



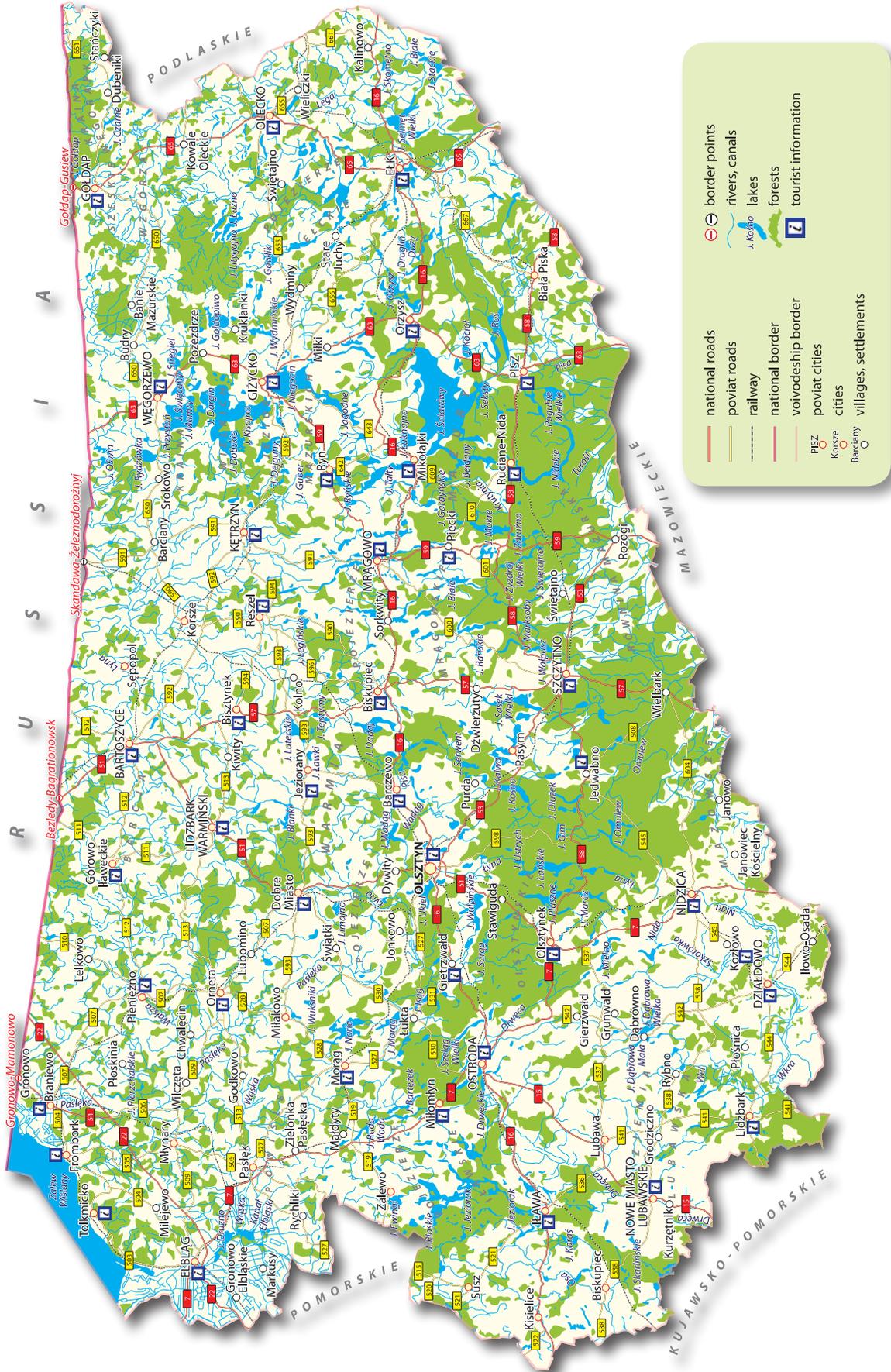
Warmia and Mazury Tourist Attractions

www.mazury.travel

Warmińsko-Mazurskie Voivodeship



0 20 km



national roads	border points
poviat roads	rivers, canals
railway	lakes
national border	forests
voivodeship border	tourist information
Pisz	cities
Barczany	villages, settlements



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**GENERAL
CHARACTERISTICS**



The Warmia-Mazury region occupies the north-eastern part of Poland. Besides the historic lands of Warmia and Mazury, it also includes Powiśle. The territory of **Mazury** which covers, among others, the Great Mazury Lake District, the Mrągowo Lake District, the Elk Lake District and part of the Iława Lake District (including the Land of Węgorzapa, the Szeskie Hills, the Mazury Plain), also encompasses **Warmia**, with its lands of the Łyna and Pasłęka basins. In its south-eastern part – in the Olsztyn Lake District – Olsztyn, the capital of the Region, is located, while the picturesque land spreading north-east of Warmia constitutes **Powiśle**. Historically, the southern bank of the Vistula Valley as well as Elbląg belong to it.

A convenient place to live

Warmińsko-Mazurskie has the lowest density of population in Poland (59 persons per km², the country's average is 122). It is inhabited by a little over 1.4 million people,



Mamry Lake,
photo GEP Chroszcz





including 60% in cities. The Region belongs to the least environmentally degraded in the country. This is confirmed by its status as the Green Lungs of Poland – an area covering the cleanest regions of Poland. The natural landscape attributes foster the development of tourism and recreation. Therefore, it is not surprising that such services are the leading type in Mazury and Warmia. For years the region has been one of the most favourite places for leisure, not only for Poles but also Germans, English, French, Czech, Dutch and even Americans.

Ethnically, Warmia and Mazury are extremely diverse. Among the national and ethnic minorities inhabiting the region, the Ukrainian minority is of the most numerous, followed by the German, Romany, Belarusian, Lithuanian and Russian minorities. This multiculturalism results from both historic processes and geographical location. Today, many efforts are undertaken to preserve it and convince everyone that dialogue among people of different beliefs and traditions is possible.



Poland's 'Green Lungs',
photo GEP Chroszcz

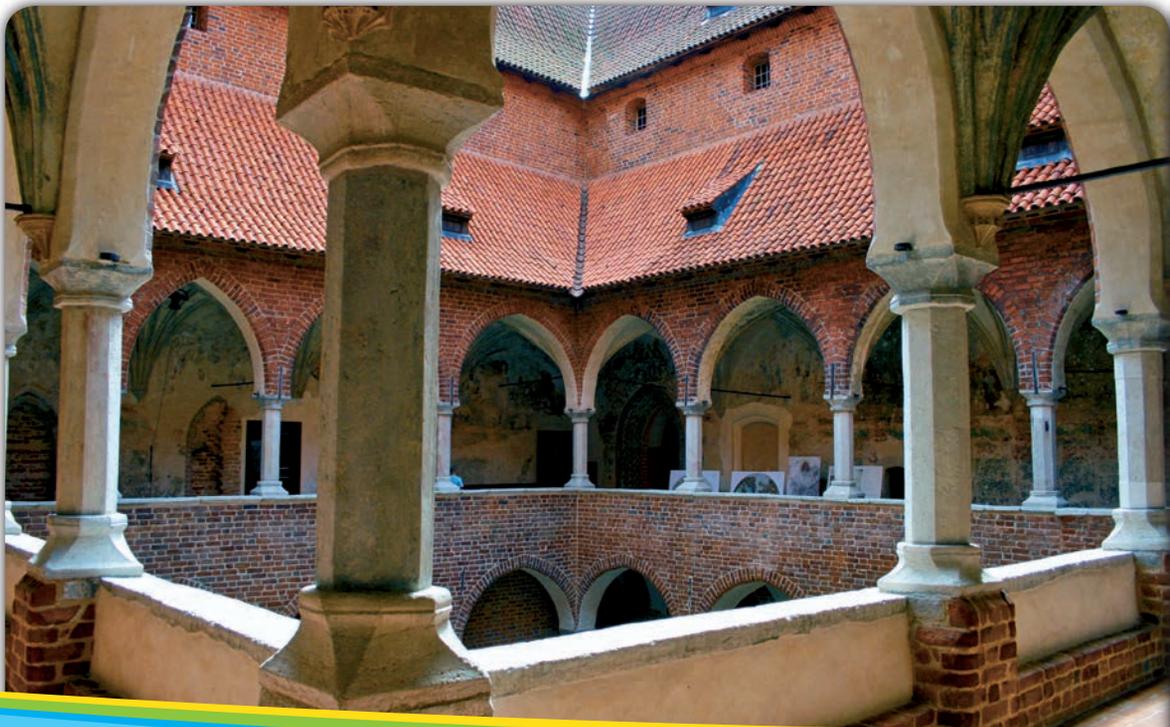
Masurian meadows,
photo GEP Chroszcz



Cittaslow Network

Warmia and Mazury are people-friendly. Local cities and small towns – not too widespread, and surrounded by greenery and water – promote a slower pace of life. They are perfectly suited to the idea of cities of ‘the good life’, called Cittaslow. The movement originates from Italy where *dolce vita* traditions are still observed. Today, almost 225 cities from 30 countries belong to the association. The network gathers towns free from the uproar caused by typical agglomerations, looks after inhabitants and tourists, creates enclaves of leisure and entertainment, cares not only for monuments but also for the natural environment, and promotes local culture.

The first Polish town to be included in the Cittaslow network is **Reszel**, a town as if from a fairy tale. Its unforgettable atmosphere is created by a charming old town with tiny tenement houses and narrow streets as well as the beautifully renovated castle. Other towns in the network are: **Lidzbark Warmiński**, called the Pearl of Warmia by many, famous for its magnificent



Reszel
– city panorama,
photo GEP Chroszcz

Gothic castle in Lidzbark
Warmiński,
photo GEP Chroszcz



Gothic castle of Warmia bishops; small **Biskupiec**, where a walk around the picturesque market square and a climb up the tower of St. John the Baptist church is worthwhile; nice, cosy **Bisztynek**, with many beautiful chapels and crosses to be admired in its vicinity; and **Nowe Miasto Lubawskie**, where a slow walk along narrow streets whose atmosphere, not found in any other towns of the region, is a pleasant sensation.

The unique shrine to the Virgin Mary, only 5 km away from Reszel in **Święta Lipka** is worth particular attention. The Baroque, world-class monument draws attention even from a distance. The slender towers rising above the treetops have been guiding the way to crowds of worshippers for ages.

Other cities of the region

Even the biggest cities of the region – Olsztyn and Elbląg – which cannot be included in the Cittaslow network as they have more than 50 thousand inhabitants, do not resemble concrete deserts. They are fa-



Olsztyn
– St Jacob's Cathedral,
photo GEP Chroszcz

Frombork
– Cathedral Hill,
photo GEP Chroszcz



mous for many monuments, reservoirs and greenery. The pace of life is also different, which is more and more appreciated by locals and tourists alike.

Olsztyn, the capital of the region is its cultural centre. With its superb location – within the city boundaries there are 15 lakes – it attracts attention because of its Gothic castle and majestic cathedral – treasures of the brick-type Gothic. The Old Town tempts visitors with its pubs and musical clubs. Almost all year round there is something interesting happening, and in the summer the streets become the stage for one of the longest festivals in Poland – the Olsztyn Artistic Summer festival.

Elbląg is also a unique place. The Old Town with its beauty comparable to Gdańsk before World War II, also today, renovated and well maintained, makes a great impression. Elbląg River connects the city with the Vistula Lagoon and Druzno Lake, from where it is possible to sail to the lakes of the Hława Lake District along the Elbląg Canal.

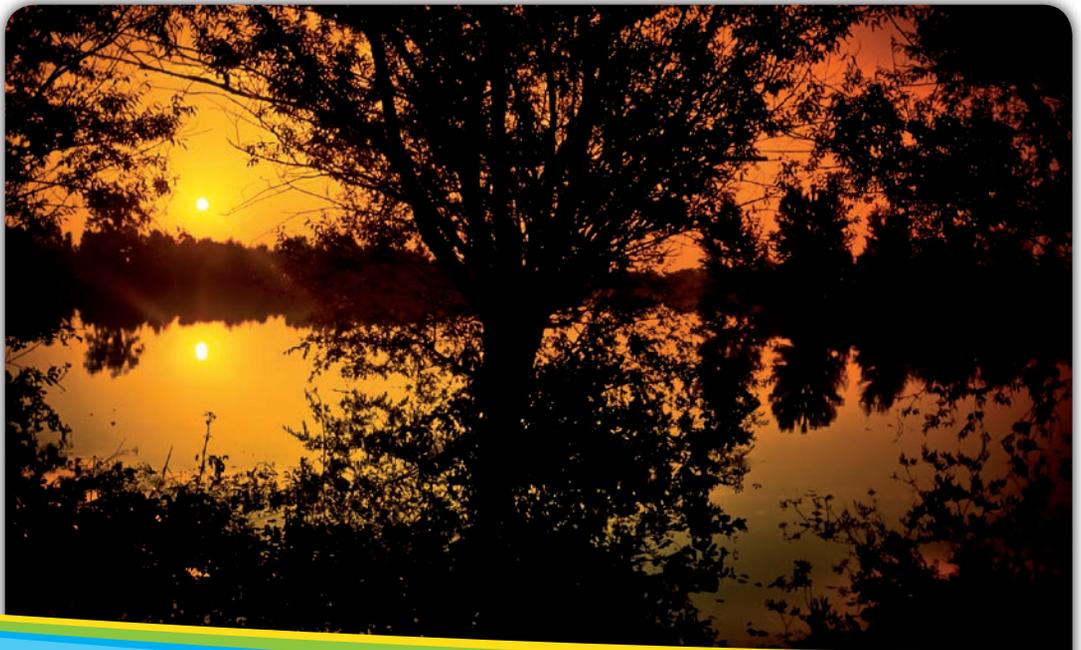
Several smaller towns are also worth mentioning. **Frombork** is mainly a complex of unusually charming buildings on Cathedral Hill. The Archcathedral is like a real book of Warmian history and its outstanding

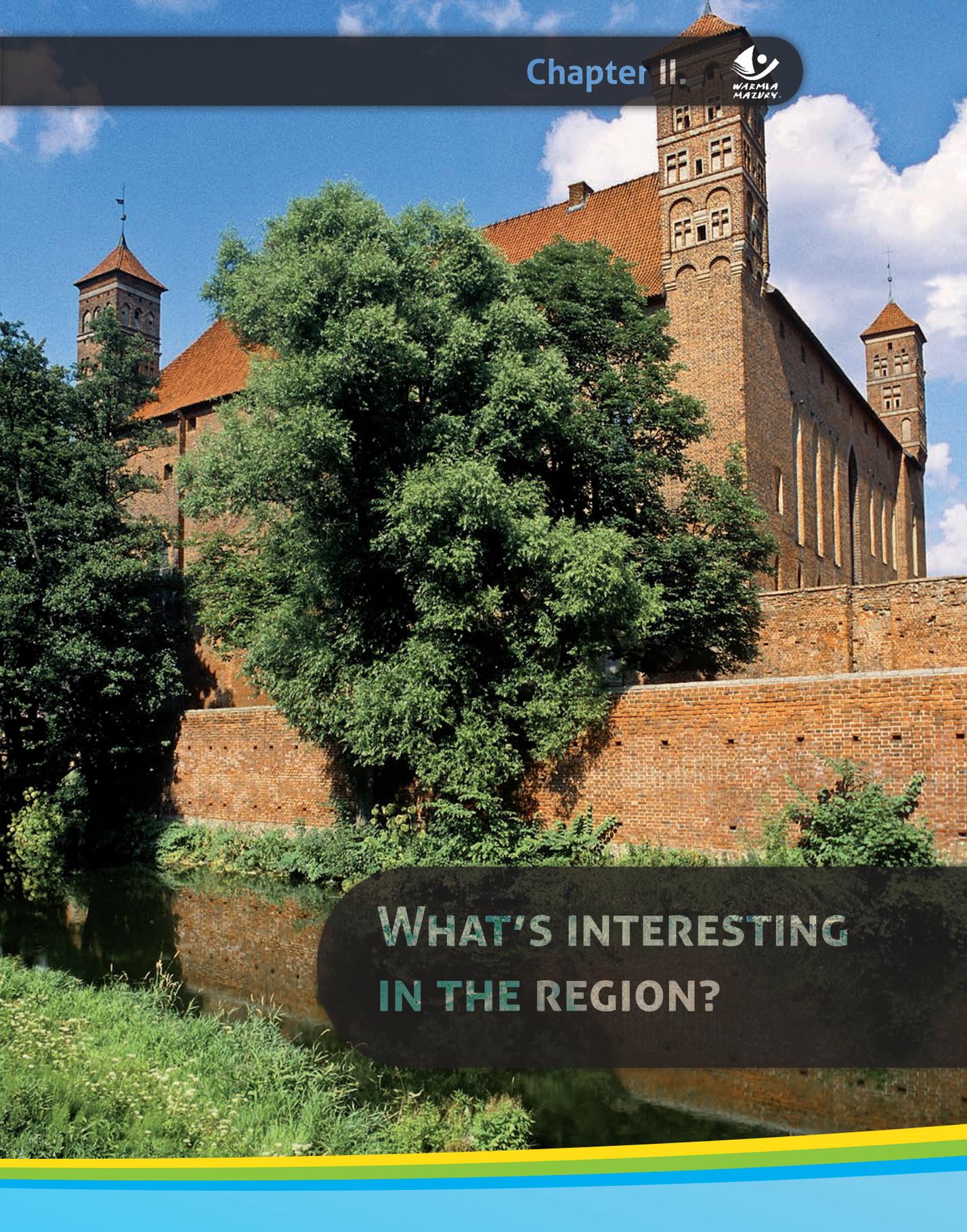
persons. **Nidzica** attracts visitors with its huge castle, from the time of the Teutonic Knights, surrounded by greenery, **Kętrzyn** – with the unique fortified church and a nice Teutonic Knights' castle, while **Dobre Miasto** has one of the most beautiful Gothic churches in Warmia.

