatest Polish leaders, survived.

Manor house in Dołęga, today a branch of the Regional Museum in Tarnów, has an equally interesting history. Its owners were assaulted during the peasant uprising, later it served as a hospital for poles wounded during the January Uprising. Stay in this beautifully maintained property and walks in the surrounding park, faithfully recapture the climate of XIX century nobility.

Nowy Wisnicz has a mansion, called Koryznowka, that is dated back to the early 19th century and maintains a biographical museum of Jan Matejko (built in classical style).



## Utilitarian Architecture

Rarity of the Tarnów region are small towns which emanate a specific climate, and which style is created by original urban layouts, in many places from the middle ages. Characteristic for them are low, mostly ground floor buildings, facing the city square.

In Lipnica Murowana and Ciężkowice, houses are shielded by arcades, placed on characteristic pillars.

Carpenters from Zakliczyn, as the only ones used a technique of building houses with extended eaves, supported by beams, which allowed for a change of wall layout, without a need to alter the roof.

Other interesting examples of wooden architecture are the villas. In Mokrzycka we find a complex of cottages built in a specific for Małopolska, Kraków style with whitewashed walls.

In Ujście Solne, a historic town located near the mouth of the river Raba the salt from Bochnia was unloaded. From this post was developed a large market square that spawned multiple outreaching roads. Also preserved are wooden houses near the town square that were constructed in the XIX and XX centuries.

Zalipie is the only „painted village” in Poland that preserves the tradition of decorating both the interior and exterior of houses with murals of bouquets. At the present, there are about thirty cottages and farm buildings that have walls adorned with these unique flower paintings.