

Dzierżoniów

Dzierżoniów is a town in southwestern Poland. It's situated in Lower Silesian. In the beginning, the town was known as "*Reichenbach*". German words *reich*(rich, strong) and *Bach* (stream). Dzierżoniów was founded in the twelfth century. In 1290 the town received the seal depicting St. George the dragon slayer against the wall of the town, the current coat of arms of the city. Covers an area of 20.1 km², and has a population about 35,000. It's named after Polish priest and scientist Jan Dzierżon.

The town has a lot of monuments. You can see for example:

- Defence walls, built at the end of the thirteenth century.
- The Town Hall (1268)
- The Synagogue, using by the Jewish community.
- Church of St. George (1159)

And so more.

Our town is located near the "Owl Mountain" and "Ślęża Mountain".

Ślęża is the highest peak of the Sudety foothills (718 m). Formerly known as the "Silesian Olympus", it was the center of pagan solar worship of local tribes.

The Owl Mountains are the oldest mountains in terms of building material in Poland. The highest peak of the mountains is the Great Owl which belongs to the Crown of the Polish Mountains. There is a 25-meter high stone observation tower built in 1906.

Since 1943, in the region of the Owl Mountains the Germans conducted a large-scale construction works under a common German name "Riese" ("Giant"). The construction was never completed, and there are many remains in the shape of a series of underground complexes and the ruins of the buildings on the ground still shrouded with the fog of mystery concerning its destination.

