



# Karkonosze National Park

## I love these mountains



[karkonoski.ppn.gov.pl](http://karkonoski.ppn.gov.pl)

Kocioł Wielkiego Stawu  
photo by Maciej Gontarek



Ezarny Kociol Jagniatkowski  
photo:By Maciej Gontarek

## Karkonosze National Park

The Karkonosze National Park protects the highest part of the Sudetes along with their highest peak – Śnieżka. There certainly is a reason for this mountain to have such a name (which can be translated as “snowball”), because there is always a lot of snow in the Karkonosze Mountains. The peak of Śnieżka extends far above the forestless mountain plains, called the table-like top, overgrown with vegetation resembling the Arctic tundra. Below, the slopes of the Karkonosze Mountains (also called the Giant Mountains) descend steeply into rocky cirques. Thousands of years ago, these cirques were filled with glaciers, today charming mountain ponds can be found in two of them. The National Park extends down to the foothills. The lowest part of it is Mount Chojnik. It is crowned with a medieval castle situated on granite rocks. Such rocks are one of the characteristic elements of the Karkonosze landscape.





Campanula bohemica  
photo by Maciej Gontarek



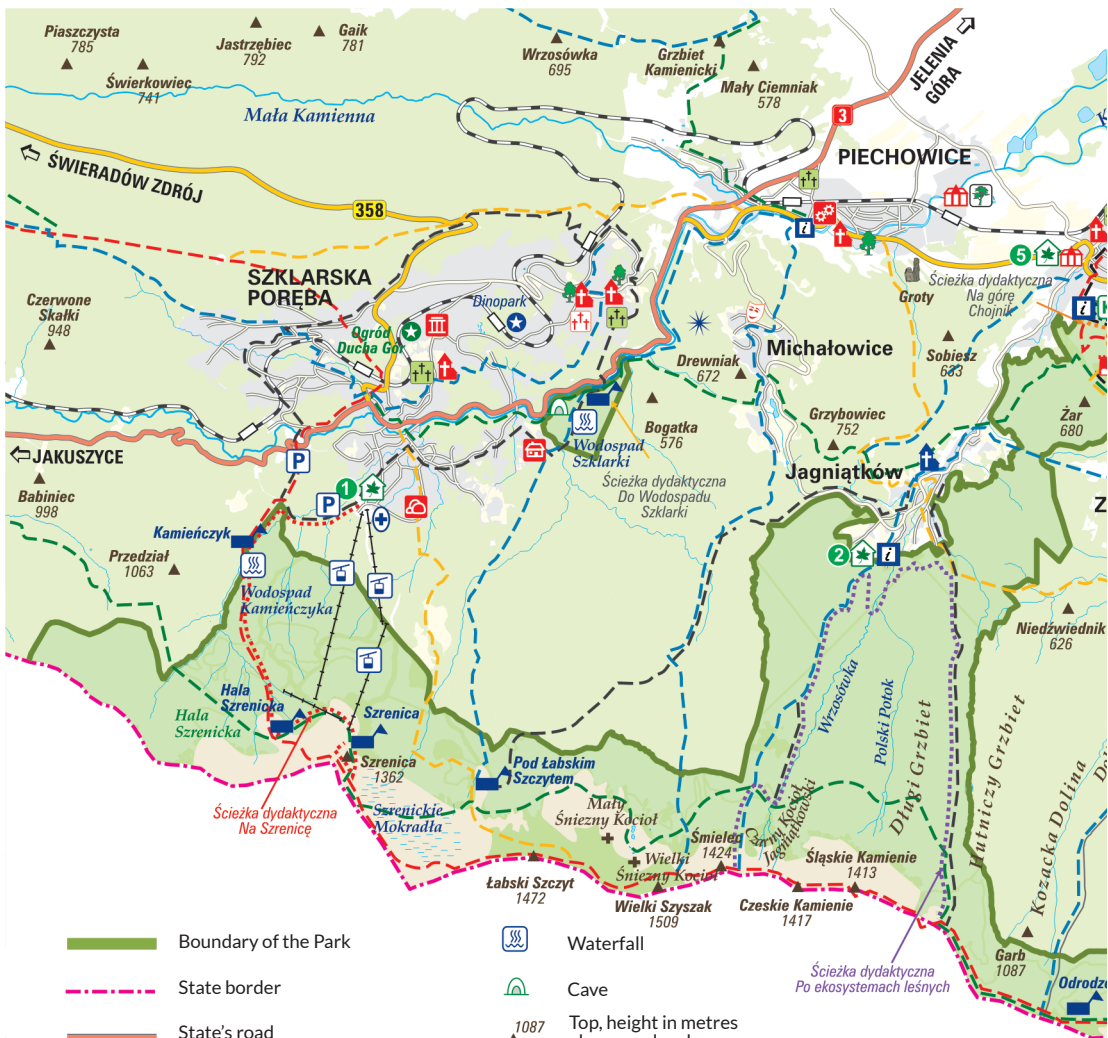
Willow gentian  
photo by Maciej Gontarek

