***Title: A STROLL AROUND PIWNICZNA***

**Theme:** the Quest encourages a closer encounter with the town of Piwniczna and its rich history.

**Where it is:** Piwniczna-Zdrój is located in the Małopolska voivodship, Nowy Sącz county. The Quest trail begins in the local market square, next to an information panel describing the town’s history.

**Additional information:** the Quest was developed as part of the project *“Local Initiatives for the Development of Gorlice and Nowy Sącz Counties”*, financed by Switzerland under the aegis of the Second Swiss Contribution to Selected Member States of the European Union.

Welcome, Explorer. Let’s take across Piwniczna a walk.

The information panel you’re facing extensively talks

About our town founded by ***KAZIMIERZ*** the king. A-30, E-10

CASIMIR THE GREAT, in English. And here’s the thing:

He’s right there in the picture on the board, to the left.

Once you’re done observing him, you can be deft

and check out the reverse – it’s for mountain vultures!

Oh yes: we’re close to the Municipal Centre of Culture.

We’ll start our walk on the left side of the street

that is called *Krakowska*, which is rather neat,

as it references Cracow – Poland’s second capital city.

Now past the Centre of Culture, a former school pretty

after renovation, the present blending with the past’s charm,

preserved in the wall an Austrian ***COAT*** of arms. O-16, T-24

Keep walking. Don’t cross to the other side.

Let *“Cat Plantings”* – flowerbeds at the curve be your guide.

Next: a chapel of John Nepomucene the Saint,

The Transfiguration of Christ within in vivid paint.

The route will now take you to a house all green,

Former home to a local café it has been.

Take another few steps. Behind the first house

You will see a curio, in greenery all doused.

Made of ***METAL***, amidst conifers stands a cross, T-17, L-14

Erected to commemorate cholera victims’ loss.

Retrace your steps to a stream called *“Łaski”* on the map,

Turn right onto Ogrodowa street – it’s like a narrow gap.

Walk up the steps, and take a brief break at the top:

This will be a short historical digression stop.

Look at the local houses – mainly wood’s their history,

Some truly old and dating to the 19th century.

Wooden houses were a typical solution in town,

Municipal forests originally a donation from the crown.

Even when in Galician times Emperors owned the woods,

ours were an exception, and around Piwniczna stood

as town property. Now take a closer look at house number ten,

the one with carvings. Let’s go back to a time when

Edward Grucela lived here, a man of many powers:

sculptor and musician. Now, how many white flowers

adorn his home’s loggia? **2** Walk on. Take a left turn twice

to the Old Cemetery, which adds some taste and spice

to local history. Many of those in this cemetery buried

are featured in Maria Lebdowicz’s *“Dictionary*

*of Former Piwniczna Locals”.* The graveyard’s gate is near.

*“Respect the graves of those who before us were here”*

- reads the inscription above your head. The second word,

***GROBY***, means *“graves”* in Polish. Has your interest been stirred? B-31

Visit the cemetery, then back to the Market Square,

dating back to the Middle Ages. Clues await there.

At the Square’s north frontage we’ll take a closer look,

the town’s former architecture described in guidebooks.

All the wooden houses were raised on deep cellars,

or *piwnice* in Polish. Yet by no deduction stellar

can we link the town’s name to the old structures.

The name came first. Before your brain ruptures

from linguistic overthinking – at number sixteen

Café ***FLORENCJA***: heaven, if on sweets you’re keen. L-13, O-8, R-29

Now turn your gaze to the centre of the Market Square,

riddles waiting to be solved, knowledge to be shared.

Horse chestnut trees conceal St. Florian’s shrine-like hut,

A ***LAMB*** on blue – Piwniczna’s crest – is featured here, but A-12

that’s not all. In each coat of arms – a crown,

and images of crafts of old, typical for the town.

The nearby sign (*“****CYSTERNA*** *murowana”*) refers to the well. S-33, E-19, N-2

The translation? *“Brick cistern”*. That’s easier to spell

for our English-speaking visitors. Now we’ll be walking west.

To the townhall and memorial. Ponder, dear guest,

that it commemorates the locals who died in senseless wars,

some of them very young. A sorrowful score.

Above the doorway to the townhall there is an inscription,

of the Municipality and Town’s decoration a description.

The Cross of Valour is the name of the order. Now you

count black crosses to the sides. How many? Exactly ***TWO***. T-15, O-1

Walk down the row of houses for a smidge of history:

See *“Magdalenka”*? This was the site of the town’s first pharmacy.

