

Introduction

The Green Velo Eastern Cycle Trail, covering 1980 km, is the longest cycle route in Poland. It goes through five regions in the eastern part of the country: Warmińsko-Mazurskie, Podlaskie, Lubelskie, Podkarpackie, and Świętokrzyskie Voivodeships. Just one glance at the map is enough to make one realise how many different regions the trail combines, and how diverse it is in terms of landscapes and culture. Among sea-side sceneries and highlands, along lake lands, through primeval forests and big urban centres, Green Velo takes us on a journey discovering the most beautiful features of the lands inhabited for centuries by various communities: Poles, Jews, Germans, Ukrainians, Belarusians, Lithuanians, Armenians, and Tartars.

In this section of the trail one can see, for example, marvellous wooden Orthodox churches, the charming arboretum in Bolestraszyce, the multicultural Old Town in Przemyśl and a true Renaissance gem – Krasiczyn Castle. It is one of the most demanding of all of the Green Velo sections, as it covers both the Przemyśl and Dynów Foothills. The section from Przemyśl to Lubenia requires good physical condition because it runs through the largest number of longer uphill trails.

Attractions along the trail

1. FROM NAROL TO PRZEMYŚL

Narol. In this town on the border of the Lubelskie and Podkarpackie Voivodeships there is a splendid neo-classical palace with an Italian style garden. The mansion was erected in 1776–81 by Antoni Feliks, of the Łoś coat of arms, on a horseshoe plan referencing said coat of arms. The current owners of the building are restoring it to its former glory, and would like to create an Art Academy for talented youth from Central and Eastern Europe. As well as the palace,

Horyniec-Zdrój. Tourist Information, ul. Jana III Sobieskiego 4, tel.: +48 16 6313105, turinfohoryniec@interia.pl.

the town hall and the Uniate Church of the Presentation of the Mother of God in the Temple, both from 19th century, are also worth visiting.

South Roztocze Landscape Park.

The park, situated in the Lubelskie and Podkarpackie Voivodeships, was established for the purpose of protecting mixed dense forest complexes, habitats of remarkable vegetation species and diversified land relief. Within the park you can find three significant nature reserves: Solokija in Dziwicz (natural clusters of common juniper), The Source of the Tanew in Huta Stara (peat bog sources of the Tanew River) and Jalinka in Siedliska (a fragment of a hornbeam forest). Moreover, the traces of mingling of Eastern and Western cultures, visible mostly in the wooden Orthodox Church architecture, are also worthy of attention.

and in 1923 a bath facility was opened in the mansion of the Karłowski family. Today one can visit, among other things, the tremendous Palace of the Poniński family (currently the Bajka Spa and Resort), a theatre in an old neo-classical manor (now a regional cultural centre), the Franciscan Monastery and the resort church from 1818.

Radruż. This small village near the border with Ukraine is the location of a gorgeous defensive Or-

thodox church complex, which was added to the UNESCO World Heritage List in 2013. The Church of St. Paraskeva in the central part of the complex is the oldest existing wooden Orthodox church in Poland, with a number of stunning iconostases.

Nowiny Horynieckie. This site close to the Polish-Ukrainian border, between Nowiny and Niwki, hides a unique secret – the Temple of the Sun. It is a huge, natural boulder with a natural hole, surrounded by a stone circle (currently, only some stones have been left intact). It is believed that some pagan ceremonies in honour of the sun were held here.

Chotyniec. In this village north-east of Przemyśl, one can find one of the most beautiful wooden Orthodox churches in Poland – the Church of the Nativity of the Most Blessed Mother of God from 1615. Together with the Orthodox church complex in Raduż and other Orthodox tem-

ples of the Carpathian region in Poland and Ukraine, it was added to the UNESCO World Heritage List in 2013. Following its general renovation in 1990s, the Church delights visitors with its unique form and striking wooden domes. In the temple one can admire a figural and ornamental polychrome from the 18th century, and a century-younger iconostas, part of which is the miraculous Virgin Mary icon painted probably in 1671. The church is surrounded by arcades, and next to it there is a 17th-century wooden bell tower, moved to the site from the village of Torki in 1993.

