

why it is worth



to know
Knurów



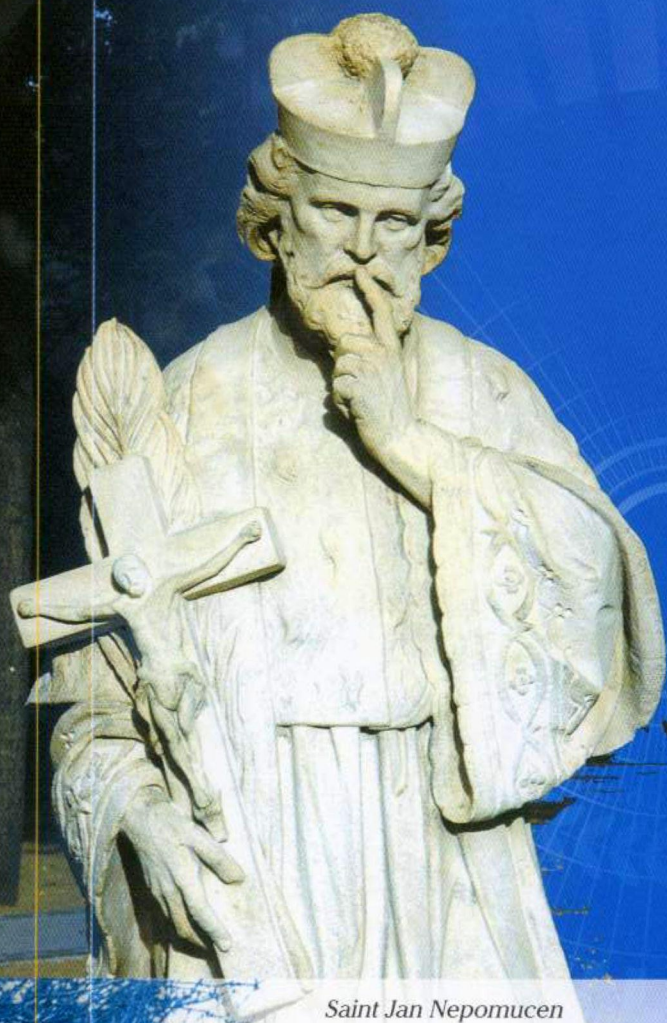
History

The origins of Knurów date back over 700 years. The first mentions of the settlement were made at the turn of the 14th century, when Knurów and the surrounding villages constituted a part of a knight's estate. Over the centuries Knurów and the land of Gliwice was incorporated into many different states. It was for a short time under sovereignty of the Czech crown, later the Habsburg dynasty, and in the 18th century it became the part of the Kingdom of Prussia.

Significant development was brought to Knurów at the end of the 19th century with the industrial boom and the discovery of coal deposits. The road and railway networks were expanded, and in the vicinity of factories, public facilities and labourers' settlements were constructed, which until today has continued to represent the style of patronage settlements so characteristic of Upper Silesia. In 1921 Knurów was incorporated in the resurrecting Polish state.