In the summer, the small charming locations of Mazury turn into centres of aquatic life. **Giżycko** and **Mikołajki** are the leading places. In the season, they become bustling centres resounding with sea shanties and sailors' tales. No lovers of water and sailing would be bored here. Other famous recreational places include **Węgorzewo**, beautifully located in the vicinity of Mamry Lake, **Ryn**, with its interesting Teutonic Knights' castle, **Ruciane-Nida**, in the heart of the green Pisz Forest, **Pisz**, providing rest from the huge crowds, **Mragowo**, with its cobbled streets recalling old times, **Elk**, the biggest town in Mazury, enjoying tourists and entertainment, **Ostróda**, where the beauty of nature harmonises with monuments, and **Hława**, spreading alongside the longest lake in Poland – Jeziorak Lake. Just behind the border with Kaliningrad Oblast – **Gołdap** is located – the only spa in the region.



Sunset by a lake,
photo D. Zaród





**WHAT'S INTERESTING
IN THE REGION?**

The Warmia and Mazury region is mainly associated with splendid lakes and widespread forests – a landscape known worldwide. However, the advantages of the region are not only limited to its beautiful natural surroundings – Warmia and Mazury is also extremely interesting from a cultural perspective. Many unique structures remind us of the stormy history of this land and the complicated fate of its inhabitants.

MAZURY – A WONDER OF NATURE

The Great Mazury Lakes is the only Polish entrance for a competition to find the new seven wonders of nature, announced by the Swiss foundation New 7 Wonders. Among over 400 other entries registered from 224 countries, the Internauts selected 28 finalists. Among them – the Great Canyon, Galapagos, Vesuvius Volcano or the Dead Sea – the Polish Land of the Great Mazury Lakes. At the same time, Mazury has been acknowledged as one of 28 of the most beautiful places on Earth and one of the 5 most beautiful places in Europe.



Mazury – the wonder of nature...,
photo GEP Chroszcz
photo archives of UMWWM



THE ENVIRONMENT OF WARMIA AND MAZURY

Mazury is also known as the Land of a Thousand Lakes. In fact, the number of reservoirs is much bigger – over two thousand lakes of an area of above 1 ha. Water occupies over 7% of the area of the region, with lakes and rivers connected by canals creating picturesque water routes. In terms of nature, the Land of the Great Mazurian Lakes is undoubtedly remarkable, with the biggest number of lakes in Poland connected by canals. It is here that Śniardwy Lake (area of 113.8 km²) and Mamry Lake (area of 104.4 km²) are located – the biggest water reservoirs in Poland.

The Lakes of the Mrągowo Lake District, one of the most beautiful corners of Mazury, although not as big as the lakes of the Great Land, are certainly

equally charming. They have an oblong shape and steep banks, and they are deep. It is exactly here in the Mrągowo Lake District where some of the deepest lakes of Warmia and Mazury are located: Babięty Wielkie Lake (65.0 m depth) and Piłakno Lake (56.6 m). The Hława Lake District, in the western part of the region, is renowned for Jeziorak Lake – the longest lake in Poland (27 km). Thanks to the Hława Canal, the lake is connected to the Elbląg Canal, and farther – to the Elbląg River and the Vistula Lagoon, creating a section of the well-known water route.

Warmia and Mazury also have **rivers**. The most important ones include: Łyna, Drwęca and Pasłęka. Łyna (264 km length, 190 km within the territory of Poland), the biggest river of the region, is the left tributary of the Pregoła River. It has its source close to the village of Łyna, located in the vicinity of Nidzica.

Drwęca (207 km), the right tributary of the Vistula, flows out into the area of Drwęck near Olsztyn.



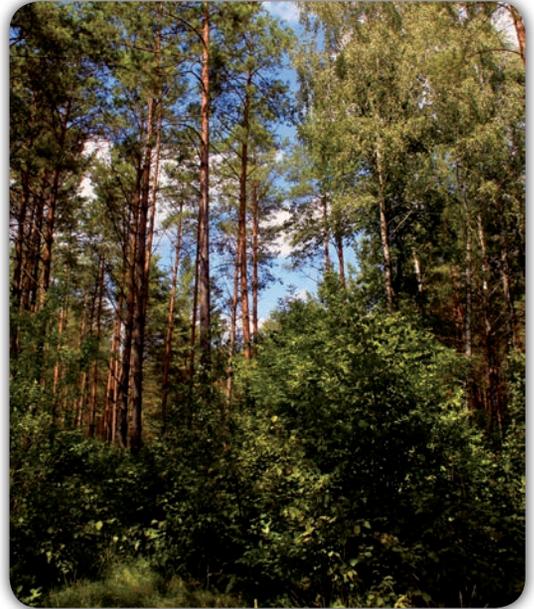
Łyna – the longest River in the region,
photo GEP Chroszcz



Owing to the Elbląg Canal, it is connected to the Vistula Lagoon, creating a picturesque canoeing route. Pasłęka (169 km) empties into the Vistula Lagoon. It has its source in Gryżliny, between Olsztynek and Stawiguda.

However, the most well-known river of Mazury is Krutynia (100 km). A very popular canoeing route leads along this river (see p. 59).

The natural assets of the region also include **forests**, and the remains of old woods. They occupy 30% of the area. The biggest forests can be found in the central and southern parts of Warmia and Mazury. The dense forest stands of the Pisz Forest, with parts of the once impassable large woods, are impressive. Most of its current territory is covered by pinewoods and pine-spruce forests. The so-called Mazurian pine (Pisz pine) occurs naturally here, and is characteristic for its fast growth (reaching up to 40 m) and slender treetops. Another extensive forest



Pisz forest,
photo GEP Chroszcz

Krutynia – a canoe trail,
photo GEP Chroszcz





THE REALM OF PINE

Pine dominates the forests of Warmia and Mazury. In order to see how magnificent a tree it can be, it is worth walking around the **Tabórz Pine Reserve** (close to the village of Tabórz). A splendid old growth of Tabórz pine is under protection here – the geographical race of common pine. The tall trees are about 250 years old and they are around 40 metres high. Smooth, slender trunks, without nodes and knots, of high resistance value, were once treated as excellent material for the ion of masts for sailing boats. In 1900, at the World exhibition in Paris, the Tabórz pine was even granted the title of the best raw material from a pine in the world.

The reserve includes an ecological footpath, with a circuit of 1.5 km in length. Along the path, illustrated educational signs are placed.

Sosny Taborskie Reserve, photo J. Pruszyńska

– Napiwoda-Ramuki Forest – is a sanctuary for many endangered bird species. In the eastern part of the region, the Borki Forest and Rominty Forest have been preserved. The character of the latter resembles the forests of the far north, therefore it is often called the Polish Taiga.

Natural protection

Warmia and Mazury are extremely valuable in terms of nature. Numerous protected and relic species occur here (i.e. growing in a small, limited, area). In the Pisz Forest itself, 900 species of vascular plants have been determined, making up 40% of the flora

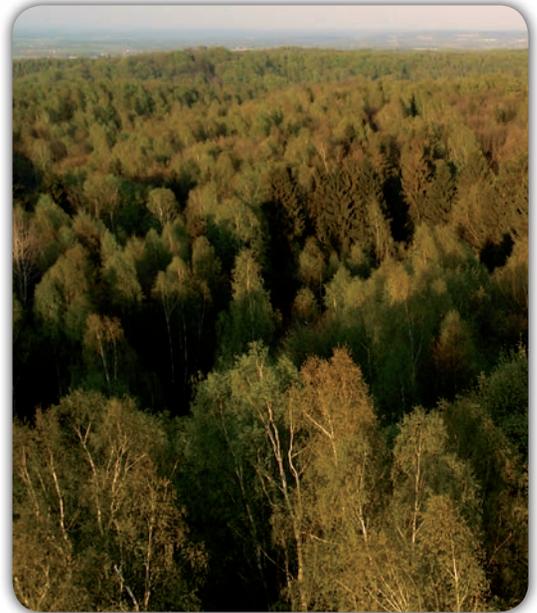


Mazury Landscape Park,
photo GEP Chroszcz



in Poland. The extensive forests create a sanctuary for mammals, among others, wolf and lynx. On the banks of the lakes, numerous bird species have their breeding grounds, including many considered as endangered with extinction.

The most valuable natural areas are under protection. In the region, **eight landscape parks and over one hundred nature reserves are located**. The most famous and the biggest is the **Mazury Landscape Park**, protecting the Pisz Forest and the biggest Polish lake – Śniardwy. The **Dylewo Hills Landscape Park** (15 km south of Ostróda) covers the highest, western part of the Hump of Lubawa, known as Dylewo Hills. The highest peak of the park – the **Dylewo Mountain** (312 m above sea level) – is distinguished by its 37-metre observation tower. From the hill, an extensive view over the neighbourhood spreads. Also, in the **Landscape Park of the Elbląg Heights**, one can feel as in



A view from Dylewo Mountain,
photo J. Pruszyńska

The Land of Great Mazury
Lakes provides shelter for
unusual flora species...
photo GEP Chroszcz

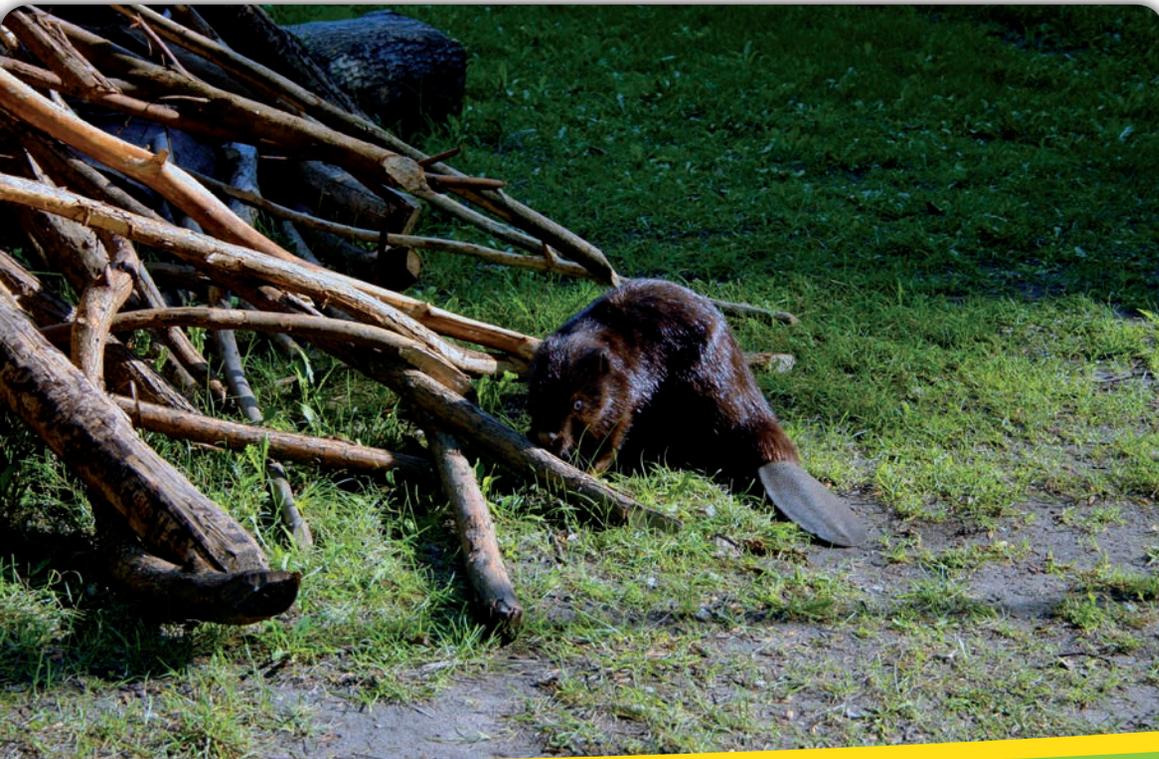




the mountains. The Park is renowned for its splendid, deeply eroded valleys, created by swift streams.

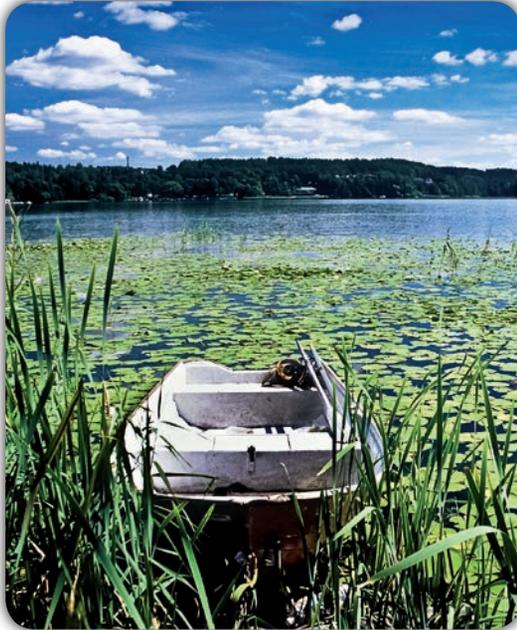
Apart from the above, the following parks operate in the region: **Brodnica, Górzno-Lidzbark** (only some parts are located within the Warmia-Mazury region), the **Rominta Forest**, the **Łąwa Lake District** and the **Wel parks**.

Among the numerous reserves, the **fauna reserve of Łuknajno Lake** is world renowned. As many as two thousand swans live there. In the reserve, other interesting bird species also nestle – 96 species in total, among them unique ducks such as: anas, northern shoveler, red-crested pochard and common goldeneye. Close to the sanctuary, birds of prey have their nests: lesser spotted eagle, black and red kite, honey buzzard, white-tailed eagle and osprey. The hunting birds can be observed from several observation towers located on the edge of the reserve. The Reserve of Łuknajno Lake, due to its



... and fauna,
photo J. Pruszyńska
photo GEP Chroszcz





Enchanting flora of the Masurian lakes' shores, photo D. Zaród

unique resources, was registered in the world list of biosphere reserves. It has also been entered in the Ramsar register (the Ramsar Convention protects the wetlands of international importance, particularly those providing a habitat for birds), likewise the reserve of Seven Islands of Oświn Lake, Druzno Lake and Karaś Lake.

Another extremely interesting reserve is the **landscape reserve of the Source of Łyna River**. It spreads towards the east of Łyna village (in the Nidzica municipality). Tens of streams and streamlets come from the effusion sources, flowing down the steep slopes towards the bottom of the canyon where they connect and give birth to Łyna. This protected area can be visited – the marked routes have specially prepared bridges, stairs and observation platforms.

The natural value of Warmia and Mazury is also demonstrated by sites included in the European network **Natura 2000**. They are particularly numerous here – in total, they cover over 6 % of the area of the region. The Natura 2000 network protects natural habitats and species considered valuable and endangered on the whole European scale. In the Warmia-Mazury region, 17 areas of special bird protection have been established (among others: Nietlice Marshland, Pasłęka Wetlands, and the lakes of Dobskie, Druzno, Łuknajno and Oświn) as well as 43 sites for the special protection of habitats (among others, Hitler's former Headquarters in Gierłoża – an excellent hibernaculum for bats).

As the last sites, the Napiwoda-Ramuki Forest joined the Natura 2000 network, with endangered European pond turtles and wolves, the Pisz Forest, where not only valuable forests are found but also wolves, beavers and otters, as well as the roadside Alleys of the Iława Lake District, where the hermit beetle is under protection.

COMEBACK OF THE PEREGRINE FALCON

In the summer of 2011 in the Warmia Forest Reserve (south of Olsztyn), special nests were fixed high in the trees, in which several newly-hatched peregrine falcons were placed. The birds spent several days in the nests, being fed during this period. Later they left the shelter, starting their independent life.

The population of peregrine falcons became extinct in Warmia and Mazury in the 1960s. At that time DDT was used as a plant protection pesticide, which deposited in the birds' bodies. As a result, the eggs laid by the females had a very thin shell which broke during incubation.

Peregrine Falcon, photo iStockphoto.com





LYNX IN THE PISZ FOREST

In the Pisz Forest, the lynx was exterminated about 20 years ago. Their reintroduction, i.e. repeated introduction in this area has been carried out, among others, by the Park of Wild Animals. Special cages have been constructed here for the adults to live in. Young animals, soon after birth, can leave the cage through small openings towards the forest, and start their normal life 'at large'.

Worth visiting

Kadzidłowo – Park of Wild Animals

In Kadzidłowo, hidden in the Pisz Forest, covering an area of 100 ha, animals which are difficult to see at large have found their shelter. Apart from the pleasant Polish konik (primitive horse), fallow deer and deer, more respectable animals are found here: wolf, lynx, wisent and bison. Interesting birds are also abundant. Most of the animals living in the park are friendly towards people. It is possible to enter some of the farms, and even feed the animals. Due to the range of the park, sight-seeing must be guided.

More on :  www.kadzidlowo.pl

Kosewo Górne – the deer farm

On the border of the Mazurian Landscape Park, in Kosewo Górne on Kuc Lake, there is a deer farm –

the scientific research station of the Polish Academy of Sciences. The main attraction is a walk among tame deer feeding on the beautifully located pastures (good shoes indispensable), as well as a visit to fallow deer, mouflons and does. It is also possible to see sika deer, and you can pop into the museum with its impressive collection deer antlers and trophies. All sight-seeing is guided.

More on :  www.kosewopan.pl

Lynx
photo F. Heryan



Park of Wild Animals is a wonderful adventure not only for the youngest,
photo GEP Chroszcz



Grazing deer can be encountered in Kosewo Górne,
photo GEP Chroszcz

Popielno – the Polish *konik*

In the picturesque Popielno by Śniardwy Lake, research on the wild Polish *konik* (primitive horse) living on the Wierzba Peninsula has been carried out for years. This horse stems directly from the wild horse, i.e. the tarpan. *Koniks* live in herds in a large reserve established especially for them. They have found an excellent shelter here, allowing them to live up to 30 years of age. In the forest where they stay, natural footpaths were determined (10 km and 6 km), allowing people to get acquainted with forest collections and plant species. The station breeds horses using the traditional stable system.

