

THE POLISH SUDETY MOUNTAINS – POLSKIE SUDETY

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The Sudety Mountains are located on the Polish-Czech border with the most western part located in Germany. The massif is approx. 300 km long and 50 km wide. The main ridge goes from NW (Brama Łużycka, a border with the Erzgebirge) to SE (Brama Morawska, a border with the Carpathians).

The main ridge is a watershed between the Baltic Sea basin in the north, the North Sea in the west and the Black Sea in the south. Trójmorski Wierch in the Śnieżnik massif is the triple divide of the three basins.

The highest peak, Śnieżka/Sněžka (1602m/1202m) is located in the Karkonosze and is also the highest point in the Czech Republic.

The Sudety Mountains are split into four main massifs that are divided into smaller mountain groups:

1. Sudety Zachodnie (Western Sudety), located between Brama Łużycka and Brama Lubawska, HP Śnieżka/Sněžka (1602m/1202m).
2. Sudety Środkowe (Central Sudety), located between Brama Lubawska and Międzyleska Przełęcz, HP Velká Deštná (1115m/581m).
3. Sudety Wschodnie (Eastern Sudety) located between Międzyleska Przełęcz and Brama Morawska, HP Praděd (1491m/981m).
4. Przedgórze Sudeckie (Sudety Foreland), located between the main ridge and a city of Wrocław, HP Śleża (718m/468m).

The precise division of the massif with the highest peaks (including old German names) is presented in the table at the end of the text.

The Polish Sudety Mountains cover an area of approx. 9.300 sq. km (which equates to approx. 50% of the whole area of the range). The attached prominence list refers to the Polish part of the range. It shows all summits of which the highest point lies wholly in Poland or on the Polish border. The list contains 88 peaks with prominence value equal to at least 100m.

Six peaks have prominence greater than 300m:

1. Śnieżka (Karkonosze) 1202m
2. Śnieżnik (Masyw Śnieżnika) 657m
3. Wielka Sowa (Góry Sowie) 485m
4. Śleża (Masyw Śleży) 468m
5. Waligóra (Góry Kamienne) 366m
6. Wielki Szyszak (Karkonosze) 331m

Ten prominent peaks have height over 1000m:

1. Śnieżka (Karkonosze) 1602m
2. Wielki Szyszak (Karkonosze) 1509m
3. Śnieżnik (Masyw Śnieżnika) 1425m
4. Mały Śnieżnik (Masyw Śnieżnika) 1337m
5. Skalny Stół (Karkonosze) 1285m
6. Czarna Góra (Masyw Śnieżnika) 1205m
7. Łysocina (Karkonosze) 1188m
8. Wielka Kopa (Góry Izerskie) 1126m
9. Czernica (Góry Bialskie) 1083m
10. Wielka Sowa (Góry Sowie) 1015m

For each peak the following information is provided:

1. Peak – official name, with the part in italics and inverted commas added by the author in order to avoid duplicated names. *Disclaimer: the author does not intend to propose new names.*
2. Height – taken from the Source Map.
3. Prominence – the difference between Height and Key Col Height.
4. Key Col – name of the Key Col; if the whole name in italics, it refers to the nearest named point (as a short description of the location; note: "pod"=below a named peak, "nad"=over a village).
5. Col Height – taken from the Source Map, if in italics estimated from contour lines.
6. Prominence Parent – name of the Prominence Parent (a higher and more prominent neighbour).

7. Latitude – rounded to 5", if in *italics* this might be inaccurate due to lack of a precise grid.
8. Longitude – rounded to 5", if in *italics* this might be inaccurate due to lack of a precise grid.
9. Source Map – a map described in the additional list as being a source for the prominence calculation.
10. Country – PL: wholly in Poland, PL/CZ: Czech border.
11. Group – part of the geographical massif, if in *italics* introduced by the author for more precision.
12. Massif – official name of the massif.

14 maps were used to estimate the official name, prominence and geographical location of a peak. In the list of the maps one can see the scale and contour lines grid utilised for the estimation of key col heights (this allows for the assessing of the maximum error of a calculation).

Source number, name of the map, scale, contour lines grid, editor and edition year.

