

# ADAMS PO GODZINACH DLA „COOL-TURALNYCH” I OBIEŻYŚWIATÓW

## **The Castle of Kórnik – an idea for a weekend outing**

With the summer holidays only a distant memory now, most of us are in desperate need to do something different to turn our minds away from the daily routine. Taking advantage of a warm day before the cool and rainy autumn season settles in for good, it might be good fun to visit a place different from any other. If you don't live too far from Poznań or you happen to be in the area, you might want to visit the castle of Kórnik which is definitely such a place.

The castle is located southeast of Poznań, approximately 20 km away from the city, overlooking the Kórnickie lake to the west. It dates back to the first half of the 15<sup>th</sup> century, when the Górkas, a local influential family, commissioned its construction on an island surrounded by a moat. It had a drawbridge and a portcullis. More or less at the same time, owing to the family's patronage, the local parish church was erected and the settlement of Kórnik obtained township rights on Magdeburg law.

Yet the present English Neogothic look of the castle is principally the work of the Działyński family who came into the possession of the castle in 1676 with the most dramatic changes, like the construction of the red brick tower on the east side, introduced in the 19<sup>th</sup> century by Tytus Działyński. The Indian arch adorning the south side is believed to be inspired by the Brighton Royal Pavilion and is arguably the finest architectural element of the castle.

The building houses one of the oldest and largest libraries in Poland containing 350 thousand volumes (including 15 thousand manuscripts) and a museum displaying some excellent works of art, pottery, jewellery and arms. The castle's gardens include an arboretum used to cultivate a large variety of trees and shrubs, some of them very old and majestic. The often highlighted curiosity in the arboretum is definitely the Swamp Cypress, a tree whose roots project out of the ground to form "knees" the function of which is to provide oxygen to the tree's root.

The famous White Lady of the Kórnik castle who is said to descend from her portrait at midnight to enjoy her horse ride in the park is another link with the Działyński family. She is the ghost of Teofila Szotdrska-Potulicka born Działyńska who lived in Kórnik in the 18<sup>th</sup> century working hard to help the community and town make progress and develop.

The castle is open for visitors from Tuesday to Sunday from 10am to 5pm. The entrance charge is PLN 14 with a reduced rate of PLN 7 for children and seniors. A family ticket admitting two adults and two children costs PLN 30. Camera permit is PLN 10 for still photography and PLN 20 for video. A small admission fee is charged to enter the arboretum.

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## Glossary:

arch – łuk  
arboretum – ogród dendrologiczny  
commission – zlecić  
cultivate – uprawiać  
curiosity - ciekawostka  
descend – zstąpić  
display – wystawiać  
drawbridge – most zwodzony  
erect – wznieść, zbudować  
house – tu: być siedzibą  
moat – fosa  
obtain - uzyskać  
portcullis – spuszczana krata  
shrub – krzew  
swamp cypress – cypryśnik błotny  
township rights – prawa miejskie