More on:  www.popielno.pl

Żywkowo – the stork village

The white stork is the symbol of Warmia and Mazury as the area is probably the most abundant storks' sanctuary in Europe. The birds even have their own village – Żywkowo. Every year, almost 100 storks come to the settlement lo-



cated 1/2 km away from the Polish-Russian border, with almost double the amount leaving the place. In the spring and summer you may observe the birds feeding on the meadows and the young ones learning how to fly. Next to the village, between Żywkowo and Toprzyny, there is an educational route. The 2-km trail can be covered by bike; signs along the route inform visitors of stork ecology.



A likeable stork – the icon of Warmia and Mazury, photo GEP Chroszcz

Descendants of wild tarpans – the Polish *koniks*, photo GEP Chroszcz



HISTORIC REMINISCENCES

The adventure with Warmia and Mazury usually starts with its wildlife and splendid, natural landscapes. However, later, after entering a few churches, visiting fortifications and castles, and encountering forest cemeteries, questions arise on the complicated fate of this land and the story of its inhabitants.

The history of Warmia and Mazury is closely connected with the history of pagan Prussians, who came from the Baltic folks inhabiting these areas since the 6th century B.C. The Prussian tribes did not create a state, they were only connected as a cultural community: language, tradition and religion. Information is very limited as they did not leave any written communication. They were farmers and amber collectors (the amber was excavated



Teutonic Knights, fig. arch iStockphoto.com

here in open pits, and then it was transported, along the Amber Road, to the Mediterranean area, where the demand for it was enormous), they used to burn the dead and put the ashes into urns which were later buried under the ground. They worshipped several deities, among others, Perkun – the god of war and Curche – the goddess of fertility. At the turn of the 10th / 11th centuries the Prussians were one of the last pagan folks in Europe, which caused their doom. At the beginning of the 13th century, Konrad Mazowiecki decided that the Teutonic Knights should Christianize the Prussians. Consequently, in 1230, the order started their conquests.

The Teutonic Knights spent several dozen years defeating this land, and the route of their conquest was marked by fortified towns and castles. In 1243, Pope Innocent IV divided the Prussian land (both the conquered and the still undefeated) into four dioceses. It was also decided that one third of each of the areas would be governed by bishops.

The monastic state had become the power to be respected by other rulers. Defending against the knights' expansion, the Lithuanian prince, Jagiełło, was baptised and married to the Polish Queen, Jadwiga, establishing



Numerous traces of the old Poland's culture and history can be observed in Warmia and Mazury, photo GEP Chroszcz

the Jagiellonian dynasty. When the Teutonic Knights started the great war in 1409 – afraid of losing property in the Lithuanian Samogitia – the Polish-Lithuanian army was able to defeat them effectively. In July 1410, the order was pulverised at Grunwald, during the battle which defeated the political power of the Teutonic Knights. However, this did not mean the end of the monastic state: due to successful peaceful negotiations the Knights regained almost all their property.

Finally, the battle on supremacy over the Prussian territories ended after the II Peace of Toruń (1466), which divided this land into two parts. The Polish Kingdom received, among others, the Gdańsk Pomerania, the area of Elbląg and Warmia. From that time, the areas were called **Royal Prussia**. Other lands remained in the Teutonic Knights' hands. However, the order ceased playing its important political role in Europe. Albrecht Hohenzollern, appointed as the Great Master, transformed the monastic state into the secular duchy – **Duchy of Prussia** – and in 1525 he

submitted to the Polish king, Sigismund the Old, in feudal homage. The Duchy of Prussia became the first protestant principality in Europe. The Prussians themselves lost their cultural identity when they were incorporated into the German, Polish and Lithuanian realms.

After Albrecht's death, administration of the Duchy of Prussia was taken over by the Brandenburg electors. The Great Elector Frederick William decided to reject the Polish feudal homage. In 1657 he achieved what he was aiming for – he became an independent prince. In 1701 his son, Frederick Hohenzollern – known as Frederick I – could now be crowned in Królewiec as the "King of Prussia". The Duchy of Prussia, including the Brandenburg land, was transformed into the **Kingdom of Prussia**.

In 1772, following the initiative of Frederick II, the son of Frederick William, the first partition of Poland was carried out. Prussia annexed Warmia and other lands of Royal Prussia, only Gdańsk and Toruń remained in Poland. Under the rule of Frederick, Prussia became one



Impressive fortresses remind of the Teutonic knights' presence (Nidzica), photo D. Zaród





of the main powers of Europe. Administration was developed and the huge territory of the Duchy was divided into two provinces: **Eastern and Western Prussia**.

At the end of the 18th century, the Republic of Poland did not exist any more – it was plundered by and split between Russia, Austria and Prussia. The latter decided to enter into alliance with Russia and oppose Napoleon. As a response, the emperor entered Prussia with his army. The Province of Eastern Prussia, which covered,

CATHOLICS AND PROTESTANTS

Religion was the essential factor differentiating Warmia (including the neighbourhood of Elbląg) and Mazury (see: frame *Mazury and the Mazurians*). Warmia, since the II Peace of Toruń in 1466 and until the first partition of Poland, belonged to Poland and remained under the influence of the Catholic culture. Surrounded by the Protestant development in the Duchy of Prussia, Warmia tried to prevent it, therefore special ordinance was prepared compelling the inhabitants of its lands to follow the sacred tradition of the Catholic religion. Today traces of the past religious diversity of Warmia and Mazury are disappearing – the Catholic chapels, once numerous in Warmia, have started to appear also in Mazury.



among others, contemporary areas of Warmia and Mazury, became the arena of the Napoleonic wars.

In 1871, the German empire was proclaimed under the supremacy of Prussia, with the Prussian king Hohenzollern as the successor of German emperors. Eastern Prussia – a peripheral, economically poor province – developed slowly and with many hindrances. During World War I, the area of Warmia and Mazury was under attack as one of the first regions. In August 1914 an important battle took place between Dziadowo and Olsztynek, between Tsarist Russia and the German Empire. The Russian army of general Aleksandr Samsonov was completely defeated. The spectacular victory was called the new Tannenberg, referring to the Battle of Grunwald (in German: the Battle of Tannenberg). However, the central states did not win the war, After the defeat of the Nazi Reich and establishment of an independent Poland, the issue of national identity concerning Warmia and Mazury appeared. The Treaty of Versailles established that the issue should be solved by a referendum. In the voting, which was held in July 1920, inhabitants of Warmia, Mazury and Powiśle supported the idea to remain in East Prussia.

Roadside shrines which used to be a symbol of Warmia,
photo GEP Chroszcz



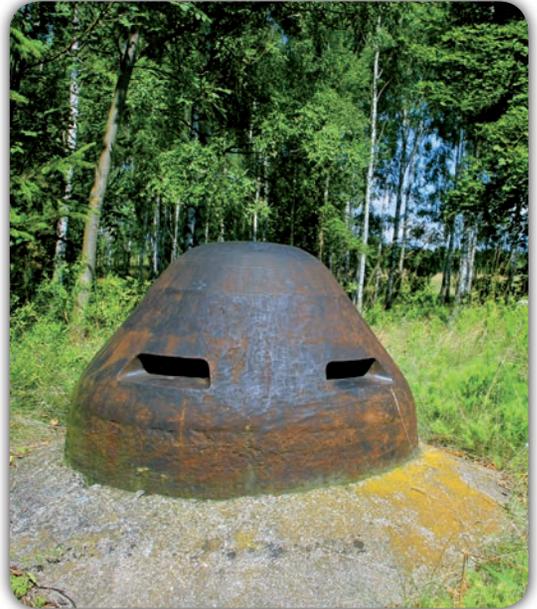
MAZURY AND THE MAZURIANS

Mazury is an area of South Eastern Prussia once inhabited by the Polish-speaking population. The Polish settlement in this area was started by the Teutonic Knights, who settled the newcomers from Poland in the unfriendly land desolate of the native Prussian population. Between the 14th and 17th centuries, peasants and minor gentry from Mazowsze arrived here in several waves.

The term “Mazury” appeared in the first half of the 19th century and it was used by the Prussian administration in relation to the Polish-speaking population of the Evangelical Church of Augsburg Confession. The term “Mazurian” comes from the name “Mazowsze” – the region from where the biggest number of settlers came to Eastern Prussia, and who were named Mazurians.

During World War II, Eastern Prussia, as the most eastward part of the Reich, played an important strategic role. In the province, numerous military facilities were located, among others, the headquarters of the German commanders with bunkers and shelters (some of them available for visiting today). The eastern Prussians learnt of the cruelty of the war during the attack of the Soviet Army in January 1945. The roads, covered with snow, were then crowded with thousands of refugees – people escaped towards the sea from where they were supposed to have been transported to Germany by boats. However, most of them never reached there.

After the war, Warmia and Mazury appeared to be part of Poland. The communist power treated the native community as Germans. Many of them were forced to emigrate. Today Warmia and Mazury have returned to their common Polish-German heritage. Old traditions are referred to, and the memory of inhabitants of these lands is cultivated.



Numerous bunkers remind of the WWI and WWII
photo GEP Chroszcz



Personalities connected with the region

Warmia and Mazury were lucky to have many distinguished personalities. In the past the most outstanding people of the epoch were appointed as bishops, humanists and patrons, who cared not only about the spiritual but also the scientific development of the region. The famous astronomer **Nicolaus Copernicus** (1473–1543) was associated with Frombork, Olsztyn and Lidzbark Warmiński, one of the precursors of modern science, the scientist who stopped the Sun and moved the Earth. Frombork was the place where his masterpiece was created, which revolutionised the science and the previous ideology – *De revolutionibus*, namely *On Revolutions*.

Another great personality was undoubtedly **Stanisław Hozjusz** (1504–79), the bishop of Warmia, an author of Latin theological dissertations, which were commented on all over Europe. For some time he was even mentioned as a candidate for pope. He brought the Jesuits to Poland and established the first



Nicolaus Copernicus
– a monument in Olsztyn,
photo GEP Chroszcz



You can get to know
Nicolaus Copernicus' life
and achievements at the
Museum in Frombork,
photo GEP Chroszcz



Ignacy Krasicki,
photo archives of
Fundacja Wikimedia

Johann Gottfried Herder,
photo archives of
Fundacja Wikimedia

Stanisław Hozjusz,
photo archives of
Fundacja Wikimedia

Jesuit collegiate church in Braniewo. Another famous Warmian bishop was **Ignacy Krasicki** (1735–1801), who registers in the memory of successors as an outstanding encyclopaedist, writer and poet.

Johann Gottfried Herder (1744–1803) was also associated with the region, born in Morąg, a distinguished thinker and historical philosopher, researcher and glorifier of cultural diversity. He considered nations as holding the “soul” and maintaining their identity mainly due to the language. We owe him the idea of folksiness and several golden proverbs, such as: “Proverbs make the wisdom of nations”.

Long ago, **Jerzy Andrzej Helwing** (1666–1748), a physician and botanist, was a famous personality. In his property of Stulichy near Węgorzewo, he established an experimental acclimatisation garden with many rare plants, including exotic ones. He also collected fossils, minerals, amber and birds’ eggs. His studio *curiositatis naturae* was visited by outstanding persons, and the herbal collections were placed in the Royal Library in Dresden, in St. Petersburg and in August II’s collections



In more contemporary times **Emil Adolf von Behring** (1854–1917) lived in the area. The famous bacteriologist was born in Ławice – a small village near Iława. In 1901, he received the first Noble prize in medicine for inventing the antitoxic serum against diphtheria and tetanus (together with Shibasaburo Kitazato).

BARDS OF WARMIA AND MAZURY

Konstanty Ildefons Gałczyński (1905–53): a poet who fell in love with the beauty of the Mazurian landscape. In the forester's house in Pranie he wrote many poems glorifying the beauty of this land.

Michał Kajka (1858–1940): a carpenter with a poet's soul, called "the poet of God's grace" during his life, promoter of the Polish speech in Mazury.

Karol Małłek (1898–1969): called the King of Mazurians, a fan of Mazurian folklore, his works are a treasury of knowledge about the culture of the region until now.

Zbigniew Nienacki (1929–94): the author of the famous adventures of Mr Automobile who wrote, among others, the cult novel *Raz w roku w Skirolawkach* (*Once per year in Skirolawki*) in his home in Jerzwałd.

Ernst Wiechert (1887–1950): a German poet, dramatist and novelist who spent his childhood in a forester's house in the Pisz Forest; the bard of Mazurian nature.



Emil Adolf von Behring, photo archives of Fundacja Wikimedia



Wonderful nature, interesting culture and history – this mixture will often accompany us in Warmia and Mazury, photo D. Zaród

MONUMENTS

Gothic castles

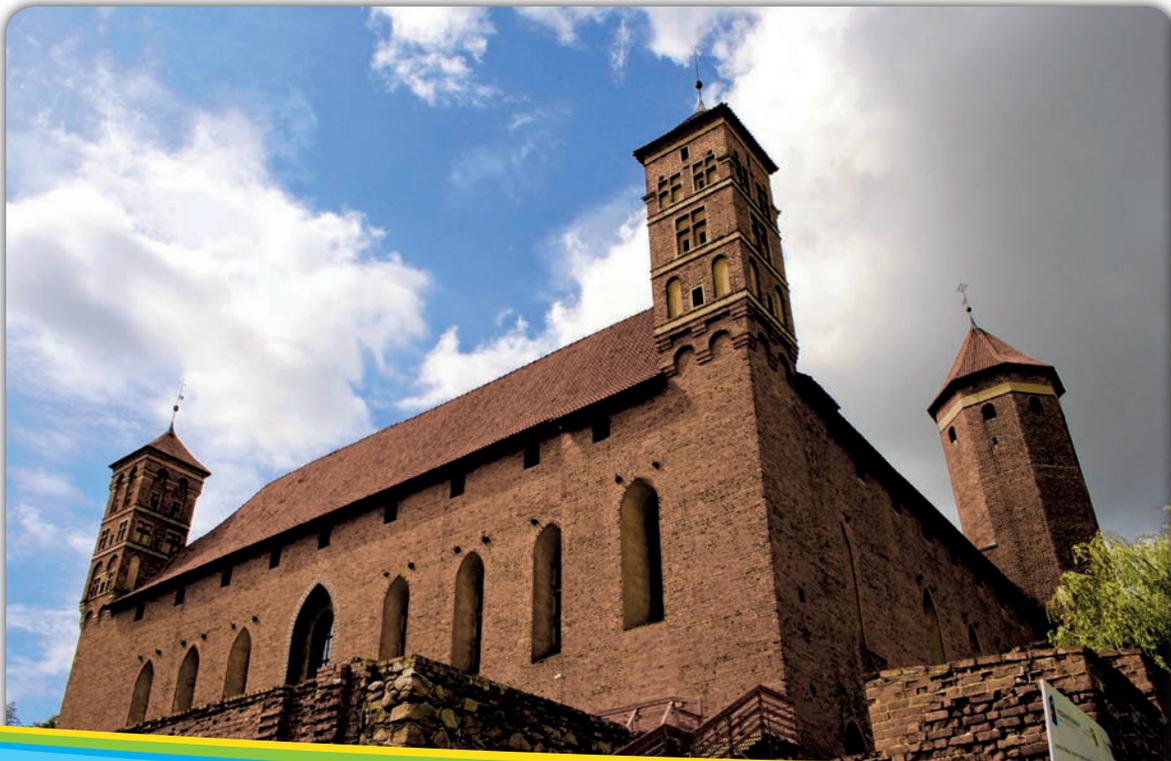
Warmia and Mazury are full of Gothic castles – Teutonic Knights', bishop and capitulary ones. Erected from brick and stone, they are usually reminiscent of the 14th century. Some of them changed their function, such as the Teutonic Knights' watchtower in Bezlawki, adopted as a church; some of them make picturesque ruins, such as the castle in Szymbark. Some fortresses were restored and turned into cultural centres – they not only accommodate museums and galleries but also hotels and restaurants. In Gothic scenery, Medieval feasts are held, and knights' battles or court dances organised in the picturesque yards. The best preserved castles are found along the Gothic castles Trail (see p. 50).



Kętrzyn – the prosecutor's castle

This Gothic fortress was the seat of the Teutonic Knights' prosecutor (governor of a small administrative district). In the north wing, the refectory was located as well as a residential area for the Teutonic Knights' clerks and the chapel. Currently, the building accommodates Wojciech Kętrzyński Museum (see p. 42). It is good to take the opportunity to visit the unique Gothic church with its defensive features.

More on:  www.muzeum.ketrzyn.pl



The prosecutor's castle
façade, Kętrzyn
photo GEP Chroszcz



The Bishop's Castle
in Lidzbark Warmiński
photo GEP Chroszcz



Lidzbark Warmiński – the bishops' residence

One of the best preserved castles in Poland and the pearl of Warmia. It was erected on a square plan and decorated with two-level galleries – the only intact galleries in Poland nowadays. Due to the fact that they are similar to those of Wawel Castle, the castle is called Wawel of the North. In the 16th century, when the fortress lost its defensive function, it was transformed into a splendid, richly-furnished duchy court by, among others, decorating the rooms with beautiful paintings. Bishops as well as outstanding representatives of the Polish culture and science stayed here – e.g. the prince of poets – Ignacy Kraśnicki. The building houses a museum and a stylish hotel. More on: www.muzeum.olsztyn.pl



The Castle Museum in Lidzbark Warmiński, photo GEP Chroszcz



Nidzica – the power of the Teutonic Knights' fortresses

Although the facility in Nidzica was only the seat of the prosecutor, due to its strategic location it made

one of the most powerful fortresses of the Teutonic Knights. The massive wings of the castle still recall this power. Inside, the knights' hall with paintings and the viewing room, i.e. the former granary, with old wooden beams, are amazing. Today it is the seat of the Museum of Nidzica Land. Part of the castle space is occupied by the gallery of Hieronim Skurpski, the famous painter and graphic artist.

