Świętokrzyskie
INSPIRATIONS
Świętokrzyskie Region

Symbols
Świętokrzyski coat of arms makes a reference to the historical tradition of the region, and the heraldry of the First Commonwealth of Poland. It is in a shape of a Renaissance three-part shield that is rounded on the bottom. The coat of arms features the cross of Benedictine monastery of Łysa Góra (also called the cross of Caravaca or Byzantine cross), as well as the coats of arms of Sandomierz and Cracow Regions from the period of Poland’s Nobles’ Republic.

Tourist logo
A witch-stylized first letter of the region’s name. In the folk tradition of the Łysa Góra a witch started to be a prominent figure under the influence of legends telling the pagan history of the Łysa Góra (Bald Mountain; also known as Święty Krzyż or Łysiec), where, according to folk tales, witches’ Sabbaths famous in all of Poland were held.
Świętokrzyskie

- It is one of 16 Polish regions. It derived its names from the oldest mountains in Europe — the Świętokrzyskie Mountains. Their second highest summit (597 m above sea level) is called Święty Krzyż (tysa Górka or Ľysie).  
- It is like a microcosm of Poland. The region is divided into two sub-regions: an industrialized (upland) Kielce sub-region in the northern part of the region, together with the Świętokrzyskie Mountains, and Jędrzejów-Sandomierz sub-region in the southeast, covering the area of Ponidzie with very fertile soils and great sources of sulphur- and bromide-rich healing waters where fruit farming and ecological agriculture as well as spa and wellness tourism develop. The region has its natural boarders on the Vistula and the Pilica rivers.
- Its area amounts to ca. 11,700 km² (1/4 of the total area of the Netherlands or 1/2 of Slovenia). It has a population of ca. 1.3 million (ca. 3% of the total population of Poland, which amounts to 2/3 of the population of Slovenia). Its population density is 108 people per km².
- It is divided into 13 districts, 1 urban district (Kielce) and 102 communes.
- The capital of this region is one of the most beautifully located cities in Poland — Kielce — with a coat of arms featuring a gold crown and the following letters: CK (which means “Civitas Kielce” — “the city of Kielce”, or “Civitas Kielcensis” — “the citizens of Kielce”). Kielce is located on the area of 109.45 km², and has a population of ca. 200,000. It is the only city in Europe with 5 nature reserves in its area.
- The Świętokrzyskie Region is adjacent to Mazovian, Łódź, Małopolska, Opole, Silesian, Podkarpackie, and Lublin Regions, and forms a macroregion called Eastern Poland together with Warmian-Masurian, Podlaskie, Podkarpackie, and Lublin Regions.
- Świętokrzyskie features mild mountains ridges, huge forests, impressive architecture landmarks, traces of human activity from thousands of years ago, the remains of the 19th-century industrial facilities; it is a paradise for geologists, archeologists, historians, and those who seek relaxation and active recreation. It is also a perfect place to live and do business.  
- Świętokrzyskie — difficult to pronounce, easy to visit and invest in.
• Palace of the Kraków Bishops is the best preserved original Polish early-Baroque palace residence from the House of Vasa times. Founded in 1637–1644, the Palace belonged to Kraków bishops. It was here where in 1816 the first Polish technical university was established, which was later transformed into AGH University of Science of Technology in Kraków. Since 1971 it has served as premises of the National Museum in Kielce, with its impressive gallery of Polish painting featuring canvas of such artists as, among others, Kossak, Brandt, Chełmoński and Malczewski; sanctuary of the First Marshal of Poland, Józef Piłsudski, together with an Italian garden with a 17th-century quarter layout.

• Above the centre of Kielce stands the Castle Hill and its towers of the Palace of Kraków Bishops, as well as the Baroque Cathedral Basilica, whose walls and undergrounds preserved fragments of the Romanesque temple from 1171.
Świętokrzyskie is a region of outstanding natural features. It is one of the ecologically cleanest regions of Poland. Except for The Świętokrzyski National Park there are also 9 landscape parks, 11 nature parks, 67 nature reserves, including 5 nature reserves in the metropolitan area of Kielce, and also The Fir Forest reserve, as well as over 701 natural monuments, e.g. an amazing English oak tree called “Bartek”, 8 landscape-nature protected complexes, and 83 ecological sites.

