

Zbigniew Maciejewski

Roztoczański Park Narodowy w Zwierzyńcu

Natural and historical values of the Guciów on the Roztocze region outline of the tourist path

The Roztocze is the upland geographical region lying on borderland of Poland and Ukraine. This region is exceptionally valuable of natural, historical and cultural heritage. The diverse landscapes of the Roztocze are created by ranges of limestone hills divided by river valleys and the dry valleys. Many important European borders runs by its area geological, climatic, geobotanic (the geological border between eastern and western Europe). The Roztocze Upland is considered as a climatic border between the Atlantic climate and continental climate. This region is close to the distributional limits of main forest tree species like: Silver fir, European beech, Norway spruce, broad-leaf linden and sycamore. The high diversity of lithology, topography, water systems, soils and habitats, as well as the specific location of the Roztocze creates a large variety of ecological niches, which in turn determines a high variety of flora and fauna in this terrain. The high diversity of the Roztocze flora manifests itself with many geographic elements and sub-elements e.g. Atlantic and Pontian-steppe, lowland and mountain, boreal and Mediterranean. The Roztocze is one of the few places in central Europe where tree species typical for mountain areas and for the lowlands coexist in the same stands. Forest communities typical for mountain-foot areas, upland and lowland parts of Poland occur side by side. From the geological perspective, the Roztocze landscape is largely diversified. Hill ranges are formed of Upper Cretaceous chalk rocks, gaizes and marls. In the western and middle part of the Roztocze loess deposits create hill slopes. In these regions a dense network of gullies and holwegs are created as a result of erosion processes.