

A dirt path leads up a hill towards a large stone building with a cross on top, surrounded by green foliage. The building is the main landmark of the Świętokrzyski Region. The path is flanked by dense green vegetation, and the sky is blue with some clouds. Two people are visible walking on the path in the distance.

**THE LANDMARK
OF THE ŚWIĘTOKRZYSKI REGION**

ŚWIĘTY KRZYŻ

HOLY CROSS

The second highest peak of The Świętokrzyskie Mountains with three names : Łysiec, Łysa Góra (Bald Mountain) or Holy Cross, belongs to the most often visited places in the Świętokrzyskie Province. During the times of prehistory of Poland, Łysa Góra (Bald Mountain) was probably a sacred mountain and a place of a pagan cult temple of three gods. On the site of the pagan temple the Benedictine monastery of Holy Cross was erected. According to some legends the building of the monastery started in the 11th century and it was the King of Poland, Bolesław Chrobry who founded the Abbey in 1006.

In the Middle Ages the monastery with the relics of the Holy Cross was the main religious centre in Poland. As another legend says, the relics were brought to Poland by Hungarian prince St. Emeryk. Owing to them, the Benedictine Monastery started to be called The Holy Cross Monastery while the mountain – Holy Cross. With time, the name was transferred to the administrative name of the province as well as to the mountain range . Nowadays many pilgrimages and tourists, come to visit the sanctuary and they are guests of the Missionary Oblates of Mary Immaculate who came to the monastery in 1936.

The abbey
by day



.....and
by night

USEFUL INFORMATION FOR VISITORS AND PILGRIMS

ADMISSION TO THE SANCTUARY:

OPENING TIMES:

9 a.m.-12:30 and 1p.m-5p.m. from Monday to Saturday

1.p.m-5p.m. on Sundays and legal holidays

TICKET PRICES: free (It is possible to have a guided tour)

GUIDED TOUR – 20,00 PLN / per group to 20 people

The tour lasts about 1 hour

WITHIN THE MONASTERY WALLS THERE ARE ALSO:

the Missionary Museum

the Museum of Świętokrzyski National Park

the Oleśnicki Family Chapel

the Crypt with mummified bodies

Tea shop „Stara Apteka”(selling traditional herbal medicines)

a restaurant where visitors may try the monastery cuisine

MONASTIC COMPLEX

Monastic complex consists of a church and a monastery adjoining from the north. They form a closed quadrilateral of buildings with cloisters. Over the centuries, the complex has been burnt twice, survived the invasions of Swedes, functioned as a prison and a concentration camp for nearly 6000 Soviet prisoners. The monastery has got four wings (two from the second half of XVc and another two from about 1643).The church, located in the southern part, was put up in 1781-1806.It has the interior typical to classicism.There are seven altars decorated with sculptures and paintings related to the history of the Holy Cross relics.



THE SANCTUARY INTERIOR



The Oleśnicki family chapel with the relics of Holy Cross. It was founded in XVIIIc and its interior is decorated with the frescoes presenting the history of Holy Cross relics.



Cloisters - the oldest architectural part of the monastic complex built in XIVc. It is 4m long.



The crypt with mummified bodies. One of them is said to belong to Prince Jeremi Wisniowiecki.

From the cloisters there is an entrance to the Missionary Museum.

The Missionary Museum

The Missionary Museum has been created by the Oblates. In three rooms there are exhibitions on the history of that place. The museum also houses collections gathered and brought by missionaries from different countries of the world.



The Natural History Museum of Świętokrzyski National Park.

**The museum is located in a historic building,
part of the monastic buildings complex
of the former Benedictine Abbey, opposite the church.
The building was erected in 1685 – 1701 and for over
100 years it functioned as a prison.**

Admission to the museum:

Reduced ticket – 4,00 PLN / per person

Normal ticket – 8,00 PLN / per person

THE MUSEUM IS OPEN THE FOLLOWING HOURS :

from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. from November 1st to March 31st

from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. from April 1st to October 31st

**the museum is closed on Mondays, November 1st, 25 th December, January 1st
and on Easter Day**

The museum was created in 1954. It exhibits archeological and geological collections as well as the variety and peculiarities of nature of Świętokrzyski National Park.



**In 2006 Holy Cross Sanctuary celebrated its millenium.
About 10.000 people took part in that very important event.**

