

2.2.1. Pieniny National Park⁵

The Pieniny Mountain Range is a popular tourist region in the Malopolskie voivodship. It is divided into: Spiskie Pieniny, Małe Pieniny and Pieniny Właściwe — they are characterised of its varied and complicated geological structure.

The most famous tourist attraction of the Spiskie Pieniny is a ravine of the Bialka river as well as Obłazowa Skąła with one of the oldest Polish caves with human traces from before 18 thousands years.

The highest peak of the Pieniny mountains, Wysoka (1050 m above the sea level) is found in the Małe Pieniny. Large number of tourists visit also Biała Woda and Homole gorges, which are placed on the area of nature reserves. Admission charge for entering both is required.

The most attractive part of the Pieniny Mountain Range, Pieniny Właściwe, has been legally protected. **In 2007 75 years were passed from the establishment of the Pieniny National Park.** “National Park in Pieniny” as a special unit of the State Forests was established on 1 June 1932 and covered area of 756 ha (of which 500 ha of forests). At the same time on the strength of the Polish-Czechoslovakian agreements, the rules of the nature protection as well as of tourist traffic in Pieniny were established and the international (second worldwide) nature protection area was created. It included the National Park in Pieniny and the reserve on Czechoslovakian side; ceremonial opening took place on 11 July 1932.

On the 1 January 1955 Pieniny National Park was established, increasing its own area to 2231 ha. After legal changes conducted in 1996, now, the Park covers the area of 2346 ha (forest complexes cover 70% of area; 750 ha of area are strictly protected). The Park is surrounded by the 2682 ha of buffer zone.

In the immediate neighbourhood of the Park there is its Slovakian equivalent — Pieninský národný park (PIENAP), established on 1 January 1967, covering the area of 37,49 km².

Although the area of Pieniny National Park is not big it protects ca. 1100 species of vascular plants (almost half of those plant species occurring in Poland) as well as rare butterflies and birds. Flora of Pieniny mountains is characterised of its richness and variety.

More than 700 thousand tourists visit Pieniny National Park every year (over 640 thousand in 2005 and 760 thousand in 2006). In calculation per 1 ha of the park's area it constitutes the highest ratio of tourist traffic intensity on the area of national parks in Poland.

The biggest tourist attractions are: tourist trails in Pieniny and Małe Pieniny, Biała Woda and Homole gorges in Małe Pieniny, the “Dunajec” castle in Niedzica, the ruins of castle in Czorsztyn (visited by more than 110 thousand tourists in 2006) as well as ruins of the Pieniny Castle (partly restored and prepared for visitors), monastery in Czerwony Klasztor, historical centre development in Krościenko and Szczawnica as well as the rafting along the Dunajec ravine.

In the immediate neighbourhood of the Park there are tourist shelters as well as numerous boarding houses and private lodgings in Czorsztyn, Krościenko, Niedzica and Szczawnica.

On the Park's area there is 25 kilometers of marked routes for pedestrian tourists, who most often visit scenic peaks of Pieniny mountains: Trzy Korony (982 m above the sea level) and Sokolica (747 m above the sea level) — where the entrance is charged.

For motorized tourists in the neighbourhood of the Park there is a lot of parking lots, the biggest are situated in: Niedzica, Czorsztyn Nadzamcze, Sromowce Wyżne Kąty (near the rafting marina), in Sromowce

⁵ Compiled on the basis of: the Regulation of the Minister of Agriculture, dated 23 May 1932 regarding establishment from the Pieniny reserve a special organizational unit called “National Park in Pieniny” [being in force since 1 June 1932] (the Polish Monitor No. 123, item 156); the Regulation of the Council of Ministers, dated 30 October 1954 regarding establishment of the Pieniny National Park [being in force since 1 January 1955] (Journal of Laws from 1955 No. 4, item 24), the Regulation of the Council of Ministers, dated 14 May 1996 regarding Pieniny National Park (Journal of Laws No. 64, item 307); Chronicles of the Pieniny National Park in 1929-1932 [in:] Pieniny. Nature, human, vol.1:1992, PNP; Jan Tyszkiewicz, Legal acts, conferences, celebrations connected with establishment of the National Park in Pieniny; Kazimierz Zarzycki, Roman Marcinek, Sławomir Wróbel, “Pieniny National Park”, editorial series: Meetings with nature, “Multico” Press, Warsaw 2003; Józef Nyka, Pieniny. The Guidebook (edition IV), Trawers Press, Warsaw 1995; Pieniny National Park official website <http://www.pieniny.pn.pl/>

