

Bike Kingdom Bug River Valley

East of Poland Cycling Trail
Green Velo

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How to use the guide

This guide is intended for lovers of "two-wheeled" active recreation. It contains several suggestions of bike excursions and descriptions of attractions located along the routes. Everything has been annotated with many practical tips and information.

Map of the kingdom

The map covers the entire bike kingdom with the course of the Green Velo trail marked on it. The elements presented on the map have been explained in the legend.



Attractions on the trail

The descriptions of the attractions allow for selecting the most interesting places to visit for tourist according to age (e.g. children/ adults) or interest (families/youth groups/

Information on attractions

The information about the objects, such as: address and contact details, dates and hours of operation, and additional information is marked with symbols.



ts of Brzeska Fortress



Excursion map

Marked on the schematic excursion map are the main towns and attractions along the route, which will help you pinpoint your overall progress.



Excursion description

Every excursion description contains important information about routes, ways of getting around and attractions along the route.



At the Bug Gorge

The untrampled Podlasie with Siemiatycze and Mielr the most important Ortho in Poland – the Holy Mo from the abo

Excursion information

Information about the route, such as: distance, surface, difficulty or travel time, is clearly marked with symbols.





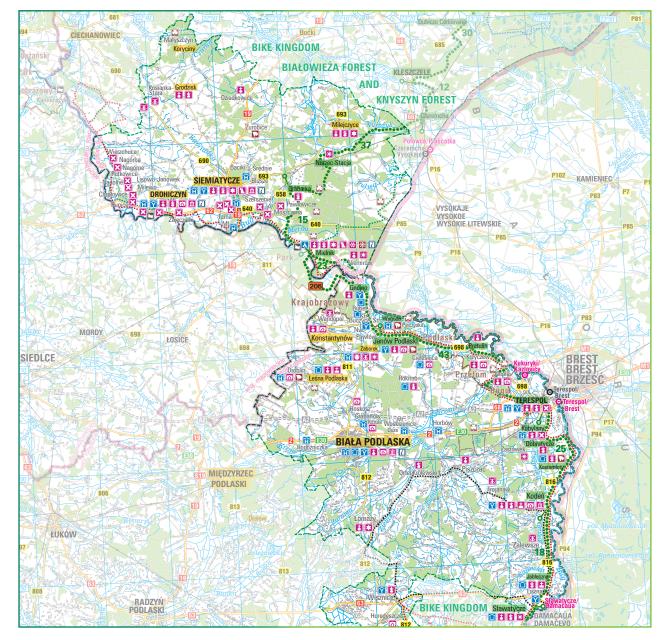






Bike Kingdom Bug River Valley Kingdom information



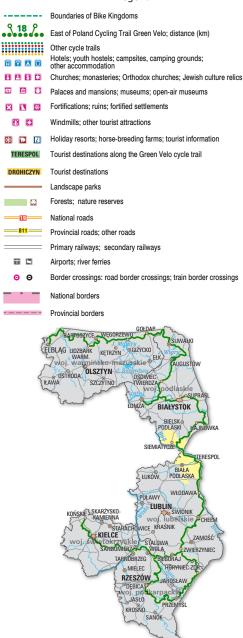




Scale 1:670 000

10 2 4 6 8 10 km

Legend



Bike Kingdom Bug River Valley

The Bug River Valley kingdom extends in the southern part of the Podlaskie Voivodeship and the northern part of the Lubelskie Voivodeship. In comparison to other kingdoms along the route, its landscape is relatively uniform. Apart from the gorge in the River Bug, the terrain is almost flat or gently rolling between Gnoino and Drohiczyn. The river meanders lazily across the plain, with picturesque villages and towns dotted along its banks. It is only near the Gnojno - Niemirów ferry crossing that both banks of the Bug River are Polish; the earlier section of the river marks Poland's border with Belarus and Ukraine.

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The largest towns are Siematycze in the north of the kingdom, Terespol in the central part of the region, and Sławatycze in the south of the Bug River Valley. Located a few kilometres west, Biała Podlaska is the region's main administrative and economic centre. It is a typically agricultural area, exceptionally quiet and relatively sparsely populated.