Stubno. Here one can admire a manorial complex from the turn of the 20th century, as well as the manor, two outbuildings, a mill, a stable, a granary and a farm manager's house. The complex is surrounded by a large park (6 ha). Moreover, several houses

from the beginning of the 20th century have been preserved in the village. Another true feature is the 13-hectare nature reserve protecting the habitats of snake's head (a chequered daffodil) – a rare, beautifully flowering perennial from the Liliaceae family.

Bolestraszyce. This village 5 km northwest of Przemyśl is famous for one of the most precious and largest arboretums in Poland. It plays an educa-

including yews, magnolias, dawn redwoods, and maidenhair trees (*ginkgo biloba*), among other numerous rare or even endangered species. The arboretum has also a division in Cisowa of 283 ha. Each year over 100,000 visitors spend time in Bolestraszyce, and many of them take part in events organised in the arboretum, such as the International Art Open-air Festival "Wicker in the Arboretum".

tional, scientific, cultural, and environmental role. It was established in 1975 in a manorial and garden complex, in which devastated buildings from 18th century were completely renovated and converted into exhibition facilities. Plants from all over the world can be encountered in Bolestraszyce,

Fort Werner in Żurawica. The fort was part of the fortifications of the Przemyśl Fortress – one of the largest strongholds built in Europe before WWI (only the citadels in Antwerp and Verdun were larger), when such buildings constituted an integral element of the state defence system. The fortress was erected in the second half of the 19th century and was built to defend the Austro-Hungarian Empire along the border with Russia. It included several dozen forts and bastions built 7-10 km from Przemyśl, creating a perimeter around the city. The defence of the Przemyśl Fortress made history – it lasted for 179 days and was given up only when there was no food left for the soldiers. The Werner Fort was a focal artillery building of the northern defence section. The fort was independent, i.e. it was not a part of any auxiliary or adjoining fort. It has been preserved in very good condition, so visitors can see the entire complex of rooms: a kitchen, food warehouses, casements, ammunition stores and an ambulatory. The fort is located on 8.5 ha and is surrounded by a complete and unaltered moat.

Przemyśl. One of the oldest cities in Poland, and the oldest in the Podkarpackie region. At one time it was a real melting pot, where representatives of various nations and religions lived side by side for centuries. Located on hills, the city delights with its architecture, and the atmosphere of the *Kresy*, or borderlands; it is flooded with various temples, enchanting tenement buildings, narrow winding streets and charming courtyards. At the top of the hill, a Renaissance castle towers over Przemyśl; in addition, one can admire the mysterious, 19th-century

Tartar Mound on the highest of Przemyśl's hills. In the city many places with signs of former Jewish presence have been preserved, for example, the so-called "new Jewish cemetery" (the old one did not make it to our times) and two synagogues – the New Synagogue and the Zasanie Synagogue. The Przemyśl Fortress is a more modern attraction.

2. FROM PRZEMYŚL TO LUBENIA

Krasiczyn. Krasiczyn, located west of Przemyśl, holds one of the most stunning attractions of the Polish Renaissance – the Krasiczki fam-

Greek Catholic (Uniate) cathedral in Przemyśl, by M. Franaszek

Fort Werner in Żurawica, by Podkarpackie Voivodeship archives

ily residence from the turn of the 17th century. Apart from historical turmoil, the castle has remained unaltered. Tall walls surround the large square courtyard, and in the corners four impressive keeps stand tall and proud: The Divine, Papal, Royal and Noble (or Knightly) Keeps. In the central part of the western wing one can admire the tall clock tower, which long ago led guests to the courtyard after going over a drawbridge. Above all, striking attics, carved portals, loggias, arcades, and unique wall dec-

Posada Rybotycka. In this village on the Wiar River in the Przemyśl Foothills, there is the oldest brick Orthodox church in Poland – the Orthodox Church of St. Onuphrius. The oldest part of the temple was built at the turn of the 15th century; the newest, before 1506. At first it was an Orthodox church, and then it was taken over by Uniates. Following renovation in 1960s, a 16th-century Byzantium polychrome was discovered under

Castle in Krasiczyn, by M. Franaszek

"Kobyłe Jezioro" nature trail in the "Źródła Tanwi" nature reserve, by Lysy / Wikimedia Commons

