

Geography of Poland



Poland is a country in Central Europe. Generally speaking, Poland is an unbroken plain reaching from the Baltic Sea in the north to the Carpathian Mountains in the south. Within that plain, terrain variations generally run in bands from east to west. The Baltic coast lacks natural harbors except for the Gdańsk-Gdynia region and Szczecin in the far northwest. The northeastern region, called the Lake District, is densely wooded, sparsely populated and lacks agricultural and industrial resources. To the south and west of the lake district, a vast region of plains extends to the Sudetes on the Czech and Slovak borders to the southwest and to the Carpathians on the Czech, Slovak, and Ukrainian borders to the southeast.

Location in Europe



Neighbourhood of Poland



- Russia
- Lithuania
- Belarus
- Ukraine
- Slovakia
- Czech Republic
- Germany

Baltic Sea



The Baltic Sea is one of the fascinating areas in the world - with a rich history, an unspoiled nature in a safe and secure environment. Travelling is easy in this region – you can be offered all transport and accommodation facilities to explore the medieval cities, the Scandinavian metropolis, the white beaches, cliffs and huge woods.

The Baltic sea is about 1600 km long, an average of 193 km wide, and an average of 55 m deep. The maximum depth is 459 m on the Swedish side of the center. The surface area is about 377,000 km² and the volume is about 20,000 km³ (5040 cubic miles). The periphery amounts to about 8000 km of coastline.

It is bounded by the Scandinavian Peninsula, the mainland of Europe, and the Danish islands.

Polish
mountains

Holy Cross Mountains



Świętokrzyskie Mountains (Holy Cross Mountains), are a mountain range in central Poland, in the vicinity of the city of Kielce. In most parts the mountain range consists of a number of separate ranges, the highest of which is Łysogóry. The two highest peaks are Łysica at 612 meters and Łysa Góra at 593 meters.

The Świętokrzyskie Mountains are one of the oldest mountain ranges in Europe. They were formed during the Caledonian orogeny of the Silurian period and then rejuvenated in the Hercynian orogeny of the Upper Carboniferous period. 395-million-year old fossil footprints have been found in rocks formed from a prehistoric marine tidal flat in Zachełmie. The tracks are the oldest evidence of tetrapods.

From the early Middle Ages the mountains were a place of extensive copper and iron mining. Later they were also a significant site of limestone and red sandstone extraction. At present, the center part of the mountains contains the Świętokrzyski National Park.

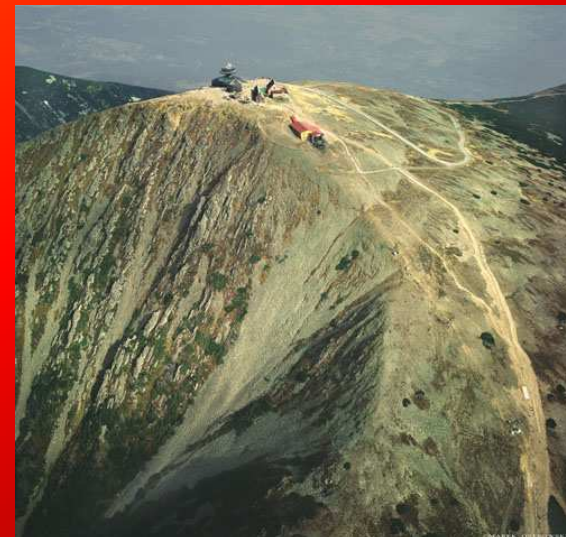
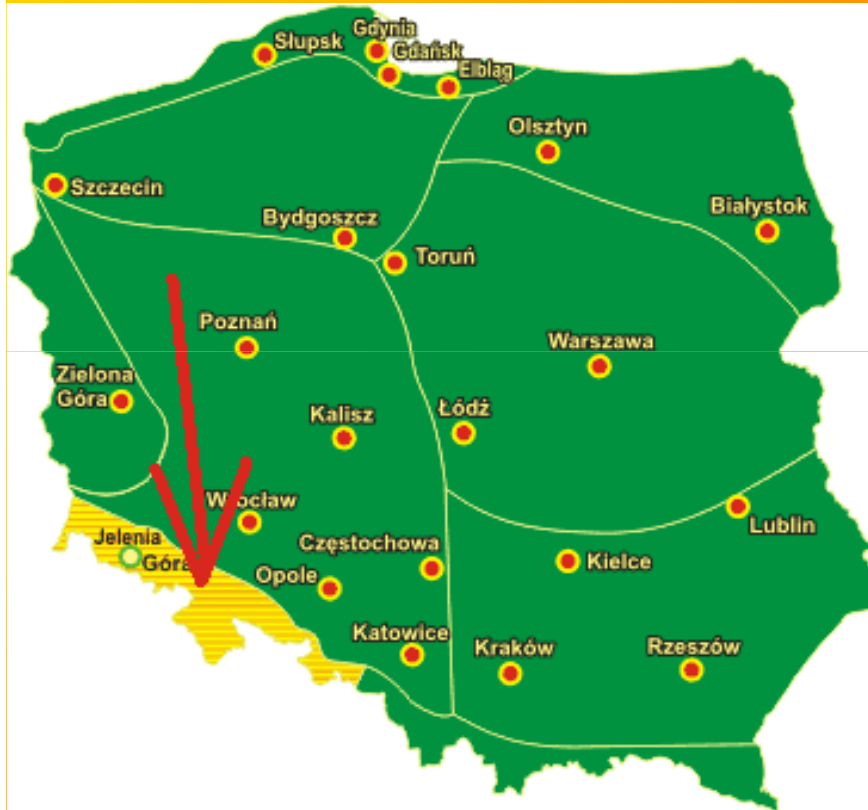
The name, Holy Cross Mountains, refers to a Christian relic from a nearby Benedictine monastery on Łysa Góra, said to be a small piece of wood from the Cross on which Jesus Christ was crucified.