## Our logo

The logo of the KNP includes components of both animate and inanimate nature. In the foreground, there are two plant species – Campanula bohemica on the left, and willow gentian on the right. There is the highest peak of the Karkonosze and Sudetes Mountains – Śnieżka in the background. Even though Campanula bohemica is an inconspicuous plant (reaching only 40 cm in height), it is endemic to the Giant Mountains. Walking around the KNP, we can run across it mainly in the mountain pastures (Szrenicka, Złotówka and Polana). Unfortunately, its number is declining due to the cessation of traditional hay and pasture farming. In order to preserve it, similarly to other rare species, it is cultivated in the Living Gene Bank in Jagniątków. Śnieżka is made mainly of metamorphic rocks called hornfels, and on the west (at its base) of granite. There is a specific climate at the top,

similar to that beyond the polar circle. Alpine vegetation developed at lower altitudes. Due to its location and shape, it is a great place to study climate change. Local impacts on the climate are minimised here almost to zero. On Śnieżka, you can observe meteorological phenomena rarely found elsewhere, such as St. Elmo's fire, Brocken spectre, or glory.





Boundary of the Park

State border

State's road

Provincial road

Other roads

Unpaved road, path

Forest within the park

Forest outside the park

Non-forest ecosystems

Hiking trails

Educational-nature path

Park Administration Office

Station of Volunteer Mountain Rescue Service (GOPR)

Waterfall

Cave

Top, height in metres above sea level

Scenic point

Mountain hostel

Tourist information

Ski jumping hill

Church; historic church

Castle; castle ruins

Palace

Nature Monument

Historic park

Cemetery; Evangelical cemetery

Walloons' Hut

Mineralogical Museum

Giant Mountains Museum

JULIA Glassworks

Natural History Museum

Museum of Toys

Theatre

CZECH REPUBLIC

# Karkonosze National Park



Ścieżka dydaktyczna  
Polodowcowe dziedzictwo  
Karkonoszy

-  Educational centres:
-  Karkonosze Centre of Environmental Education
-  Living Gene Bank
-  Hunting Lodge
-  Information Centre of the Park
-  Museum and Education Centre

## What is worth visiting?



### Karkonosze Centre of Ecological Education

📍 ul. Okrzei 28, 58-580 Szklarska Poręba

🕒 from January to October:

9 a.m. - 4 p.m.

in December: 9 a.m. - 3 p.m.

Closed: all November, on 24-26 December and 6 January

☎ +48 75 717 21 24

🆓 Free of charge

♿ Yes



### Information Centre of the Karkonosze National Park

📍 ul. Leśna 9, 58-540 Karpacz

🕒 January, February, June, July, August:

Tuesday-Saturday: 9 a.m. - 4 p.m.

March, April, May, September, October, December:

Monday - Friday: 9 a.m. - 4 p.m.

