***Title: WE, THE PEOPLE OF ŁĄCKO…* - an Explorers’ Expedition to Łąck0**

**Theme:** the Expedition will introduce you to selected nuggets of Łącko Land’s history, as well as culture- and nature-related trivia.

**Where it is:** Łącko is located in the Nowy Sącz county, Małopolska voivodship, on the route connecting Nowy Sącz to Szczawnica, where Czarna Woda Stream meets the River Dunajec. Nestling between Beskid Sądecki and Beskid Wyspowy mountain ranges, Łącko is sometimes referred to as *“the capital of orchard country”*.

**Start line:** your walk begins inthe market square of Łącko, in front of the Łącko Gate. GPS co-ordinates: 49.55758N, 20.43498E

**Walking time:** ca. 60 minutes

Where Mount Onion (Cebulówka) rises and Dunajec flows

*Jaś* and *Marysia* – John and Mary – in folk costume show

the direction of your walk. *“At mah flowered corset keek!*

*Mah skirt is bonny too, juist ye tak’ a peek”*.

*“A’m Jasiek th’ teuchter wi’ mah mighty axe,*

*I hae an ornate bunnet; it’s na surprise ye ask*

*whaur ah git this bonny belt. Ne’ver mynd, juist come wi’ me.*

*This is Łącko land o’apples wi’ muckle tae see”*.

Known to Poland, Łącko’s symbol is right here in the gate.

Heart-shaped *parzenica* pattern from folk trousers. Great

traditions are our thing. Above: John the Evangelist.

Featured in our town’s old seals, he shouldn’t be missed.

Set against a blue background, in his left hand a ***BOOK***, K-9

Gazing from behind an eagle about to fly – just look.

Now try and find Florian, firefighters’ patron saint,

and his well, adorned with paired ***AXES***, all in vivid paint. E-17, S-5

Walk to the bridge and *Czarna Woda* (Blackwater) Stream,

climb a flight of four steps for another local dream.

Look straight ahead and up – houses speak of history,

Just like this one, an ornamental top above the balcony.

Follow the pavement now, Explorer, turning to the right.

A nest of our local bird (the stork) will soon come into sight.

At the corner the Municipal Authority’s seat can be found,

Walls covered in Dunajec stones, so pretty and so round.

You’ll need to take a left, then the first street to the right.

An old building and plaque await. A fascinating site.

The Chwalibógs owned the place. It was a granary.

The first word? ***DOM*** (Polish for *home*). Its curious history O-12

is told by the plaque from two thousand ***THIRTEEN***, H-16, E-14

the date commemorating the anniversary and scene

of Łącko’s dance ensemble. Go back now to the road,

and look for the church spire to learn more for your code,

and password, and the treasure. This here is a highway,

to use an ancient word when carts would be used by way

of local transportation. You’ve reached a close-up view

of an inscription atop the church door: *Here,* *God is calling you* –

in Polish: ***TU BÓG WOŁA CIĘ***. Now for some history: B-6, A-10

Saint John the Baptist’s Church from the eighteenth century

holds a fifteenth-century altar from early baroque.

Legend has it that it was built from very special rock,

taken from Zyndram’s (a Grunwald battle hero’s) castle.

The roof space is home to animals! Information access facile:

a wooden board mentions the greater mouse-eared ***BAT***. B-18

How many stone sculptures at the gate? ***TWO***. Okay. And that O-1

is this site’s last question. To the school walk straight ahead,

not towards *“Czarny Potok”*. A plaque waits to be read,

hailing Stanisław ***WILKOWICZ***, to whom Łącko owes its fame. L-20, C-8

Look at the Polish characters to identify the name

of *“kwitnącej* ***JABŁONI****”* – or *“apple blossom”* land. B-11, I-4

Łącko’s famous for its orchards: pears, apples, cherries, and

plums, the awesome local slivovitz a local jewel bright.

Go back to the *“highway”*. You’ll have to take a right.

Walking down the pavement, listen to a story:

The local priest Piaskowy, praising God in all His glory,

devised a smart atonement: instead of *Hail Marys* three,

sinners were told to plant saplings of fruit trees.

People began thriving, living better lives,

the local *“Apple Blossom Feast”* duly noted in archives.

We’ll come back to that. Continue on the trail.

Mind your step – the treasure you will reach without fail.

Another school awaits, keep looking to the left.

The patron? Saint Kinga. A wall inscription! Be deft:

the last line reveals the Nowy Sącz ***POWIAT***, or *“county”*. A-7

Chefs and bakers are trained here, a vocational bounty.

The nearby narrow road walk down to the bridge.

Cross it, continue on the path, walk the berm like a ridge.

At the crossing raise your head. How many letters? ***FOURTEEN***. T-15, N-2

Dots? There are ***THREE***, and a memory of what here has been: H-3

This was Łącko’s first local huge distillery,

plums were processed into spirit; yet unfortunately

its production would be banned, though across Poland

our slivovitz was known for its power to elevate the soul and

good humour. A hall stands here now, for athletes a place.

Keep it to your left. Cross the parking lot to face

another riddle. Cross the street. Walk the pavement to the gate.

The wooden Amphitheatre ahead with all its charm awaits,

Its roof supported by columns. How many? ***THIRTEEN***. T-21, E-19

The description of the place reveals an extensive scene

of song and dance and parties, not to mention local feasts.

The spring *“Apple Blossoms”*, fall *“Fruit Picking”* at least

worth a visit. The Apple Blossom Festival is the oldest tradition,

having saved Łącko from a dam, deluge and perdition.

Ministerial officials right after World War II

wanted to build a power plant. The locals: *“What to do?*

*Will they flood our homes? Our orchards, our lands?*

*Let’s show them our treasures!”* – people took a stand,

and instruments were played, and folk songs soared forth.

The dam design was abandoned. Officials saw the worth

of local culture. *“Apple Blossom Days”* were kept alive.

Charmed by dance and music, visitors in droves arrive

to meet the Łącko Highlanders, learn more about their customs,

and to the local heart-shaped *parzenica* get accustomed.

Local artists can be met, their works admired and bought.

In the evenings – the Amphitheatre’s a modern music spot!

Now for a fitness break! Run up and count the stairs:

Ten times ***FIVE*** plus nine – that’s the count, we swear. V-13

We hope you enjoyed your Expedition views.

Go back down. Walk the trail now well-known to you.

Two buildings on the left: around the white one walk awhile,

until you meet a Highlander with a beaming smile

at the *CKiEM*\* - it’s how the acronym for a Music Centre’s spelt.

The treasure? It’s right here: **\_ \_ \_ \_ \_ \_ \_ \_ \_ \_ \_ \_ \_ \_ \_ \_ \_ \_ \_ \_ \_.**

*“Drop by the Centre! We have dance and theatre and song,*

*a library with many books – it’s great fun, all day long!” –*

that’s the Highlander’s invitation. Thanks for joining us today.

You’ve learned a bit. Here’s hoping you will not stay away!

*\*CKiEM* – Centre for Musical Culture and Education in Łącko

Password:

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