Take the zebra crossing, after that a left turn,

then a street to the right of Jewish history to learn.

Look at the black slab. It tells a sad story

of a former synagogue, in all its form and glory.

The second word in the third row is the Polish peer:

***BOŻNICA***. A *mikveh* and cemetery (*beit olam*) were near. N-26, I-21

Walk on. Once you reach the end of the stairs,

Look for running water slightly further. It’s there.

***“ŹRÓDŁO JANA”*** reads the inscription on the stone, D-27, N-9

That’s *“John’s spring”* in Polish, setting the tone

for the spa the town is. Walk down Źródlana street,

aforementioned Maria Lebdowicz you might here greet

at number 12. Activism, teacher’s work and writing

earned her the town’s Honorary Citizenship, merits uniting.

Wondrous frontage on a wooden house nearby,

a rising sun shoots rays above the balcony. Please try

and count them. Got it? Turn left onto Kazimierza (the king’s) street **10**

And go to where a wooden fence metal railings meets.

*“Plac św. Jana Pawła II”* (Pope ***JOHN*** ***PAUL*** II’s square) H-4, U-32

beckons for a break and refreshments to share.

If you drop by, look at where marble figures stand,

All effigies sculpted by a local artist’s hand.

The tiny stone chapels surrounding the place

tell the story of seven Biblical hills and their grace.

Across from the square – ***“ZAMECZEK”***: a villa of brick. E-5

To move in during World War II the Nazis were quick.

Sadly, the occupants disgracefully behaved,

With desecrated Jewish headstones the entryway they paved.

These times are over. We’ll walk down the street of the king.

Casimir ***THE GREAT*** further riddles along our stroll will bring. H-18, G-22, T-3

The railway station is a wondrous piece of history,

built many years ago in the early 20th century.

Look at the building closely: to guess you’ll be quick

that the builders had worked with ***WOOD*** and red brick. W-11

It’s time to take a good look around,

Many new investments can here be found:

A children’s playground is near, and a camping lot,

volleyball court and skatepark, for adults and tots.

A stone-lined promenade along the ***POPRAD*** River R-20

is a gift that keeps on giving, and it will deliver

great views. Take Kolejowa street, and start walking up,

the treasure is not far, your goal and trophy cup.

The street was paved in granite in ***NINETEEN FIFTY-SIX***, E-28, T-7, S-6

as the slabs themselves will tell you in neatly laid-in bricks

of darker tiles. Stone steps lead to the church with ease,

above your head – like at the well – ***HORSE CHESTNUT*** trees H-23, H-34, U-25

for over one hundred years has stood this sanctuary,

The parish church of the Birth of the Virgin Mary.

How many windows in the front have here been aligned? **3**

You’ll need that digit soon – it’s part of your code’s design.

If interested in other artefacts of Piwniczna’s history,

Check out the church bell: it was cast in 1523.

The Quest is done, along with all the long-time-gone rantings,

Now walk the steps down to the aforementioned Cat Plantings.

Yet to our feline friends they do not owe their name,

But to the Castle Kotcze. “*Kocie”* (feline) in Polish sounds the same.

The Castle defended Piwniczna from belligerent gales,

standing here for years. That’s told in local tales.

You know all the letters now. The code is all that’s left

to calculate. Every number found – stay alert and deft –

has to be squared. Now add the products up.

Soon you’ll find the treasure – well done, buttercup.

Once you enter Cat Plantings, take care to look around.

The password will tell where the treasure can be found.

That’s all from us, congratulations on your victory,

and thanks for joining us on a tour of Piwniczna’s mysteries.

PASSWORD:

|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| O | N |  | T | H | E |  | S | T | O | N | E |  | W | A | L | L |  | T | O |  | T | H | E |  | R | I | G | H | T |  | U | N | D | E | R |  | A |  | B | U | S | H |
| 1 | 2 |  | 3 | 4 | 5 |  | 6 | 7 | 8 | 9 | 10 |  | 11 | 12 | 13 | 14 |  | 15 | 16 |  | 17 | 18 | 19 |  | 20 | 21 | 22 | 23 | 24 |  | 25 | 26 | 27 | 28 | 29 |  | 30 |  | 31 | 32 | 33 | 34 |

**CODE: 22+102+32 = 4+100+9 = 113**