



13 BIELSKO-BIAŁA



This city lies in the foothills of the Silesian and Little Beskids. The city was established by merging Bielsko and Biała in 1951. The Biała River cuts through the conurbation.

Did you know that...? *Bielsko-Biała is the hometown of the famous animated film studio, which created Bolek and Lolek, and Reksio.*

 171 505

 Katowice – 96 km

 **Tourist Information Centre**

Plac Ratuszowy 4, 43-300 Bielsko-Biała

Tel.: + 48 33 819 00 50

E-mail: bielskobiala@slaskie.travel

www.it.bielsko.pl

MUST-SEE PLACES

Located at the foothills of the Beskids, this town offers its visitors a chance to enjoy its historic town square with a contemporary fountain, architecturally diverse St Nicholas's Cathedral, a chateau with a historical exhibition, and a Neo-Renaissance Town Hall with an observation tower.

TIP! *For those who love culture and architecture, we recommend planning a visit to the local gallery, Bator Art Gallery, and the wooden Church of St Barbara (→ p. 51).*

Located **east** of Bielsko-Biała is **Żywiec**, an old town with rich traditions. It lies among the picturesque the Beskid Mountains, above the Sola River and Żywiec Lake.



Approximately 20 km **south** from the town of Bielsko-Biała, you can climb the highest mountain of the Beskids, **Skrzyczne**, either on foot or via a chairlift.

Szczyrk – 16 km from Bielsko-Biała

Szczyrk is a popular leisure resort in the Silesian Beskids. It boasts the largest number of ski slopes in Poland, whose length is almost 40 km in total. In summer, visitors can appreciate the extensive network of mountain hiking trails.



Żywiec – 24 km from Bielsko-Biała

You can start a tour of the town right at the Tourist Information Centre, located in its very heart, next to the Old and New Chateaux. The Old Chateau beckons visitors to explore its exhibition on the local history and traditions. In the adjacent park, you can see miniatures of the most interesting buildings built by the previous owners of the Żywiec domain. Close to the square, you can discover the gorgeous Co-Cathedral of the Nativity of the Blessed Virgin Mary in Żywiec. A number of hiking trails lead out of the town centre towards the peaks of the Żywiec Beskids. You can even take a chair lift to reach the top of the Żar Mountain, which is the ideal place for wingsuiting and paragliding. Great conditions for water sports enthusiasts are found at Żywiec Lake.

Silesian Press Museum – 21 km from Bielsko-Biała

This is the only museum in Poland that features press (newspapers) and printing. The museum exhibition displays a cross-section of the history of press in Silesia from its beginnings up to 1939. This is the only museum in the country that collects magazines, historic bookbinding machinery, and press equipment. It also houses Telemann's Room, a music and poetry room displaying collections of old instruments alongside an 18th-century compilation.