- [1] Góry Izerskie, 1:40k, 20m, Plan 2005
- [2] Karkonosze, 1:30k, 20m, ExpressMap 2005
- [3] Rudawy Janowickie, 1:25k, 10m, Plan 2005
- [4] Góry Kaczawskie, 1:40k, 20m, Plan 2005
- [5] Góry Wałbrzyskie i Kamienne, 1:40k, 20m, Plan 2005
- [6] Góry Stołowe, 1: 60k, 20m, ExpressMap 2005
- [7] Ziemia Kłodzka, 1:50k, 10m, Compass 2005
- [8] Jeseniky - Rychlebske Hory, 1:50k, 10m, SHOCart 2003
- [9] Jeseniky - Kralicky Sneznik, 1:75k, 20m, SHOCart 2004
- [10] Masyw Ślęży, 1:25k, 10m, Plan 2005
- [11] Sudety Zachodnie, 1:75k, 50m, Plan 2005
- [12] Jelenia Góra, 1:100k, 20m, WZKart 1996
- [13] Przedgórze Sudeckie, 1:50k, 10m, Plan 2005
- [14] Ziemia Kłodzka, 1:60k, 20m, ExpressMap 2005

The peaks on the list belong to 16 geographical massifs (not orographical ones). Their characteristics are briefly described below.

Góry Izerskie

Broad massif located on the Polish-Czech border. The high Nysa Łużycka river is a border with Ještědsko-kozákovský hřbet in the Czech Republic. Szklarska Pass is a border with Karkonosze in the east. The northern foothills are known as Pogórze Izerskie (between Nysa Łużycka and Bóbr rivers). The highest and the most prominent peak is located in Poland: Wielka Kopa (1126m/240m). Number of P100m summits in Poland: 2.

Karkonosze

The highest part of Sudety with flat bare ridges and steep rocky slopes. The main ridge on the Polish-Czech border and a watershed between Odra and Elba basins. The key col of Śnieżka is located in North Bavaria (Germany) at the Main-Rhein canal, 1 km NE from Pierheim near Hilpoltstein. A precise altitude of the pass is difficult to estimate due to artificial cut. The highest and the most prominent peak is HP of the Sudety Mountains: Śnieżka (1602m/1202m). Number of P100m summits in Poland: 6.

Rudawy Janowickie

Tiny mountain group located NE from Karkonosze, separated from them by the Kowarska Pass. The northern gritstone part is known as Sokoliki and is a popular climbing region. The highest and the most prominent peak: Skalnik (945m/220m). Number of P100m summits: 5.

Góry Kaczawskie

Broad massif of low hills located north of Karkonosze on the right riverbank of Bóbr. It is orographically connected with Góry Wałbrzyskie in Central Sudety. The northern foothills are known as Pogórze Kaczawskie. The highest point is divergent depending on the source. In the majority of books Skopiec is mentioned as the highest summit of Góry Kaczawskie, with an altitude of 724m. Nevertheless the newest map [4] shows the following altitudes: Baraniec 720m, Folwarczna 720m, Skopiec 718m, Okole 714m. As a 720m contour encircles a bigger area on the top of Baraniec than on Folwarczna, the first was taken as the highest point of the mountain range. The highest and the most prominent peak: Baraniec (720m/250m). Number of P100m summits: 7.

Pogórze Kaczawskie

The northern foothills of Góry Kaczawskie located between rivers of Bóbr and Nysa Szalona. The highest peak is a cone-shaped hill of a volcanic origin.

The highest and the most prominent peak: Ostrzyca Proboszczowicka (501m/151m).

Number of P100m summits: 4.

Góry Wałbrzyskie

A 35 km long mountain group of isolated hills close to a city of Wałbrzych. The northern foothills are known as Pogórze Wałbrzyskie.

The highest peak: Borowa (853m/223m).

The most prominent peak: Chełmiec (851m/281m).

Number of P100m summits: 7.

Góry Kamienne

A mountain group on the Polish-Czech border. It is divided into two main parts, not connected orographically: Góry Krucze in the west (with Kralovecký Špičák 881m/341m located in the Czech Rep.) and Góry Suche in the east with the highest peak of the range.

The term of "Góry Kamienne" exists only in Polish geography – according to Czech geography there are two separate massifs of Vraní hory (in the west) and Javoří hory (in the east). To make the issue more complicated, according to German geography Góry Kamienne and Góry Wałbrzyskie create a single massif of the Waldenburger Bergland.

The highest and the most prominent peak is located in Poland: Waligóra (936m/366m).

Number of P100m summits in Poland: 9.

Góry Stołowe

A group of sandstone faces and rocky labyrinths on the Polish-Czech border. It is divided into a few parts:

The highest Hejszowina in SE located in Poland, Broumovské steny and Adršpašsko-Teplické skály in the central part (located in the Czech Rep.) and Zawory and Miroszowickie Ściany in NW located on the border.

The highest and the most prominent peak is located in Poland: Szczeliniec Wielki (919m/259m).

Number of P100m summits in Poland: 6.

Góry Sowie

25 km long mountain range located east of Góry Kamienne and north of Góry Bardzkie. Geologically it is the oldest part of Sudety (gneiss rocks are 2.5 mio years old).

The highest and the most prominent peak: Wielka Sowa (1015m/485m).

