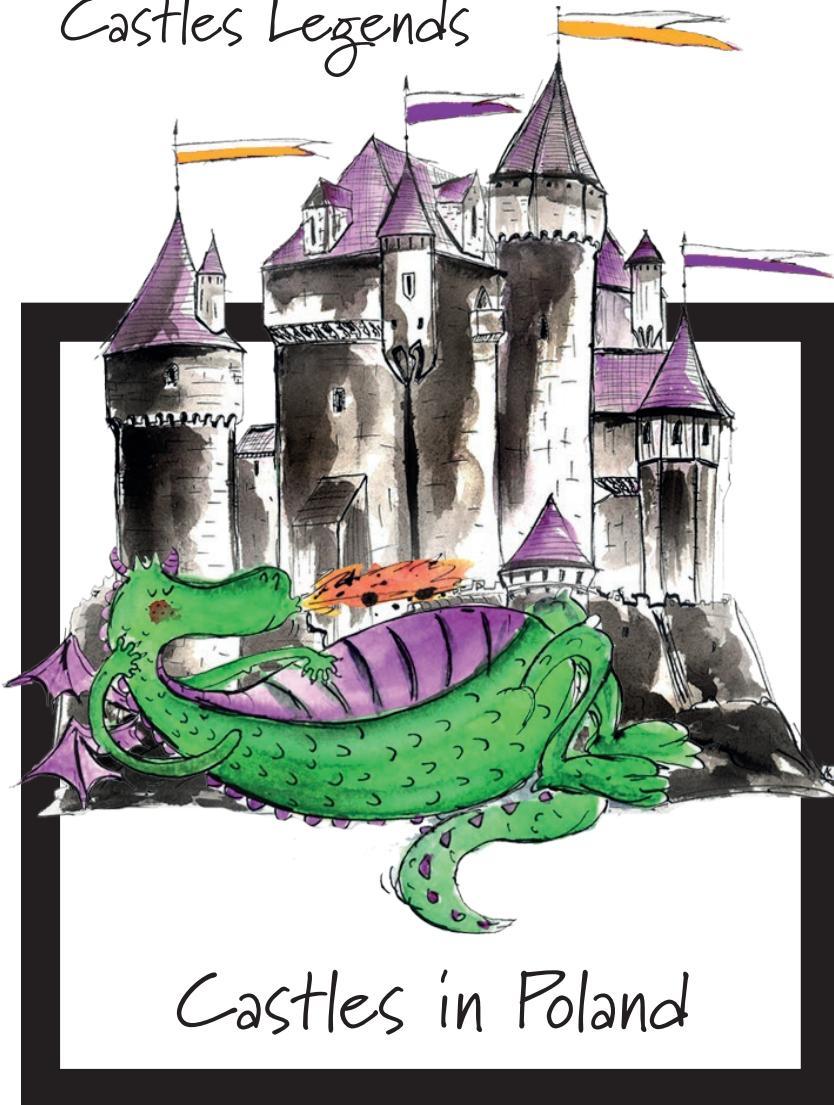


# Castles Legends



Castles in Poland

Written by: Kinga Kijewska

Illustrated by: Agata Krzyżanowska



This e-book was created as part of the Castles.today project that seeks to promote history and tourism by presenting high-quality content related to castles and forts scattered around the globe. We offer you a brief escape from the daily routine, allowing you to travel back in time to the era of princesses and knights strolling through chambers and castle walls.

# Castles Legends

## Castles in Poland

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When I look at old walls of medieval strongholds, I see more than just bricks. I see history, I see the life of people of that era. I see their joy and sorrow. I feel a piece of that long-gone world forever echoing in the castle stones. Part of history remains somewhere there, deep inside, waiting for those willing to rediscover it.

This book will take you on a journey to the past times – the middle ages, the renaissance, and, in some cases, also to events of the recent past. Nonetheless, all these stories share one thing – an aura of mystery. Dragons, spirits, hidden treasures... It all relentlessly inspires fantasies in any enthusiast of these majestic buildings. Let yourself be taken away to the world where magic and sorcery become one with reality; to places we all perfectly know that are shown here from a different, extraordinary point of view.

It is my great desire for you to see something more than brick walls in these places when reading this collection of legends. I would like you to see the world that I can see even when staring at nothing but ruins. To stop for a moment and try see it differently than before. To notice that which is dormant and to discover that which is not visible to the naked eye. I invite you to step into my world – a world of legends and fairy tales related to castles that can be found in Poland.

# Castle Legends

Legends of Lipowiec Castle in Babice .....	5
Legends of Besiekiry Castle .....	7
The Legend of Bezławki Castle .....	9
The Legend of Będzin Castle.....	11
The Legend of Bierutów Castle.....	13
The Legend of the castles in Bobolice and Mirów .....	14
The Legend of Bolków Castle.....	16
The Legend of Chęciny Castle.....	19
Legends of the Castle of the Masovian Dukes in Ciechanów .....	21
Legends of the Castle of the Masovian Dukes in Czersk .....	24
Legends of the Castle in Golub-Dobrzyń .....	27
Legends of Grodziec Castle.....	29
The Legend of the Castle of the Bishops of Kraków in Iłża .....	32
The Legend of Janowiec Castle.....	33
Legends of Chojnik Castle in Jelenia Góra-Sobieszów .....	35
The Legend of Kazimierz Dolny Castle .....	38
The Legend of Kliczków Castle .....	39
The Legend of Kórnik Castle .....	41
Legends of the Wawel Royal Castle, Kraków .....	43
The Legend of Kruszwica Castle.....	47
The Legend of Lesko Castle .....	50
The Legend of the Castle in Lidzbark Warmiński.....	52
The Legends of Liw Castle .....	54