More on: www.nok.nidzica.pl



The Nidzica fortress courtyard, photo D. Zaród





 Olsztyn castle tower,
photo D. Zaród

Museum of the Ostróda
castle,
photo J. Pruszyńska

Olsztyn

– the castle of Warmia chapter house

The most famous administrator of the castle was Nicolaus Copernicus, residing here, with only a short break, in the years 1516–21. The only experimental instrument which has survived until today is the astronomic board.

The castle rooms accommodate the Museum of Warmia and Mazury (see p. 41). The castle tower is also worth visiting, offering a splendid panorama of the city.

More on:  www.muzeum.olsztyn.pl

Ostróda – Napoleon's seat

Although the beginnings of the fortress go back to the times of the Teutonic Knights, the castle became famous due to Napoleon Bonaparte, who was resting here after the bloody battle at the Prussian Iława (currently Bagrationovsk in Kaliningrad Oblast). During one month he commanded and managed the army's manoeuvres from Ostróda. It was here that his famous love affair with Countess Maria Walewska began. In the rooms, the gallery and museum are, among others, resplendent with a collection of





One of the most beautiful fortresses of Warmia is located in Reszel, photo D. Zaród



weapons and pottery as well as memorabilia connected with Napoleon.

Reszel – the fortress

Once a typical borderline fortress, it lost its defensive role in the middle of the 15th century and served as a hunting lodge for, among others, Warmia bishops. Today the seat of the Gallery of Contemporary Arts, and others, presents the work of the most outstanding Polish and foreign artists. It is worth climbing the Tower of the nearby church in order to admire the castle and the city.

More on: www.muzeum.olsztyn.pl

Ryn – Wallenrod's nest

This monumental structure was once the seat of the commander (governor of the province, once called the commandry). One of the first administrators was Fryderyk von Wallenrod. The facility is used as a hotel, although the castle rooms can still be visited.

More on: www.zamekryn.pl



Castle in Ryn, photo GEP Chroszcz





One of the most beautiful churches in Warmia – St Catherine's Basilica in Braniewo
photo GEP Chroszcz

Top of the Dobre Miasto collegiate tower,
photo GEP Chroszcz



Gothic churches

Gothic churches are another important landmark of Warmia and Mazury. Still impressive with their extensive and beautiful architecture, red walls and steep towers, they decorate almost every city, dominating the landscape. The temples attract worshippers as well as tourists. Charming Gothic churches can also be found in many Warmian villages.

Braniewo – St. Catherine's Basilica

One of the most beautiful churches in Warmia. Its beginnings date back to 14th century. The magnificent tower dominates the area and the interior enchants with simplicity – splendid vaults and slender windows create a unique atmosphere. Underground, a small sanctuary of the blessed Regina Protmann, the patroness of the city, is located.

Dobre Miasto –the collegiate church

This magnificent 14th century collegiate church attracts visitors with its decorative top and mighty quadrilater-



Frombork Cathedral as seen from Radziejowski Tower, photo GEP Chroszcz



al tower. The interior, containing star-shaped ceilings, accommodates valuable furnishings. In the summer, organ music concerts are held in the church.

Frombork – the cathedral complex

The Frombork cathedral, a remembrance of the 14th century, is one of the biggest and most beautiful sacral structures in north-eastern Europe. Until today, the church has maintained its monumental, Medieval character. The Gothic details are particularly valuable, among

others, the richly decorated gantry of the western porch. The furnishing is also extremely valuable. In the cathedral, with its excellent acoustics, the International Festival of Organ Music is held every year (see p. 69).

On the Cathedral Hill, it is also possible to admire: the former bishops' palace in which the Nicolaus Copernicus Museum is located today (see p. 42), the campanile with observation terrace, called Radziejowski Tower (on its ground floor it contained a planetarium), the Copernicus tower and the internal cannonries.



COPERNICUS IN FROMBORK

As the canon of the Warmia chapter house, Nicolaus Copernicus lived and worked in Frombork for many years. This was the place where his masterpiece was created, which revolutionized science – *De revolutionibus*, namely *On Revolutions*. The astronomer observed the sky from the garden of his canonry (St. Stanislaus), located on the western side of the Cathedral Hill walls. This is where he placed the instruments on a special platform (which is mentioned in his revolutionary work).

More about the work of the astronomer, in the folder *Warmia of Nicolaus Copernicus*.

De revolutionibus – Nicolaus Copernicus Museum, photo GEP Chroszcz



St Jacob's cathedral in Olsztyn, photo GEP Chroszcz

Impressive interior of a Gothic church in Orneta, photo GEP Chroszcz

Olsztyn – St. Jacob's cathedral

In the Olsztyn Old Town, an extremely attractive St. Jacob's cathedral, rises above us. The church was erected in the 14th century and the massive 70-metre high tower with plastered diaphragms was added in the 16th century. In the summer, during the Olsztyn Artistic Summer, organ concerts are organised here.

Orneta – the Church of Saints John the Baptist and John the Evangelist

This church from the 14th century is of a shape which is not typical for Warmia – observed from the outside it resembles a hall rather than a church. The original image of the interior is enhanced by the ceramic decoration of the walls. The rich decoration is emphasised by the Wall paintings.





Sanctuaries and other sacral monuments

Warmia and Mazury are not only the kingdom of Gothic churches. Among sacral monuments, one can also find magnificent Baroque sanctuaries, places connected with apparitions, roadside chapels and crosses as well as prayer houses of different faiths.

Gietrzwałd – Warmia's Częstochowa

In 1877 the Virgin Mary appeared to two poor girls in Gietrzwałd. Since that time it has been the main pilgrimage centre in Warmia and the only place in Poland with apparitions of Mary which are officially recognized as authentic by the Roman Catholic Church. The apparitions in Gietrzwałd played an enormous role in restoring the Polish national movement in Warmia. It is worth visiting the place just for the view itself – charming houses of red brick, harmoniously integrate with the surrounding landscape.

More on:  www.sanktuariummaryjne.pl

WARMIA – THE LAND OF CHAPELS

Chapels and roadside crosses make up one of the more characteristic elements of Warmia, nowhere else can they be found in such great numbers. The majority comes from the turn of the 19th / 20th centuries, however, it is known that many of them were erected much earlier. The oldest preserved chapel is from the year 1601 and it can be admired in **Dobrag**. Similarly interesting is the chapel in **Barczewo** from 1607.

Most of the chapels enchant visitors with their simplicity. Their whitened walls attract us from a distance. However, there are also chapels which display red brick walls and are of a considerable size. Red bricks can be seen literally everywhere: houses, at the crossroads, inside church walls, at the cemetery, on the road... Some time ago, they were placed on the sites of murder and places where ghosts were presumed to have been seen.



photo GEP Chroszcz



Sanctuary in Gietrzwałd is the main pilgrimage Centre of the region, photo GEP Chroszcz





Small chapel by the church in Głotowo, photo GEP Chroszcz

Virgin Mary's shrine in Stoczek Klasztorny, photo GEP Chroszcz

Głotowo – the Warmia's Kalwaria

Pilgrims have been coming to the small church of Głotowo since the 14th century. According to the legend, the local church was built on the site of the miraculous finding of the hostia, hidden before the invasion of pagan Lithuanian. In the 19th century, near the church, Kalwaria Warmińska was built – the only facility of this kind in the region. The 14 Stations of the Cross enchant visitors not only because of their beautiful arrangement but also because of the picturesque location.

More on :  www.glotowo.pl

Stoczek Klasztorny – the shrine to the Virgin Mary

Originally, the forest chapel of the Virgin Mary was located here, which was replaced in the 17th century by a church in the shape of a rotunda. It was the votive offering for the end of the war with Sweden. At that time, a picture of the Virgin Mary, the Queen of Peace, was brought to the church, a copy of the masterpiece from the Roman basilica





of Santa Maria Maggiore. In the monastery, there is a small museum devoted to primate Stefan Wyszyński, who was kept there for several months by the communist regime. More on: www.stoczek.pl

Święta Lipka – the pearl of Baroque

The church and the Jesuit monastery in Święta Lipka is one of the most valuable monuments in the country and one of the most important places of pilgrimage in northern Poland. Much effort was required to erect the church here – the wetlands had to be fortified, therefore 10 thousand alder wood poles were fixed in place as part of the foundations. The magnificent Baroque façade of the church has two high towers, and the richly-decorated interior impresses us with its paintings. The organ, with movable statues, is also very attractive. It is possible to listen to the organ every day at certain hours, or during the Friday concerts of the Święta Lipka Musical Evenings. More on: www.swlipka.org.pl



Splendid architecture and the interiors of the monastery complex in Święta Lipka attract crowds of tourists, photo archives of UMWWM

The interior of the Old Believers' monastery in Wojnowo, photo GEP Chroszcz

Wojnowo – village of Old Believers

In the early nineteenth century, at the picturesque lake Dus, an hermitage was established, which was transformed into a small monastery of Old Believers. Currently it operates as a museum documenting their presence in the Mazury and showing, among others, icons and liturgical equipment. In the village there are also other objects associated with this religious community: molenna (Temple), residential buildings, two cemeteries. An interesting sights is also a wood-en Orthodox Church.



The Old Believers' cemetery photo D. Zaród

THE OLD BELIEVERS OF MAZURY

The history of Old Believers in Pisz Forest dates back to the early nineteenth century. They settled here from Russia fleeing from persecution on religious and received from the Prussian authorities promise of freedom of religion. They substracted the uninhabited lands and hard to reach areas. They showed a large diligence, dealing with, among others, fisheries, fruit-growing, crafts and trade. Until World War II they kept cultural identity. In the Mazury there are still single Old Believers families.

Fortifications

Eastern Prussia was the most eastward part of the Prussian state, the province exposed to attacks from Tsarist Russia. The natural obstacle for potential attacks was the Land of the Great Mazurian Lakes. Therefore, the Prussians devoted much time fortifying the area. Some of the structures have remained until today, making it one of the landmarks of the region, and a tourist attraction. The Mazurian Fortifications car route follows the most interesting sites (see p. 50).

Giżycko – Boyen fortress

This fortress was constructed to the design of a 6 point star in the middle of the 19th century. It owes its name to the Prussian minister of war, Herman von Boyen, the project initiator. Behind the ground embankment, it is possible to admire, among oth-



ers: an arsenal, barracks, shelters, a laboratory for gunpowder, stables and a station for postal pigeons. The area is crossed by marked footpaths.

More on:  www.boyen.gizycko.pl

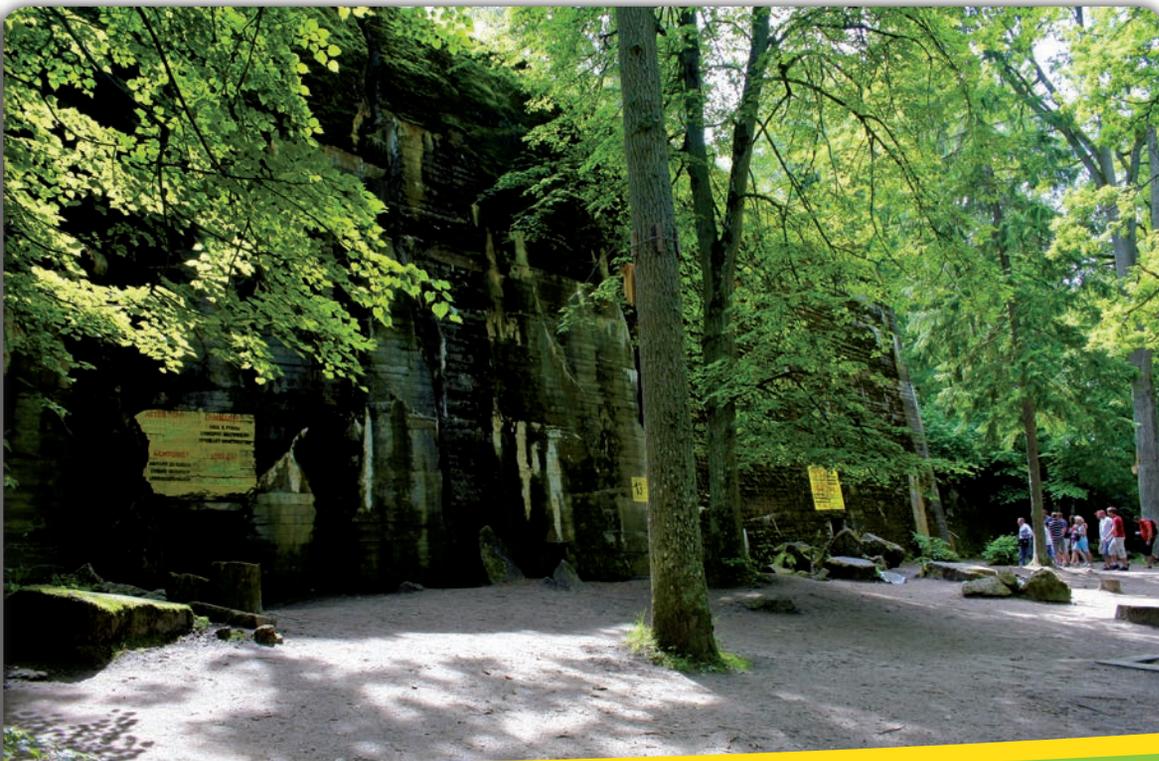
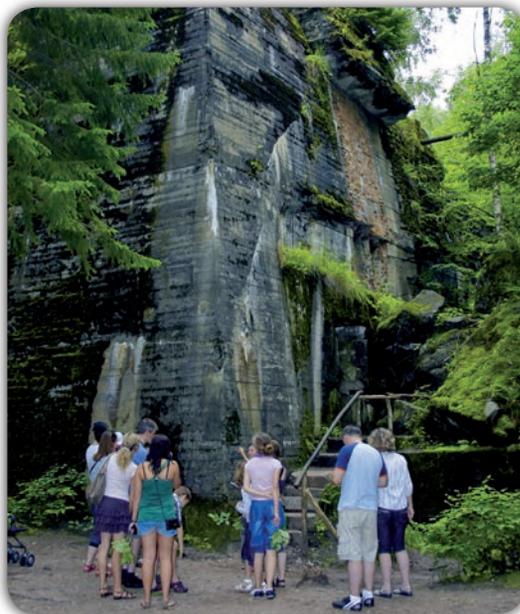




Gierłoż – Wilczy Szaniec

In the forest near Gierłoż it is possible to visit the **Wolf's Lair**, the largest of the seven European headquarters of Adolf Hitler. Several dozen buildings were erected here, but only their ruins remain to impress tourists.

More on:  www.wolfsschanze.pl



Wolf's Lair,
photo GEP Chroszcz





Mamerki – The Headquarters of the German Land Forces

This is the best preserved complex of bunkers of the Second World War in Poland. It is possible to visit the facility independently (routes have been established) or with a guide.

More on:  www.mamerki.com

PRUSSIAN SETTLEMENTS

The oldest traces of fortifications in the Mazurian land come from the first millennium of our era, when the area was inhabited by the Prussian tribes. Their settlements used the natural resources of the area (they were constructed on the hills of steep slopes where the enemy could be easily spotted), in addition, they were surrounded by defensive walls and/or moats. Also the Teutonic Knights erected their castles and watchtowers in places important from a strategic point of view. They also used the natural advantages of the area, therefore their watchtowers were even placed on the passes between lakes.

More on fortifications, from the Prussian settlements to the German headquarters, in the special insert *The Fortifications Trail*.



Bunkers in Mamerki,
photo archives
of UMWWM

The Mazury Canal,
photo GEP Chroszcz

MAZURY CANAL

In Mamerki, the Mazury Canal begins – the 51-kilometre ditch (22 km within the boundaries of Poland), which was supposed to connect the Great Mazurian Lakes with Łyna river (on the side of Kaliningrad Oblast) and the Baltic Sea. The construction was started in 1911, but it has never been finished. In Poland, five water locks are located on the canal (Leśniewo Górne, Leśniewo Dolne, Guja, Bajory, Długopole). The most interesting is the monumental water lock in **Leśniewo Górne** (4 km along the canal from Mamerki) – it has huge reinforced walls with a place for the Nazi emblem.



Mansions and palaces

The noblemen's palaces and mansions recall the cultural landscape of old Eastern Prussia. They had long been forgotten – after World War II they were taken over as state property (and the state farms – PGR), which did not assist their splendour. Since the 1990s they have been taken over by private owners who are trying to restore their previous glamour. The carefully restored residences, surrounded by picturesque parks, have become hotels or conference centres. It was possible to save palaces in **Bałoszyce**, **Janów**, **Klonów**, **Nakomiady**, **Sorkwity**, **Łężany**, **Drogosze** and **Osieka** as well as others. An example of a beautifully restored property is also the former summer residence of the Warmia bishops in **Smolajny**, where Bishop Ignacy Krasicki eagerly used to stay. A completely different style is represented by the Neo-Gothic palace in the village of **Karnity** near Ostróda, which resembles a castle.



Neo-Gothic palace in Karnity village, photo J. Pruszyńska



However, there are also residences which became ruins, although very picturesque. Such is the condition of **Kamieniec** (7 km away from Susz), the property of an 18th century nobleman and once called the Eastern Prussia Versailles. The facility, in a French Baroque style, was enchanting with the richness and splendour of its interiors as well as its magnificent gardens. It hosted, among others, Napoleon Bonaparte, prince Józef Poniatowski and ... Adolf Hitler.



Palace in Janowo, photo J. Pruszyńska



Other interesting sites

There are also many other unusual attractions in the region. Below you will find some of them.

The Elk narrow-gauge railway

One of the attractions of Elk is a trip on the "narrow-gauge railway". It is not only possible to set off on a slow trip on a retro-style train but also to see exhibition of railway memorabilia, including the Elk railway knot.