Number of P100m summits: 7.

Góry Bardzkie

Low mountain group dividing the dale of Kotlina Kłodzka from Sudety Foreland. NW border of the range is located on Srebrna Pass (border on Góry Sowie) and SE border on Kłodzka Pass (border on Góry Złote).

The massif is split with a gorge of Nysa river (so called Przełom Bardzki). The highest peak is located in SE part of the range.

The highest and the most prominent peak: Kłodzka Góra (765m/282m).

Number of P100m summits: 11.

Góry Orlickie

50 km long mountain range located mostly in the Czech Republic with a northern part located in Poland. The Polskie Wrota pass is a border with Góry Stołowe in the north. There are no prominent summits in the Polish part of the range.

The highest peak is located in the Czech Republic: Velká Deštná (1115m/581m).

The highest point in Poland is located on a slope of Orlica (1084m/99m).

Number of P100m summits: 0.

Góry Bystrzyckie

A range spread parallel to Góry Orlickie and located in SW part of the dale of Kotlina Kłodzka. The highest peak is located in the southern part of the range.

The highest and the most prominent peak: Jagodna (977m/247m).

Number of P100m summits: 4.

Masyw Śnieżnika

A bare mountain on the Polish-Czech border in the southern part of the dale of Kotlina Kłodzka. On the SW ridge a triple divide of Elba, Odra and Morava rivers (North Sea, Baltic Sea and Black Sea basins) is located (so called Trójmorski Wierch).

The highest and the most prominent peak: Śnieżnik (1425m/657m).
Number of P100m summits in Poland: 8.

Góry Bialskie

Compact mountain group between Masyw Śnieżnika in the west and Hrubý Jeseník in the east located in the SE corner of the dale of Kotlina Kłodzka. The precise border between Góry Bialskie and Góry Złote is difficult to estimate. In this working paper, a key col of Kowadło (HP Góry Złote) is assumed to be the border. According to some Polish authors (i.e. Kondracki) and Czech geographers, the two groups form a single mountain range.

The highest and the most prominent peak is located in the Czech Republic: Smrk (1125m/308m).

The highest point in the Polish part is located near the top of Travná (1120m/35m).

The only prominent peak in the Polish part: Czernica (1083m/122m)

Number of P100m summits in Poland: 1.

Góry Złote

A 55km long mountain range located between Góry Bardzkie and Góry Bialskie in the eastern part of the dale of Kotlina Kłodzka.

The highest peak: Kowadło (989m/124m).

The most prominent peak: Jawornik Wielki (872m/289m).

Number of P100m summits in Poland: 6.

Góry Opawskie

A mountain range located mostly in the Czech Republic, north of Hrubý Jeseník. Just a tiny part is located in Poland.

The highest and the most prominent peak is located in the Czech Republic: Příkladný vrch (974m/259m)

The only prominent peak in Poland: Biskupia Kopa (878m/163m).

Number of P100m summits in Poland: 1.

Przedgórze Sudeckie

A broad highland located north-east from the main Sudety massif. One can mark out the following parts of the highland: Wzgórza Strzelińskie, Masyw Śleży, Wzgórza Bielawsko-Niemczańskie and Wzgórza Strzegomskie. The highest peak is an isolated cone-shaped hill located just 30 km south of a city of Wrocław.

The highest and the most prominent peak: Ślęża (718m/468m).

Number of P100m summits: 4.

Table: Split of the Sudety mountains into mountain groups.

