

LOCATION AND ACCESS BY MEANS OF TRANSPORTATION

Tomaszów Mazowiecki, 2/6 Pod Grotami Street, commune: Tomaszów Mazowiecki, county: Tomaszów, Łódź voivodeship. Access to the excavation site from the No.8 expressway (E67 international road) in the direction of the town center. From the direction of the town center, along Jan Paweł II Street (county road no. 4327 E) in the direction of Sulejowski Water Reservoir and also the locality of Borki, in accordance with the road signs currently in place and the municipal information system. It is also possible to reach the excavation site by town public buses (No. 2 from Kościuszk Square and also along the bike path made of mineral pitch and connecting Tomaszów Mazowiecki with Sulejowski Water Reservoir).



AVAILABILITY OF THE FACILITY TO TOURISTS

Length of the route – approximately 160 m.
Sightseeing with a guide in the groups of between 5 and 25 people.
Duration of the tour: approximately 40 minutes.
Temperature inside: approximately 9°C.
Humidity: approximately 65-85 %.
Along the route, electric lighting system is provided.

PROGRESS OF THE UNDERGROUND TOURIST ROUTE

In Nagórzycie Grottoes, the underground route has been provided with a traditional, mining chock support made of wood, with its parts at a distance of one meter one from another. The length of the sightseeing route is

approximately 160 m. The route proceeds through the central part of the excavation sites, along the two parallel illuminated shafts, and includes exhibitions devoted to history and such as are thematically connected with the grottoes themselves. The purpose of them is presenting the site and the history of the excavation site, and also the process of taking advantage of the unique sand for the production of glass, as well as making the visitors acquainted with the local legends connected with this place.

Due to the latticework structure of chock support, the entire underground space is visible. Providing the route with illumination of the chosen elements of excavation sites and also the arranged details results in offering exceptionally interesting visual effects.

In the north-west part of Nagórzycie Grottoes, in the place at which the caving occurred, an escape shaft was constructed. Its depth is approximately 17 m.



Fot. Michał Szelest

We cordially invite all those who are interested:
in the period between 1st April and 31st October,
from Tuesday to Sunday (the opening hours are: 10.00 a.m. – 6.00 p.m.);
in the period between 1st November and 31st March,
from Tuesday to Friday (the opening hours: 8.00 a.m. to 4.00 p.m.),
and also on Saturdays and Sundays
(the opening hours: 10.00 a.m. to 4.00 p.m.).
The Open-Air Museum is closed on Mondays.

Contact:
Town Office in Tomaszów Mazowiecki
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*'Tomaszowska Okrąglica' – support
for the promotions and marketing
activities connected with the tourist
product of Tomaszów*

The most interesting product constituting the promotional brand drawing upon the historic and cultural heritage of the Town is so-called 'Tomaszowska Okrąglica'. It encompasses: Blue Spring, Nagórzycie Grottoes and the Open-Air Museum of the Pilica River.

NAGÓRZYCKIE GROTTOS

As an element of the integrated tourist product of the Town of Tomaszów Mazowiecki
'TOMASZOWSKA OKRĄGLICA'

„TOMASZOWSKA OKRĄGLICA”