Legends of Łęczyca Castle.....	57
Legends of Malbork Castle .....	59
The Legend of Sobień Castle in Manasterzec Village.....	64
The Legend of Nidzica Castle.....	67
Legends of Kamieniec Castle in Odrzykoń .....	68
Legends of the Castle in Olsztyn near Częstochowa.....	70
The Legend of Oporów Castle .....	72
Legends of Ogrodzieniec Castle.....	74
Legends of Gryf Castle in Proszówka .....	78
The Legend of the Castle of Masovian Dukes in Rawa Mazowiecka	81
Legends of Castle Tenczyn in Rudno .....	82
The Legend of Ryn Castle .....	84
The Legend of Pilcza Castle in Smoleń .....	85
The Legend of Sobków Castle.....	87
Legends of Czocha Castle in Sucha .....	88
Legends of Pieskowa Skała Castle in Sułoszowa .....	93
The Legend of the Górką Family Castle in Szamotuły .....	95
The Legend of the Pomeranian Dukes' Castle in Szczecin .....	98
Legends of Krzyżtopór Castle in Ujazd.....	99
Legends of the Castle of Gniezno Archbishops in Uniejów .....	102
Legends of Książ Castle in Wałbrzych .....	104
Legends of the Royal Castle in Warsaw .....	108
Legends of Ostrogski Castle in Warsaw .....	114
The Legend of Lenno Castle in Wleń .....	116
Legends of Grodno Castle in Zagórze Śląskie .....	118

# Legends of Lipowiec Castle in Babice

On the ghostly carriage and the spirits  
of past convicts

**L**ong, long time ago, in the distant medieval era, Lipowiec Castle served for many years as a prison for bishops. It housed numerous wretched souls who dared to oppose the power of the Catholic Church.

And at that time, the Church unquestionably showed no mercy for its opponents. Oftentimes, the fate convicts faced there was cruel. Executioners would use various forms of torture, prisoners were incarcerated in cells and put merely on a diet of bread and water, and sometimes sentenced to death by starvation... Though these atrocities have been discontinued for many centuries now, their impact on the castle walls is permanent. To this day, the premises are haunted by spirits of past convicts. On full moon, one can often hear odd moans and cries coming from the castle dungeons. It is said that



around midnight, on some occasions, a violent wind suddenly rises... Even on a warm summer night, the air is said to turn ice-cold at those moments... In the outer ward, a shadow of a black carriage appears.

The carriage is drawn by six pairs of black horses. Then, a bishop clad in purple emerges from the carriage, slowly enters the castle yard. Behind him, guards are dragging a convict. Then, a headsman rises a sword and a thunder strikes, the earth crumbles and caves in, and the spirits disappear... This scene takes place again and again, with nothing suggesting that these ghosts will soon find solace...

## The Legend of the White Lady

Like many other castles, Lipowiec Castle has its White Lady. Where does the name of the castle come from? This is revealed in a beautiful romantic legend that probably holds quite a large grain of truth... Francesco Stancaro was supposedly the best-known prisoner held in Lipowiec Castle. It is said that he was the only one who managed to escape the prison in Babice. This Italian man born in Mantua co-authored the so-called Brest Bible. This alone made him a great adversary of the Church. And the fact that he planned to carry out reformation in Poland only added to his fame of an exceptionally dangerous man. The Church was not fond of those who had the courage to oppose it and its dignitaries. For his views, Stancaro was imprisoned in the cells of Lipowiec Castle. And it was there that an unusual story took place. According to the legend, he captured the heart of the castle guard's daughter. The young girl would do anything to be with her beloved, so she prepared an escape plan. Since due to her father's position she could enjoy many privileges, each day she would bring sheets to the convict's cell. The latter would then tie the sheets

together to form a long durable rope. On one dark moonless night, once the rope was long enough, the young lad slid down the sheets from the castle tower and escaped. His beloved was supposed to join him on the following day. When she was packing essentials intended to help the young couple begin a new life, her father entered her chamber, infuriated. The whole intrigue came to light.

The girl was to be guarded, prohibited from leaving the castle. Francesco could not return to help her, as that would mean his re-imprisonment with no chance for rescue. The girl cried and begged her father to allow her to join her beloved one, but the man remained unbent. She did not want to live without her love any longer. She put on a wedding gown and climbed the castle tower. She jumped off and fell onto the roof of the keep. Since then, her ghost has been roaming the ruins of Lipowiec Castle. It is said that she is looking for her beloved who will return and save her.

## Legends of Besiekiry Castle

### The Legend of The White Lady



The first legend of Besiekiry Castle is truly unique. Why is that so? Well, the ghost that can be seen there is in fact roaming from one castle to another. This ghost is said to reside permanently in a nearby village called Borysławice Zamkowe. However, the spectre has been repeatedly sighted also in the vicinity of ruins in Besiekiry. Why is the White Lady indecisive as to which stronghold she should settle in? The answer to this question can be found in a legend...