Main Massif	Mountain group			Loc.	The Highest Point			Alt.	Loc.	Prom.
	PL	CZ	D		PL	CZ	D			
Western Sudety	Pogórze Łużyckie	Šluknovská pahorkatina	Lausitzer Bergland	CZ/D	Sokolnik	Sokolnik	Valtenberg	587m	D	?
Western Sudety	Góry Łużyckie	Lužické hory	Lausitzer/Zittauer Gebirge	CZ/D	Łuż	Luž	Lausche	793m	CZ/D	370m
Western Sudety	-	Ještědsko-kozákovský hřbet	Jeschkegebirge	CZ	-	Ještěd	Jeschken	1012m	CZ	510m
Western Sudety	Góry Izerskie	Jizerské hory	Isergebirge	PL/CZ	Wysoka Kopa	-	Hinterberg	1126m	PL	240m
Western Sudety	Pogórze Izerskie	Frydlantská pahorkatina	Friedländer Bergland	PL/CZ	-	Andělský vrch	Engelsberg	572m	CZ	?
Western Sudety	Karkonosze	Krkonoše	Riesengebirge	PL/CZ	Śnieżka	Sněžka	Schneekoppe	1602m	PL/CZ	1202m
Western Sudety	Podgórze Karkonoskie	Krkonošské podhůří	Hochstädter Bergland	CZ	-	Hejlov	Hejlov-Berg	835m	CZ	?
Western Sudety	Rudawy Janowickie	-	Landeshuter Kamm	PL	Skalnik	-	?	945m	PL	220m
Western Sudety	Góry Kaczawskie	-	Bober-Katzbach-Gebirge	PL	Baraniec	-	?	720m	PL	250m
Western Sudety	Pogórze Kaczawskie	-		PL	Ostrzyca	-	Spitzberg	501m	PL	151m
Central Sudety	Góry Wałbrzyskie	-	Waldenburger Bergland	PL	Borowa	-	Schwarzer Berg	853m	PL	223m
Central Sudety	Pogórze Wałbrzyskie	-		PL	Sas	-	Sachsberg	515m	PL	?
Central Sudety	Góry Kamienne	Vraní hory, Javoří hory		PL/CZ	Walgóra	-	Heidelberg	936m	PL	366m
Central Sudety	-	Jastřebí hory (Žacléřská vrchovina)	Hexensteingebirge (Überschaargebirge)	CZ	-	Žaltman	Hexenstein	739m	CZ	?
Central Sudety	Góry Stołowe	Broumovská vrchovina	Heuscheuergebirge	PL/CZ	Szczeliniec Wielki	-	Großen Heuscheuer	919m	PL	259m
Central Sudety	Góry Sowie	-	Eurlengebirge	PL	Wielka Sowa	-	Hohe Eule	1015m	PL	485m
Central Sudety	Góry Bardzkie	-	Warthagebirge	PL	Kłodzka Góra	-	Glatsen-Berg	765m	PL	282m
Central Sudety	Góry Orlickie	Orlické hory	Adlergebirge	PL/CZ	-	Velká Deštná	Deschneyer Großkoppe	1115m	CZ	581m
Central Sudety	Pogórze Orlickie	Podorlická pahorkatina	Adlergebirgsvorland	CZ	-	Vlkov	?	599m	CZ	?
Central Sudety	Góry Bystrzyckie	-	Habelschertder Gebirge	PL	Jagodna	-	Heidelberg	977m	PL	247m
Eastern Sudety	Masyw Śnieżnika	Králický Sněžník	Schneegebirge	PL/CZ	Śnieżnik	Králický Sněžník	Glatzer Schneeberg	1425m	PL/CZ	657m
Eastern Sudety	Góry Białskie	Rychlebské hory	Bielengebirge	PL/CZ	Smrek „Białski”	Smrk	Fichtlich	1125m	CZ	308m
Eastern Sudety	Góry Złote		Reichensteiner Gebirge	PL/CZ	Kowadło	Kovadlina	Schmiedekoppe	989m	PL/CZ	124m
Eastern Sudety	Wysoki Jesionik	Hrubý Jeseník	Altwatergebirge	CZ	Pradziad	Praděd	Altwater	1491m	CZ	981m
Eastern Sudety	Góry Opawskie	Złatohorská vrchovina	Oppagebirge	PL/CZ	-	Příčný vrch	Querberg	975m	CZ	259m
Eastern Sudety	Niski Jesionik	Nizký Jeseník	Niederer Gesenke	CZ	-	Slunečná	Sonnenkoppe	800m	CZ	170m
Eastern Sudety	Odrzańskie Wierchy	Oderské vrchy	Odergebirge	CZ	-	Fidluv kopec	Lieselberg	680m	CZ	110m
Eastern Sudety	-	Zábřezská vrchovina	Hohenstädter Bergland	CZ	-	Lázek	?	714m	CZ	?
Eastern Sudety	-	Hanušovická vrchovina	Hannsdorfer Bergland	CZ	-	Jeřáb	Grulicher Marienberg	1003m	CZ	?
Sudety Foreland	Wzgórza Strzegomskie	-	Striegauer Berge	PL	Krzyżowa Góra	-	Kreuzberg	359m	PL	?
Sudety Foreland	Masyw Ślęży	-	Zobtenberg	PL	Ślęża	-	Zobtenberg	718m	PL	468m
Sudety Foreland	Wzgórza Bielawsko-Niemczańskie	-	Strehlen und Nimptschgebirge	PL	Wacławka	-	?	473m	PL	78m
Sudety Foreland	Wzgórza Strzelińskie	-		PL	Gromnik	-	?	393m	PL	138m
Sudety Foreland	Przedgórze Paczkowskie	Žulovská pahorkatina	Patschkauer Vorbergländ	PL/CZ	Kalwaria	-	?	385m	PL	?

PL – located in Poland or a Polish name; CZ – located in Czech Rep. or a Czech name; D – located in Germany or a German name.