Świętokrzyskie has been included in several international ecological networks, such as: Econect or European network called Nature 2000.

With its diversity of geological structure, terrain, climate, and hydrological conditions, as well as richness of fauna and flora, 65% of this region is legally protected (the highest rate in Poland).
A 1000-year-old oak tree called “Bartek” in Zagnańsk near Kielce.

A view from the Holy Cross.
“Świętokrzyski pasiak” — a specific system of fields and meadows in the region
The Świętokrzyskie Mountains are one of the most interesting and the oldest mountain formations in Europe; they are like a huge open-air geology museum.

In 2011 Świętokrzyski Archeo-Geological Trail was opened, representing over 500 million years of geological history of Central Europe. The trail includes several dozen of objects and is still being developed.

The first JuraPark in Poland was opened in Bałtów, Świętokrzyskie Region, inspired by the legend of the devil’s footprint... Currently, it is a huge year-round theme park with 2 additional parks in Poland and soon-to-be opened first branch abroad in the United States.

Krzemionki Mines are like a time capsule. It is one of the oldest and best preserved Neolithic and early Bronze Age complexes of banded flint mines.

Banded flint, also called “an optimism stone” or a „Świętokrzyski diamond” is an exceptional stone extracted only in Świętokrzyskie Region and still in use, e.g. in jewellery worn by celebrities, such as Victoria Beckham, but also by the representative of European royal families.

Banded flint

Krzemionki Archeological Museum and Nature Reserve
Culture and Recreation

Bałtów Tourist Complex
Paradise Cave in Chęciny near Kielce

Interactive exposition "Neanderthals"
Zachełmie Reserve near Zagnańsk – the first tetrapod footprints on the ground and their discoverers.

Wietrznia Reserve – The Centre of Geoeducation in Kielce

European Centre of the Geological Education of the University of Warsaw in Checiny
Paradise Cave in Chęciny is one of the most beautiful caves in Poland, with a rich, breath-taking speleothem, featuring interactive exposition showing the everyday life of Neanderthals.

A special attraction of Świętokrzyski Archeo-Geological Trail is the Centre of Geoeducation in Kielce located in the area of Wietrznia Reserve, where you can take a virtual trip to the centre of Earth.

The biggest sensation is a quarry in Zachelmie with the oldest in the world fossil footprints of tetrapods – believed to be the first four-legged animal known to humans which started to walk on land 395 million years ago, 200 million years earlier than believed before.

European Centre of Geological Education of the University of Warsaw in Chęciny is a newly built object. Its buildings are in 90% powered by energy from natural sources. It was chosen the best public utility building in Poland and awarded 5 stars in The European Property Awards in London even before its opening.
Świętokrzyskie Boulder Field

Pieprzowe Mountains in Sandomierz

Biaśsk-Białogon Nature Reserve in Kielce
The region of Świętokrzyskie is rich in healing mineral sulphide and sulphur-bromide waters found in Ponidzie. These are probably the biggest deposits of such water in Europe, with a capacity of 10 billion m$^3$.

New deposits of healing mineral water were discovered in 2015 near Kazimierz Wielka; their capacity amounts to ca. 4 billion m$^3$.

There are two health resorts in the Świętokrzyskie: Busko-Zdrój and Solec-Zdrój, both with over 200-year health treatment and rehabilitation tradition. They offer a wide range of water treatment procedures, potable mineral waters, and their own cosmetic products, as well as well-equipped, luxurious rehabilitation and treatment, hotel and gastronomic, wellness and SPA facilities.
Golden Forest Hermitage in Rytwiany administered by the Camaldolese order is a special place on the map of health resorts in the Świętokrzyskie Region. It is a pearl of local architecture. Currently a home to SpeS Relaxation and Contemplation Therapeutic Centre, it is a place of rest from everyday hustle, where visitors can relax in comfortable rooms and benefit from tasty home cooking, as well as from therapeutic and spiritual assistance, in the atmosphere of silence and the beauty of nature.
Culture and Recreation