European Funds for Development of Łódź Region

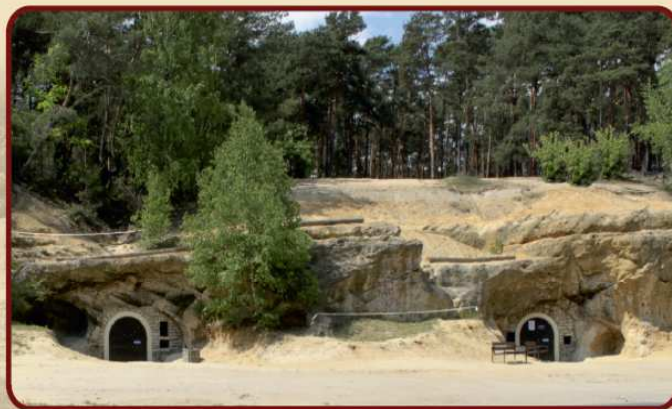
CHARACTERISTICS, ORIGINS, ASSETS AND LEGAL PROTECTION

The artificial excavation sites situated in the southern part of Tomaszów Mazowiecki are the remains of an underground sand mine. Sand was excavated here first in order to meet the needs of local households, and afterwards in order to supply glass works (since the end of 18th century until the beginning of the 20th century). The grottoes are composed of numerous corridors, niches and chambers, formed in the course of the process of the excavation of sand. The largest excavation site, called 'Royal Chamber', is thirty-meter long, twenty-five meter wide and three-meter high. Each and every chamber used to have a different name, for instance: Boczna (Side), Borsuczka (Badger's), Ciemna (Dark), Jeziorna (Lake), Niedźwiedzia (Bear's), Taneczna (Dance), Złodziejska (Thief's). The chaotic gophering of the excavation sites brought about the caving of one of the chambers. This disaster claimed the life of an inhabitant of Nagórzyce, and resulted in the issuance by the Russian Imperial authorities an official law forbidding the excavation of sand. Since that time on,



Nagórzyckie Grottoes have become a local tourist attraction. They were forgotten and neglected for several years, and, eventually, closed to tourists due to safety considerations. The interests of the local authorities of the Town caused initiating, with the financial support with the use of the funds from the European Union, an investment process which will make it possible to make this interesting facility available to large numbers of tourists. Thanks to the project which was implemented within the framework of the Regional Operational Programme for the Łódź voivodeship

for the years 2007-2013 and bearing the name 'Securing the Excavation Sites in Nagórzyckie Grottoes in Tomaszów Mazowiecki and the Adaptation of Them into an Underground Tourist Route', a tourist product unique on a worldwide scale was developed. This is the first facility of this kind in the central part of Poland.



THE OVERVIEW OF GEOLOGICAL AND MINING CONDITIONS

The geological conditions in the region of Nagórzyckie Grottoes have been researched comparatively well. The sands from the areas in the vicinity of Tomaszów have been the subject of exploitation in a for several years now in the nearby Biała Góra strip mine.

The area on which Nagórzyckie Grottoes are situated is a part of the north-east wing of Tomaszów syncline, which is filled by the sediments originating from the Upper and Lower Cretaceous periods. In the Cretaceous period, in Tomaszów Basin, two formations were separated: the one of mudstones from Wąwał, situated on the formations from Upper Jura, and the younger one, the formation of sands in Biała Góra, which is covered by the transgressive sediments from Mid Alb.

According to the local historical sources, Nagórzyckie Grottoes may be approximately two hundred years old. The mining and excavating activity of our forefathers, spanning over a period of many years, has resulted in the formation of a complex of chambers and corridors, which, in their contemporary layout, create a unique monument of a special kind. The excavation is situated at a not very deep level under the forested area.

In accordance with the specialists' opinions, the excavating works were conducted manually, with the use of simple tools,

which was made possible by a low level of rock compactness. A protective mining support of the excavation sites in order to protect the site from pressure of rock mass was not used, however, the excavation works were conducted in accordance with the principles of 19th century mining and provided the protection of roof against caving. Therefore, Nagórzyckie Grottoes ought to be regarded as the monument of material culture, the testimony to 19th century mining technique, unique on European scale due to the mineral and also rock mass in which they are situated. The protective measures taken recently make it possible to go sightseeing in these excavation sites safely.

LEGEND ABOUT THE DEVIL FROM NAGÓRZYCE

There are many legends told about Nagórzyckie Grottoes. One night, a peasant went to the grottoes to dig for some sand. When he lighted his torch and started digging, he saw that a gentleman wearing a checked frock coat and red tights, and a black hat on the head, was coming his way. Bats were swarming around him. It was devil, who asked the peasant what was that that he was doing.

- I am digging.
- What for?
- To earn money, for I am poor.
- Then, I will give you money, but you have to swear that from now on you will be sleeping on weekdays, and working on Sundays.

At that moment, the peasant realized who he was talking to. He dropped his shovel, ran out of the grotto and he would never again come to Nagórzyce to dig for sand.

