



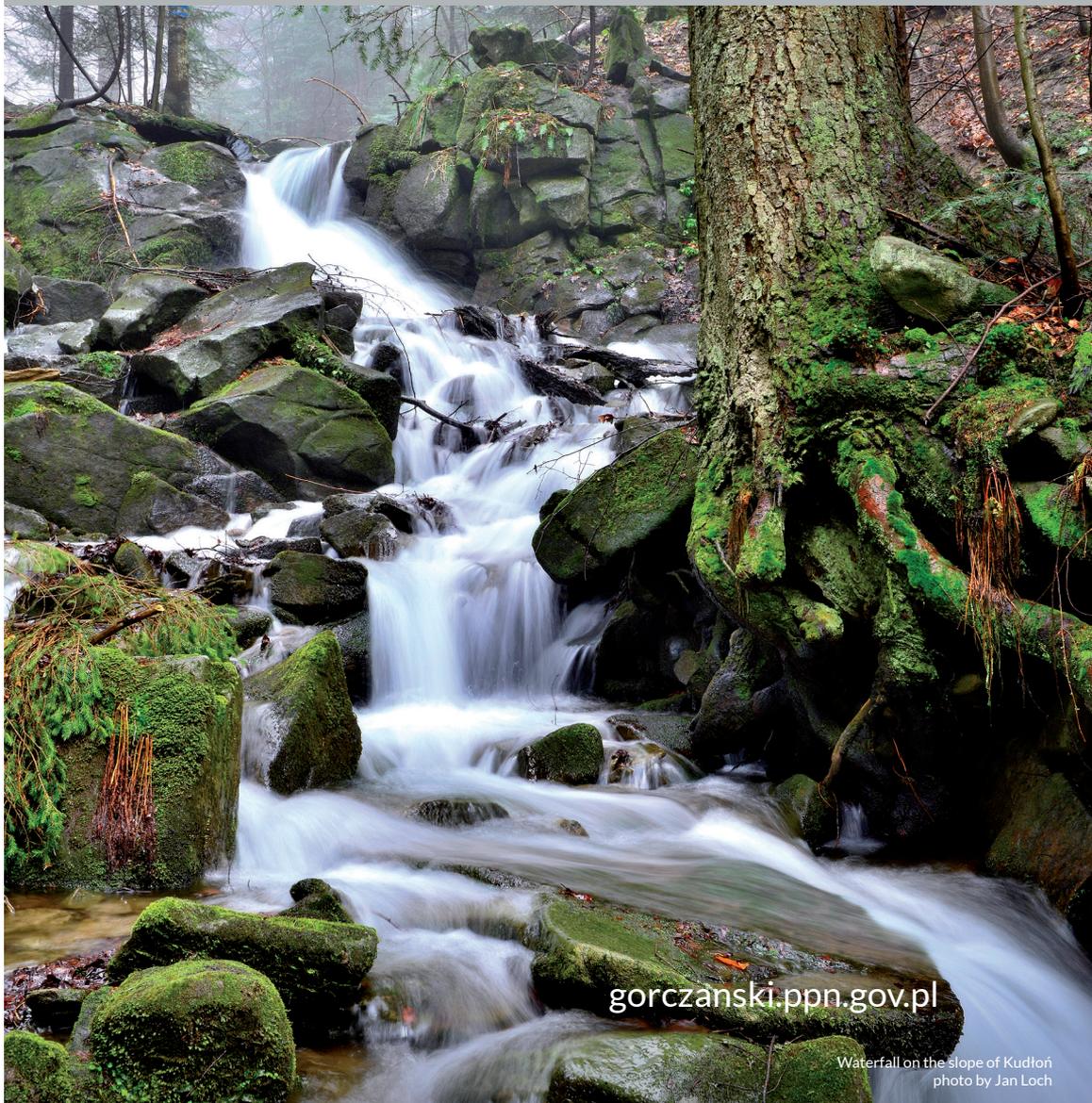
Gorczański  
Park Narodowy



Ministry of Climate  
and Environment

# Gorce National Park

## The land of the salamander



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

Waterfall on the slope of Kudłoń  
photo by Jan Loch



Fruiting cottongrass on Hala Długa  
photo by Mariola Stefaniak

## Gorce National Park

Wooded and not too high, and thus easily, though not effortlessly accessible mountains, intersected by deep stream valleys and vast ridge clearings adorned with flowers, offering beautiful views. This is how you can describe the Gorce National Park in a nutshell. The Carpathian forest fauna and flora may not be unique, but it is very well preserved in Gorce. In the protected area, wolves and lynxes find safe lairs where they can raise their offspring. They can also freely hunt for deer, wild boar and roe deer within the Park area. Meadows of Gorce are as beautiful as alpine pastures, and in spring they are full of crocuses. In some clearings, huts – a relic of the former pastoral activity, which enriches the nature and landscape of the mountains – have been preserved. The forests hide relics of the recent, dramatic history – the graves of partisans and places which served as their shelter. There is also something

in Gorce that is more and more often missing in our other mountain national parks. Peace and quiet provide a chance for personal contact with nature and looking inside yourself. This cannot be experienced on a crowded trail.





Fire salamander  
photo by Paweł Armatus

## Our logo

Since 1984, the symbol of the Gorce National Park has been the fire salamander - the largest domestic caudate amphibian. A competition for the GNP logo was announced in the *Przekrój* magazine. The author of the winning work is the artist from Łódź, Stanisław Wilczyński.