- The Świętokrzyskie Region prides itself on its great culture, art, and traditions.
- Kielce and its vicinity play a significant role in Polish history, and in the world photography, as this is where Kielce School of Landscape Photography originated; its aesthetic ideas still have numerous followers.
- The city of Kielce, a capital of the Region, is a main location of major cultural institutions, such as "Kubuś" Puppets and Actors Theatre, Stefan Żeromski Theatre in Kielce and an acclaimed alternative theatre — ECCE HOMO, which has been organizing the Festival of Artistic Theatres in Kielce for the last 11 years. Also, this is where one of three Polish institutional dance theatres (Kielce Dance Theatre) operates.
- A pop culture highlight of the Świętokrzyskie Region is an annual concert called "The Witches' Sabbath" inspired by legendary witches' Sabbaths on the Łysa Góra, organized in Kadzielnia Amphitheatre in Kielce.
- Off Fashion is a great celebration of fashion, organized in Kielce for over 10 years. Off Fashion is a perfect opportunity for young designers to be noticed internationally. The winners of the contest are admitted to renowned European art universities, to programs financed by European partners, and have a chance to present their collections on prestigious fashion shows, e.g. in Brussels or Rome.
Świętokrzyska Philharmonic Orchestra, with its seat in the impressive new building in the centre of Kielce since 2012, has been operating continuously for 70 years. It gained a status of a philharmonic in 1968, but its history reaches back to 1920, when it brought together members of the local military band of the Fourth Infantry Regiment in Kielce. The orchestra with its ensemble of ca. 80 musicians regularly performs in Poland and abroad, among others in Benelux, Germany, Hungary, and in South Korea.

In Świętokrzyskie numerous outstanding cultural and art events take place: many exhibitions and vernissages (of Leon Tarasiewicz or Rafał Olbiński, among others), concerts (of Ennio Morricone or Krzysztof Penderecki), operetta shows, musical or film festivals (e.g. Unusual Film Festival in Sandomierz), cabaret galas (e.g. Świętokrzyska Gala Kabaretowa).
“Iron Men” outdoor exhibition at the Artists’ Square in Kielce
Krystyna Jamroz International Music Festival has been held continuously since 1995 at the end of June and at the beginning of July in Busko-Zdrój health resort. This event gathers outstanding soloists, excellent ensembles, choirs, and symphony orchestras, as well as musical theatre groups from Poland and abroad. Busko stage hosted such performers as, among others, Mischa Maisky, Gheorge Zamfir, Gwendolyn Bradley, Kevin Kenner, Eugene Indjic, Phelippe Giusiano, Krzysztof Penderecki, Teresa Żylis-Gara, Małgorzata Walewska, Igor Ostrach, Piotr Paleczny, Konstanty Andrzej Kulka, Leszek Możdżer, Janusz Olejniczak, Jerzy Maksymiuk, Wiesław Ochman, Krzesimir Dębski, Symfonia Varsovia, soloists and ensembles from the Czech Republic, Austria, Germany, Sweden, Japan, the US, Russia, France, Ukraine, Hungary, etc. This festival is a perfect opportunity for young artists to present their talents to a bigger audience.

International Festival of Organ and Chamber Music has been held in the Cistercian Monastery in Jędrzejów for 20 years. Music lovers from all around Poland can enjoy performances of prominent soloists, Baroque music, songs devoted to Saint Mary, or concerts of small brass bands. The festival hosted among others: Jerzy Perucki, Mario Duella, Michel Colin, Wiesław Ochman, Marek Tomaszewski, Jerzy Maksymiuk and Henryk Mikołaj Górecki.
During numerous knights’ tournaments and shows or historic re-enactments, the Świętokrzyskie Region brings back the images and sounds of past centuries still present in the ruins of castles, manor houses, fortified structures, or in the primeval fir forest in which brave Polish partisans fighting during World War II shed their blood.