The first section of the route, leading from near Siematycz to the Bug, is extremely beautiful, especially by the river. Make sure you stop off at the Grabarka Holy Mount – the most important site for followers of the Russian Orthodox Church in Poland - and Siematycze with its historical architecture. Also worth visiting is Mielnik with its Castle Hill and opencast chalk mine, Drohiczyn - the original capital of Podlasie - and bunkers along the former Molotov Line.

There are very few bridges on the River Bug, making it a natural obstacle for cyclists. The first bridge in the kingdom is all the way near Siemiatycze, on the busy national highway no. 19. Fortunately there are two ferry crossings along the route: Mielnik - Zabuże, and Niemirów - Gnojno.

The former ferry connects Mielnik on the right bank in the Podlaskie Voivodeship with Zabuże

> skie Voivodeship, where a connecting trail of the Green Velo route takes vou back to the main route via Serpelice. The alternative is to use the crossing between Niemirów on the right bank, in the



Kingdom information

Podlaskie Voivodeship, and Gnojno on the left bank and in the Lubelskie Voivodeship. The crossing isn't always operational, depending on the water levels, so make sure you check ahead in Mielnik.

There are many marks of the region's multicultural past along the route, including places of worship, sanctuaries and cemeteries of different religions and denominations. There are numerous small villages and towns, mainly with wood-

en architecture, which for centuries had been inhabited by representatives of various nationalities forming the Polish-Lithuanian Commonwealth. Travelling along this section you experience the true atmosphere of Eastern Poland.

Janów Podlaski in Lubelskie is home to a world-famous stud farm and many other fascinating sites. The small town of Terespol is an important communication hub located near the border crossing, with Brest just over the border on the Belarusian side. A notable attraction of Terespol and the nearby Kobylany are the Brest Forts, with several lying near the route. South of Terespol lie notable Catholic sanctuaries in Kodeń and Jabłeczna, and a wooden Neo-Uniate Orthodox church in Kostomłoty. The section south of Kodeń leads through several interesting villages and towns. The wooden architecture of the Hanna village and the town of Sławatycze are especially picturesque. The entire route in the River Bug River Valley runs

along paved highways with low volumes of traffic.



Bike Kingdom

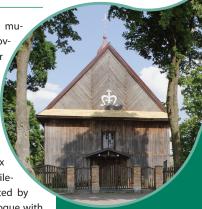
Bug River Valley

Tourist attractions



Milejczyce

Both the village and the municipality are yet undiscovered by tourists and bear touch. multicultural The residents' religious affiliations are reflected in the historic temples: the wooden church of St Stanislaus the Bishop and Martyr and the Orthodox church of St Barbara. Milejczyce used to be inhabited by Jews, and the brick synagogue with the star of David on the façade, as well as the remains of a cemetery are a reminder of their presence. The area also includes the Wał reservoir and several ponds with a educational mini-path.





Milejczyce Municipality Office



phone: +48 85 657 90 70



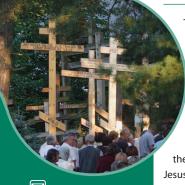
Holy Mount of Grabarka

This is the most important Orthodox sanctuary, related to the miraculous survival of several thousand people from a cholera epidemic. It is said that they were saved through prayer to the icon of the Saviour, once located on the hill. In thanks for the miracle,

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the Chapel of the Transfiguration of Jesus was built, which now serves as the Catholic Church. On the Feast of the Transfiguration, thousands of pilgrims come here with votive crosses that they leave on the hill. Hence, Grabarka is also called the Mount of Crosses. An integral part of the Holy Mount is the women's monastery of Saints Martha and Mary, located on the hill, just behind the church. Sisters from the monastery take care of this miraculous place.



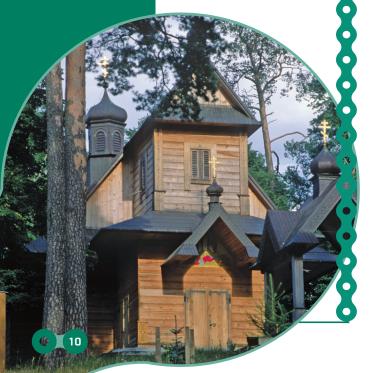


Orthodox Monastery of Saints Martha and Mary on the Holy Mount of Grabarka

Grabarka 17-330 Nurzec Stacja www.grabarka.pl



phone: +48 85 655 00 10



Siemiatycze

synagogue.

