

DESCRIPTION AND GENERAL CHARACTERISTICS

Location:

The stargazing workshops take place within the borders of the Starry-Sky Park Bieszczady, located in south-east corner of Poland. The telescopes and other devices for observation of stars are portable, therefore observation can be organized almost everywhere in the park. Although the most popular spots are Lutowiska, Dwernik and Stuposiany. (49°15'05.0"N 22°41'42.6"E).

Description:

The usual workshop starts from interactive lecture during which photos and films of night sky are shown to the participants. This part is held either in the building prepared for such a purpose or portable planetarium. After this introduction the actual stargazing session starts. The group is taught the orientation on the sky and recognizing particular objects on the sky. The participants have opportunity to observe the Moon, the planets: Mars and Saturn, dark nebulas, galaxies and constellations as well as satellites, due to the use of telescopes. The lucky ones are able to notice comets and falling stars. Then they are taught to take photos of the sky using their own smartphones or cameras.



Protection category:

DSAG class 1 (Starry-Sky Park in the Bieszczady Mountains)

ACCESSIBILITY

1. Accessibility of the resource (universal):

The Starry-Sky Park Bieszczady, just as the Bieszczady National Park is accessible by car. Observation decks are located beside the roads and have parking lots.

There may be some problems during the winter – when some parts of the road are only passable with snow chains or by 4WD.

2. Resource Signaling:

Outside. - All the observation decks are marked along the road.

Indoor. - indoor signs for the visit . well developed with information, pictures the telescopes have taken.

3. Level of accessibility:

Outside.- The Bieszczady Mountains are accessible by car. The busses also go there but due to the fact that the area is sparsely populated the public services are rare and not very comfortable. Busses from Lutowiska (main village of the Bieszczady administrative area) go to Rzeszów (the main city of the region, and the only city of the region with international airport) three times a day during July and August and only once a day all year round.

Inside.- The buildings, in which workshops are held, are accessible for people with reduced mobility.

MARKETING

1. Marketing profile:

The offer is presented mainly online. The workshops in the Starry-Sky Park Bieszczady are organized by Gmina Lutowiska (Lutowiska district) together with astronomers. The offer is sold individually.

2. Information available of the resource:

Online.-

- The Starry-Sky Park Bieszczady: www.gwiezdnebieszczady.pl; <https://www.facebook.com/gwiezdnebieszczady?fref=ts>
- Astrodom, Robert Bury: www.astrodom.pl

brochures:

- The Starry-Sky Park Bieszczady – promotes their offer with brochures

VISITS

1. Capacity of the establishment:

Astroworkshops: 20 participants / workshop;

2. Schedule and Availability for visitors:

- Astroworkshops: organized regularly during the summer months (July, August), winter brake (February) and for some occasions; they are also organized on request

3. Admission:

- Astroworkshops: PLN25 / 1 participant or PLN500 / workshop; occasionally organized for free

4. Limitations:

Possible problems:

- unstable weather – during cloudy days/nights possibility to organize astroworkshops is limited.
- during heavy winter some villages located within the Starry-Sky Park Bieszczady are only accessible with snow chains or by 4WD.
- astroworkshops need to be planned/ordered earlier due to the fact that astronomer is not available on the spot.

Possible improvements that can be performed:

- additional attractive offer available immediately when astroworkshops cannot take place due to the weather conditions.
- astronomer should be employed in the Starry-Sky Park Bieszczady permanently or at least for the whole high season
- there should be favorable business conditions created for astronomers who could sell their offer on their own
- more intense promotion could strengthen the astrotourism business in the Bieszczady mountains.

5. Visit the resource:

Individual tourists who wish to take part in astrotourism workshops should book a place during one of regular workshops organized by Gmina Lutowiska; The groups can order such a workshop from the astronomers who work in the Bieszczady area or via Gmina Lutowiska.

TOURIST RATING OF THE RESORT

1. Hierarchical level of resource:

• **Level 2:** Attractive with exceptional features in a country, able to motivate a stream of foreign or domestic visitors (current or potential), either alone or together with other adjacent resources.

2. Tourism demand:

- User profile: so called 'Discoverers' – people who prefer active tourism, keen on sightseeing, choose off the beaten track places; families with children; seniors
- Nationality of the visitors – Polish, Slovakian, German, Ukrainian
- Seasonality – highest demand: June, July, August; some demand: May, September and February (winter break)

The resource is very attractive. For Polish tourists it is one of a kind attraction and for foreign tourists it is still something new and fresh. Due to the fact that observation decks and astroworkshops are held within the borders of the National Park the attraction has very genuine feel. The resource is accessible and of good quality in general.

Some problems that tourists may meet are weather conditions and the fact that some of the attractions connected to astrotourism have to be ordered earlier.