

THE POLISH CARPATHIANS – POLSKIE KARPATY

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The Carpathians are a long mountain range curved in the shape of a horseshoe. The total length of the range, measuring from the River Danube near Bratislava to the River Danube near The Iron Gate, amounts to 1300 km. The area of the core massif is equal to 209.000 sq. km (source: J. Kondracki, *Karpaty*, Warszawa 1978).

The highest peak is located in the Tatra Mountains and is one of the European Ultras (Gierlach, 2655m/2355m). Other Ultras are located in Romania: Paringul Mare 2519m/2103m, Varful Moldoveanu 2544m/2046m and Varful Peleaga 2509m/1759m.

Generally the mountain range is divided into three main parts:

1. The Western Carpathians: located in Slovakia, Poland and Hungary (between Bratislava and Łupkowska Pass) with the highest peak Gierlach (2655m) in Slovakia.
2. The Eastern Carpathians: located in Poland, Slovakia, Ukraine and Romania (between Łupkowska Pass and Predeal Pass) with the highest peak Pietros (2305m) in Romania.
3. The Southern Carpathians: located wholly in Romania (between Predeal Pass and The Iron Gate) with the highest peak Moldoveanu (2544m).

The attached prominence list refers to the Polish part of the range. The Polish Carpathians cover an area of approx. 20.000 sq. km (which equates to approx. 10% of the whole area of the range) and are almost 300 km long (in W-E direction) and 50-100 km wide (in N-S direction). In the west the area borders on The Czech Republic, in the south on Slovakia and partly on Ukraine and in the east on Ukraine. The northern border is estimated to be at approx. 50°N.

The prominence list shows all summits on which the highest point lies wholly in Poland or on the Polish border. Therefore in the list one cannot find the highest peak in Poland (Rysy 2500m/160m in the Tatra Mountains) because the main summit is located in Slovakia 100 m. off the border. The highest point in Poland is a lower NW summit of Rysy (2499m) with approx. 10m. of prominence value. A similar situation occurs in relation to Kamienista (2127m/335m) in the Tatra Mountains and Pilsko (1557m/748m) in Beskid Żywiecki.

The list contains 339 peaks with prominence value equal to at least 100m. Half of them have prominence not greater than 150m. The most prominent is Diablak (HP Babia Góra) 1725m/1075m and the highest one is Mięszowiecki Szczyt (2432m/207m). 87 peaks on the list have altitude higher than 1000m.

For the 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; if the whole name is in italics and inverted commas (4 examples), it refers to a nameless hill. Disclaimer: the author does not intend to propose new names.
2. Height – taken from the Source Map.
3. Prominence – difference between Height and Key Col Height.
4. Key Col – name of the Key Col, with the part in italics and inverted commas added by the author in order to avoid duplicated names; if the whole name is 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” (exception: Tatry), if in italics might be inaccurate due to lack of a precise grid.
8. Longitude – rounded to 5” (exception: Tatry), if in italics might be inaccurate due to lack of a precise grid.
9. Source Map – a map described in the additional list being a source for prominence calculation.
10. Country – PL: wholly in Poland, PL/CZ: Czech border, PL/SK: Slovak border, PL/UA: Ukrainian 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, mostly based on Kondracki, op.cit. (see: “List of divergences”).

List of divergences with Kondracki

1. Pasemko Pawelskie, Pasma Laskowskie and Pasma Jałowieckie are included with Beskid Żywiecki, not with Beskid Makowski (according to the prevailing current opinion).
2. Skoruszyna, Pogórze Gubałowskie and Pogórze Spiskie are joined just for the purposes of this working paper in „Pogórze Podtatrzańskie”.
3. “Pogórze Beskidzkie” has been created to group all hills located in the northern “Pre-Carpathian” area.