At the foot of Łysiec, in Huta Szklana, there is an interactive archeological heritage park, showing everyday life and work of local people living in the Świętokrzyskie Mountains between 12th and 14th century.

Dymarki Świętokrzyskie (Świętokrzyskie Bloomeries) — an annual archeological festival organized in Cultural and Archeological Centre in Nowa Słupia — reminds us that 2,000 years ago the Świętokrzyskie Mountains were the biggest metallurgical region in Central and Eastern Europe (ca. 6,000 bloomeries). Dymarki presents visitors with all elements of ferrous metal production cycle. During this open-air event also other handicraft items from the beginnings of the Common Era are presented. There are also re-enactment group shows of, e.g. Roman legions.
Dymarki Świętokrzyskie in Nowa Słupia

Historical re-enactments during Dymarki Świętokrzyskie

Bloomery
• The youngest visitors can enjoy the European Fairytale Centre in Pacanów. This little town has gained popularity thanks to the famous adventures of clever and resolute fictional character of Matołek the Billy-Goat created by well-known Polish writers, Kornel Makuszyński and Marian Walentynowicz. Since 2003 the Festival of Children Culture has been held here annually, attended by thousands of tourists from all around Poland. Since 2007 there have been also held Children Meetings with Theatre Masters, Music Masters Meetings, national contests — “Adventures of Matołek the Billy-Goat” and a photography contest entitled “All Kids of the World”. In Pacanów both young and a bit older visitors can travel to the world of fairy tales, imagination, and dreams.

• In Krajno near Kielce there is also SabatKrajno Entertainment and Miniatures Park — a perfect place for a day-long walk. A ropes challenge course, an adventure park, paintball, and a quad racing track are just some of the facilities available in the park in summer. In winter you can use the ski slope with a picturesque view of the whole area.
One of the biggest studs of purebred Arabian horses in Europe operates in the Świętokrzyskie Region. Created in 1950 as Stadnina Koni Michałów (Michałów Horse Stud), the facility prides oneself on horses, which, on numerous occasions, won the titles of world, Europe, and American champions. This is a renowned stud, which has a direct influence on the record prices of their horses, of which Kwestura is an unquestionable leader, sold for EUR 1,125,000 to a buyer from the United Arab Emirates.

Świętokrzyskie is a paradise for active tourists with a sense of adventure. This region has a wide range of land, water, and air sport facilities available in various seasons.
In the Świętokrzyskie Region you will find very good conditions for qualified and specialized tourism, mostly based on 1,500-kilometer network of walking trails, over 3,000 km of excellent and well-marked bike trails, 400-kilometer horse riding trail, water trails, aeroclubs, ski lifts, 8 climbing areas, and numerous sports facilities.

- Green Velo Eastern Bike Trail is an option for cycling enthusiasts. It is the longest bike trail in Poland — ca. 2,000-kilometer long, crossing 5 regions of Eastern Poland, including Świętokrzyskie. It is the most spectacular Polish bike project designed in a way to show the unusual diversity of this macroregion of Eastern Poland, a true melting pot of various cultures, religions, wonderful nature, and amazing landmarks.
In winter there are very good conditions for winter sports in the Świętokrzyskie Mountains. On these not too steep slopes there are as many as 9 ski resorts: in Bałtów, Kielce (2 resorts with chair lifts), Bodzentyn, Krajno, Niestachów, Tumlin, Konary, and Sandomierz. All slopes are well-illuminated, have equipment rentals and ski schools, and have snow-making machines.

With its diverse terrain and numerous forests located near the biggest towns, Świętokrzyskie Region offers good conditions for cross-country skiing.
Handball match – Vive Tauroń Kielce – Champions of Poland

"Kolporter Arena" football stadium in Kielce

Match of Effector Kielce – volleyball team
Świętokrzyskie is mostly associated with the mountains, but the region also features large water reservoirs, mostly created artificially as storage ponds. There are ca. 20 of them, each covering an area of 1 to 400 ha. In summer on the shores of reservoirs in Chańcza, Sielpia, Cedzyna, Borków, and almost all remaining ones you can find organized swimming sites, and marinas for sailboats, kayaks, and motorboats.