A district town situated on the Kamionka River, the right tributary of the Bug. This is also the capital of the kingdom of the Bug River Valley on the side of Podlasie. The city's history dates back to the mid-15th century; however, the prime of Siemiatycze was at the time of the Duchess Anna Paulina Jabłonowska née Sapieha. The owner took care of the city and also contributed much to the growing importance of Siemiatycze at the time. The most important monument of the city is definitely the former monastery complex of the Oblates from the first half of the 18th century. In addition, worth noting are the remains of the residence of the Duchess, such as the 1860 conservatory, walls with the sphinxes surrounding the palace premises, as well as the 1866 Orthodox church the neo-Baroque Talmudic school and





Tourist Information Point Promotion Office of the Siemiatycze District

ul. Legionów Piłsudskiego 3 17-300 Siemiatycze promocja@siemiatycze.pl www.podlasie siemiatycze.pl



phone: +48 85 655 58 56





Tourist Information Point Promotion Office of the Siemiatycze District ul. Legionów Piłsudskiego 3 17-300 Siemiatycze promocja@siemiatycze.pl www.podlasie.siemiatycze.pl



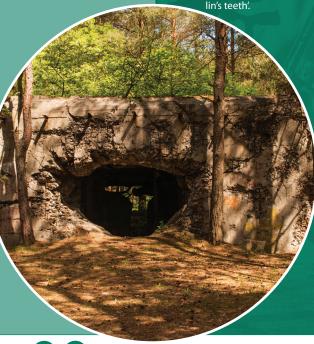
phone: +48 85 655 58 56

The Molotov Line

trenchments created after September 17, 1939 can be found on the former border between the Third Reich and the Soviet Union. They will certainly be a treat for enthusiasts of military tourism. Despite investing considerable financial assets and fairly good equipment of the entrenchments, the Soviets were unable to withstand the attack, which took place on 22 June 1941 and surrendered the fortifications without resistance. To this day, many of the bunkers located along the Bug River are in good condition. Some were destroyed by the Germans, who tested the effectiveness of their artillery and tanks on them. The

Molotov Line was also called the 'Sta-

The remains of the Soviet en-



Drohiczyn

Drohiczyn is a charming town situated on the Bug River. It was the first capital of the Podlasie Voivodeship, as well as one of the four crowning cities (after Gniezno, Krakow and Warsaw).

Preserved to this day in the city are: the early medieval stronghold on Castle Hill, the Jesuit monastery complex with the Church of the Holy Trinity, the Franciscan monastery complex with a three-nave, late Baroque church of the Assumption of the Virgin Mary, a Benedictine monastery with an 18th century church with an interesting Rococo façade and the Orthodox church of St Nicholas the Miracle Worker.

Awaiting tourists are also rafting on the lazy Bug River, boat cruises and a visit to the Historical and Cultural Nadbużański Park: 'Bug – Borderland of Cultures and Religions,' which in addition to collections of archaeological and historical exhibits, tempts with unique exhibitions of historical canoes and motorcycles.





Tourist Information Point in Drohiczyn Municipal and Community Culture Centre

ul. Kraszewskiego 13 17-312 Drohiczyn info.drohiczyn@interia.pl www.kultura-drohiczyn.pl



phone: +48 85 655 70 69



Mielnik

This is the southern-most community of the Podlaskie Voivodeship. Its attractiveness is associated with the proximity of the meandering Bug River, the local water trail Podlaski Bug River Gorge and various thematic hiking trails with hiking trails of various themes:

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the Merchant Trail, Bunker Trail and the Mielnik Bug River Gorge Trail. The history of Melnik can be learned by visiting Castle Hill, which offers a picturesque panorama of the river and the Centre for the History of the Mielnik Area, in which an exhibition of props and costumes from the film With Fire and Sword is located.