32 maps were used to estimate 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] Beskid Śląski, 1:50k, 20m, 20m, ExpressMap 2004
- [2] Beskid Śląski, 1:50k, 10m, Compass 2004
- [3] Beskid Mały, 1:50k, 10m, Compass 2003
- [4] Beskid Żywiecki, 1:50k, 20m, ExpressMap 2005
- [5] Kysucke Beskidy, 1:50k, 20m, VKU Harmanec 2002
- [6] Wokół Babiej Góry, 1:50k, 20m Compass 2005
- [7] Zapadne Tatry, 1:25k, 10m, VKU Harmanec 2005
- [8] Vysoke Tatry, 1:25k, 10m, VKU Harmanec 2005
- [9] Beskid Makowski, 1:50k, 10m, Compass 2003
- [10] Beskid Makowski 1:75k, 20m, PPWK 2002
- [11] Okolice Krakowa, 1:50k, 20m, WZKart. 1998
- [12] Gorce i Kotlina Nowotarska, 1:50k, 20m, VKU Harmanec 2004
- [13] Gorce i Pieniny, 1:50k, 20m, ExpressMap 2004
- [14] Beskid Wyspowy, 1:50k, 10m, Compass 2005
- [15] Beskid Wyspowy, 1:75k, 20m, PPWK 2002
- [16] Pieniny, 1:25k, 10m, AW WiT 2004
- [17] Beskid Sądecki, 1:50k, 20m, ExpressMap 2005
- [18] Beskid Niski, 1:50k, 20m, Compass 2005
- [19] Beskid Niski 1:75k, 20m, Demart 2005
- [20] Beskid Niski - zapadna cast, 1:50k, 20m, VKU Harmanec 2001
- [21] Beski Niski - sredna cast, 1:50k, 20m, VKU Harmanec 2002
- [22] Beskid Niski - część wschodnia, 1:50k, 20m, WZKart. 2005
- [23] Pogórze Różnowskie, 1:50k, 10m, Compass 2004
- [24] Pogórze Ciężkowickie, 1:50k, 10m, Compass 2005
- [25] Beskid Niski i Pogórze, 1:125k, 25m, PPWK 2005
- [26] Bieszczady, 1:50k, 10m, Compass 2001
- [27] Bieszczady, 1:65k, 20m, ExpressMap 2005
- [28] Bukovske vrchy, 1:50k, 20m, VKU Harmanec 1996
- [29] Bieszczady Wysokie, 1:40k, 20m, W. Krukar Ruthensus 2004
- [30] Bieszczady i Góry Sanockie, 1:75k, 20m, PPWK 2005
- [31] Krosno, 1:100k, 20m, WZKart. 1995
- [32] Przemyśl, 1:100k, 20m, WZKart. 1995

The peaks on the list belong to 14 geographical massifs (not orographical ones). Their characteristics are briefly described below.

Beskid Śląski

The western part of the Polish Beskidy, located mainly in high Olza and Vistula basins. The northern hilly area is known as Pogórze Cieszyńskie (between Olza and Wisła). On the Main European Watershed, the limits of the massif are located in the Jabłonkowska Pass (border with Moravske Beskidy) and Zwardońska Pass (border with Beskid Żywiecki).

The highest and the most prominent peak: Skrzyczne (1257m/585m).

Number of P100m summits: 21.

Beskid Mały

This compact and low massif is divided into two sections by the Soła gorge. The Czupel group (Pasma Magurki) in the west is orographically connected with Beskid Śląski and the Łamana Skała group (Góry Zasolskie) in the east is orographically connected with Beskid Żywiecki.

The highest and the most prominent peak: Czupel "Wilkowicki" (933m/523m).

Number of P100m summits: 13.

Beskid Żywiecki

This broad massif is the highest part of Beskidy on the Polish-Slovak border. The limits of the massif are located in the Zwardońska Pass (border with Beskid Śląski) and Sieniawska Pass (border with Gorce).

The highest and the most prominent peak: Diablak (HP Babia Góra, 1725m/1075m).

Number of P100m summits: 36.

Pogórze Podtatrzanie

A broad group of low hills located in the plain basins of the Orava (which hydrographically belongs to Black Sea) and high Dunajec, cut by the Polish–Slovak border at the both ends. The hills are mostly not connected orographically. In the north the region borders on Beskid Żywiecki, Gorce and Pieniny, in the south it is connected with Tatry and Magura Spiska. In the NW part of the region a low col on the Main European Watershed joins the Tatra Mts. with the Babia Góra group.

The highest and the most prominent peaks: Skoruszyna 1314m/374m in Slovakia and Magura Witowska 1232m/270m in Poland.

Number of P100m summits in the Polish part: 3.

Tatry

The highest part of The Carpathians, with an alpine character, high rocky faces and numerous snowy gullies. This range is described in detail in the chapter referring to the Crown of the Tatra (list of 73 P100m in the whole range, <http://www.peaklist.org/VVlists/euro600/tatra/Tatra.html>). See also notes in the beginning of this chapter.

The highest and the most prominent peak: Gierlach (2655m/2255m) in Slovakia.

The highest P100m in Poland: Mięgoszowiecki Szczyt (2432m/207m), the most prominent in the Polish Tatra: Kominiarski Wierch (1829m/370m).

Number of P100m summits in Poland: 19.

Beskid Makowski

A broad massif of low hills located in the northern part of Beskidy close to a city of Kraków. The northern hilly area is known as Pogórze Wielickie (between Skawa and Raba). The borders are located on Skawa river in the west and Raba river in the east with the two exceptions:

- (i) Lubomir, the most prominent peak, is not orographically connected with the region as it lies on the eastern riverside of Raba
- (ii) Luboń group, which geographically is a part of Beskid Wyspowy (despite being located on the western riverside of Raba).