Nida River (151.2 km) has retained its original character with all meanders, oxbow lakes, and marsh areas. It can be passed through by kayakers over its whole length. In the final river section, in Chrobrza, there is a modern kayak marine with a campsite.
Świętokrzyskie landscapes
Monuments and landmarks

• The Świętokrzyskie Region is one of the earliest populated areas of Poland. First centres of state authority and Christianity existed here already in the 8th century, and their numerous traces have survived till today. In Świętokrzyskie there were also located numerous centres of pagan culture, e.g. of gords, mounds, and ritual stone circles.

• Wiślica can probably be called a birthplace of Christianity in Poland. Under the floor of the Basilica, there are relics of 2 Romanesque churches from the 12th century, and a widely-known floor panel called the Slab of Orants, dated at 1170. In 1347 the so-called Wiślica Statutes were proclaimed there as the first law codification in Poland.
• Minor Basilica and the Monastery of Missionary Oblates of Mary Immaculate on Łysa Góra, also called the Holy Cross. This is where the Holy Cross Sermons, the oldest historical extant prose text in Polish from 12th/14th century were kept.
• Święty Krzyż (the Holy Cross) means also the Sanctuary of the Holy Cross Relics with its over 1,000-year-old history. A golden reliquary in the shape of a Byzantine cross brought to Łysa Góra in 1270 by the King of Hungary, Stephen V, is kept in the Oleśnicki Family Chapel. A byzantine cross can be found in the Hungarian and Slovakian coats of arms, as well as in the coat of arms of Świętokrzyskie Region.
• The tower of Holy Trinity Minor Basilica on Święty Krzyż has only recently been rebuilt. The tower was blown up by Austrian army retreating in 1914.
The Monastery of Missionary Oblates of Mary Immaculate, Sanctuary of the Holy Cross Relics
The section of the European Cistercian Trail located in the Świętokrzyskie Region is formed by abbeys in Jędrzejów, Koprzywnica, and Wąchock. These are exceptionally valuable Romanesque buildings from the beginnings of sacral architecture in Poland.

The oldest one is a monastery built in Jędrzejów in 1149 when the Cistercians came to Poland from the French Morimond Abbey in Burgundy.

Cistercian Abbey in Koprzywnica was founded in the 1st half of the 13th century. In the 18th century it was completely rebuilt. The only remaining Romanesque elements in the monastery are: chapterhouse, carcer, passage to the garden, and fraternity room.

Between 1218 and 1239 another abbey was built in Wąchock. Its remains include an original, Romanesque chapterhouse and fraternity room, as well as an early-Gothic refectory. In the cloister there is a vault of Major Jan Piwnik "Ponury" (en. Gloomy), a leader of the Home Army partisan groups in the Świętokrzyskie Mountains.

All Cistercian buildings were constructed according to one scheme. Churches in Wąchock and Koprzywnica were signed by the same architect — Father Simon, who also built a church and monastery in Casamari, Italy, in 1217.
Cistercian Abbey in Jędrzejów
• The Gothic castle in Chęciny was a renowned fortress, built to protect Małopolska in case of invasions from the North. It often hosted knights’ congresses, and served as a deposit site for the treasury of the Archdiocese of Gniezno, to protect it from the Teutonic Order. This is also where Ladislas the Elbow-high, setting off to the Battle of Płowce in 1331, gathered the highest dignitaries and state officials on the first “Congress of Poland”. This event is considered as the beginning of future Polish parliaments. The town at the bottom of Castle Hill has retained its medieval urban plan.

• Palace in Kurozwęki, erected in the 2nd half of the 14th century on the banks of Czarna Staszowska River, was once a fortified knights’ castle. Today it is a luxurious hotel with a restaurant, and a conference centre. It offers also other attractions, e.g. a visit to the mini zoo with a herd of 80 bisons, ostriches, Vietnamese pigs, donkeys, lamas, wild boars, etc. In summer, adventurers can make an attempt to find their way in the corn maze.