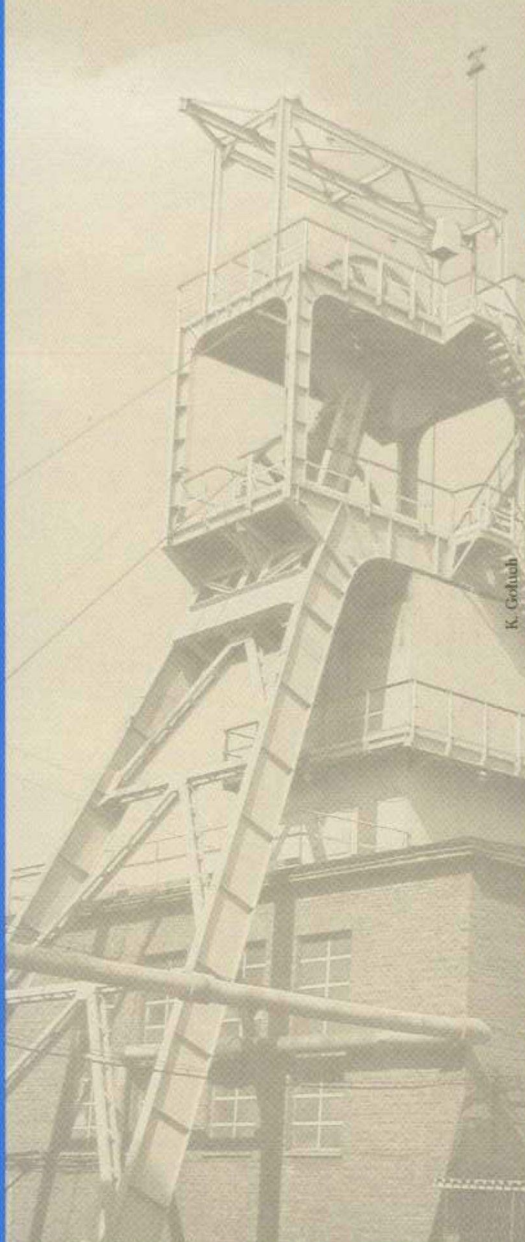
In early 1951 Knurów was awarded township rights, which marked the beginning of a new chapter in its history. The town slowly expanded and refurbished existing industrial plants, built new residential quarters and sport & leisure facilities. Following the regime change after 1989, Knurów remodelled its image once again - this time as an important and competitive service centre and the place to live and do business. Nevertheless, private companies and a strong sector of financial services did not eliminate the traditional mining industry, which is represented by two prosperous coal mines: KWK Knurów and KWK Szczygłowiec.





Saint Jan Nepomucen





K. Grotlich



Centrum Kultury

Jubilee of the folk troupe „Wrazidloki“

The industrialisation of Knurów contributed to the development of specific Silesian culture associated with mining. Deeply-rooted traditions are represented by the annual beer pub festival and the holiday of Barbara (Barbórka) – the miners' patroness – observed every 4th December. Apart from that, the town is famous for the Knurów Coal Mine brass band, which stages concerts both in Poland and abroad. The orchestra boasts a history of over 100 years. An equally important role in cultivating history and local traditions rests the children's folk troupe iWRAZIDLOKIfi.

Surroundings

Knurów is an integral part of the land of Gliwice, being also the largest town in the Gliwice Rural District. The immediate surroundings are composed of a picturesque landscape with both historical and natural assets. Wooden churches, medieval castles and mysterious nooks veiled in legends are places worth visiting. Knight tournaments, festivals and events showing traditional rites connected to the land's agricultural history are just few of the attractions. Apart from the castles, history lovers can visit the numerous memorial houses and museums or explore the historic Railway Heritage Park. In the summer days bicycle tours through the natural environment to the nearby lakes and ponds are highly recommended.

Starostwo Powiatowe Gliwice

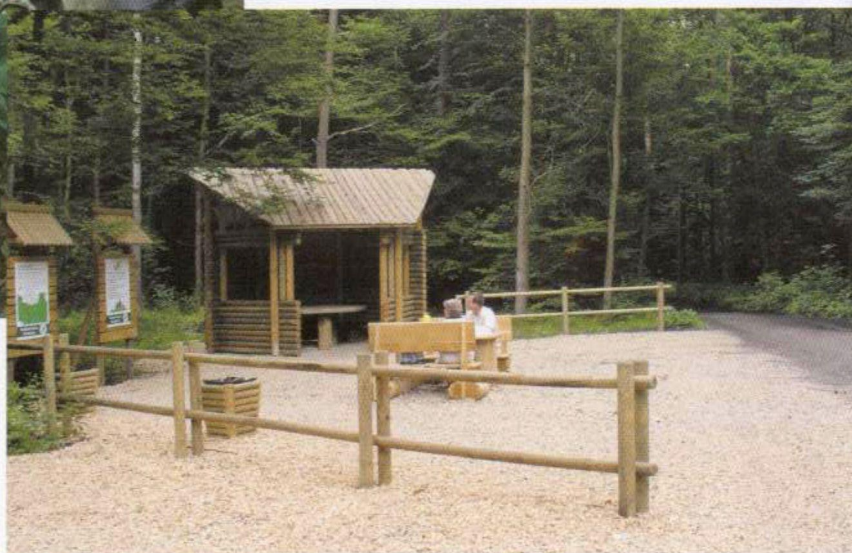


Knights' tournament at Chudowa Castle

Starostwo Powiatowe Gliwice



„Cyraneczka“ hunter's group at a hunt



Educational path



*Historic palace
in Wielowieś*

Starostwo Powiatowe Gliwice

Many corners
of the town's picturesque surroundings
have not been discovered yet,
so it is worthwhile to set out
for the unknown.



