

Skarżysko-Kamienna

A beautiful and interesting region of Poland little known to visitors from the West is the setting for the community of Skarżysko-Kamienna.

The town itself lies in the wooded valley of the Kamienna river, on the northern edge of the Świętokrzyskie (Holy Cross) mountains, an area rich in mineral resources and is home to one of the two most important shrines dedicated to the Virgin Mary in Poland.

Like Stafford, Skarżysko is an important road and rail junction - it is on the main Warsaw - Kraków line. Also like Stafford Borough - and indeed Dreieich - it was formed by merging several communities. The present name dates from 1928.

In the 1920s, Skarżysko was chosen as the site for the National Ammunition Factory and, during the Second World War, it became the centre of the resistance movement in the area and one of the main sources of weapons for the Polish partisans.

After 1945, the town's economy recovered quite quickly and during the Communist period the main industries were munitions, metal working, chemicals, shoe making and railway engineering.

Since the collapse of communism in 1989 there have been some problems with the transition to a market economy, but industrial diversity, combined with Polish business acumen, have enabled Skarżysko to adjust well.