• The Świętokrzyskie Region is famous for its strong relation to the Jewish culture. Before the Second World War this region was packed with numerous Jewish centres, Shtetls of Świętokrzyskie. Having these traditions in mind, “Świętokrzyski Shtetl” Education Museum in Chmielnik was established. It is the only such centre in the world. Its construction required over 5 tons of special glass. The Museum boasts of an impressive glass bimah. A regular event called “Jewish Culture Meetings” is also held in Chmielnik.

• Przypkowscy Museum in Jędrzejów hosts the 3rd (after those in Oxford and Chicago) biggest collection of hourglasses, clocks, and astronomic tools in the world. In the Museum there are also old prints, among others “De revolutionibus orbium coelestium” by Nicolaus Copernicus from 1566, and several copies of works signed by Hevelius, Descartes, and Huyghens.
The royal town of Sandomierz — the number of landmarks and monuments worth visiting in Sandomierz is quite impressive. There are over 120 architecture landmarks from various times, such as a Town Hall with a clock tower, city walls with Opatowska Gate, tenement houses by the Market Square and the Square itself, Dominican Wicket or the so called “Needle’s Eye”, Castle of the Casimir III the Great (currently the District Museum), Collegiate Church of the Birth of the Blessed Virgin Mary, The House of Jan Długosz, Collegium Gostomianum, Saint James Church, Saint Paul Church, Granary upon Vistula, underground tourist route, Queen Jadwiga Gorge, “Piszczele” Gorge, Pieprzowe Mountains Nature Reserve, etc.

In the town of Ujazd, south of Opatów, you can find a 17th century castle built by a voivode of Sandomierz, Krzysztof Ossoliński as “palazzo in fortezza” — also called Krzyżtopór, which reflects the relation between the castle’s sponsor and the coat of arms of the Ossoliński Family. This great structure used to be the biggest magnate mansion in Europe, before the Palace of Versailles was constructed. It was built on a calendar-like plan: it had as many fortified towers, as there were quarters in the year, 12 great halls (reference to 12 months) and 52 rooms (one for each week in the year), and 365 windows (one for each day of the year). “Świętokrzyski Versailles” was exceptionally luxurious; the ceiling of a ballroom was in fact a great aquarium with exotic, tropical fish, and the horse stables featured marble arbrevoirs and crystal mirrors.
An illustration based on the plan of Krzyżtopór Castle that was prepared by Erick Dahlberg, quartermaster of Swedish troops and a superb draughtsman.
Wooden churches, bell towers, mansions, cottages, crofts, and mills are the true treasures of the Świętokrzyskie Region.

Świętokrzyski Route of Wooden Architecture includes several dozen historical objects and complexes of wooden architecture. It is divided into 4 routes and one small Kielce loop.

Ethnographic Park in Tokarnia is a heritage park of Kielce Countryside Museum, packed with landmarks of wooden architecture, such as mansions, cottages of peasants, folwark facilities, mills and windmills, forges from the 17th/19th century.

Ćmielów is a small town in Ostrowiec district famous for its high-class porcelain. China manufacturing traditions date as far as to 1790. China masterpieces from Ćmielów gained international recognition in the 1960s. They are featured in art galleries in New York, Chicago, Paris, London, Berlin, Moscow, and some other European capitals. In 2005 at former site of ŚWIT Porcelain Factory, the first in Poland „Experience Museum of Porcelain” was established. There you can trace the process of porcelain production, as well as manufacture and paint your own porcelain product, or learn the difference between ceramics and porcelain. The town is still active in its production of high quality utility and decorative porcelain.
Porcelain figurine from Ćmielów