Carpathian Mountains



- The Carpathian Mountains or Carpathians are a range of mountains forming an arc roughly 1,500 km long across Central and Eastern Europe, making them the largest mountain range in Europe. They provide the habitat for the largest European populations of brown bears, wolves, chamois and lynxes, with the highest concentration in Romania, as well as over one third of all European plant species.
- The chain of mountain ranges stretches in an arc from the Czech Republic (3%) in the northwest to Slovakia (17%), Poland (10%), Hungary (4%), Ukraine (11%) and Romania (55%) in the east, to the Iron Gates on the River Danube between Romania and Serbia in the south. The highest range within the Carpathians are the Tatras, on the border of Poland and Slovakia, where the highest peaks exceed 2,600 m followed by the Southern Carpathians in Romania, where the highest peaks exceed 2,500 m.
- The Carpathian chain is usually divided into three major parts: the Western Carpathians (Czech Republic, Poland, Slovakia), the Eastern Carpathians (southeastern Poland, eastern Slovakia, Ukraine, Romania), and the Southern Carpathians (Romania, Serbia).
- The most important cities in or near the Carpathians are Bratislava and Košice in Slovakia; Kraków in Poland; Cluj-Napoca, Sibiu and Braşov in Romania; and Miskolc in Hungary.

Sudetes



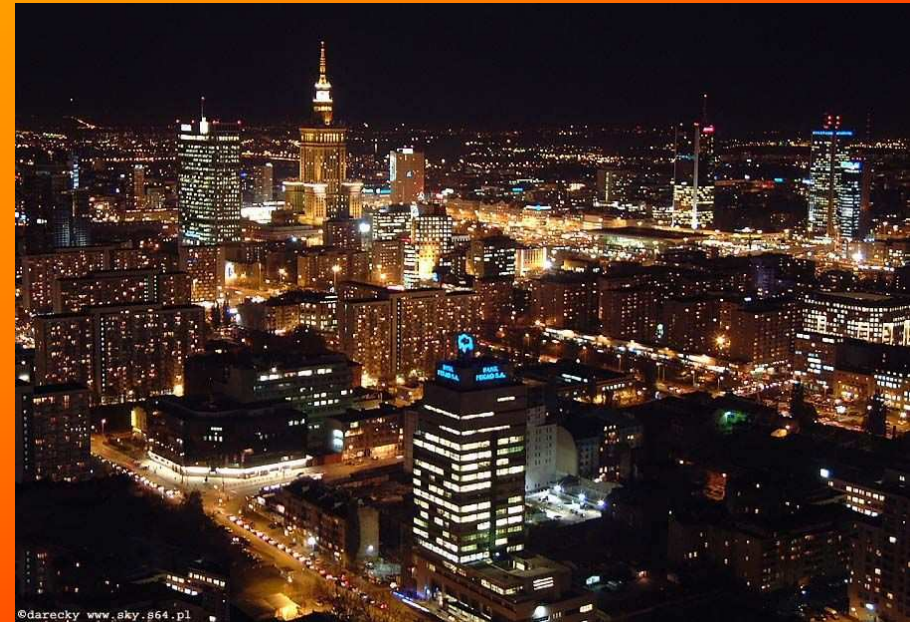
The Sudetes stretch from eastern Germany to Poland and the Czech Republic. The highest peak is Mt. Sniezka in the Karkonosze Mountains on the Czech-Polish border, which is 1,602 metres in altitude.