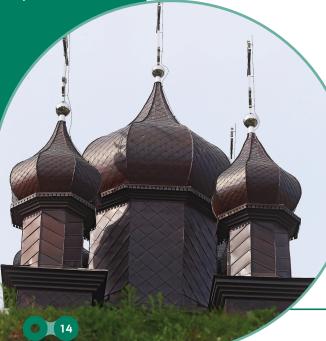


Tourist Information Point Community Cultural Sports and Recreation Centre in Melnik Centre for the History of the Mielnik Area

ul. Brzeska 71 17-307 Mielnik odzm@mielnik.com.pl www.goksir.mielnik.com.p



phone: +48 85 657 71 00



Tourist attractions

Arabian horse stud farm in Wygoda near Janów Podlaski

The oldest and most famous national purebred Arabian stud farm was established in 1817 in the meadows on the Bug, near Janów Podlaski. In a large park with a two-hundred year old tree stand is a complex of historic buildings, including 1840s stables designed by Enrico Marconi. Every year in August, the Janów stud shows and the Pride of Poland auc-

tions by public and private breeders.

Janów Podlaski Stud Farm

Wygoda 3 21-505 Janów Podlaski www.janow.arabians.pl

phone: +48 83 341 30 09





Museum of Southern Podlasie in Biała Podlaska

ui. Warszawska 12 21-500 Biała Podlaska www.muzeumbiala.pl



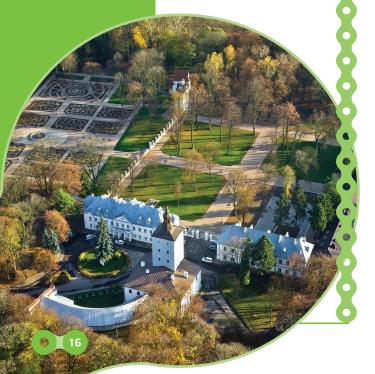
phone: +48 83 341 67 5

Biała Podlaska

Situated on the historical and modern road from Warsaw to Brest, the city developed as an important trade centre of the aristocratic estate of the Radziwiłł Dukes of Nieśwież. Biała, until the 19th century called Radziwiłłowska or Książęca, became the

centre of the estate, known as Bial-skie County, in the 1720s. In the 17th and 18th centuries, the Radziwiłł family built a castle complex here, fortified with bastions, earthen ramparts and moats, and surrounded by a large park. Preserved to this day are the palace outbuildings and the triumphant arc-shaped gate, connected to a vaulted corridor called 'the neck' with a high gate tower.

Part of the castle facilities houses the Museum of Southern Podlasie with



Tourist attractions

as well as equestrian paintings and sculptures created during the open air workshops in the nearby Janów Podlaski. A favourite excursion destination of both the locals and tourists visiting the castle and park complex is the restored representative Italian garden. Among other sights, worth visiting is St Anne's church with a chapel the mausoleum of the Radziwiłł family. In the vicinity of the church stands a contemporary monument of the city's patron - St Michael the Archangel Slaying the Dragon, in the coat of arms of Biała since 1670. In the vicinity of the castle is the preserved 1628 building of the former Bialska Academy with a monument bench of its most famous student.

a rich collection of Ruthenian icons

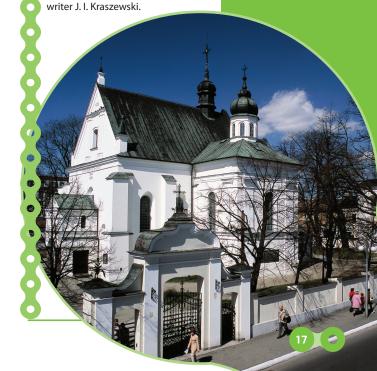


Tourist Information Centre

ul. Warszawska 11 21-500 Biała Podlaska citbialapodlaska@o2.pl www.cit.bialapodlaska.pl



phone: +48 83 342 62 89



Bug River Valley



Sanctuary of the Blessed Martyrs of Podlasie

Pratulin 19 21-504 Rokitno www.sanktuariumpratulin.pl



phone: +48 83 345 41 40 **phone:** +48 606 651 607

Sanctuary of Blessed Podlasie Martyrs in Pratulin

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The abolition of the Uniate Church in the Kingdom of Poland by the tsarate and expanding the influence of the Orthodox Church did the area of the Bug, the Uniates resisted, making even the greatest sacrifice of their life. This tragic event took place on 26 January 1874 in Pratulin, where tsarist troops fired on a crowd of parishioners assembled to defend their church against its takeover by the Orthodox clergy. Thirteen worshippers were killed, more than a hundred were injured and the church was later demolished. The victims of the massacre were beatified in 1996 as martyrs for the faith. Their relics are kept in the Pratuliny parish church, where in recent years the sanctuary of the Blessed Podlasie Martyrs was created. In a picturesque setting of



Tourist attractions

from the Stanin community in the Łuków district and placed in the location of the demolished church. The wooden Orthodox church complex, with a bell tower and a fence with a gate, acts as the martyrium with the museum and documentation centre of the persecutions of the Podlasie Uniates.