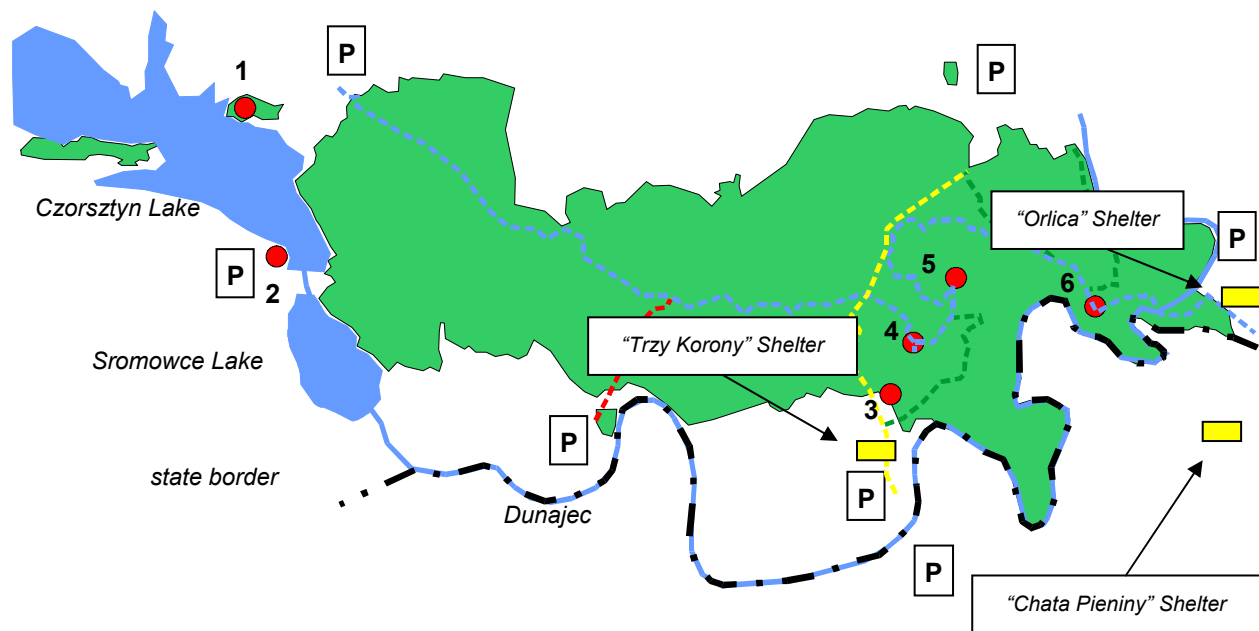
Niżne, in Szczawnica Niżna (near the rafting marina), on the Snozka pass (near the Władysław Hasior's "playing organs", in Krościenko as well as in the Slovak's Czerwony Klasztor.

For skiers, close to the Park, there are few big ski stations, among others: Ski Station "Czorsztyn-Ski" (on the Wdżar mountain; geographically situated in Gorce mountains, but touristy connected with Pieniny), Ski Station Palenica-Szafranówka (yearly opened chair-lift), ski lifts in Jaworki, in Polana Sosny in Niedzica as well as in Krościenko.

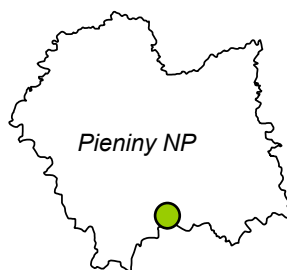
Surroundings of Czorsztyn and Niedzica are adopted for water tourism: on the Czorsztyn Lake there is a few guarded watering-places, sandy beach beneath the castle in Niedzica; on season tourists can cruise the lake with ship, and between Czorsztyn and Niedzica operates motorboat connection.

One of the biggest natural and landscape attractions is a ravine of the Dunajec river. It can be cruised by rafts, bikes or on foot through Pieniny route on the Slovakian bank of the Dunajec river.

SCHEME OF DEPLOYMENT OF SELECTED TOURIST ATTRACTIONS IN THE PIENINY NATIONAL PARK



- 1 – Ruins of the castle in Czorsztyn
- 2 – Castle "Dunajec" in Niedzica
- 3 – Szopczański Ravine
- 4 – Trzy Korony Peak (982 meters above the sea level)
- 5 – Ruins of the "Pieniny Castle"
- 6 – Sokolica Peak (787 meters above the sea level)



 Tourist trails

 Parking lots