

Geoheritage and Geotourism Potential of Strzeleckie Hills [SW Poland]

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The paper contains information concerning a potential geotouristic region of the Strzeleckie Hills, as well as of Oławy and Krynka valleys. Study area is located in southwestern Poland in the foreland of the East Sudetes.

The aim of the study is to present geotouristic advantages of the regional geomorphological and geological environment. There are: geology and structural relief, loess gullies, dry valleys, human impact caused by the activity of the Cistercians from the abbey in Henrykowie, and another forms of human impact.

Strzeleckie Hills are potentially attractive for geotourism. Their geotouristic values represent features of inanimate environment of the Sudetic Foreland and

some are also characteristic for fragments of the Sudetes. The presented geotouristic objects prove the high scientific significance of the Strzeleckie Hills for geology, geomorphology and also show human impact on environmental changes.

Additionally good accessibility is an important advantage for development of geotourism in the Strzeleckie Hills. However, there is still no geotouristic infrastructure in the Strzeleckie Hills, which make available all their advantages for educational purposes.

The main geotouristic values are as follow:

1. Enormous diversity of geological structure (variety of rock types e.g. gneiss, granite, quartzite, marble, glacial deposits, loess) and relief (inselbergs, tors, gorges, loess gullies, man-made forms) in relatively small area.
2. Many closed quarries, clay, sand and gravel pits exposing history of environmental changes (granite intrusion and weathering profiles in the old quarry in Gołoszyce, weathering profile of quartzite in the small quarry on flattened crest of Kołocz Mt. or "Goethe's rocks" - man-made outcrops on the east slopes of Lisia Mt. Massif, loess profiles e.g. in the clay pits near Białego Kościoła and presenting modern geological processes.
3. Fluvial forms as a result of environmental changes in Holocene (a few generations of oxbow lakes in the Krynka Valley between Żeleźnik and Karszówek).
4. Spectacular effects of human impacts (transformations in the Oławy Valley between Ziębice and Henryków, relicts of ponds in many small river valleys as well as remains of water mills from 15th century).

Geoheritage objects mentioned above could exhibit geotouristic potential of Strzeleckie Hills after proper adaptation.

Keywords: geotourism, geoheritage, geosites, SW Poland