

# ***Urzedow -top suggestions for places to visit***



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*Urzedów is a town in Lublin voivodeship, in Krasnik county and the seat of an urban-rural municipality.*

## **History of Urzedow**

*The first historical news about the village dates back to 1405 when it was established by King Wladyslaw Jagiello on the site of an old settlement. Later in the Fourteenth Century, it was mentioned in written records as Urzędów.*

*Also the fact, that the busy and important trade route which connected with the Polish capital of Cracow, Lithuania and Ruthenia ran directly through Urzędów, encouraged and influenced the development of the town.*



*In 1425, Paris was established and this had influence on Urzedow which in 1474, also established the seat of country government, consisting of 35 parishes in Urzedow, in the Lublin Province.*

*Local Land Councils of Lublin Province were held in Urzędów, as well as local Courts of Justice (called district courts).*

*In 1548 Mikołaj Rej (a known polish writer) became the mayor of Urzedow.*

*The period between 1550 and 1625 was the time of most highly developed social and economic progress of Urzędów. During this period, 63 students were trained at the Academy of Cracov.*

*With this progress and interest in the town, in the sixteenth and seventeenth centuries Urzedow had the right to choose two deputies to the Sejm in Warsaw.*

*The Regional Assembly of Lublin Province was also held in Urzedow.*

*In 1648, the town of Urzędów was looted and destroyed by Cossacks, with the residents decimated during the ongoing war and many families wiped out by accompanying epidemics.*

*In 1657 Urzedow was invaded by the Swedish Army under the command of Charles Gustav and the Hungarian, Rakoczy. The Swedish Army looted the town, leaving it in ruins with the churches of St. Spirit and St. Elizabeth burned down and Urzędów being classified as only a small rural town in the eighteenth century.*

*Then, with the fall of the Republic of Poland, Urzędow no longer existed as a County Centre, with the town of Urzedow being deprived of Civic Rights in 1869, until 1944 when soldiers of Home Army liberated Urzędów and on 1<sup>st</sup> January 2016, Urzędów regained its status as a major town.*



## **History of St. Odilia Shrine**



*Since ancient times, believers gathered on the second day of Pentecost in the church of St. Odilia, which to this present day is only a small chapel.*

*It is not surprising that the following of this Saint, has a special meaning as St. Odilia's day is celebrated on the day of her death on 13th December.*

*Older parishioners in Urzedow say, that before the war, during indulgence at St.Odilia, crowds of people gathered there, with some even coming from the other side of Vistula.*

*The current chapel (dated from 1890) is a beautiful simple wooden construction, surrounded by meadows and forest, adding to the beauty of the Chapel, situated on the road to Dzierzkowice.*

*At the front of the chapel there is a large inscription: "Holy Otylio, the doctor of our headaches and eye diseases, pray for us." With local believers glorifying St. Odilia Shrine as a healer for sore throat and eyes.*



**Church of St. Nicholas in UrzEdow**



*Parish of Saint Nicholas in Urzędów - Roman Catholic belongs to the Archdiocese of Lublin and Urzędów deanery .*

*The parish include 12 communities :*

- *Beczyn*
- *Mountains*
- *Kajetanowka*
- *Ludwinow*
- *Lopiennik*
- *Majdan Radlinski*
  
- *Mikuszewskie*

- *Rankowskie*
- *Skorczyce*
- *Urzedow*
- *Zakoscielna*
- *Zakacie*

*The present parish church was built in the late Baroque style and was founded by Father Joseph Marshall who was originally from Urzędów, with the Bishops' Cajetan Soltyk, Antoni Kazimierz Ostrowski . Franciszek Pikulski supported the construction financially . The building began in 1755 and was completed in 1784.*



***Famous People of Urzedow***

- *Martin from Urzedow - Botanist, Physician, Priest*
- *Zdzislaw Golinski - Polish Roman Catholic bishop of Czestochowa*
- *Jan Michalowicz from Urzedow- Renaissance sculptor and Architect who was very popular in Poland*
- *Israel Shinebrum - Brazilian sculptor, painter and architect*
- *Leon Ulrich - Polish translator, known for his translations of the works of William Shakespeare*
- *Alexander Gruchalski - Polish architect of the interwar period*
- *Andrzej Biernat - Polish politician, Member of Parliament, Minister of Sport and Tourism*
- *Zygmunt Drzymala - Polish professor of mechanics*
- *Krzysztof Kosikowski - Polish cyclist, Paralympic medalist*
- *Tadeusz Woškowski - Polish agricultural historian.*



## **Observatory**



*A rare and special tourist attraction is the Astronomical Observatory, equipped with an optical telescope, located on the top of the Municipal Culture Centre building, in Urzędów under the care of The Circle of Amateur Astronomers who maintain the Observatory. It is also, worth mentioning that that ancestors of Jan Hevelius, the famous Gdansk astronomer, live in Urzędów.*



**Pottery workshop and private museum of pottery.**

*In Urzedow pottery dates back from 15th century, until the present day, with a pottery workshop and a private museum of pottery, which has been operated by the same family from one generation to another since 1755.*

*Dishes are still handcrafted on the potter's wheel with items of pottery burnt in one of the oldest kilns in Poland.*



*Visitors are presented with handcrafted vessels and they are also, invited to sit at the rotating wheel and make their own pottery.*

*In the past, the work of a potter was very popular in Urzedow, with the highest popularity of this craft experienced in the 19<sup>th</sup> century, when there were 14 pottery ovens, 40 potters but in 1948 only 10 were left.*



## **Ramparts**

*In 1507, a defensive ridge of earth was built around Urzędów, which the local people named as “Tatar Ramparts” because they were thrown up to defend Urzędów from Tatars.*

*The ancient Ramparts had walls and towers, which are not visible today and on one of three gates there was a town hall with a clock. Now the Ramparts are less impressive with many trees*



*In 1918 dozens of people from Urzędów fought bravely with Ukrainians in the battle for Lvov and in memory of these battles, the people raised funds for the Monument of Lvov Defenders, displaying a huge Eagle tearing pieces of food to feed its young, created by Joseph Rachwał.*



Źródło: projekt CAMALEO  
<http://en.calameo.com/read/00504700813e55e1deaca>