

Zakopane, Poland

Zakopane (Podhale Goral: Zokopane) [2, 7] is a town in the south of Poland, in the southern part of the Podhale region at the foot of the Tatra Mountains. From 1975 to 1998, it was part of Nowy Sącz Voivodeship; since 1999, it has been part of Lesser Poland Voivodeship. As of 2017 its population was 27,266, [1, 7]. Zakopane is a centre of Goral culture and is often referred to as "the winter capital of Poland". It is a popular destination for mountaineering, skiing, and tourism, [3].

Zakopane lies near Poland's border with Slovakia, in a valley between the Tatra Mountains and Gubałówka Hill. It is connected by rail and road to the provincial capital, Kraków. Zakopane lies 800–1,000 metres above sea level and centres on the intersection of its Krupówki and Kościuszko Streets.

Zakopane became a center for the region's mining and metallurgy industries; by the 19th century, it was the largest center for metallurgy in the region of Galicia. It expanded during the 19th century as the climate attracted more inhabitants. By 1889, it had developed from a small village into a climatic health resort. Rail services to Zakopane began on October 1, 1899. In the late 1800s, Zakopane constructed a road that went to the town of Nowy Targ and had railways that came from Chabówka, [4, 7]. Because of easier transportation, the population of Zakopane had increased to about 3,000 people by the end of the 1800s, [4, 7]. In the 19th century, Krupówki Street was just a narrow beaten path that was meant for people to get from the central part of town to the village of Kuźnice.

Zakopane has a humid continental climate (Köppen climate classification: Dfb), [5, 6, 7] with the main factor behind its relative coldness compared to the rest of Poland is its altitude. In general, the temperature tends to fall with altitude, therefore Zakopane is almost 3 °C (5.4 °F) colder than northern Kraków, which is more than 600 m (2,000 ft) lower than Zakopane. With higher altitudes, the climate gets even colder, therefore, on the top of Kasprowy Wierch (1,987 m (6,519 ft) above sea level), the climate is tundra-like (Köppen: ET). The tree line is located at about 1,500 m (4,900 ft) above sea level in the Tatra Mountains.

Since the end of the 19th century Zakopane was an important place for many artists, who frequently visited, worked or lived here, especially during the Young Poland period.

Today the city hosts many museums and galleries: Tatra Museum; Museum of Tatra National Park; Museum of Zakopane Style at Villa Koliba; Villa Oksza Art Gallery; Karol Szymanowski Museum in Villa Atma; Jan Kasprowicz Museum in Villa Harena; Kornel Makuszyński Museum; Władysław Hasior Gallery; Kamil Stoch Museum Galeria Kamiland; Museum of the Armed Resistance in the former Hotel Palace.



[1] GUS. "Powierzchnia i ludność w przekroju terytorialnym w 2017 r." stat.gov.pl. Retrieved 10 April 2019.

[2] "Gwara góralska". z-ne.pl. Retrieved 13 March 2022.

[3] "Zakopane - What To See in Poland's Winter Capital". Adventurous-Travels.com. 21 December 2015. Retrieved 18 September 2019.

[4] "Local history - Information about the town - Zakopane - Virtual Shtetl". www.shtetl.org.pl (in Polish). Retrieved 4 May 2017.

[5] Kottek, Markus; Grieser, Jürgen; Beck, Christoph; Rudolf, Bruno; Rubel, Franz (2006). "World Map of the Köppen-Geiger climate classification updated" (PDF). *Meteorologische Zeitschrift*. 15 (3): 259–263. Bibcode:2006MetZe..15..259K. doi:10.1127/0941-2948/2006/0130.

[6] Peel, M. C.; Finlayson B. L. & McMahon, T. A. (2007). "Updated world map of the Köppen–Geiger climate classification" (PDF). *Hydrol. Earth Syst. Sci.* 11 (5): 1633–1644. Bibcode:2007HESS...11.1633P. doi:10.5194/hess-11-1633-2007. ISSN 1027-5606.

[7] <https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Zakopane>