The Sudetes are usually divided into:

- Eastern Sudetes
- Central Sudetes
- Western Sudetes

The biggest
cities in
Poland

Warsaw



Lodz



Cracow



Wroclaw



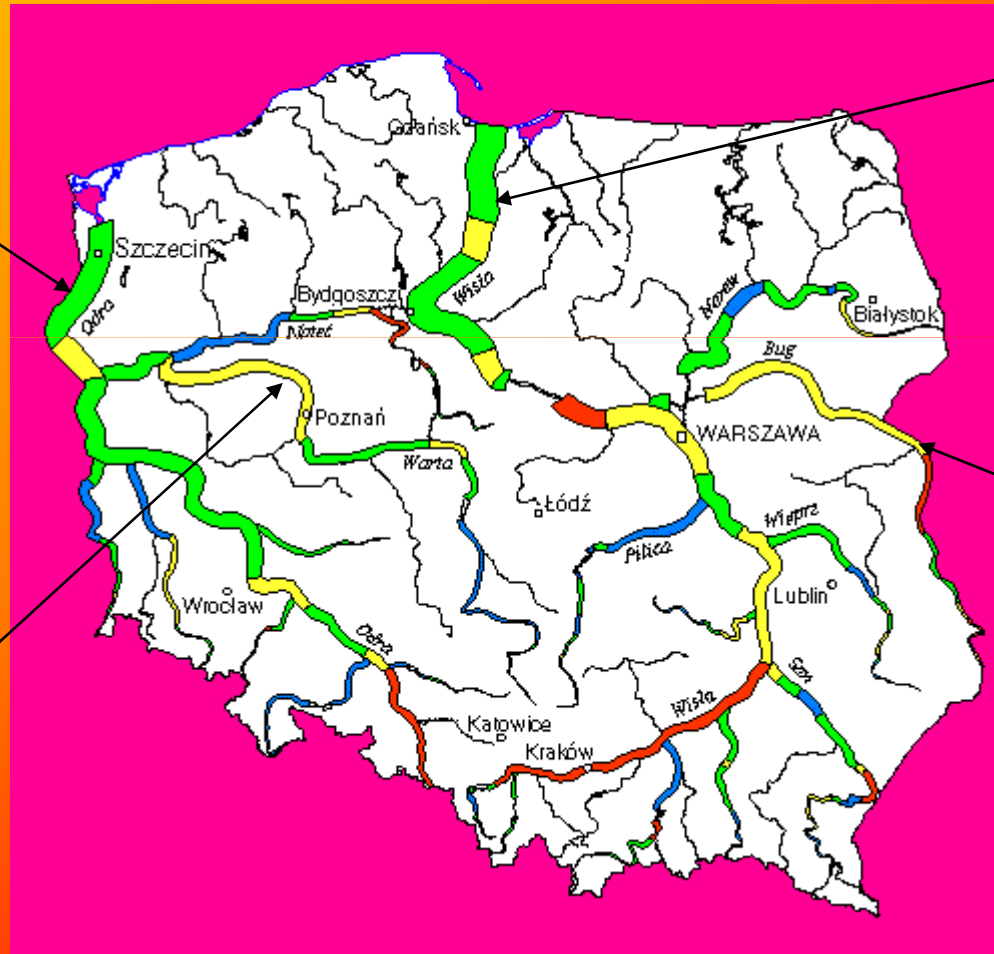
Rivers in Poland

Oder

Vistula

Warta

Bug



Climate

Poland's long-term and short-term weather patterns are made transitional and variable by the collision of diverse air masses above the country's surface.

Maritime air moves across Western Europe, Arctic air sweeps down from the North Atlantic Ocean, and subtropical air arrives from the South Atlantic Ocean. Although the Arctic air dominates for much of the year, its conjunction with warmer currents generally moderates temperatures and generates considerable precipitation, clouds, and fog. When the moderating influences are lacking, winter temperatures in mountain valleys may drop to max -20°C .

The end