Orthodox church in Radruż, by M. Franaszek

Manor house in Stubno, by Wojciech Pysz / Wikimedia Commons

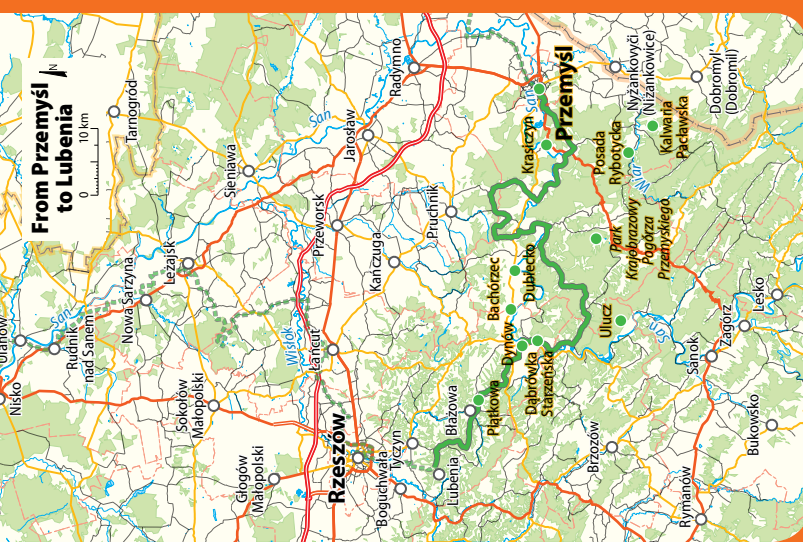
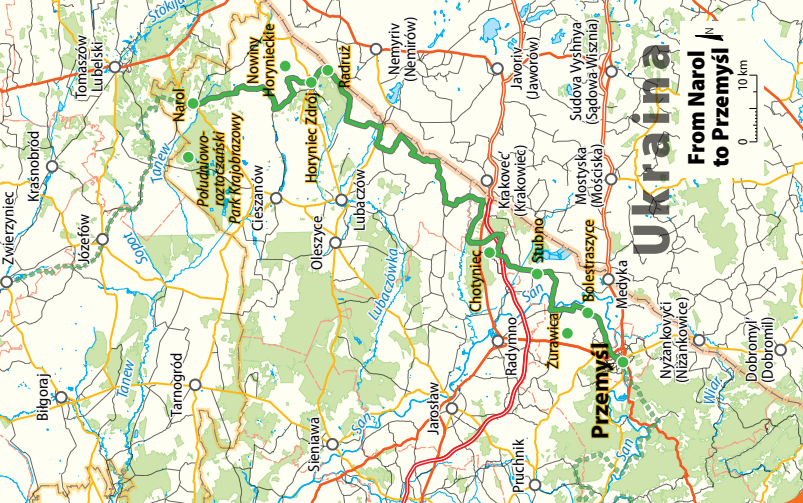
Palace in Horyniec-Zdrój, by Wojciech Pysz / Wikimedia Commons

Stone in the Sun temple, by J. Urban

Arboretum in Bolestraszyce, by Merlin / Wikimedia Commons

Orthodox church in Chotyniec, by M. Franaszek

Palace in Narol, by Scots / Wikimedia Commons



Orthodox church in Posada Rybotycka, by M. Franaszek

Shrine in Kalwaria Paclawska, by Goku122 / Wikimedia Commons

ereum, or autumn crocus). The most famous reserves in the park are Ko-pystanka and Przełom Holuby.

Piátkowa. The location of the tri-domed wooden Uniate Church of St. Demetrius. The lintel of the main entrance reads 1732, but numerous architectural features indicate that the temple was built earlier, the date probably being the year of reconstruction. Characteristic features of the building include rare stone beams, which support a roof extending outside the temple's perimeter and create arcades. All domes and side walls are covered with shingle. The church has been out of use since the post-war expulsion of the Ruthenian communities.

Dubiecko. This large village, once a larger town, made history as one of the most well-known centres of the Reformation in Poland and the place where those excommunicated from the Catholic Church could find protection. The place offers a lot of attractions worth visiting: the Palace of the Krasicki family, rebuilt in 1771-90 from the existing castle (birthplace of Ignacy Krasicki) surrounded by a park, an old Uniate church transformed into the Kresy House of Art, and the Catholic Church of Mary's Sacred Heart. In Dubiecko there



Orthodox church in Piátkowa, by M. Franaszek

is also a private Museum of Fossils and Minerals established by Robert Szybiak, a true geology devotee. One can see in person several thousand of his showpieces, the most precious of which is a fossilized bird from Oligocene found in the Przemyśl Foothills.