More on:  www.kolejka-elk.pl

The Elbląg Canal

The cruise on the Elbląg Canal, during which the boat sometimes travels on the grass, is an unforgettable experience. The Canal is a unique monument of technology on a worldwide scale. It was constructed in the middle of the 19th century. It leads through two locks and five inclined planes which enable the boats to cover almost a 100-metre difference in levels over a distance of 10 km.

More on:  www.zegluga.com.pl

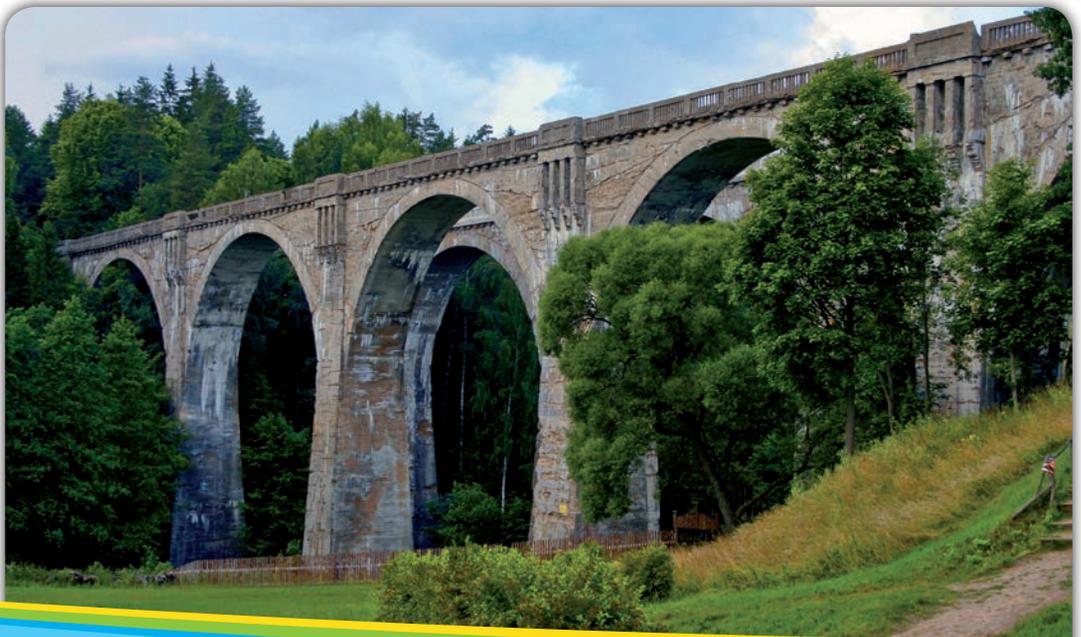


The Pyramid in Rapa

This unique tomb was erected in 1812. The owners of the property took the idea from the Egyptian pyramids – it was supposed to create conditions for the mummification of bodies.

Bridges in Stańczyki

The bridges are among the highest in Poland – the five-span constructions, connecting the banks of the Błędzianka valley, rise 36 m upwards. Their architecture is based on the Roman aqueducts in the French Pont du Gard.



Elk narrow-gauge railway,
photo GEP Chroszcz

Five-span bridge
in Stańczyki,
photo GEP Chroszcz



CULTURE AND ARTS

Museums and galleries

The Museum of Warmia and Mazury in Olsztyn

✉ ul. Zamkowa 2, ☎ phone: +48 89 5279596,

🌐 www.muzeum.olsztyn.pl

The seat of the museum is a 14th century castle built for the administrator of the properties of the Warmia chapter house. Within its beautiful rooms, apart from the permanent Copernicus exhibition, temporary exhibitions are held. In the yard, there is a stone sculpture of a Prussian countrywoman – the sculpture, found in Barciany, is a reminder of the pagan times of the Prussians.



The Museum of Nature in Olsztyn

✉ ul. Metalowa 8, ☎ phone: +48 89 5334780,

🌐 www.muzeum.olsztyn.pl

It occupies a charming secession palace dating back to the end of the 19th century. Permanent exhibition – *Animals of Warmia and Mazury* – lets visitors become acquainted with over 250 animal species living in the region.

House of the “Olsztyn Newspaper”

✉ Targ Rybny 1, ☎ phone: +48 89 5340119,

🌐 www.muzeum.olsztyn.pl

The Museum occupies the reconstructed building, in which a publishing house and printer's shop were based in the years 1920–39. Belonging to the “Olsztyn Newspaper”,

this was the only Polish newspaper published in Warmia (published since 1886). The exhibition refers not only to the newspaper but also to famous people connected with the city, and everyday life in the Warmia village.

Gallery of Contemporary Arts BWA in Olsztyn

✉ al. Piłsudskiego 38, ☎ phone: +48 89 5279466,

🌐 www.bwa.olsztyn.pl

Excellent exhibitions of contemporary world-famous artists.

Centre of Arts, EL Gallery in Elbląg

✉ ul. Kuśnierska 6, ☎ phone: +48 55 6256784,

🌐 www.galeria-el.pl

A place with soul, unique because it is located in the former Dominican church of the Virgin Mary. Works

Museum of Warmia
and Mazury,
photo GEP Chroszcz



Planetarium in Olsztyn

✉ al. Piłsudskiego 38, ☎ phone: +48 89 6500420,

🌐 www.planetarium.olsztyn.pl

Opened in 1973, on the 500th anniversary of Nicolas Copernicus' birth. It is the second biggest planetarium in Poland. Its dome has a diameter of 15 m. It offers several performances concerning various astronomic phenomena.

Planetarium, photo GEP Chroszcz



Observatory in Olsztyn

✉ ul. Żołnierska 13, ☎ phone: +48 89 6500440,

🌐 www.planetarium.olsztyn.pl

It operates in the adapted pressure tower, which was erected on St. Andrew's hill, the highest hill of the former Olsztyn (143 m above sea level). With cloudless skies, views of the heavens can be seen from the observatory terrace.

Astronomical Observatory, photo GEP Chroszcz



of contemporary artists coexist with the old grave plates and epitaphia. Jazz concerts are also held here.

Archaeological-Historical Museum in Elbląg

✉ ul. Bulwar Zygmunta Augusta 11,
☎ phone: +48 55 2327273, 🌐 www.muzeum.elblag.pl
Collections related to the history of the city and discoveries of the Truso settlement. The yard of the museum is decorated with a Gothic column, the only remains of the Teutonic Knights' Castle destroyed by the people of Elbląg in 1454.

Nicolaus Copernicus Museum in Frombork

✉ ul. Katedralna 8, ☎ phone: +48 55 2440071,
🌐 www.frombork.art.pl
It is located in the former bishops' palace. It presents not only the memorabilia of the great astronomer but also stained glass from Frombork and Braniewo plus a collection of large and small telescopes. The former Hospital of the **Holy Spirit** also belongs to the museum (✉ ul. Stara 6), with its collection of antique medical and pharmaceutical instruments – some from the time of Nicolaus Copernicus as well

as Warmia sculpture and painting of the 17th and 18th centuries. In St. Anna's chapel it is possible to see a 15th century wall painting, and outside – two bathroom stoves, also from the 15th century.

The Warmińskie Museum in Lidzbark Warmiński

✉ pl. Zamkowy 1, ☎ phone: +48 89 7672111,
🌐 www.muzeum.olsztyn.pl
Located in the Lidzbark castle. Cellars, armories, the Bishop's suites, the refectory, the castle's chapel, and the chapter house are, among others, available for sightseeing. Several interesting exhibitions have been organized in some of the beautiful interiors.

The Wojciech Kętrzyński Museum in Kętrzyn

✉ pl. Zamkowy 1, ☎ phone: +48 89 7523282,
🌐 www.muzeum.ketrzyn.pl
Located in the castle. It displays an interesting collection of Gothic sculpture, monuments, artefacts and furniture from the 17th–19th centuries. A collection of epitaphs and funeral flags deserves special attention. The museum also presents materials referring to the patron of the city and the establishment.

The J.G. Herder Museum in Morąg

✉ ul. Dąbrowskiego 54, ☎ phone: +48 89 7572848,
🌐 www.muzeum.olsztyn.pl
Placed in the wonderful Dohns' palace. One may see exhibits illustrating the history and culture of the region, a rich collection of Dutch paintings (17th and 18th centuries) as well as artefacts related to the patron of the establishment – an eminent thinker and philosopher, Johann Gottfried Herder (see p. 24).

The Museum in Mrągowo

✉ ul. Ratuszowa 5, ☎ phone: +48 89 7412812,
🌐 www.muzeum.olsztyn.pl
Expositions concerning the history of the city and its vicinity are located in the nineteenth-century town hall, at the market square. The exhibition presents

📷 One of the most interesting museum objects is the one devoted to Copernicus in Frombork,
photo GEP Chroszcz





permanent archeological and historical exhibits, the castles of the Teutonic State as well as the life and writings of Ernst Wiechert (see p. 25), a humanist and writer (in a building called the Bosnians' Guard-house).

The Folk Architecture Museum in Olsztynek

✉ ul. Leśna 23, ☎ phone: +48 89 5192164,

🌐 www.muzeumolsztynek.com.pl

This is the biggest heritage park in Poland. It shows the facilities of the folk architecture of Warmia, Mazury, Powiśle, Lithuania, Bartis, and Samland. A number of interesting events are organized there, for instance, the Peasants' Fair (at the beginning of May and October), or the Regional Herbs Day (August).

The Mazury Museum in Owczarnia

✉ Owczarnia 1/1, ☎ phone: +48 89 7522023, 607982023,

🌐 www.owczarnia.com

A particularly interesting museum located in a tiny village picturesquely situated by the Guber river.

Apart from furniture, tools and household items, one can also see here, for instance, a gas mask for a horse from World War I or Mazurian hymn-books printed in Gothic lettering.



The biggest open air museum in Poland – the Museum of Folk Architecture in Olsztynek, photo D. Zaród



THE MUSEUM IN CULTURAL SETTLEMENT IN KADZIDŁOWO

Private museum facility is located in a shade cottage of Warnowo, from the early nineteenth century. It presents the residential chamber with original furniture, old equipment and utility room houses and school with benches and utensils to learn. Some of the exhibits collected in the adjacent granary. In turn, the cottage with oak thicket of the early twentieth century, decorated "the Dog tavern" serving regional cuisine based on local products. In addition to these historic buildings, in mini open air museum there are three others ones.

✉ Kadzidłowo 1, 📞 phone: +48 87 4257474, 🌐 www.oberzapodpsem.com.pl

The K. I. Gałczyński Museum in Pranie

📞 phone: +48 87 4256248,
🌐 www.lesniczowkapranie.art.pl

A forester's lodge famous thanks to Gałczyński, who first came to Mazury in July, 1950. After that, he visited the lodge for three subsequent years from his home in Warsaw. Poetry mornings connected with the recitation of the poet's poems interpreted by eminent actors, are organized in July and August. The "Following Gałczyński" nature path has been demarcated around the museum. This facility is a branch of the Museum of Michael Kajka in Ogródek, dedicated to the poet, in his work praising simple life at the local ground. ✉ Ogródek 5, 📞 phone: +48 87 4237426, 🌐 www.michalkajka.pl

The Battle of Grunwald Museum in Stężyca

📞 phone: +48 89 6472227,
🌐 www.muzeumgrunwald.fbrothers.com

This rather small museum presents an exhibition based on *The Great War with the Teutonic Order in the years 1409–1411* as well as mediaeval weaponry. Individual phases of the battle are shown additionally in multimedia presentations. In a small cinema auditorium, one may see an excerpt from the film, *Krzyżacy [the Teutonic Knights]*, referring to the most famous victory in the history of the Polish army.

The Museum of Folk Culture in Węgorzewo

✉ ul. Portowa 1, 📞 phone: +48 87 4275278,
🌐 www.muzeum-wegorzewo.pl

The museum presents household items, national costumes, traditional folk arts, ceramics, sculpture and painting. The exhibits come from what was the former East Prussia and the family residences of current inhabitants of Węgorzewo, mainly from the Easter Borderlands of the past Republic of Poland. An ethnographic park, with traditional Mazurian architecture, is in operation at the museum.

THE MAZURIAN HUT IN SĄDRY

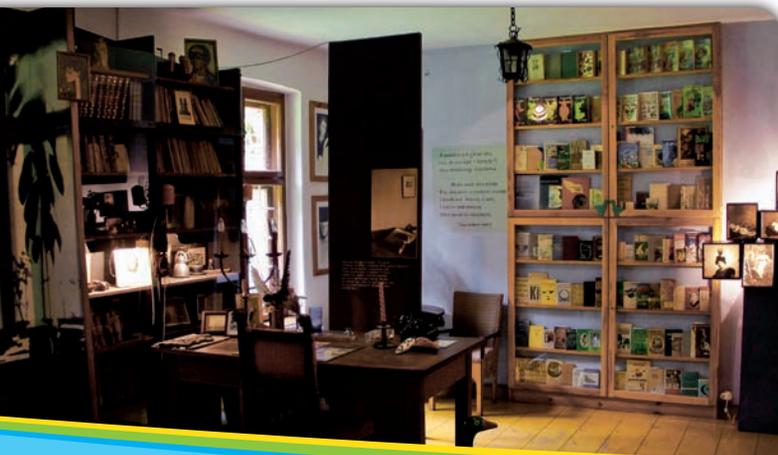
A private museum and heritage park has been established in one of the old Mazurian shacks in picturesque Sądry, near Mrągowo. It presents rich collections concerning the folklore of surrounding lands. The oldest exhibits date as far back as the period of the early Middle Ages.

✉ Sądry 3, 📞 phone: +48 89 7423611



The interior of Gałczyński's Museum in Pranie, photo GEP Chroszcz

You can admire a lot of outstanding works of folk art. in a museum in Węgorzewo, photo GEP Chroszcz





REGIONAL CUISINE

The Warmia and Mazury regions were the first in Poland to join the European Network of Regional Culinary Heritage. This means, that they promote regional food produce and local dishes. Selected households, manufacturers, food processing plants and restaurants, which emphasize their relations with the region and meet defined criteria, obtain a special certificate and the logo of the **Culinary Heritage Warmia, Mazury, Powiśle**. The logo guarantees that the offered products as well as dishes come from the region and have been prepared in compliance with local recipes.

The cuisines of Warmians and Mazurians are similar, as they have their roots connected to the same traditions: German and Polish. Traditionally, the Prussian heritage lays claim to a profusion of meat and potatoes. The latter are eaten in every



Carp,
photo M. Zaręba

Museum of Folk Culture
in Węgorzewo,
photo GEP Chroszcz



REGIONAL DELICACIES

Loin of pork á la Mazury – loin of pork with plum jam sauce.

Warmian dumplings – dumplings with a meat and onion stuffing flavoured with pork scratchings and cream.

Potato cake stuffed with meat.

Fraszynki – little potato cutlets filled with spicy meat stuffing.

Smoked sea trout, eel, and vendace in various culinary forms.

form– dumplings fried in smoked pork fat and fried pancakes are popular (also served with sugar as a dessert). The Polish heritage refers to numerous soups on the menu and the lavish use of cream, herbs and spices (especially marjoram, caraway and dill).

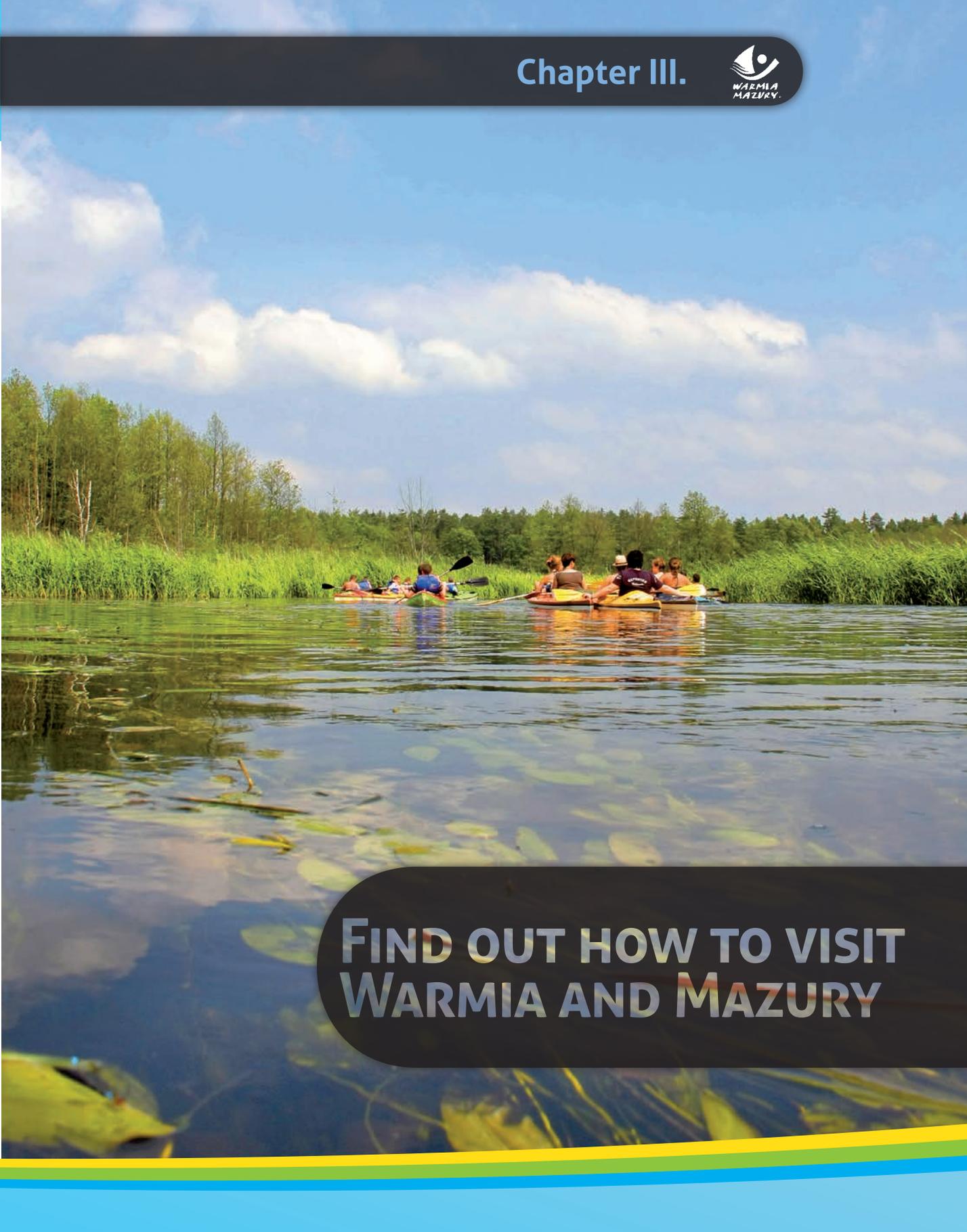
Traditional dishes of Warmia, Mazury and Powiśle may be tasted during culinary festivals and events. Many such events are organized in the region, including the day of bread in Elbląg, the festival of case-shots in Gołdap, the day of fish in Iława, as well as the day of potato pancakes in Ostróda and the potato day in Szczytno.