"Experience Museum of Porcelain" in Ćmielów
The Świętokrzyskie Region is a birthplace or a place of visit of numerous distinguished persons: politicians, artists — writers and poets. The following figures had some connections with the region: Mikołaj Rej, a father of Polish literature, and an author of a famous sentence: “A niechaj narody wždy postronni znaøj, iż Polacy nie gęsi, iż swój język mają” (“Let it by all and sundry foreign nations be known that Poles speak not Anserine but a tongue of their own”); Noble prize winner Henryk Sienkiewicz, author of such works as “Quo Vadis” and “Trilogy”; Stefan Żeromski; Witold Gombrowicz; Wincenty Kadłubek; Jan Długosz, Leopold Staff; Adolf Dygasiński; Gustaw Herling-Grudziński. Such a strong artistic tradition inspired the creation of Świętokrzyski Literary Trail, including the following towns: Skarżysko Kamienno – Suchedniów – Oblegorek – Sławczyn – Kielce – Domaszewice – Leszczyny – Ciekoty – Święta Katarzyna – Bieliny, which adds up to the trail final length of 120 km.
• Northern part of the region is more industrial in character. In the beginning of the 19th century this area was chosen by Stanisław Staszic (a leading figure in Polish Enlightenment) for the site of Old Polish Industrial Zone. This is where metallurgical ironworks, foundries, rolling mills, and workers’ housing estates were built.

• In towns of Samsonów, Kuźniaki, Skarżysko-Kamienna, or Nietulisko there are still ruins of former plants: foundries, rolling mills, great foundry furnaces, water intakes, dams, etc.

• Jan Pazdur Museum of Nature and Technology (Eco-Museum) in Starachowice is located at the site of former foundry — a plant with great furnaces from 1841, which includes the buildings of former engine room and moulding bay. Between these objects, there was a complex of three blast furnaces, disassembled in the early 20th century. It is one of the best preserved complexes of iron metallurgy plants in Europe.

• Enormous metal water wheel (8.5 m in diameter) that powers the rolling mill complex in Sielpa Wielka is a phenomenon on European scale. Similarly to the rolling mill and nailery complex from 1794 in Maleniec, it continued to operate (with the use of historical machines!) until 1961. In the summer of 1787 even the Polish King, Stanisław August Poniatowski visited the site. Every July “Kuźnice Koneckie” Technological and Tourist Festival is held here; as its part these historical machines and devices are run and operated again.
Economy

- Ample investment potential – over 6 million square meters of investment areas.
- In the period between 2004 and 2013, the regional economy obtained European support of ca. 900 million euros. It allowed to create ca. 4000 new jobs and over 500 companies obtained funding.
- In the period 2014-2020, the region received almost 1.4 billion euros for subsequent development projects.
- Ample human resources potential – almost 40,000 students, 15 universities, including Kielce University of Technology and the Jan Kochanowski University in Kielce, 16 technical faculties.
- Renewable energy, fair and congress industry, modern construction, metal and casting industry, health tourism, modern agriculture and food processing – these are the most prospective branches of the economy of Świętokrzyskie. Additionally, information and communication technologies (ICT) will be supported.
Kielce – the centre of the economy of the Świętokrzyskie Region
• The city boasts well-developed communication, science and technology and congress infrastructure, as well as ample investment potential and experienced human resources.
• The economic profiles of Kielce comprise the following sectors: trade fair, construction metal and machinery, business processes outsourcing and health sector.
• The services sector of the city is well-developed. The “Echo” shopping centre is one of the biggest sales and services facilities in Poland.
Targi Kielce – Exhibition & Congress Centre
- is the second largest fair centre in Central and Eastern Europe and one of the leaders in the field of fairs in Poland.
- Every year, 70 exhibition events (almost 6000 national and foreign exhibitors) and 600 conference and congress events take place on the exhibition surface of 90,000 m², including 3600 m² in 7 pavilions.
- Targi Kielce – Exhibition & Congress Centre is annually visited by over 200,000 visitors from all over the world.
The Świętokrzyskie Region offers many instruments and incentives for potential investors: tax relief, earmarked subsidies, EU grants.

Well-developed business-related institutions, banking and finance sector, as well as research and development base are a good forecast for the development of the economy of the Świętokrzyskie Region.
The Świętokrzyskie Region boasts over 225 years of industrial traditions dating back to the times of Old Polish Industrial Zone. The traditions were continued by the pre-war Central Industrial District. The following industries developed here: metallurgy, means of transport, machinery, building materials, whiteware pottery and ferrous metallurgy.

