QUEST – an Explorer Expedition / ***Bike with a View***

***Theme:*** the expedition will take you to fascinating locations associated with the horticulture and history of Łącko. You will get to enjoy amazing vistas of the Sącz Basin and the surrounding Beskid mountain range.

***How to play and find the Quest Treasure:*** this game is accessible 24/7. Read all clues carefully, solving riddles for the final password leading to the treasure – an expedition seal.

***Start line:*** the Quest begins next to the local Sports Hall (Łącko 867) and a brown-coloured steel shack you can rent a bicycle at. GPS co-ordinates: 49.5640811, 20.430724

***Cycling time:*** ca. 3 h 30 min, trail length: 20 km

Whether in pouring rain or in scorching sun

The Łącko Sports Hall cuddles a small rusty son:

A bicycle rental place, where the steel is red.

Your trip will begin with Red’s Metal Shed.

*“Glinik”* stands across – they deal in construction;

a bicycle trail next to it, travellers’ seduction,

newly built. It’s high time to be mounting your bike.

Let the quest begin, your interest be spiked.

Ride straight ahead to a large biking info board,

Before turning left, collect your first score:

The municipal coat of arms is a wondrous sight

of a saint and an eagle, both wearing colour ***WHITE***. W-23, T-11

One kilometre further is a board all in yellow,

The ***HERKULES*** outdoor gym for gals and for fellows. R-6, U-19

Find the No Vehicle Admittance sign and a road leading up.

Ride or walk – the going might be tough, buttercup!

Enter an area fenced in wood at the metal cross.

That was the ***CHOLERA*** burial ground. A sad place of loss. O-3, L-8

Go back to the outdoor gym, and take a left turn.

Now over the bridge – one you shouldn’t burn.

Take another left once the bridge is crossed.

Easy going here, no risk of getting lost.

Once you pass the next bridge, you’ll be turning right

towards *“Słoneczne”* (Sunny) housing zone, the signage is bright.

And yet another bridge! It’s smaller and blue.

A forty-speed-limit road is waiting for you.

Now up along a narrow path, it’s quite a hard slog.

Take a left – to your right a house made of logs.

Now the road is flat again, a chance for respite.

Look around, enjoy the view. A glance to the right

reveals a new house, its walls painted white,

a black number: eight ***SIX*** eight will also come in sight. S-27

Local orchards wear floral dresses in the spring,

Every autumn consistently a fruit harvest brings.

The view is extraordinary. Once you take a good look,

mount the bike again to complete your book

of riddles for today. Ride downwards without strain

to a road fork joined by another narrow lane.

Now take a right to an intersection and a plaque

Reading ***PIECHÓWKA***, all letters in black. P-7, I-25, E-16, A-17

Take a left now. A spot of luck, as you can avail

of a regular and well-paved bicycle trail.

See the intersection? We advise you to be slow,

then take a left turn. Done? Great, on you go.

Beyond house number 300 look to your right.

An ancient *“suśnia”[[1]](#footnote-1)* behind the tree. What a curious sight.

Every autumn with ripened plums it’s strewn,

Smoke gradually turning them into tasty prunes.

Riding leisurely along, the going rather light,

At the *“Pożogi”* road sign you’ll be turning right.

To your left – a pathway filled with spruces green,

Beyond it a chapel of St. Mary the Queen.

Take another right, ride to your heart’s content,

You will reach a cross upon a monument.

*“This sign will let you win”* – the inscription means,

commemorating the war outbreak (when?) in ***NINETEEN FOURTEEN***. N-10, E-21, R-13, T-26

You will now turn left, leave the cross behind.

There’s a church ahead – again of faith a sign.

Reach the temple – here you will need to turn left,

Then right from the parking lot. It’s a small street, be deft.

Easy does it now, the ride is here a lark.

Need a breather? Wonderful. Just enter the park,

and find a plaque next to an eagle in the colour ***GOLD***, L-2

Celebrating independence, one hundred years old

in the year the plaque was founded: ***TWENTY EIGHTEEN***. W-4, E-12, T-14

Got it? Great. Push on, especially if you’re keen

on reaching the treasure. Past the pedestrian crossing

take a left, mount the bike, and go right without tossing

a single glance back. Among houses be slow.

Into the first street on your right you should now go.

Cross another bridge! A pretty brook is in sight.

Straight ahead to road of gravel, at its end take a right.

Pass *“Stefar”* on your left, construction guys again.

A wooden house with white windows, lovely and plain.

You have reached a chapel. *“Oh Mother of Sorrows,*

*pray for us”*, the inscription reads. A clue you can borrow

looking at the effigies. It is plain to see

That the saint to Mary’s left is holding a ***KEY***. E-5

Go back along the tarmac, till the road’s end comes to sight.

It’s the *Velo Dunajec* trail – onto the bridge take a right!

Once you leave the bridge, you’ll take another right.

Ride for thirteen hundred metres, the going is light.

Pay attention to a tree stump covered in shingles.

Saint ***KINGA*** is the memorial’s inscription and symbol, A-22

commemorating Duchess Kinga of vast local lands –

Cracow and Sandomierz. The little shrine stands

beyond a tiny bridge. Now back to your mount,

old houses await for admiration all around.

Take another turn right to a small parking lot.

Juice from a vending machine can here be bought.

Maurer’s family business processes many fruit,

Liquid plums and other treats your personal taste to suit.

Straight ahead now for a while. Look left past the school.

A stone-walled cholera burial pit is the next site cruel.

Pestilence decimated entire families.

One but last on the left, ***FRANCISZEK SUMECKI***: a memory. F-1, R-15, S-18

Back to the fruit press and the bridge, the road is nothing new.

Retrace your steps past things once seen and the river view.

Having crossed ***DUNAJEC***, its rushing waters clear, A-9

Take a right to stay on the *Velo* road, my dear.

Another bridge ahead – a green one, for a change.

A good place for a breather, or a pleasant exchange.

Look left – physical activity attractions all around:

Playing fields, gyms, and playgrounds can be found.

A barbecue suspended from a stone support,

Wooden seats in shelters, just like a safe port

after physical exertion. Ride on, stay alert and deft,

before the green bridge leave the *Velo* road. Turn left.

Ahead is a purpose-built cyclers’ ***PUMP TRACK***, R-20, A-24

You’re getting very close to the treasure pack.

Ride down to a fork in the concrete road,

To a mesh wall filled with stones, a substantial load.

Take a sharp left near an information board.

You’ve seen them before – we have quite the hoard.

Spruces before you, a mighty green row.

Take a right – and again straight ahead you go!

Today’s questing trail was really a beauty.

A busy road ahead – to slow down is your duty.

No cars? Okay. Take a cautious left with spright,

and on to the Market Square. A large tree on your right.

Take a right past the bridge, pay close attention –

Shops and ice-cream stands abound: there may be tension

Because of local crowds. Ride on, friend, with flair,

A couple hundred metres – you’re truly nearly there.

A tower and large building are the last location

to your left – behold! The local fire station.

Stay focused now for the upcoming fork in the road.

Take a gentle left – your mount can now be slowed

down: we’re back to the Łącko Sports Hall.

See the flower planter in front of the glass wall

to the right of the steps? Explorer, you did great!

Look closer now – in the **FLOWER PLANTER TREASURE AWAITS**.

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1. *Suśnia* [Sooshnya] – an old-fashioned small-size covered structure used for drying plums. [uwaga: w oryginale *do suszenia* ***śliw*** – powinno być: ***śliwek***. Śliwa – to drzewo rodzące śliwki.] [↑](#footnote-ref-1)