**Title: *WALKING THE PIENINY ROAD IN THE SHADOW OF MAJESTIC MOUNTAINS***

**Theme:** the Quest will take you for a walk around Szczawnica down the famous Pieniny Road, the hike accompanied with descriptions of rafting traditions on the River Dunajec, and other stories.

**How to play and find the Quest Treasure:** this Quest is a game you can play any time. Follow rhyming clues carefully, and solve riddles for the final password taking you to the Treasure – a commemorative seal.

**Expedition start line:** you will set out where the Pieniny Road begins, at the intersection of Flisacka and Pienińska streets in Szczawnica. GPS co-ordinates: 49.424927, 20.459259

**Walking time:** approximately 1 hour 30 minutes

There’s a place in Szczawnica that looks really good

as a base camp for exploring the neighbourhood.

We suggest you start at the local clock tower;

you’ll finish with a prize, today’s finest hour.

River Dunajec, breaking through gates of rock.

The Pieniny Mountains, encouraging a walk.

Dunajec zigzagging – just look at the bend,

and the *Kotońka* Rock: a promise you’ll spend

this day wondrously. The Grajcarek River foams

and fumes. To reach the local kayakers’ home,

the ***PIENINY*** Club – it will be to your right – E-14, I-9

you need to take the bridge. Cross it to the site

of a local obelisk at the harbour entry.

Of Karol Wojtyła’s memory it is now a sentry.

The future Pope had found to Szczawnica his way

To join a kayaking trip on the ***28***th of May 2-22, 8-24

in 1955. The inscription reads *maja*, a word

by which in Polish the month is referred.

Look to the river. Cherishing old traditions,

Lightermen await, of currents magicians.

Find a roadside chapel further to the left.

Saint ***KINGA*** carries of memories a heft; N-10

In the olden times, her ribbon in the water

caused the river to weave, and run like an otter.

Continue down the road. It was a dream

of the spa’s founder, of his work a theme.

Józef Szalay, as duly suggested by the name,

hailed from Hungary. He raised Szczawnica to fame.

Above a railing patterned all in motifs Greek

Cypel island rises, the floral peacock sleek.

The Polish Tatra Society had a shelter here,

called the *“White Hut”*. Yet there came a year

when a terrifying flood arrived in a rush,

grabbing the shelter in a sudden flush

right down to Krościenko. Visitors, having fatefully

found themselves here, survived gratefully.

When at the bridge the hut came to a stop abrupt,

without hesitation all the people upped,

and fled for ***ORLICA*** where they spent the night. C-1, A-17

The shelter’s name on a road sign will duly come to sight.

Get ready for another questing distraction:

Drapes of branches to the left – a charming attraction.

They are green in the spring, purple in the fall,

a limestone rock cavern beckons and calls.

Its old names: *“Majka’s Furnace”*, also *“Gypsy Cave”*.

Yet Zyblikiewicz’s memory has here been saved.

Mikołaj his first name, a statesman he was wise;

the mayor of Cracow, to Szczawnica a true prize,

having initiated the construction of the road

across Pieniny, along Dunajec; its breaks never slowed

down the works. He deserves his fame,

the charming limestone grotto hailing his name.

Look for colour ***WHITE***: the cloak of ***SAINT*** ***MARY***; H-13, T-5, R-19

to Catholics she’s vital; they believe she carries

solace and hope, immaculate conception

the biblical story. She’ll give you direction

to thoughts more exalted – and the next riddle.

Look to the left – there, in the middle

of your focal sights is a cool building,

a cherry on the cake, of the lily gilding.

To where from the mountains flows Kaczy Brook,

the Pieniny National Park its boundaries took.

Look at the inscription – that’s its Polish name:

***PIENIŃSKI*** *Park Narodowy* – the meaning’s the same. E-3, S-15

The pavilion is full of fauna and flora,

to entertain and please *señors* and *señoras* –

look around, absorb knowledge to your heart’s content.

The information board nearby is meant

as a set of guidelines for locals and tourists

to proper behaviour; the region needs purists

in respect for nature, and mountain majesty:

for protected areas a sound strategy.

You’re about to enter such protected park,

the signage not leaving anyone in the dark:

the path is colour-coded, inviting hikers

to one trail. The one marked ***C*** is for bikers.

The shining river beckons, the crossing awaits,

raftsmen at the ready: although it looks great,

today we’re on foot. On now you should walk,

looking for a metal plaque on the rock.

There it is – close by, near a cavern small,

the plaque a major disaster recalls:

look at the date: ***1****93****4***. 1-21, 4-23

Dunajec flooding – it was like a war

waged by nature, the river rising to the line

distinctly visible on the metal sign

set up by the Hydrographic Service of the State,

in Polish: *Służba* ***HYDROGRAFICZNA***. Got it? Great. H-8

Today we are safe, and we won’t be slammed

by the river, thanks to the local Niedzica dam.

While the road is narrow, wondrous the view:

rafts on Dunajec, clouds in skies so blue.

Find *Hukowa* (Roaring) Rock – it is to your right,

a watchman of the river, all dressed in white.

You’re about to stumble upon relics of the past:

find remains of a wall with stories amassed.

A mountain shelter stood on the left-hand slope,

named after Zyblikiewicz, noble allusion and trope.

Mount Sokolica lies ahead – we believe it’s in order

to tell you you’re a step away from the country’s border.

Sharing Pieniny, Poland and Slovakia each

have a stake in the river’s rocky beach.

Look at the limestone cliffs. What a pretty sight…

You know now why this break is called *“white”*.

Check out the other bank – it’s worthwhile to know

that this used to be a crossing, as it goes to show

by the name: *Przechodki* (pass). To a shelter it led

named after Henryk Sienkiewicz (Polish writer), the stead

sadly gone, with the Nobel Winner’s name,

the mountains still here… albeit somewhat tamed,

they are now a cross-border area of protection,

the *PIENAP* National Park under Slovakian direction.

The left-bank walkway takes travellers through land

of pure perfection: rock grasslands, flowers at hand;

broadleaf garlic fragrant, herbs and wild thyme,

Dunajec murmuring, valleys in white lime.

Magnificent rocks at the trail intersection

are waiting for you in riddled reflection:

***USTIE******LESNIČKĒHO*** *Potoka* (stream’s mouth): the top sign S-20, T-12, S-4, H-2

suggests the need to turn back and unwind.

ČERVENÝ ***KLÁŠTOR*** is Slovak for *Red Monastery*, T-16

***SEVEN*** kilometres and a bit away. It may seem very E-7

tempting. But retrace your steps to *“Orlica”*

(meaning *female eagle*), and to Szczawnica.

Reach the shelter by trail, its colour is ***BLUE***. B-6

Never mind the stairs, the road ahead’s for you.

Look at the wooden house, *Pod* ***KOZICĄ*** the name, I-18

Polish for *chamois*. More clues for the game:

It’s the Mountain Tourism Cultural Centre –

operated with flair for all those who enter

by the Polish Tourist and Sightseeing Society *Board*.

In Polish: ***ZARZĄD*** *Główny*. Did you get the word? D-11

Well done! The shelter with a view is a treat:

You can have a meal and rest your weary feet.

Figured out the password? You’re an Explorer champ –

the treasure will reveal your commemorative stamp.

***PASSWORD:***

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| 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 |  | 6 | 7 | 8 | 9 | 10 | 11 |  | 12 | 13 | 14 |  | 15 | 16 | 17 | 18 | 19 | 20 |

***PASSCODE****:* 1248

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