The highest and the most prominent peak: Lubomir (904m/349m).

Number of P100 summits: 18.

Gorce

A compact massive in the central part of Beskidy range. The limits of the massif are located in the Sieniawska Pass (border with Beskid Żywiecki), Snozka Pass (border with Pieniny) and Przyslop Pass (border with Beskid Wyspowy).

The highest and the most prominent peak: Turbacz (1315m/605m).

Number of P100 summits: 7.

Beskid Wyspowy

A broad mountain group built up with characteristic cone-shaped hills. Located north of Gorce, between Raba river in the west and Dunajec river in the east with the two exceptions:

- (i) Luboń Wielki, the most prominent peak, is not orographically connected with the region as it lies on the western riverside of Raba
- (ii) Lubomir group, which belongs geographically to Beskid Makowski (despite being located on the eastern riverside of Raba).

The hilly area in the north is called Pogórze Wiśnickie and is located between Raba and Dunajec.

The highest peak: Mogielica (1171m/421m)

The most prominent peak: Luboń Wielki (1022m/512m).

Number of P100 summits: 34.

Pieniny

A compact rocky group on the Polish-Slovak border divided by the deep Dunajec gorge. The borders of the massif are located on the following passes: Snozka dividing from Gorce, Rozdziele dividing from Beskid Sądecki and Strañanske sedlo (Folwarczna Przełęcz) dividing from Magura Spiska.

The massif can be divided into three main parts: Hombarki in the west, the most beautiful Pieniny Właściwe in the center and Małe Pieniny in the east. Hombarki and the Polish part of Pieniny Właściwe are orographically connected to Gorce, the rest of the region: via Magura Spiska with the Tatra Mountains.

The highest peak is located in Małe Pieniny: Wysoka "Szlachtowska" (1050m/247m)

The most prominent peak is located in Pieniny Właściwe: Okraglica (HP Trzy Korony, 983m/330m).

Number of P100m summits in Poland: 7.

Beskid Sądecki

A broad mountain massif divided by the Poprad gorge into two parts: Radziejowa group in the west and Jaworzyna group in the east. The geographical borders of the massif are located on Rozdziele Pass (border with Pieniny) and Tylicka Pass (border with Beskid Niski).

The highest and the most prominent peak: Radziejowa (1262m/533m).

Number of P100m summits: 15.

Beskid Niski

A very broad massif with a complicated orography. The lowest part of the main Carpathian ridge (Dukielska Pass, a key col of Moldoveanu, is located in the middle of the region). Despite the low altitude, the region is the most abundant in P100m peaks.

The massif is divided from Beskid Sądecki by the Tylicka Pass in the west and from Bieszczady by the Łupkowska Pass in the east.

The highest and the most prominent peaks: Busov (1002m/372m) in Slovakia and Lackowa (998m/361m) in Poland.

Number of P100m summits in Poland: 70.

Góry Sanocko-Turczańskie

A tiny mountain group located north of Bieszczady Zachodnie on the eastern riverbank of the San river, partly in Dniestr basin (which hydrographically belongs to Black Sea) on the Polish-Ukrainian border. Northern hilly part is called Pogórze Przemyskie.

The highest and the most prominent peaks: Magura Łomnińska (1024m/394m) in Ukraine and Trohaniec (HP Otryt) (939m/329m) in Poland.

Number of P100m summits: 15.

Bieszczady Zachodnie

The most eastern part of Polish Carpathians located between Łupkowska Pass (division from Beskid Niski) and Użocka Pass (division from Bieszczady Wschodnie in Ukraine). Due to the specific climate, the highest peaks are bare as the tree-line is located very low at 1100-1200 m. The orographical construction of the massif is complicated as the ridges are transverse to rivers.

The highest peak: Tarnica (1346m/494m).

The most prominent peak: Wielka Rawka (1307m/523m).

Number of P100 summits in Poland: 50.

Pogórze Beskidzkie

A broad hilly lowland located north of the core Carpathian range. It is divided into the following parts:

- (i) Pogórze Śląskie between Olza and Skawa (Czech border)
- (ii) Pogórze Wielickie between Skawa and Raba
- (iii) Pogórze Wiśnickie between Raba and Dunajec
- (iv) Pogórze Różnowskie between Dunajec and Biała
- (v) Pogórze Ciężkowickie between Biała and Wiśłoka
- (vi) Pogórze Strzyżowskie between Wiśłoka and Wiśłok
- (vii) Pogórze Dynowskie between Wiśłok and San
- (viii) Pogórze Przemyskie between San and Wiar (Ukrainian border)

The highest peak is located in Pogórze Dynowskie: Sucha Góra "Czarnorzecka" (585m/280m).

The most prominent peak is located in Pogórze Strzyżowskie: Bardo (534m/284m).

Number of P100m summits: 31.