

NBP

National Bank of Poland
holds the exclusive right to issue currency in the Republic of Poland.

In addition to **coins and notes for general circulation**, the NBP issues **collector coins and notes**. Issuing collector items is an occasion to commemorate important historic figures and anniversaries, as well as to develop the interest of the public in Polish culture, science and tradition.

Since 1996, the NBP has also been issuing **occasional 2 złoty** coins, struck in **Nordic Gold**, for general circulation.

All coins and notes issued by the NBP are legal tender in Poland.

Information on the issue schedule can be found at the www.nbp.pl/monety website.

Collector coins issued by the NBP are sold exclusively at the Internet auctions held in the Kolekcjoner service at the following website:
www.kolekcjoner.nbp.pl

 KOLEKCJONER

On 23 September 2010, the National Bank of Poland is putting into circulation coins of the series "Towns in Poland" commemorating Kalwaria Zebrzydowska of the following face values:

2 zł - struck in standard finish in Nordic Gold alloy.



face value 2 zł • metal **CuAl5Zn5Sn1** alloy • finish **standard**
diameter 27.0 mm • weight 8.15 g • mintage (volume) 1,000,000 pcs

Obverse: An image of the Eagle established as the State Emblem of the Republic of Poland. On the sides of the Eagle, the notation of the year of issue: 20-10, below the Eagle, an inscription: ZŁ 2 ZŁ. In the rim an inscription: RZECZPOSPOLITA POLSKA (Republic of Poland), preceded and followed by six pearls. The mint's mark: M/W below the Eagle's left leg.

Reverse: Centrally, a stylised image of the statue of St. Anthony against the background of the towers of the shrine dedicated to Virgin Mary and Passion of Jesus in Kalwaria Zebrzydowska. At the top, a semicircular inscription: KALWARIA ZEBRZYDOWSKA.

On the edge: The inscription: NBP, repeated eight times, every second one inverted by 180 degrees, separated with stars.

Coin designer: **Ewa Tyc-Karpińska**

The coins were struck at the Mint of Poland in Warsaw.

Towns in Poland

In 2009 the NBP launched a series of coins "Towns in Poland".
The coin commemorating Kalwaria Zebrzydowska is the sixth one in the series.



Kalwaria Zebrzydowska

23 September 2010



Kalwaria Zebrzydowska is a small town at the foot of the Żar mountain in a valley between two low mountain ranges of Beskid Makowski and Wieliczka Foothills, about 22 miles (35 kilometres) from Cracow. It is a place of exceptional character. Close to a bustling town, in Skawinka valley and on the slopes of neighboring hills extends a large landscape park with a monastery and chapels which exhibit an impressive variety of Baroque architecture.

The origins of the city's history and its development date back to the early sixteenth century and are closely related to the Monastery of Bernardine Fathers. In 1600, Nicholas Zebrzydowski, a generous governor of Cracow province worked out a pious plan to erect a hermitage on the top of the Żar hill, along with the Church of the Crucifixion and the sepulchre of Jesus. Accordingly, in 1602, the founder officially donated the Church of the Crucifixion of Jesus with half of the Żar mountain to the Bernardine Fathers and undertook to construct a monastery. The work progressed to the design authored by John Mary Bernardoni, Italian Jesuit, and then under the direction of Paul Baudarth Flemish, an apt and skilfull architect.

In the first half of the seventeenth century, the painting of Our Lady was brought to the church of the Bernardine Fathers and soon became famous for its miracles and graces. This gave rise to the local cult of Virgin Mary, and the image of Our Lady of Kalwaria is now the heart of the shrine and the primary objective of each Calvary pilgrimage. The main church dedicated to our Lady of the Angels was successively decorated and equipped, as well as the chapels scattered across the area which are today true treasures of art and craft. In the nineteenth century, notwithstanding wars and partitions, the sanctuary was the centre of religious life in southern and eastern Poland – then under Austrian rule. Pilgrims also arrived from the zones of Poland annexed by Germany and Russia, as well as from Slovakia and the Balkan countries. Works by artists - architects, painters, sculptors and carvers - associated with the Monastery of Bernardine Fathers, inspired local crafts, while drawing on themes from the local folk traditions and customs.

Kalwaria Zebrzydowska is today the oldest, largest and most original of the Polish calvaries. Both the structure of the park, and the design of buildings represent Baroque mannerism. The Calvarian complex

is well-integrated into the picturesque landscape of the foothills. It lies in the valley of the Skawinka river, locally known as the Cedron river, and on the slopes of the Żar Mountain and the Lanckorona Mountain. It is composed of forty chapels, churches and bridges connected by forest ducts and avenues lined with valuable old trees. Land formation, man-made constructions, the greenery and the river – all reflect ancient Jerusalem. The scheme of the route across the Calvarian park includes the Stations of Arrest, the Stations of the Cross and the Marian avenues dedicated to Sorrow, Dormition, Funeral, and the Assumption of Mary. Kalwaria Zebrzydowska remains one of the most important centers of the pilgrimage movement in Poland. The number of pilgrims visiting the city has increased in recent years, which is attributable to its location on the famous papal route leading from Cracow to Wadowice.

Since the seventeenth century, Kalwaria has also developed craft, which initially addressed the needs of the pilgrims. Currently, the city is one of the largest furniture and carpentry manufacturing centers in Poland. Starting from 1931, the annual Kalwaria Furniture Fair has been held each July. Furthermore, two pavilions in the city center house a year-round exhibition of furniture. Local craftsmen furnished the room where Pope John Paul II stayed during his visit to the town, as well as provided papal thrones and kneelers.

Kalwaria offers excellent tourist and recreational amenities. Many valuable historical monuments, including quaint bourgeois houses have been preserved. The nearby very attractive part of the Low Beskid features steep slopes of hills and gentle valleys. The cultivated area along with extensive forest complexes are the most common sights found in the landscape. The area is defined by the two massifs of the Lanckorona and Żar mountains, towering over its surroundings.

In 1999, the UNESCO World Heritage Committee decided to include the “Culture and Landscape Complex of Kalwaria Zebrzydowska” in the UNESCO List of World Cultural and Natural Heritage.