Przełęcz Lokalny

Sailing competition

*„Zacisze Leśne (Forest Refuge)“
pond in Knurów*



Wizualizacja GDDKiA



A1 motorway junction under construction in Knurów



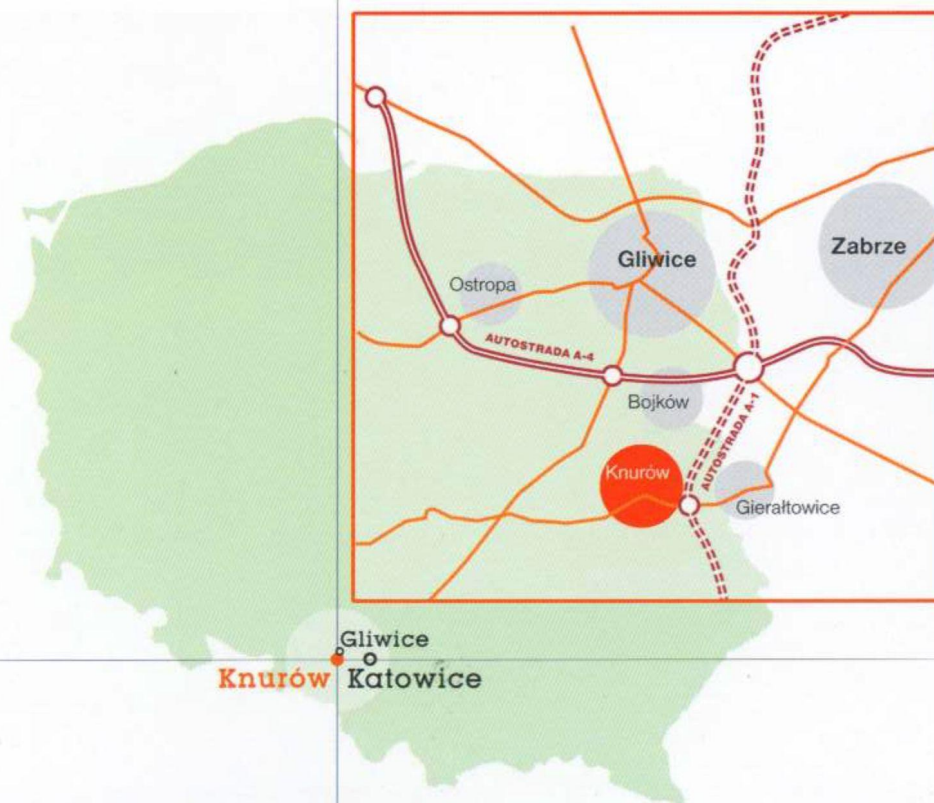
K. Krzemieński



L o c a t i o n

Knurów is situated in southern Poland and lies in the middle of the Silesian region. Its location is favourable not only for its proximity to the intersection of two international highways: the east-west A4 and the north-south A1 (currently under construction), which can be accessed directly from the town, but also for the neighbouring cities of Gliwice and Rybnik - two large industrial and service centres with an extensive technical and scientific background. Knurów is only 35 kilometres

(22 miles) away from Katowice, the capital of the Silesian Province. The border crossing in Chałupki to the Czech Republic and the international airport at Pyrzowice are also close at hand. The town of Knurów including the districts of Krywałd and Szczygłowice is inhabited by a total of 42 thousand and covers an area of 34 square kilometres (13 square miles).