More on:  www.produktregionalny.warmia.mazury.pl



Bread like this can be bought during bread festival in Elbląg, photo M. Zaręba

Potato pancakes, photo iStockphoto.com



**FIND OUT HOW TO VISIT
WARMIA AND MAZURY**

TRANSPORT AND COMMUNICATION IN THE REGION

It is most convenient to reach Warmia and Mazury by one's own car. The region is crossed by several national roads. Road no. 7 (Gdańsk – Olsztynek – Nidzica – Warszawa – Chyżne), road no. 16 (Hawa – Olsztyn – Augustów) and road no. 51 (Olsztynek – Olsztyn – Bezledy) are of special significance. Good connections between the biggest cities of the region are provided by railway and bus lines. The largest sea port in the region is located in Elbląg at the Vistula Lagoon.

Passenger ships cruise to the Vistula Sandbar from harbours in Frombork and Tolkmicko.

ON THE BORDER WITH THE EUROPEAN UNION

The region borders with the Kaliningrad Oblast of the Russian Federation. An over 200-kilometer section constitutes the borderline of the European Union. In Bezledy, Gronowo, Grzechotki and Gołdap, there are four road border points, one passenger border point and one railway point.

You can also reach the Land of a Thousand Lakes by plane. In Szymany, near Szczytno, is the Olsztyn-Mazury International Airport, which serves commercial and chartered flight connections. Additionally, there are some other locations operating in the region, which may be intended for small planes. This refers to the airports in Olsztyn's Dajtki, Elbląg and Kętrzyn Wilamowo as well as landing fields in Gryźliny, Babięty, Kikity and the Mazury Residence estate near Giżycko.

More on: www.mazuryairport.pl

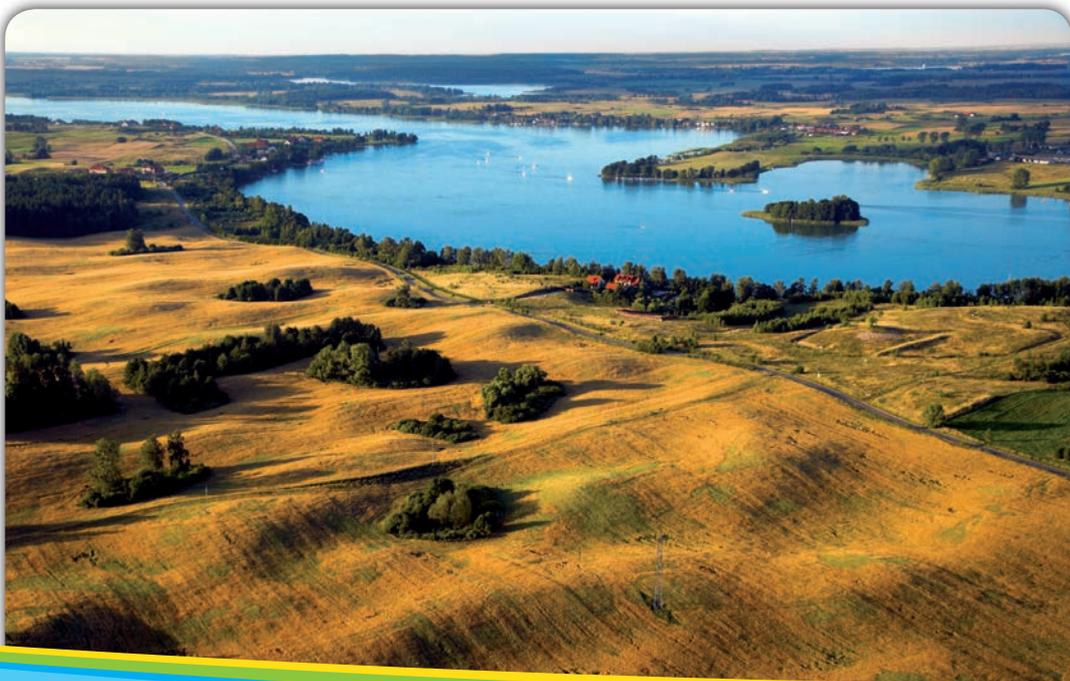
TRAILS IN THE REGION

Warmia and Mazury are crossed by a great number of trails. They include vehicle trails and water routes as well as walking and bike trails. Below, we present just a small part of the long list of attractive roads and tracts

More on: www.szlaki.mazury.pl



Tały Lake,
photo W. Wójcik





Thematic trails

Thematic trails are often supra-regional. It takes several days to cover them. One may join such a trail at any part.

The Copernicus trail

 232 km

According to its name, the route leads through places in which Nicolas Copernicus, the most famous Polish astronomer, lived and worked. It facilitates visiting of the central as well as the northern and western parts of the region. The trail begins in Olsztyn and subsequently it leads through an abundance of ancient monuments as seen in the Warmian cities of: Olsztyn, Dobrze Miasto, Lidzbark Warmiński, Orneta, Pieniężno, Braniewo and Frombork. It covers several picturesque villages. Then, it goes through Tolkmicko to Elbląg. The trail is marked with special road signs with pictures of the astrolabium.

Additionally, there is the **Copernicus walking trail** of a supra-regional character (coloured red). It starts in Olsztyn and finishes in Toruń. The section going through Warmia (237 km) is extremely attractive from the perspective of the landscape and wildlife. More on the life of the astronomer and places related to him may be found in the folder of *Warmia of Nicolas Copernicus*.



Night view over Frombork cathedral, photo GEP Chroszcz

Collegiate Basilica of the Holy Saviour, photo GEP Chroszcz



The Gothic Castles Trail

642 km

It leads through the areas of Warmia, Mazury, Powiśle and Kashubia letting visitors see 12 Gothic castles. They include bishops', capitulary and Teutonic castles. On the trail, in the Warmia and Mazury region, there are castles in Nidzica, Olsztyn, Lidzbark Warmiński, Ostróda, Kętrzyn, Ryn and Reszel. The trail is marked with special road signs with the image of a shield.

For more about Gothic castles – see p. 26–29.

The Trail of Mazurian Fortifications

438 km

An extremely diversified trail which lets tourists become familiar with the establishments of old Prussian burghs, mediaeval castles, fortified temples in Bezlówka and Kętrzyn, the 19th century fortress of Boyen, 20th century field fortifications and Hitler's command headquarters, among others, in Gierłoż, Mamerki and Pozezdrze. The trail goes through the



railway viaducts in the vicinity of Kruklanki and Stańczyki. It is marked with special road signs with the image of a bunker.

To find out more about the trail and its attractions please see *The Fortifications Trail* brochure.



Castle in Ryn,
photo UMWWM

Teutonic castle in Barciany,
photo GEP Chroszcz

The trail of Masurian
Fortifications is very well
marked
photo GEP Chroszcz





The Elbląg Canal Route

 **280 km**

The railway goes along the Elbląg Canal – a unique facility and an achievement of 19th century hydro engineering. It lets us see almost all of the wonderful places located in the vicinity of this popular water route – not only with its system of one of a kind



inclined planes, but also numerous monuments. The route goes through Ostróda, Miłomłyn, Morağ, Małdyty, Pasłek, Elbląg, Zalewo, Susz, Szymbark and Ława. It is marked with special road signs with the image of a water-wheel.

The Grunwald Loop Trail

 **263 km**

One of the biggest battles of the Medieval Europe, the battle of Grunwald, which took place on 15th July, 1410, ended up with a victory of the Polish and Lithuanian-Russian forces against the Teutonic Order. The trail enables visitors to see interesting places located in the vicinity of the fields where the battle was fought. The trail goes through Ostróda, Lubawa, Lidzbark, Działdowo, Nidzica and Grunwald. It is marked with special road signs with the image of two swords.

For more about this trail and its attractions see *The Grunwald Trail* brochure.

The Elbląg Canal Trail
– Buczyńiec inclined plane,
photo J. Pruszyńska

Monument dedicated to
the battle of Grunwald,
photo J. Pruszyńska

Bismarck Tower in Ostróda
photo J. Pruszyńska



The Napoleon's Trails

 40 km

Warmia and Mazury offer several trails related to the stay of Napoleon and his army. The route of Napoleon's march through Warmia during the war with Russia and Prussia in February 1807 constitutes the **blue trail** in the vicinity of Olsztyn and Dobre Miasto. In each town or village through which the trail goes, there are signs depicting the subsequent manoeuvres of the enemy forces. The trail begins

THE BATTLE OF JONKOWO

At the beginning of February 1807 in the fields of Jonkowo, currently called the Russian entrenchment, French and Russian forces stood opposite each other. Napoleon, who commanded the skirmish from a certain distance, gained victory. For several years, a re-enactment of the battle has been organized in Jonkowo, in March, gaining more and more popularity.

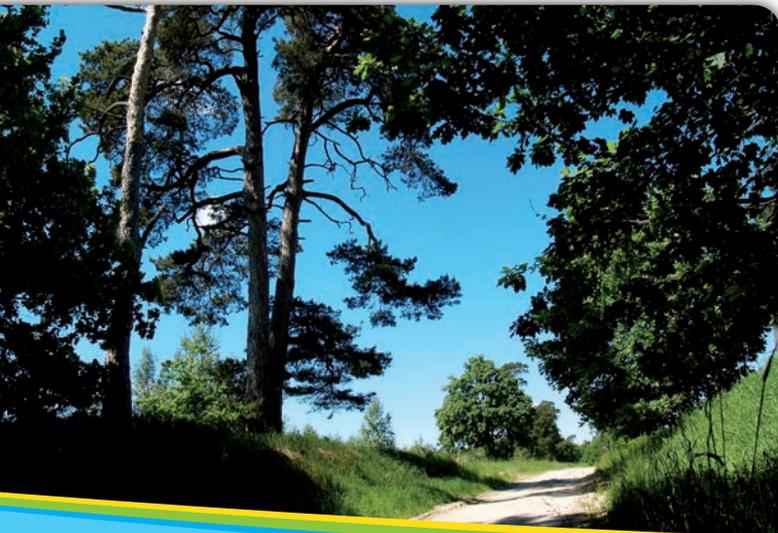


Napoleon's Valley
in Szymbark,
photo J. Pruszyńska

Sanctuary in Gietrzwałd,
photo GEP Chroszcz

in Barkweda and goes through, among others, Jonkowo, finishing in Konradowo.

Napoleon's Trail has been demarcated additionally in the Hława Lake District. Marked in green, it leads through historical places related to the great Frenchman's stay in that region. In Szymbark, Napoleon liked to walk along a scenic avenue, whereas in Kamieniec he had an affair with Maria Walewska.



St. Jacob's Road

 323 km in the region

Saint Jacob's Road, namely, Camino de Santiago, is one of the most famous pilgrim trails in Europe. The trail goes through Poland, Germany and France reaching Santiago de Compostela in Western Spain, where, according to the legend, there is a grave of one of the twelve Apostles – Saint Jacob Senior. The trail goes from Bakałarzewo (the Podlaskie region) through Olsztyn to Lipowiec, near Nowe Miasto Lubawskie. The road goes not only through some well-known places of worship – such as the Sanctuary of Our Lady in Gietrzwałd, but additionally, through regions with beautiful landscapes. The trail is marked with a yellow shell on a blue background.





The Brick Gothic Trail [a European Trail]

It goes through seven countries; from Sweden through Denmark, Germany, Poland, and Lithuania reaching Latvia and finally Estonia. The trail proceeds through cities which were formerly related with the Hansa, where gorgeous Gothic churches, monasteries, gateways, towers and town halls have been preserved. In Poland, there are 12 cities, including Olsztyn, located along the Brick Gothic Trail. One may admire outstanding works of Gothic architecture – the Castle of the Warmian Chapter, Saint Jacob's cathedral, the High Gateway and the Old Town Hall – in the capital city of the Warmia and Mazury region.



BRICK GOTHIC

It was characteristic for Northern Europe (cities associated with the Hansa) where natural rock resources were scarce. The massive walls of constructions, usually had few openings and recessed plains of blind windows covered with white plaster. Highly decorated gables were created thanks to a sophisticated geometric system of bricks. Additionally, decorative motifs were used – traceries, marigold windows, pinnacles, capitals, and richly-profiled portals.



Olsztyn High Gate,
photo GEP Chroszcz



Olsztyn Castle is located
along the Brick Gothic Trail,
photo GEP Chroszcz

Bike trails

Warmia and Mazury offer good conditions for bike trips. Forest lanes, field routes and quiet local roads provide an ideal setting for the lovers of two wheels. The communes are well aware of that fact and each year they mark out new bike routes. Local routes are not very long (20–50 km) and are loop-shaped in most cases.

The choice of short regional routes is so wide that it should satisfy anyone. Provisions have also been made for those tourists who wish to go on a few-days sightseeing trip to Warmia and Mazury Region. Two long-distance routes are also available.

Green Velo - the Eastern Cycling Route

 **2000 km in total, almost 400 km in the Warmińsko-Mazurskie Voivodeship**

Part of the longest cycling route in Poland runs through the Warmińsko-Mazurskie Voivodeship and allows participants to sight-see the northern areas with their picturesque landscapes, rich nature and culture. The region covers three sections of the route known as the “kingdoms of cycling”:



“Over the Vistula Lagoon” (93 km), “Warmia and Surroundings” (147 km) and “Northern Mazury” (153 km). The route starts in Elbląg and runs through Tolkmicko, Frombork, Braniewo, Pieniężno, Górowo ławeckie, Lidzbark Warmiński, Bartoszyce, Sępól, Korsze, Barciany, Srokowo, Węgorzewo and Gołdap. Further stages of the Green Velo route may include diversions along many local routes. Tourists using these routes can use Cycling Service Centres, which are equipped with racks, benches, tables, shelters, litter bins and information boards. There are also Bike Friendly Places and recommended facilities (accommodation, catering, services) which cater to the needs of fans of two wheels.

International trail R1

 **675 km in Poland, 86 km in the Warmińsko-Mazurskie Voivodeship**

It links the French city of Calais to St. Petersburg in Russia. Within the borders of Poland the route proceeds from Kostrzyn on the Odra to the border with Kaliningrad Oblast in Gronowo. Within Warmia and Mazury it runs through beautiful and yet uncultivated areas of the Vistula Lowlands, the Elbląg Upland and the Warmia Lowland. While on the route, it is worth visiting the cities of Elbląg,



Sightseeing in Warmia and Mazury is pleasant and easy thanks to interesting trails, photo GEP Chroszcz, photo M. Zaręba





Frombork and Braniewo, because of their numerous historic buildings.

Transborder trail R64

 **187 km in total, 95 km in the Warmińsko-Mazurskie Voivodeship**

It follows alongside the shores of the Vistula Lagoon, from the village of Piasków (Vistula Spit, Pomorskie Voivodeship) to Braniewo (Warmińsko-Mazurskie Voivodeship). The route runs along quiet asphalt roads and offers a considerable variety of landscapes – pine forests of the Vistula Spit give way to the fields and polders of fenland, to later change into the ravines and gorges of the Elbląg Upland. On the way, tourists pass many charming towns of interest, including Elbląg, Kadyny, Tolkmicko and Frombork.

More information on bike trails in *Warmia and Mazury by bike* brochure.



Cyclist on a trail,
fot. iStockphoto.com



Routes in Wilamowo
near Kętrzyn,
photo GEP Chroszcz

Water trails

Warmia and Mazury are a Mecca for watersports' lovers. In the summer, the most frequented sailing routes are swarming with yachts and sailing boats. Almost any lake-side town has its own marina and some sailing equipment for rent. Canoeing is also very popular. Equipped only with a small kayak, tourists may experience a great adventure – either by going on a few-hours trip to the neighbouring areas or a few-days canoeing trip.

ECOMARINE SYSTEM

An ever-growing number of tourists visiting Warmia and Mazury – in season almost ten thousand yachts and sailing boats sail within the Mazury Lake District – poses a threat to the natural environment. Hence the idea of ecomarines. Ecological marines are connected to the sanitary sewerage and equipped with systems for collecting and segregating waste from yachts.

Ecomarines are already functioning in Mikołajki, Giżycko, Wilkasy, Mrągowo, Kamień, Piaski, Węgorzewo, Ryn, Pisz, Zalewo, Siemiany, Itawa.



Mazury, with its wide variety of water sports attractions, is a paradise for water sports fans, photo GEP Chroszcz

Krutynia, photo GEP Chroszcz





The watersports' centres of the Mazury Lake District are the towns of Giżycko, Mikołajki, Pisz, Ryn, Ruciane-Nida, Węgorzewo and Sztynort. Renting a yacht or kayak poses no problems and most rental companies will collect the equipment from the spot indicated by the client. Other watersports' centres include Iława, Ostróda and Elk.

