



Nemoland

Shelter for lost and forgotten stories

Nemoland in the Izery mountains of south-west Poland is a free zone to (re)connect people with earth by creating an earth center and telling/acting out stories, myth and legends from local sources, ancient traditions and new stories of locals and international visitors.



Earth losing stories is like a body losing sense(s). To support earth and to become indigenous, Nemo invites you to explore the source of myth and legends in earth center Nemoland; a no man's land near the border of Poland, Germany and Czech Republic.

Activities

1. creating stories

- Story telling using art, music, poetry, making collages, felting, weaving
- Performing stories by theatre, film and events

2. exploring old myth and legends

- Walkabout to local mythical rocks, pagan sources, rivers and cult places/huts
- Apply/experience African myth and traditions
- Organizing exhibitions and performances

3. building an earth center

- Homesteading: farming, gardening, keeping animals and creating natural products
- Recovery of historical landscape, restoration of footpaths, walls, old meadows and bridges
- Developing renewable energy, recycling waste, organic farming, living self-sufficient
- Creating a community by building facilities for groups, volunteers, participants and partners

Facilities

- 36 ha remote nature reserve around the Ramberg and the Kamienica river, with absolute silence and darkness
- walking and hiking routes all over the region
- small eco-farm with herb gardens, orchard, meadows, animals
- place to stay, work and live in natural environment with modest and ecological facilities (natural camping places, dormitories, rooms, huts, small caravans, kitchens) for groups (max. 20 people) and individuals
- theatre, fireplaces, atelier for felting/ weaving, storytelling hut, meeting place/teras, library, studio for yoga and meditation, African oracle room
- workshop place for eco-products

Who is it for?

- anybody who is looking for stories, myth and legends and likes to live back to earth with basic conditions
- internships and volunteer (youth) camps
- programs for scouts, NGO's, creative groups, schools, afflicted people
- workshops for children

WELCOME!

Nemoland is looking for co-creators: volunteers, pioneers, partners and participants

Earth center Nemoland shelter for lost and forgotten stories

Because of the turbulent history of the forelands of Góry Izerskie, the migrations and changing borders, this landscape became a treasure chamber full of myth and legends which disappeared elsewhere. Most of these legends are connected with striking landscape elements and inexplicable natural phenomena. They are a mix of old Polish, Slavonic, German and even Celtic mythology, spread by immigrants like glass melters, refugees, weavers and pilgrims going to the Wolfgang Chapel. Nowadays many artists, new farmers and foreigners settled here because they felt attracted by this magic landscape, full of hidden meanings. They made and are making new legends, based on the old ones.

Because of devastating mining plans in Mala Kamienica and planned uranium mines in Kopaniec, both just opposite Nemoland, Nemo started to search and to collect legends like a 'mining company' digging and exploring the secrets of the landscape by combining legends with walking, theatre, art and workshops. Legends served as a mean to fight the mines and to protect the landscape! And successfully! A strong lobby of locals managed to stop the mining plans (for the time being...). Enjoying the legends is the best way to understand, value and preserve the landscape, because legends are the language of the landscape and the living memory of the people who lived here and came to visit this wonderful landscape. Nemo invites you to go 'back to earth'; to Nemoland and discover and enjoy the language of the landscape!

Aim

The aim is to create an earth center, for which art projects are providing the tools, using local, Slavonic, Siberian, African myth and traditions as inspiration for understanding and experiencing the secrets of earth.

Where

Nemoland, meaning 'no man's land', is situated in the heart of Europe, between Prague, Dresden and Wrocław, in the Sudety area of Polish Lower Silesia, hidden between Iżera Mountains (Góry Izerskie), Giant Mountains (Karkonosze) and the Bóbr Valley Landscape Park (Park Doliny Bobru). Because of changing borders and turbulent history this region became a no man's land, an extraterritorial zone, where time lost its forward direction, went back and unveiled hidden memories. This uniquely beautiful mountain area provides a micro-climate, with an extreme variety of natural elements, quick changing weather types and characteristic seasons.

For whom

At Nemoland we welcome visitors, volunteers and partners who want to share their capacities and talents within the cooperative. The program is aiming at involving all nationalities, ages and gender.

*Earth Center Nemoland
Kopaniec - Miedzylesie 5
58-512 Stara Kamienica – Poland
WhatsApp 0031-614283249
info@nemoland.org www.nemoland.org
facebook: www.facebook.com/nemolandPolen
youtube playlist: Nemoland Poland*

Organization

Nemo was founded in 1988 by the Dutch association Nemo. The non-profit association, run by volunteers, financed by its members, is independent of any government, fund, company or NGO. It has two locations: in Amsterdam and Nemoland Poland in Stara Kamienica.

- Since 1997 Nemo brought more than 4000 foreign people to Nemoland to learn and taste the Polish village life and build Nemoland.

- More than 100 students from Dutch colleges and universities followed internships, workshops, and did research on sustainable and ecological development.

- In 2003 Nemo received a subsidy (Matra) from the Dutch government to support Polish village associations and to strengthen the local community.

- Twelve times Nemo has organized a 'Dutch Day' as village festival to exchange Dutch and Polish culture.

- Since 2009 Nemo has organized three Crossroads Festivals in Jelenia Góra, as a cultural event focused on literature/poetry as cross-border art.

Meanwhile Nemo has been collecting oral memories, stories and legends of the former German and present Polish inhabitants and presenting them by film, theatre and story-telling programs.

Philosophy

The philosophy of Nemo is that members, volunteers and guests contribute something of themselves to Nemoland.

Thus, Nemoland is created in an organic way and is developed by involvement of visitors who are invited to be participants instead of consumers. The idea is to establish a creative community where those who come to participate in an ongoing creation of Nemoland, are in turn given an opportunity to re-create themselves by exploring the secrets of the earth and Polish countryside, and ultimately promoting sustainable development of the region.

The region

The region of Nemoland, in the forelands of the Iżera mountains, has received little attention from tourists and historians, even though the traces of the oldest glassworks, pagan worship places, beautiful weaver houses and many natural and agricultural monuments are located here. Nowhere else is in immediate reach such a rich variety of nature, culture and landscape. The special features of this region are traces of early cultivation (such as stone walls, terraces, mill brooks, fords and paths), which are mostly still intact. The richness of nature is unique. Plants that are already extinct in Western Europe, are still to be found here. Once the area was known as a big landscape park, the "Toscane of Middle Europe". After the war the area became a 'lost land', because the German people who lived there and the Polish people who came to live there both lost their native land, while the landscape lost its names, monuments and memory. Like many other border regions in Europe, this area runs into danger due to lack of care and the threat of devastating mining projects. Protests against the mining plans made local inhabitants much more aware of their cultural and natural heritage. This resulted in all kinds of initiatives to protect nature and the historical value of the landscape, the value of community-building and local economy.