I n v e s t m e n t s

The most important factor that stimulates the town's economic growth is investment. Several ventures have been completed in Knurów over the past few years to improve the living conditions of its inhabitants. Among the most significant is the reconstruction of the road network including connecting the town's northern districts with the national Gliwice-Rybnik road. This provided Knurów with direct access to international communication tracks, including the A4 motorway. At the same time, construction of the A1 motorway junction is in progress. The road will pass through Knurów towards the Czech border. One of the results of opening up the town's northern districts to the motorway is obtaining 16 hectares, or 37 acres, for investment. This area was included in the Katowice Special Economic Zone, which offers several tax breaks to potential

K. Krzeminski



investors. Apart from investing in the development of its road network, Knurów is focused on continuously increasing its residential real estate, both detached houses and condominiums. For this purpose the town acquired shares in a company specialising in residential development, which is constructing a number of projects not only in Knurów itself. However, the largest investment task yet ahead is to amend its sewerage infrastructure. The plans that were drawn up include the construction and modernisation of the sewer and drainage systems and will allow the town to meet the technical requirements for environmental protection set by the European Union Accession Treaty. Naturally, the investments made by

P. Barchanski



„aQuaRelax“
indoor swimming pool

Knurów are not limited to infrastructure alone. The educational, sports and cultural base is systematically being upgraded. All schools in town were modernised for thermal efficiency. Work has begun on designing a new sports field complex for schoolchildren to complement the existing sports facilities, including a sports hall and two modern indoor swimming pools. Knurów also plans to expand its video monitoring system in the near future, enlarge and modernise the House of Culture, which focuses numerous associations and art groups, and clean up degraded urban and post-industrial land.

wizualizacja: prac. arch. „Venit”



Planned row house development

wizualizacja: prac. arch. „Venit”



Planned condominium development

Beside the efforts made by the town of Knurów, economic development also depends on the number and scope of investments by entities independent of the local authorities. The most important ventures with private equity participation include the modern, environmentally friendly city dump that is fully operational. Two housing co-operatives have a strong position in the town, managing over a half of the entire residential space in Knurów between them.

wizualizacja: prac. arch. „DIG Sowiński”



Tenement houses under construction by the Social Construction Company

Real estate managed by the LWSM housing co-operative

K. Góduch



Knurów's cultural life is strongly diversified. Traditional Silesian culture remains the prevailing style, represented by the children's folk troupe „WRAZIDLOKI“ that receives numerous awards in nation-wide contests, as well as the Knurów Coal Mine brass band, which boasts a history in excess of 100 years. The town is also home to numerous groups of interest that consociate amateurs of local culture who keep up Knurów's traditions. Their work resulted in establishing the Chamber of Mining Traditions, which is also an unofficial museum.

The town's contemporary image is mainly created by majorettes performing spectacular dance choreography as well as other song and dance groups including rock, hip-hop and breakdance artists. One of the outstanding groups is the theatre troupe „Gwiazdki“ („Stars“) composed of mentally impaired children and youth. Those sensitive to beauty and art are attracted by the sculptures of Marek Śpiewła, who specialises in carving coal.

Inside the Mining Tradition Chamber



A concert by Boney M. during the Days of Knurów

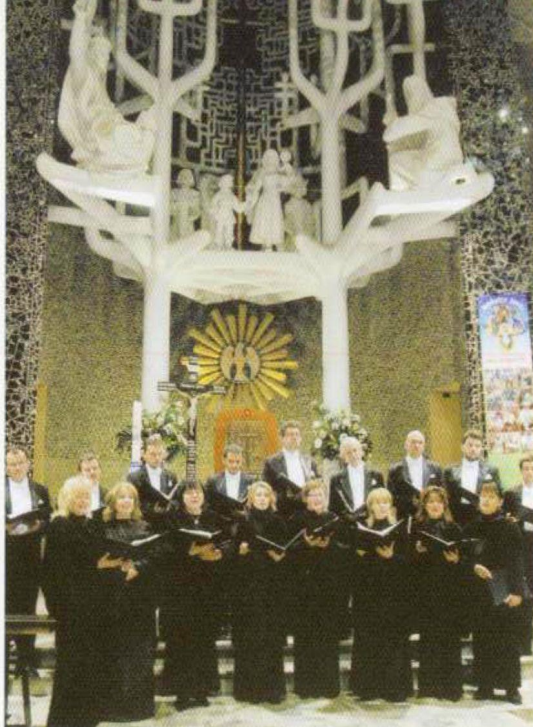
Przełęcz Lokalny



Przełęcz Lokalny



*Schola Cantorum
choir performance*



Przegląd Lokalny

Slavica Musa choir performance

Classical music is the domain of the choirs „Schola Cantorum“ and „Animato“, the chamber choir „Slavica Musa“ and the men's choir „Calvi Cantores“. Tenor Adam Sobierajski developed his musical interests in „Schola Cantorum“ before performing on Polish and foreign opera stages.