The stream valleys and numerous watercourses distinctive of the GNP are perfect places for life and breeding for salamanders. In wet deciduous and mixed mountain forests, the salamander finds refuge which is so important for it - rotting logs, earth burrows and rocky nooks. In addition to such hiding places, the salamander needs streams with clean, well-oxygenated water, where its larvae are born and develop.

The contrasting colours of the salamander, attractive to the human eye, are a warning to

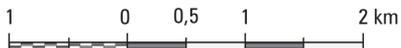
potential predators. They inform them about the presence of venom glands in the skin of the amphibian. Similarly to other amphibians, the salamander feeds on invertebrates, such as earthworms and slugs, and insect larvae. Salamanders are active at night. Sometimes, when it is wet and warm, they come out of their hideout also during the day. The fire salamander, unlike our other amphibians, mates on land. Adult individuals avoid direct contact with water, with the exception of females giving birth to larvae in a shallow, clear stream.



Gorczański  
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# National Park



- Forest within the park
- Forest outside the park
- Glade
- ▲ 810 Top, height above sea level

- Tourist trails
- Educational path
- Walking trail
- Horseriding trail
- Biking trail





PTTK Mountain Hostel on Turbacz  
photo by Marek Ruciski

## What's worth seeing?



### GNP Educational Centre and nature exhibition

- 📍 Poręba Wielka 4, 34-735 Niedźwiedź
- 🕒 The exhibition for school groups is open all year round: Tuesday-Friday: 8 a.m. - 3 p.m. Groups of up to 20 people\*

- ☎ +48 18 33 17 944
- 🎫 Paid admission\*

♿ Yes



### Manor park of Counts Wodzicki and the garden of Gorce plants in Poręba Wielka

- 📍 Poręba Wielka 4, 34-735 Niedźwiedź
- 🕒 open from dawn to dusk

- ☎ +48 18 33 17 944
- 🎫 Paid admission free\*

♿ Yes



### Mikołaj's Gamekeeper's Lodge in Łopuszna

- 📍 border of the Gorce National Park  
49°31'16.3"N 20°07'31.3"E  
49.521184, 20.125363
- 🕒 open on request in the period:  
May-October  
Groups of up to 20 people\*

- ☎ To order classes, please contact To order classes, please contact : +48 18 33 17 944
- 🎫 Paid admission\*

♿ No



### Hala Długa (Długa mountain pasture) below Turbacz

- 📍 49°32'43.6" N20°07'46.5"E  
49.545442, 20.129576

♿ No



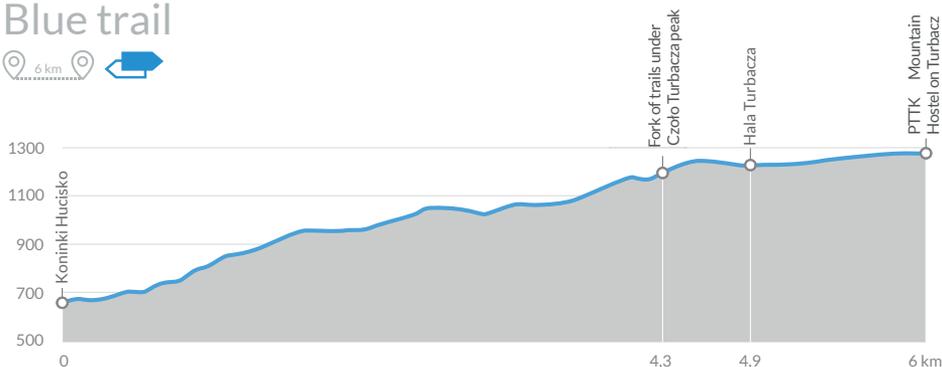
Website

\*Up-to-date information on opening hours and fees is available on the Park's website.



Blue trail to Turbacz. View of the Island Beskids  
photo by Ewa Strauchmann

## Blue trail



The most popular tourist trail in the Park is the blue trail. It leads to Turbacz, from the north – perfect for tourists who have chosen Koninki as the starting point. The route was mapped out before the First World War. It leads through the ancient stands of the former Władysław Orkan Reserve and through picturesque clearings – Szałasisko, Średnie and Hala Turbacz, which in summer attract attention with lush vegetation, especially during the flowering of meadows. The *Veratrum lobelianum* and willow gentian stand out for their magnificence.. There are many historical tokens on the blue trail, e.g. a

mysterious inscription carved in the rock at Czoło Turbacza, described by Władysław Orkan and Kazimierz Sosnowski. There is a vast view of the Island Beskids, the surrounding of the Turbacz massif and the Kamienica valley from the very top of Czoło Turbacza.

In some sections, the trail is demanding, especially steep ascents to Średnie and Czoło Turbacza.

### Tourist trails:

-  Hiking – 14 trails - 64 km
-  Biking – 8 trails - 62 km
-  Walking – 8 trails - 42 km
-  Horse riding – 8 trails - 67 km

### Educational paths:

10 trails - 53 km

Tourists with reduced mobility can visit the educational trail “Kamienica River Valley” (stage I) and a fragment of the nature path “Manor park of Counts Wodzicki and Mount Chabówka.”

The nature exhibition in the GNP Educational Centre in Poręba Wielka is adapted for persons with reduced mobility and with a visual impairment.



Cultural sheep grazing in GNP  
photo by Ewa Strauchmann



## Gorczański Park Narodowy

**Gorce National Park:**  
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34-735 Niedźwiedź  
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**Educational Centre of the GNP**  
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