Closed: all November, on 24-26 December and 6 January

☎ +48 75 700 00 08

🆓 Free of charge

♿ Yes



### Hunting Lodge

📍 ul. Na Śnieżkę, 58-540 Karpacz

🕒 od lipca do sierpnia -

Tuesday-Sunday: 10 a.m. - 4 p.m.

in June and September:

Tuesday-Sunday: 10 a.m. - 3 p.m.

other months:

Friday-Sunday: 10 a.m. - 3 p.m.

Closed: all November, on 24-26 December and 6 January

☎ +48 75 717 21 24

🆓 Free of charge

♿ No



### Karkonosze Gene Bank

📍 ul. Myśliwska 9a, 58-570 Jelenia Góra -

Jagniątków

🕒 Tuesday is an open day - individual tourists are

invited to visit the garden in the company of an

employee: 7.30 a.p.m - 3.30 p.m.

☎ +48 75 717 21 24

🆓 Free of charge

♿ No

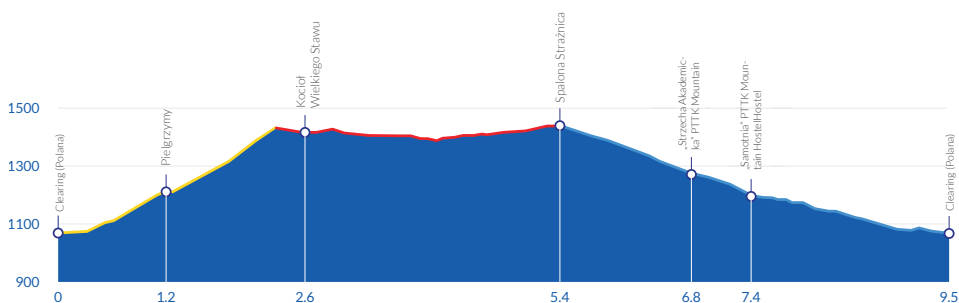




## Nature path around the cirques of Wielki Staw and Mały Staw

 8,5 km
 

 Time: about 5-6 hours







The nature path around Kocioł Wielkiego Stawu and Kocioł Małego Stawu allows you to see one of the most beautiful parts of the KNP. On your way, you get to know the richness of the world of plants forming the plant layers of the Karkonosze Mountains. Their composition changes along with an increase in altitude: from the lower and upper subalpine forest to the subalpine layer. Observing them, you can find traces of human activity from the 19th and 20th centuries.

The beginning of the path is located in Polana where you can get to from Karpacz along the green trail from the Biały Jar bus stop or following the blue trail from the Wang Church. Then, we follow the yellow trail in the direction of groups of

rocks called Pielgrzymy (pilgrims) and Słonecznik (sunflower). After reaching them, we go along the red trail leading over the edges of Kocioł Wielkiego Stawu and Kocioł Małego Stawu, towards the crossroads near Spalona Strażnica. From there, you can go for a well-deserved rest to the Strzecha Akademicka or Samotnia mountain shelters located on the blue trail. Following the blue trail, we will reach the “Hunting Lodge” and further to Polana from where, following the green trail through the Płaszawa Valley, we will reach the end of the path.

When planning your hike, take into account the weather conditions. The safest period is from April to September. Hiking the trail in winter requires the use of appropriate ski equipment.

### Tourist trails:

-  Hiking – 27 trails – 132 km
-  Biking – 5 trails – 22.1 km
-  Horse riding – 3 trails – 12.8 km
-  Skiing – 20 trails – 83.9 km backcountry skiing and ski touring, and 8 km downhill race and snowboard

### Educational trails:

- 10 trails – 80.6 km
- 2 trails with a length of 1.66 km adapted to the needs of people in wheelchairs.



Bluethroat  
photo by Krzysztof Żarkowski



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Issue: August 2022

English version founded by



National Fund  
for Environmental Protection  
and Water Management



European  
Funds  
Infrastructure and Environment



Polish  
National  
Parks

European Union  
Cohesion Fund



The brochure has been developed as part of the POIS.02.04.00-00-0001/15 project "Promotion of National Parks as a brand"