The Mazury Lake District Trail

 132 km

The Mazury Lake District is an Eldorado for sailors. A visit to this region will be remembered for life, as nowhere else in Europe is a place so well-suited for sailors. Throughout the northern part of the district runs a popular trail – **Giżycko – Węgorzewo**. It starts on the shores of Niegocin or Kisajno Lakes. The shortest distance is 25 km, but the route can be extended to 80 km, if tourists pay additional visits to other reservoirs (e.g. Dobskie and Świącjayty Lakes) or stop at some interesting spots (e.g. Mamerki, see p. 38).



Mazury under sail,
photo GEP Chroszcz



IN THE GALINDIAN SETTLEMENT

Galindia, the Masurian Eden is located in Iznot, at the mouth of the Krutynia River by Beldany Lake. This project aims at presenting the culture of Galindian tribe which inhabited the area between 5th century B.C. and 8th century A.D. Apart from a hotel, tavern and marina, tourists may visit underground dungeons and caves, admire sculptures of deities and learn about Galindian traditions.

More on:  www.galindia.com.pl

From Giżycko tourists may go south to visit the middle part of the Masurian Lake District. The **Giżycko – Mikołajki** trail is 37 km long. It begins by Niegocin Lake and proceeds through several channel-interconnected reservoirs (including Boczne, Jagodne and Tały Lakes), to finally reach the summer capital of Polish watersports' lovers – Mikołajki. From this spot, the route can take tourists either further north – through a series of ribbon lakes (Mikołajki, Beldany) to the town of **Ruciane-Nida** (19 km), or to the Mazury Sea, i.e. Śniardwy Lake, and further on to **Pisz** (25 km).

An accurate description of water routes in the Mazury Lake District can be found in *The Great Mazury Lakes Trail* brochure.



Ruciane-Nida,
photo GEP Chroszcz

Niegocin Lake,
photo GEP Chroszcz



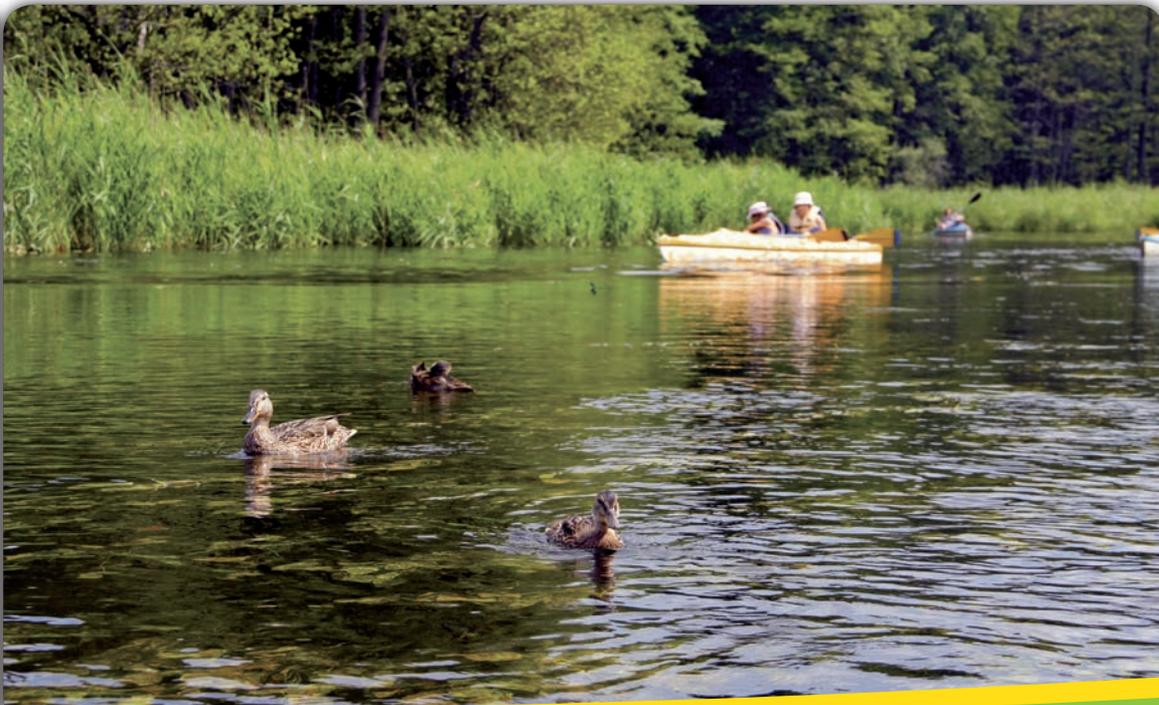
Krutynia Trail

 96 km

This is the most popular kayaking route in Mazury and one of Europe's most beautiful. It leads through several lakes, connected by short rivers (streams), which are jointly referred to as Krutynia. The landscape passed on the way is rich and varied, as the route runs through Pisk Forest and Mazury Landscape Park (from Mokre Lake). The river flows through pristine and wild landscapes, passing by villages of interesting architectural design. The kayaking trips usually begin in the town of Sorkwity

VILLAGE OF KRUTYŃ

Small wooden huts, some of them adorned with porches and shutters, a small marketplace and lush greenery – this is what Krutyń is all about. An old barn from the end of the 19th century is home to the Museum of Natural History for the Masurian Landscape Park. The majority of tourists, following an old tradition, visit the village to canoe down the Kurtynia. The village men use wooden poles to push the boats away down the winding river so that tourists can admire the most beautiful part of the river. In 1934 the village was visited by Melchior Wańkiewicz, who, at that time, was on holiday with his daughter in Eastern Prussia. Later, he described his journey in his famous book, *Na tropach Smełka*.



Canoeing along Krutynia,
photo GEP Chroszcz



and end in Ruciane-Nida. A section of the route from Krutyń Lake to the village of Ukta is considered the most scenic. The route is not difficult to follow and it takes

at least one week to traverse the entire distance. As befits a tourist attraction, numerous camping sites and harbours operate alongside the route.



Łyna Trail

 204 km

This unique trail is considered one of the prettiest water routes in Warmia. From canoes, tourists can admire both the wonderful landscape and historic architecture of the cities and towns passed on the way (including Olsztyn, Dobre Miasto, Smolajny, Lidzbark Warmiński). Although the route is long, it is never boring, because of the varying landscape. The upper river section provides a breathtaking view of forests, lakes and two picturesque gorges: the one between Ustrych Lake and the village of Ruś (in that part the Łyna changes into a mountain river) and the other in the urban forest area of Olsztyn. To travel across the strict nature reserve called Warmiński Forest, one must previously obtain the consent of the provincial nature conservation officer in Olsztyn (it can be easily obtained).



Picturesque
Krutynia Trail,
photo D. Zaród
photo GEP Chroszcz





The Łyna Trail is relatively easy to follow, except for the said short journey across the reserve that is beset with numerous felled trees, boughs and protruding stones. It takes two weeks to cover the entire distance of the trail.

More tourist routes in Warmia and Mazury:

 www.szlaki.mazury.pl

Drwęca Trail

 **178 km**

This is the only water route that runs entirely through a nature reserve, since the entire Drwęca River is under protection. The route is easy to follow and free of any obstacles. It has a few portages and offers landscape variety. The route can be individually planned, leading either to Elbląg Canal or the surrounding lakes. Usually, a Drwęca canoeing trip begins near Ostróda and proceeds through Nowe Miasto Lubawskie, finally leaving the Warmińsko-Mazurskie voivodeship behind. The route comes to an end in Toruń (Kujawsko-Pomorskie voivodeship). It takes at least 10 days to cover the entire distance of the route.



 Kurzetnicka Gate in Nowe Miasto Lubawskie, photo GEP Chroszcz

Canoe trail, photo GEP Chroszcz

POLAND'S NEW WONDER

The Polish edition of *National Geographic* magazine, following the example of the international competition for the New 7 Wonders of Nature (see p. 10), asked its readers to indicate Poland's New 7 Wonders. The Elbląg Canal was chosen as one of Poland's most beautiful and interesting spots.

Elbląg Canal

   **83 km, 152 km with branches**

This is a technical monument of unique design (efforts are underway to include it on the list of the World Natural and Cultural Heritage) that constitutes the longest waterway in Poland. It connects Druzno and Drwęca Lakes, i.e. the surroundings of Elbląg and Ostróda. This can be extended: by taking a route through the Elbląg River into the Vistula Lagoon, or through Żuławy Loop to the Vistula River and Baltic Sea (see below). One can also follow the route from Ostróda, through the Ostróda Canal to Stare Jabłonki. Alternatively, by following the route from Miłomłyn to the Iława Canal, tourists can reach Iława.

The Elbląg Canal cruise is the region's major tourist attraction. Tourists may travel by ship or admire the beauty

of the landscape from a yacht or kayak. Żegluga Ostródzko-Elbląska (the Ostróda-Elbląg Navigator) organises cruises down the canal, offering several different routes. The cruise may start in Ostróda, Elbląg or another town along the route. The most exciting part of the route is between Elbląg and Małdyty where boats go up and down the ramps.

More on:  www.zegluga.com

Żuławy Loop

   **403 km**

It leads through rivers (including Vistula, Szarpawa, Nogat and Elbląg River), the Vistula Lagoon and the Jagiellonian Canal. The place is an excellent choice for watersports enthusiasts. A few different routes are available. The Warmińsko-Mazurskie voivodeship contains only a small section of the Żuławy Loop, but it is of great beauty. While on the shores of the Vistula Lagoon, it is worth visiting the city of Frombork. From there, tourists may travel to the romantic city of Elbląg and sail down the Jagielloński Canal, one of the oldest in Poland (built in 1483), and finally go through Nogat to the Vistula.



Jelenie inclined plane on the Elbląg Canal, photo J. Pruszyńska





WINTER ATTRACTIONS

Warmia and Mazury are the coldest regions in Poland, which guarantees not only a long and frosty winter, but also a snowy one. The Dylewo Hills and Szeskie Hills have gained recognition from the local winter sports enthusiasts. With the exception of **downhill skiing**, both **back-country and cross-country skiing** have gained more popularity – this is actually confirmed by the annual recreational Sasin's Race held in Dylewo Hills Landscape Park. Many farms offer cross-country skiing holidays as well.

Ice sailing has recently been revived too. **Ice-boats** can be rented, in Mikolajki and Giżycko, and other places; there are also companies who organise winter courses for those who would like to try ice sliding. Year after year groups of students partake in **diving under ice** – this sport is also on the increase and special training is organised by volun-



WILD MAZURY

The north-eastern part of Mazury – Szeskie Hills and the area of Romincka and Borecka Forests – are the wildest parts of the region, and remain undiscovered by the masses. This extremely valuable – from an environmental perspective – corner of Mazury, impresses visitors in terms of its landscape as well as its culture. Mazury Garbate (Humped-back Mazury) – as this is what this unusual site is frequently called – is worth visiting in winter. In addition to the ski-lifts, you can have fun back-country skiing or riding dog-sledges on Piękna Mountain. More and more top-quality holiday farms offer a wide range of year-round stays.

teers. Recently, winter canoeing has become popular as well. The rivers of Warmia and Mazury are rarely icy enough or for long enough. Many of them are technically so easy that even inexperienced canoeists do not risk being dumped into the water. And it must be admitted that the rivers look exceptionally beautiful as part of the winter scenery.

You can read more on the region's winter attractions in the brochure entitled *Warmia and Mazury in winter*.

Slopes and ski lifts

Konikowo near Gołdap – Piękna Góra

The largest winter sports resort in the Warmińsko-Mazurskie voivodeship. The station operates five ski-lifts: a chair-lift, two T-bar lifts and two lifts with a low cable line. All in all, there are over 2,000 meters of ski-runs of various difficulty in the region. The slopes are illuminated. A special attraction is one of the most modern alpine slides in Europe. Ski equipment rental is also available. A nearby inn serves excellent Cepelinai (stuffed potato dumplings), certified as a traditional regional dish.

More on:  www.zajazd-rudziewicz.pl

Mrągowo – Góra Czterech Wiatrów

The resort is located on the Four Winds' Peninsula, on Czos Lake. Two T-bar ski-lifts serving five ski-runs of varying difficulty are available. There is also a toboggan slide and a snow park. Illuminated slopes. Ski equipment rental. Restaurant.

More on:  www.gora4w.com.pl

Ski slope – Piękna Góra,
photo archives of UMWWM





Okraęle near Orzysz,
photo A. Świątkowski

Okraęle near Orzysz – Morenowa Ski Station

The resort is located at Skomack Mały Lake. Three T-bar ski-lifts and four routes are available. Illuminated slopes. Ski equipment rental and service available. Guest house. Restaurant.

More on:  www.skimazury.pl

Ruś near Olsztyn – Kartasiówka

Three T-bar ski-lifts operating on three slopes. Illumination on the slope. Equipment rental. Bar.

GOLF IN THE REGION

Mazury Golf & Country Club in Naterki – an 18-hole championship-class golf course near Olsztyn; the facility has been adapted to the skills of both advanced players and beginners; the latter may use special training stations and learn with experienced staff.

More on:  www.mazurygolf.pl

Sand Valley Golf Resort in Pasłek – an 18-hole golf course, the facility has been adapted to the skills of both advanced players and beginners, for the latter – special classes at the Academy of Golf.

More on:  www.sandvalley.pl

There are also ski hills at **Chrobrego Hill** in Elbląg, **Kurza Hill** in Kurzętnik as well as in Mikołajki.

COMFORT AND RELAXATION

You not only come to Warmia and Mazury for holidays, but also to improve and regain your health and beauty. This is all facilitated by uncontaminated nature and an excellent **spa & wellness service**. Luxury hotels with swimming pools and a variety of relaxation treatments can be found in many well-known resorts; you can get rid of your stress in luxurious spa facilities located far away from the noisy crowds, very often in the backwoods. A comfortable and unique stay is offered **by hotels located in Gothic castles**. Also **former Prussian palaces and residences** have been turned into luxurious hotels.

An excellent holiday, although in a completely different style, is provided by well-maintained, old farms. Transformed with reverence into **guest houses** or **farm tourism facilities**, they offer a homely atmosphere and tradition, especially in terms of the cuisine. The owners of such farms, ever more frequently, can arrange sightseeing of monuments or local museums, and tours around the area.

Spa facilities, conference centres, hotels and larger farmhouses are easy to find on the Internet. If you are looking for accommodation, it is worth checking websites promoting the region and the websites of local tourist organisations, as well as individual communes or towns (see p. 72).

The only city in Warmia and Mazury which has the official status of a spa is **Gołdap**. Illnesses treated here include loco-motor disorders and diseases of the respiratory and nervous systems, by means of the healing properties of therapeutic mud and clean air.



WHAT'S HAPPENING?

MUSIC

Blues

Olsztyn – Olsztyn Blues Nights (July)

One of the oldest Blues festivals in Poland – the first one took place in 1984 and has been very popular ever since. A true celebration for the fans of this music genre. Concerts are held in the amphitheatre at the foot of Olsztyn castle, and recently also on the stage next to Ukiel Lake at Miła Gulf. Every year both Polish and foreign Blues stars perform here.

More on:  www.blues.olsztyn.pl

Country

Mrągowo – Country & Folk Picnic (July)

One of Europe's biggest international festivals of Country music held annually since 1983 in Mrągowo town. It features both Polish and foreign stars. During those couple of days Mrągowo is transformed beyond recognition. Fans wearing Cowboy costumes flock to the local amphitheatre where the main concerts are held. The streets resound with music, dancing and motorcycle horns. The city hosts many associated events as well.

More on:  www.festiwalpiknikcountry.pl

Hip-hop

Giżycko – Mazury Hip-Hop Festival (between July and August)

The oldest hip-hop festival in Poland – its origins dating back to 2002 – is held at the Prussian Boyen Fortress. The festival's unique atmosphere and famous performers offer great entertainment.

More on:  www.mazuryhiphopfestival.pl

Jazz

Łąwa – Old Jazz Meeting “Złota Tarka” (August)

An international traditional Jazz music festival held in Łąwa since 1994. The jazz contest has a long tradition – the Złota Tarka prize was first awarded in 1965 during a Festival on the Odra River in Wrocław. The Louis Armstrong Amphitheatre hosts a competitive bands review and performances of invited stars. A real musical feast for enthusiasts of traditional (though not only) Jazz music. The programme includes many additional events.

More on:  www.zlotatarka.pl

Elbląg – Jazzbląg Festival (between July and September)

This increasingly popular festival takes place in the extraordinary setting of the old, post-Dominican Church of the Holy Virgin Mary. It is home to the Centre of Art Galeria EL featuring performances by famous jazzmen and art-



Jazz concert,
photo M. Tincel



ists playing a mixture of Jazz and Blues. Good acoustics, a unique atmosphere and professional performances all combine to provide a true Jazz experience in Elbląg.

More on: jazzblog.galeria-el.pl

Sung poetry

Olsztyn – All-Polish Castle Meetings „Śpiewajmy Poezję” (‘Let’s Sing Poetry’) (late June or early July)

Sung poetry has been performed in Olsztyn castle courtyard since 1974. The event has a competitive character, but is also accompanied by concerts of famous ‘gentle music’ style artists. The show is attended by many artists constituting a permanent fixture in the Polish music history, e.g.: Ewa Demarczyk, Elżbieta Adamiak, Agnieszka Osiecka, Jacek Kaczmarski or Grzegorz Turnau. The special ambience provides a memorable musical experience.

More on: www.spiewajmypoezje.pl

Reggae

Ostróda – Reggae Festival (August)

The biggest Polish festival devoted to Reggae music. Each year this music genre, first developed in Jamaica, attracts large crowds to Ostróda. The festival is held in the military unit area and lasts from morning till night. International stars, Polish Reggae performers and competing young bands provide great entertainment.

More on: www.ostrodareggae.com

Rock

Węgorzewo – Festival of Mazury Naturally, Music & More (July)

A must-see for the the rock music fans. Along with some cult Polish rock bands, foreign groups are invited to the Festival as well. Crowds of arrivers evince the event’s importance and the performers’ top quality.