Bachórzec. This small village at the edge of the Przemyśl Foothills is the location of the remains of a manorial complex belonging

The centre of Dubiecko, national archives of Podkarpackie Voivodeship



The golden eagle, by Wikimedia Commons

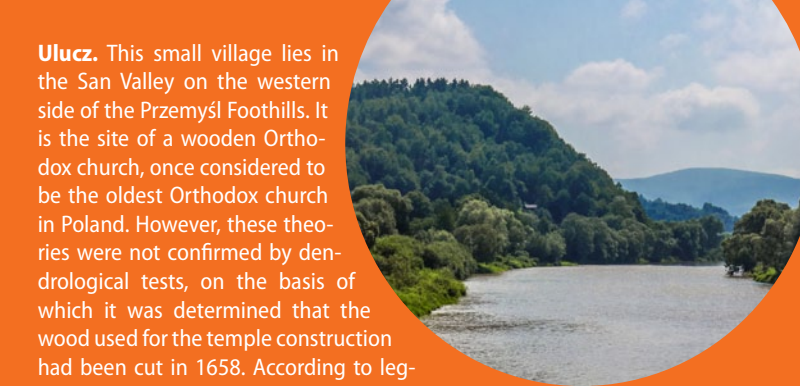


Starzeński mortuary chapel in Dąbrowka Starzeńska, by Bogdan Snieżek / Wikimedia Commons

Church of St. Catherine in Bachórzec, by Wojciech Pysz / Wikimedia Commons

to the Krasicki family, who were its owners until the outbreak of WWII. The manor and an Italian garden were one of the most precious architectural park complexes of the San Valley, famous for its unique tree species. Even now one can admire a linden-chestnut tree avenue planted in 1838. During WWI it was plundered by Russian soldiers. There is also the large St. Catherine church in the baroque style erected in 1760-63, and next to it a brick *zvonitsa* (bell tower) from 1905.

Dąbrowa Starzeńska. The ruins of the 15th-century castle of the Kmita family are located here in proximity to many old trees and a hornbeam avenue. During the January Uprising, Generals Marian Langiewicz and Ludwik Mierosławski, leaders of the Uprising, stayed in the castle. In the times when the castle belonged to the Starzeński Family, who renovated it in 19th century, there was a large library and art collection there. After 1945 the castle was blown up by Ukrainian Insurgent Army troops and it has been left in ruins.



The river San near Dynów, by M. Franaszek

Ulucz. This small village lies in the San Valley on the western side of the Przemyśl Foothills. It is the site of a wooden Orthodox church, once considered to be the oldest Orthodox church in Poland. However, these theories were not confirmed by dendrological tests, on the basis of which it was determined that the wood used for the temple construction had been cut in 1658. According to legend, originally the temple was to be built at the foot of Dębnik Hill. However, the construction materials vanished and ... appeared at the hill top where the Orthodox church stands today. The materials were transported down with great difficulty, but they kept appearing at the top again and again. So, this was taken as a sign that Divine Providence wished to have the church built not next to Dębnik, but at its top...



Orthodox church in Ulucz, by M. Franaszek

Dynów. This town gives its name to the Dynów Foothills, stretching from the San Valley (in the east) to the Wisłok River. The narrow gauge railway between Dynów and Przeworsk is a real treasure. It goes through the only narrow gauge railway tunnel, 602 m long.



Section 1: from Narol to Przemyśl
Section 2: from Przemyśl to Lubenia

A chain of attractions

WWW.GREENVELO.PL



Published by
Project Office – Świętokrzyskie Voivodeship's
Regional Tourist Organisation
ul. Sciegiennego 2, 25-033 Kielce
phone/fax +48 41 3618057, +48 41 3655182
rot@swietokrzyskie.travel
www.rot.swietokrzyskie.travel

Publication prepared and issued by
Amistad Sp. z o.o. – Program PolskaTurystyczna.pl
pl. Na Groblach 8/2, 31-101 Kraków, phone: +48 12 4229922,
e-mail: biuro@polskatrystyczna.pl,
www.polskatrystyczna.pl

ISBN 978-83-7560-177-0

www.greenvelo.pl



European Fund for the development of Eastern Poland
A project financed by the European Regional Development Fund within the Eastern Poland Development 2007-2013
Operational Programme