The town's cultural offer is complemented by its sports activities led by the „Concordia“ football club, an organisation with over 80-year history. Its best known player is the renowned goalkeeper Jerzy Dudek - triumphant in the Master's League and presently playing for Real Madrid.

Przegląd Lokalny



Przegląd Lokalny



from top:

Jerzy Dudek and friends

Junior boxing competition

Weightlifting competition



Notable is the Football Academy, which has been established in 2006 and works with the youngest sports apprentices. Over the past few years the schoolchildren's sports club „Eugen“ achieved considerable success, its contestants repeatedly winning Polish Championship prizes in weightlifting. The club's founder and patron is Eugeniusz Mehlich, who won the 1999 world championship in the masters category. The boxing sports club „Concordia“ resumed its activities and its junior athletes are successful in national contests.

Przebieg Lokalny



Jasełka w Dmu Kultury w Szczygłowicach

K. Góluś



In the sports field, Knurów is also famed by members of the Amateur Runners Club, who participated in marathon runs in New York, Melbourne and Rome. In July 2000 they were part of the Katowice-Bethlehem relay run. The Voluntary Water Rescue Service based in Knurów is among the best in Poland, having won the Silesian championship in water rescue eight times. Its members include Joanna Saternus-Bielak, winner of the 2005 summer and winter Silesian water rescue championships.

The social activities of Knurów's inhabitants are also notable. Therapeutic workshops for mentally and physically impaired persons are conducted by the Katowice Archdiocese Caritas. The workshops focus on tasks such as social and professional rehabilitation aimed at improving the agility and developing every participant in general, which is indispensable for an independent, active life in the community. Knurów also hosts the Small Family Gardens organisation, the Polish Scouting and Guiding Association and the Association of Small Livestock Lovers, which organises various exhibitions.

Przebiegłd Lokalny



Marathon relay

Przebiegłd Lokalny



K. Górnuch



Beachball competition

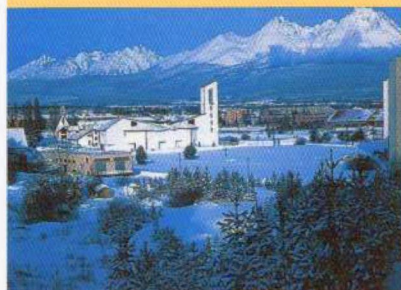
International co-operation

Knurów initiated actions aimed at establishing international contacts more than 10 years ago. As a result, two official agreements were signed with European towns: Kazincbarcika in Hungary and the Slovakian Svit.

Knurów established dialogue with its Hungarian partner in 1996, expanding co-operation from year to year. Apart from the now traditional annual visits by delegates from the acquainted towns on holiday and festive occasions, the towns' co-operation materialises as common cultural, educational, sports and social initiatives and projects attended by inhabitants and representatives of non-governmental organisations from both towns. Knurów's co-operation with Svit in Slovakia dates back to the year 2000 and encompasses similar activities.



*Partner town
Kazincbarcika*



Partner town Svit

Calvi Cantores choir performance at the Days of Knurów festival



Disseminating the ideas of European unity and integration is one of the more significant aspects of our towns' co-operation. It spurred a common project within the EU's Town-Twinning programme: „Citizens' Meetings - the role of youth in building local democracy“ (part A) and „Cultural Identity of EU Countries“ (part B). This project was supported by a European Commission grant in 2005. Notably, two primary schools from our region participate in international school co-operation within the Socrates-Comenius programme.



Representatives of local authorities from Slovakia visiting a mine



Knurów has not limited itself to developing mutual relationships with the towns befriended to date. The next task envisaged by the local authorities is to find a partner in Western Europe, with which we would like to establish economic co-operation as well as collaboration in the field of culture, sports and social initiatives.





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