Szymon Zychowicz – Concert of the Innermost Dreams – The Next Generation – The Next Generation, photo archives of the Office of All Poland’s Castle Meetings ‘Let’s Sing Poetry’ (Centre of Education and Cultural Initiatives in Olsztyn)



Łąwa – the Łąwa Fama Rock Festival (between June and August)

Rock and heavy metal top shelf music. The concerts are held in the Louis Armstrong Amphitheatre. A real celebration for the fans of guitar riffs.

Olsztyn – Green Festival (August)

This is a festival of music and healthy living which, in addition to being pleasing to the ear, also offers events related to education, ecology, environmental protection, health-promoting nutrition and living in harmony with nature. At the City Beach at Lake Ukiel, great music from popular Polish music stars awaits fans, along with other exhibitions and films.

Shanties

Mikołajki – Shanties Festival (July)

Every year enthusiasts of sea shanties arrive at the Polish capital of sea lovers in great numbers to listen to the greatest stars of the shanties stage. The festival programme entails audience participation and lots of fun.



 Looking at Mikołajki marina, one is not surprised that the town is a shanties' song capital..., photo D. Zaród

Giżycko – Shanties and Sea Song Festival (July)

The largest Polish sea shanty festival is also held at the City Beach. As the organisers put it, the amphitheatre resounds with: "the songs of labour, sea songs, ballads, rock shanties, and reed-marsh shanties". The festival attracts between ten and twenty thousand spectators, the program includes many additional events.

Organ Concerts

Olsztyn – Olsztyn Organ Concerts (July – August)

The festival has a long tradition – its first concert season was held in 1979. Since then, the walls of St Jacob's Cathedral have hosted outstanding musicians both from Poland and abroad every single summer. The concerts are held on summer Sundays at 8.00 p.m.

More on:  www.organfestival.olsztyn.pl

THE ŚWIĘTA LIPKA ORGAN

One of the greatest attractions of the Marian Shrine in Święta Lipka (see p. 35) is the organ – its Baroque, finely decorated front is adorned with movable figures. You can listen to concerts on summer evenings at 8.00 p.m. during Świętolipskie Wieczory Muzyczne (Święta Lipka Music Nights).

More on:  www.swlipka.org.pl

Frombork – International Festival of Organ Music (June – August)

The Frombork Festival is one of the two oldest festivals in Poland, and has been organised every year since 1966. It attracts virtuosos from around the world. Frombork Cathedral has superb acoustics, and the local organ, with a wide range of tone, gives the musicians freedom to perform a really diverse repertoire. The concerts are held on Sundays at 2.00 p.m.

More on:  www.frombork-festival.pl



Giżycko – International Festival of Organ and Chamber Music (July – August)

In the summer you can enjoy the most beautiful pieces of organ music, within the walls of the Evangelical Church of the Augsburg Confession. The concerts are held on Sundays at 7.00 p.m.

More on: www.centrumanimacji.pl



Organ concert in Frombork, photo GEP Chroszcz, through the kind offices of Festival Director, Jan Brzozecki as well as Portuguese performer Filipe Verissimo

Maladype Theatre (Hungary), photo archives of International Theatre Festival „Demoludy” in Olsztyn

THEATRE

Olsztyn – Olsztyn Theatre Meetings (March)

Traditional performances alongside avant-garde ones, dance theatre next to pantomime ... The Meetings held at the Stefan Jaracz Theatre form an overview of the most interesting phenomena of both national and foreign stages. A wide range of repertoire with generic and aesthetic diversity of performances.

More on: www.teatr.olsztyn.pl

Olsztyn – International Theatre Festival „Demoludy” (People’s Democracies) (October)

Performances of the former Eastern Bloc theatres – thus the somewhat ironic name “Demoludy.” Lots of laughter, grotesque and parody in excellent shows. Revealing and inspiring.

More on: www.demoludy.art.pl

Elbląg – The Elbląg Theatre Spring (April)

Musical performances, comedy shows, pantomime, monodrama, cabaret marathons and concerts – a rich and varied programme where everyone can find something to suit their tastes. The event is held in the form of theatre confrontations. Casts, whose performances have been recognised as outstanding in their cities and countries, are invited here.

More on: www.teatr.elblag.pl

HISTORICAL RE-ENACTMENT

Grunwald – the most famous victory in the history of Poland (July)

Each year, around 15th July, members of European fellowships perform the most important battle in the history of the Polish army, in the fields of Grunwald. The event has been taking place since 1998. Hosts of medie-



Every year thousands of Poles (and not only) come to watch the battle of Grunwald..., photo GEP Chroszcz

val armies – more than 2,000 knights are involved in the battle – reproduce the battle course in detail. There are almost 60,000-80,000 spectators. Although the result of the battle is obvious, the show is extremely fascinating. The Re-enactment is part of the Days of Grunwald Festival, in which not only the historical events are brought back to life, but the culture and traditions of the region as well as ancient crafts are made popular once more.

More on:  www.muzeumgrunwald.fbrothers.com

Jonkowo – Napoleonic History Picnic (May)

See p. 52.

Lidzbark Warmiński – the Battle of Heilsberg (June)

On 10th June 1807, a great battle between the French and the Russian-Prussian armies took place in Heilsberg (Lidzbark Warmiński). In order to commemorate this event, hundreds of enthusiasts re-enact this historic battle every year on the Lidzbark range. Time returns to the 19th century for several hours. After the battle, plenty of other attractions await the participants: a crafts' market, concerts, a shooting tournament ...

More on:  www.ldk.lidzbarkwarminski.pl

SPORT

Beach Volleyball

Olsztyn – Warmia Mazury Grand Slam (between June and August)

This is an international beach volleyball tournament, which is a part of the prestigious Grand Slam series and is held at the courts of the "Ukiel" Sports and Recreation Centre at Lake Ukiel, the largest lake in Olsztyn. This competition of the top players in the world is accompanied by a rich recreation and entertainment program. Public events include attractions such as: concerts, sporting demonstrations, evening discos, fitness classes and many competitions and prizes. Because the complex is divided into several areas, fans can easily find interesting events.

More on:  www.grandslam.pzps.pl

Sailing Races

Mazury is the undisputed centre of sailing in Poland and practically every weekend – beginning in May and ending in September – regattas are held on one of the many lakes. These competitions are held on the challenging waters of the Great Mazurian Lakes as well as Lakes Jeziorak and the Vistula Lagoon. Some of the competitions have up to a hundred sailboats. The biggest regattas in the region include:

Giżycko – Lake Niegocin

- International Polish Cabin Yacht Championship (August)

- Polish Handicapped Sailing Cup (May-September)

Mikołajki – Lake Mikołajskie

- Regatta for the Polish Yachting Association President's Cup (August)

- Mikołajek Sailing Grand Prix (May- September)

Węgorzewo – Lake Mamry

- Ejsmont Brothers Memorial (September)

- Mamert Cup (September)



Ice yachting

Ice yachting is a sport not only for sailing fans, but also for anyone who enjoys winter, fresh air and, above all, speed and adrenaline. Ice boats can reach speeds of up to 170 km/h. Ice racers from Warmia and Mazury are among the best in the world, and the conditions here are perfect for practicing this sport. If the weather permits, ice boating is possible on the frozen lakes by December. Ice boat racers especially enjoy Lakes Śniardwy and Niegocin, which are great for DN- and Monotype-class competitions. The dates and location of the competition are changeable because they depend heavily on the weather.

More on:  www.bojery.pl

Air Shows

Gizycko and Kętrzyn – Masuria Air Show

One of the largest aviation events in Poland (formerly known as the Mazury Air Festival), annually attracting a large audience. The show takes place at Niegocin Lake, around the city beach and Gizycko harbour; the flying machines can be closely observed at Kętrzyn Wilamowo Airport.

More on:  www.mazuryairshow.pl

OTHER INTERESTING EVENTS

Olsztyn – Olsztyn Artistic Summer (Mid-June to mid-September)

Lots of music, from Rock and Folk through Jazz and Blues to classical music; theatre and cabaret performances, festivals, events for kids, open air film shows, or even opera performances... The whole city of Olsztyn has fun in the summer. The Olsztyn Artistic Summer comprises of over 100 cultural and enter-



Ice yachting competition, photo J. Zakrzewski

tainment events, including the Olsztyn Blues Nights (see p. 66) and Olsztyn Organ Concerts (see p. 68).

More on:  www.mok.olsztyn.pl

Elk – Mazurian Balloon Competition (July)

The Mazurian landscape from a bird's-eye-point-of view is an unforgettable sight. It is not surprising that it is popular among balloonists. In Elk, balloonists meet annually at this spectacular event. Everyone can watch the balloons during their unpacking, fueling, take off and manoeuvres in the air. Those willing can even take a ride through the skies and watch the competition and the area from several hundred meters above the ground.

KUPAŁA'S NIGHT, OR KUPALNOCKA (KUPALNIGHT) ...

... also known as traditional bonfires night – a feast celebrated by Slavs on midsummer night, combined with a number of rites and dances. In Ukraine, the night falls on the 6th/7th July, according to the Julian calendar. The Midsummer Night feast is primarily devoted to the natural elements of water and fire, which have purifying powers. It is also a celebration of love and fertility.

TOURIST INFORMATION

Barczewo, pl. Ratuszowy 1, phone: +48 89 5148439 w. 78, www.barczewo.pl
 Bartoszyce, ul. Bohaterów Warszawy 96, phone: +48 89 7629880, www.bartoszyce.pl
 Biskupiec, pl. Wolności 5c, phone: +48 89 7154742, www.biskupiec.pl
 Bisztynek, ul. Krasickiego 2, phone: +48 89 5122040, www.bisztynek.pl
 Braniewo, ul. Katedralna 7, phone: +48 55 6443303, www.it.braniewo.pl
 Dobre Miasto, ul. Warszawska 14, phone: +48 89 5132040, www.dobremiasto.com.pl
 Działdowo, ul. Kościuszki 3, phone: +48 23 6975946, www.powiatdzialdowski.pl
 Elbląg, ul. Stary Rynek 25, phone: +48 55 2393377, www.turystyka.elblag.eu
 Elk, ul. Wojska Polskiego 47, phone: +48 87 6217010, www.turystyka.elk.pl
 Frombork, ul. Młynarska 5a, phone: +48 55 2440677, www.frombork.pl
 Giętrząwałd, ul. Kościelna 1, phone: +48 89 5123290, www.it.gokietrzawald.pl
 Giżycko, ul. gen. Zajęczka 2, phone: +48 87 4285265, www.gizycko.turystyka.pl
 Goldap, pl. Zwycięstwa 16, phone: +48 87 6152090, www.uzdrowiskogoldap.pl
 Górowo Iławeckie, ul. Kościuszki 26, phone: +48 89 7610048, www.gorowoilaweckie.eu
 Iława, ul. Niepodległości 13, phone: +48 89 6485800, www.it-ilawa.pl
 Iława, ul. Chodkiewicza 5, phone: +48 602 744 083, www.port-ilawa.pl
 Jedwabno, ul. 1 Maja 63, phone: +48 89 6213473, www.jedwabno.pl
 Jeziorany, pl. Jedności Narodowej 14/1, phone: +48 691 059 861, www.revitawarmia.org
 Kętrzyn, pl. Piłsudskiego 10/1, phone: +48 89 7514765, www.it.ketrzyn.pl
 Kozłowo, ul. Mazurska 3, phone: +48 89 6250825, www.kozlowo.pl
 Lidzbark Warmiński, ul. Krasickiego 1, phone: +48 89 5190052, www.lidzbarkw.eu
 Lidzbark, ul. Dworcowa 2, phone: +48 23 6961505 w. 182, www.lidzbark.pl

Mikołajki, pl. Wolności 7, phone: +48 87 4216850, www.mikolajki.eu
 Miłomłyn, ul. Twarda 12, phone: +48 89 6425822, www.milomlyn.pl
 Morąg, pl. Jana Pawła II 1, phone: +48 89 7573826, www.lot.mazury.pl
 Mrągowo, ul. Warszawska 26, phone: +48 89 7418039, www.it.mragowo.pl
 Nidzica, ul. Zamkowa 2, phone: +48 89 6250370, www.nidzica.pl
 Nowe Miasto Lubawskie, Rynek 23, phone: +48 56 4742344, www.itnowemiasto.pl
 Olecko, pl. Wolności 22, phone: +48 87 5204948, www.olecko.pl
 Olsztyn, ul. Staromiejska 1, phone: +48 89 5353565, www.mazurytravel.com.pl
 Olsztyn, pl. Jana Pawła II 1, phone: +48 89 5210398, www.visit.olsztyn.eu
 Olsztynek, ul. Ratusz 1, phone: +48 89 5195477, www.olsztynek.pl
 Orneta, pl. Wolności 26, phone: +48 55 2210209, www.orneta.pl
 Orzysz, Rynek 5, phone: +48 87 4237187, www.orzysz.pl
 Ostróda, pl. 1000-lecia PP 1a, phone: +48 89 6423000, www.mazury-zachodnie.pl
 Piecki, ul. Zwycięstwa 6, phone: +48 89 7422270, www.piecki.com
 Pieniężno, ul. Generalska 8, phone: +48 55 2374653, www.pieniezno.pl
 Pisz, pl. Daszyńskiego 16, phone: +48 87 4232675 w. 205, www.pisz.pl
 Reszel, Rynek 24, phone: +48 89 7553904, www.ugreszel.pl
 Ruciane-Nida, ul. Dworcowa 14, phone: +48 87 4231989, www.ruciane-nida.pl
 Ryn, ul. Szkolna 1, phone: +48 87 4218061, www.miastoryn.pl
 Szczytno, ul. Polska 12, phone: +48 89 6760999, www.turystyka.szczytno.pl
 Tolkmicko, ul. Świętojańska 1, phone: +48 55 2316182 w. 25, www.kulturatolkmicko.pl
 Węgorzewo, Bulwar Loir-et-Cher 4, phone: +48 87 4274009, www.wegorzewo.pl

FOREIGN CENTRES OF POLISH TOURIST ORGANIZATION

The Polish Tourist Organisation (POT) is a government agency promoting Poland on the world stage as a country attractive for tourists. POT has its offices – Foreign Centres of Polish Tourist Organization (ZOPOT) – in 14 countries. The centres provide information on travelling to Poland and hand out materials promoting individual regions of the country. More on: www.pot.gov.pl

Austria: Fleschgasse 34/2a, 1130 Wien, phone: +43 1 524 719112, wien@pot.gov.pl

Belgium: Avenue de la Renaissance, 20, 1000 Brussels, phone: +32 2 740 06 20, bruxelles@pot.gov.pl

China: 8014 Chang Fu Gong Office Building, 26, Jian Guo Men Wai Avenue, Beijing (Pekin), China, 100022

France: 10 rue Saint-Augustin, 75002 Paris, tel. +33 1 42442992, paris@pot.gov.pl

Spain: c/ Princesa 3 duplicado, local 1310, 28008 Madrid, phone: +34 91 541 48 08, madrid@pot.gov.pl

Netherlands: Jan Luijkenstraat 12 BG, 1071 CM Amsterdam, phone: +31 20 625 35 70, amsterdam@pot.gov.pl

Japan: Keio Nishi Shinjuku Minami Bldg. 7F, 3-4-4 Nishi Shinjuku, Shinjuku-ku, Tokyo, 160-0023, phone: +81 3 5908 3808, tokyo@pot.gov.pl

Germany: Hohenzollerndamm 151, 14199 Berlin, phone: +49 30 21 00 92 0, berlin@pot.gov.pl

United States: 5 Marineview Plaza, Hoboken, NJ-07030, phone: +1 201 4209910, newyork@pot.gov.pl

Russia: 109004 Москва ул. Земляной Вал 66/20, 109004 Moscow, Art Building, phone: +7 495 510 62 10, moskva@pot.gov.pl

Sweden: Karlavägen 47, 11449 Stockholm, phone: +46 8 205 605, stockholm@pot.gov.pl
 United Kingdom: Westec House, West Gate, London W5 1YY, phone: +44 300 303 18 12, london@pot.gov.pl

Italy: Via G.B. Martini, 6, 00198 Roma, phone: +39 06 482 70 60, roma@pot.gov.pl

Ukraine: 01001 Kyiv, Khreshchatyk 25, lok. 98, phone: +38 044 278 67 28, kyiv@pot.gov.pl

REGIONAL WEBSITES ON THE INTERNET

www.mazury.travel – Tourist Portal of Warmia and Mazury

www.slzaki.mazury.pl – Vertical portal presenting the tourist routes of Warmia and Mazury

www.turystyka.szczytno.pl – Local Tourist Organisation of the Szczytno District

www.lotpn.nidzica.pl – Local Tourist Organisation of the Nidzica District

www.gizycko.turystyka.pl – Promotion and Tourist Information Centre in Giżycko

www.it.mragowo.pl – Local Tourist Organisation „The Land of Mrągowo”

www.mazury-zachodnie.pl – Western Mazury Tourist Organisation

www.lot.ilawa.pl – Local Tourist Organisation of the Iława Lake District the Drwęca Basin

www.ummorag.pl/lot – Local Tourist Organisation „The Land of Undiscovered Secrets”

www.domwarminski.pl – Website of the „Warmiński’s Home” Association

www.cittaslowpolska.pl – Polish national network of Cittaslow cities

www.produktregionalny.warmia.mazury.pl – Culinary events of Warmia and Mazury
www.mazurytravel.com.pl – A website of the regional Warmia and Mazury tourist organization

www.zamkigotyckie.org.pl – The “Polish Gothic Castles” Commune Association

www.warminskizakatek.com.pl – The “Warmian Corner” Local Action Group

www.lotmp.pl – The “Southern Mazury” Local Tourist Organisation

www.lgd.mazurskiemorze.pl – The “Mazurian Sea” Local Action Group

www.kanal-elblaski-lgd.pl – The “We are connected by the Elbląg Canal” Local Action Group

www.lot.olecko.pl – The Olecko Area Local Tourist Organisation

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EMERGENCY NUMBERS

999 – ambulance

112, 997 – police

998 – fire brigade

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