Due to the rich deposits of limestone, dolomite, marl, gypsum, sulphur and sandstone, the Świętokrzyskie Region is the leader as far as production of building materials in Poland is concerned – around 43% of lime production and around 35% of cement production. Almost 90% of the national gypsum output and 87% of national production of gypsum binder and gypsum boards comes from the vicinity of Pińczów.

The construction companies from Świętokrzyskie are among the most dynamically developing companies in Poland.
Almost 1500 enterprises from the metal and casting industry operate in the Świętokrzyskie Region (3% of the total number of enterprises operating in this industry in Poland). The companies are usually small (with the exception of Celsa Huta Ostrowiec, Odlewnie Polskie S.A., Kingspan Sp. z o.o. and Koneckie Zakłady Odlewnicze S.A.).

30 companies out of 400 foundries in Poland are based in Świętokrzyskie (5th place in the country).

Among the 20 foundries with the highest net income in Poland, 2 are situated in the Świętokrzyskie Region: Odlewnie Polskie S.A. and Koneckie Zakłady Odlewnicze S.A.

Almost 6% of Polish casting production comes from Świętokrzyskie.

The metal and casting industry amounts to 30% of the value of the export in Świętokrzyskie. 95% of the production is exported to European countries, mainly to Germany (about 24%).
Świętokrzyskie boasts rich agricultural traditions. This region is one of the biggest producers of field vegetables (carrots, beetroots, cucumbers and tomatoes) in Poland, as well as of vegetables grown under shelter (3rd place).

Świętokrzyskie also specializes in growing fruits, such as apples, pears, plums, sour cherries and cherries. It has the second largest area of fruit trees growing in Poland (36.9 thousand ha). Additionally, the region boasts significant areas of fruit bushes growing, including strawberries (3.7 thousand ha, 2nd place in Poland) and currants (2.4 thousand ha, 5th place).

Organic farming, agritourism and culinary tourism are the sectors that are developing dynamically. Świętokrzyskie is a member of European Network of Culinary Heritage.

The sector of food processing is developing dynamically.
High quality of the goods and services offered by the companies of Świętokrzyskie attracts buyers from numerous countries all over the world. Our main business partners are: Germany, Great Britain, Ukraine, Italy and France.

Huge economic attractiveness and favourable investment climate attract investors. The companies from Great Britain, France, Germany, Japan, Belgium and the USA are among the biggest foreign investors in Świętokrzyskie.
The Świętokrzyskie Region has always been an inspiration for artists, writers and regionalists. Characteristic shapes of the Świętokrzyskie Mountains, shadows of the Fir Forest, picturesque stripes of fields on the rolling Kielce Upland, green plains of the Ponidzie, loess bluffs of the Sandomierz Land, valleys of the Vistula, Pilica, Kamienna and Nida rivers create the harmony of colours, shapes and landscapes. Magnificent monuments and valuable architectural ensembles complement the Region’s potential of nature.

Świętokrzyskie also inspires to changes. The Region occupies one of top places in the national Investment Ranking of Regions which have made the most significant progress in infrastructure investments. Cities and towns have changed their image, communication accessibility has improved, new investment areas have been established and new jobs in companies have been created.

New business facilities have been created in the Kielce Technology Park and in the Regional Science-Technology Centre in Podzamcze Chęcińskie. The Kielce University of Technology and the Jan Kochanowski University in Kielce develop dynamically. Targi Kielce, Exhibition & Congress Centre is a leading expo organiser in that part of Europe.

There are also tremendous changes in the regional tourist infrastructure – numerous modern hotel facilities and tourist attractions are established. The JuraPark Bałtów, Mineral Pools Solec-Zdrój, European Fairytale Centre in Pacanów and Świętokrzyski Archeo-Geological Trail occupy a significant position on the regional tourist map. Health resorts: Busko-Zdrój and Solec-Zdrój experience true investment boom.

The Świętokrzyskie Region is worth visiting to identify your own inspiration source.