Lublin Landscape Park Complex

ul. Czechowska 4 20-072 Lublin www.parki.lubelskie.p



phone: +48 81 532 70 17



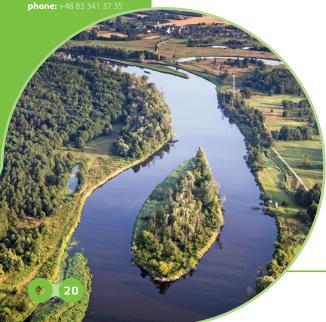
Branch Office in Janów Podlaski

ul. Piłsudskiego 10 21-505 Janów Podlaski janowpodlaski.zlpk@lubelskie.p



Landscape Park "Podlaski Bug River Gorge"

The park includes part of the approximately 65-kilometre long left bank of the Bug River Valley, from the mouth of Krzna River in Neple, Lubelskie Voivodeship, to the mouth of Toczna River in Drażniewo in the Mazowieckie Voivodeship. In a wide valley, the meandering Bug creates open and closed oxbow lakes, vast flood plains covered with lush meadows and reeds as well as alders, willows and poplars. Available for tourists are nature paths: Bużny Most near Krzyczew, Nadbużańskie Łęgi near Janów Podlaski and Szwajcaria Podlaska near Nepla. More than 760 species of vascular plants were identified in the park (one in five is a rare or protected species). Also, nesting of up to 141 bird species has been documented (including the ringed and river plover).



Tourist attractions

Church of St George in Krzyczewo

stands just above the Bug, on a high bank overgrown with 1683 as the Uniate Church of St Demetrios the Martyr, it has served as an Orthodox church since 1875, when the union was dissolved. Since 1919 it has been a Catholic church of St George (now a branch of the neighbouring Neple parish). Located by the church is a 1832 tombstone of the owner of Krzyczew, Marianna Bogusławska and an old Uniate cemetery is located in the manor park. The manor house and an outbuilding in Krzyczew date back to the 19th century. The village also preserved wooden buildings from the beginning of the 20th century, including a 1921 'koźlak'-type



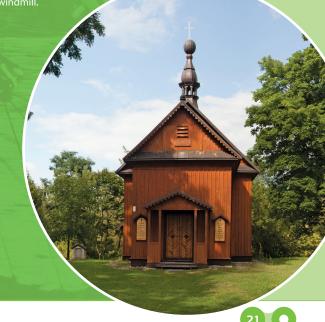


Exaltation of the Holy Cross Parish in Neple Branch of St George church in Krzyczewo

Neple, ul. Kościelna 5a 21-550 Terespol



phone: +48 83 375 18 26



Forts of Brzeska Fortress

The fortress, built in stages from the 1830s until the beginning of World War I, was designed on the Bug, along with its main road, and since 1867, also the railway line leading from Warsaw to Brest (Brześć). What is now left of the double ring of fortifications surrounding the western bastion of the Terespol fortress is over 30 different buildings, including several massive brick and ground forts, located, among others in Łobaczewo Duże, Koroszczyn, Kobylany and in the vicinity of Lebiedziew. The history of the town and the fortress is on display in exhibitions in the former gunpowder towers in Terespol and



Fortifications and History Enthusiasts Club in Terespol Gunpowder towers in Terespol

(ul. Topolowa 6G) and Kobylany

21-550 Terespol prochowniaterespol@gmail.com www.twierdza.org www.prochowniaterespol1. blogspot.com



Tatar mizar in Kolonia Zastawek

Zastawek, a small colony near Lebiedziew hides an original relic of the past: a Tatar cemetery (mizar) with about forty tombstones dating from the 18th to the early 20th century. The history of the Tatars settling in Podlasie dates back to 1679, when King Jan III Sobieski granted the Tatar officers and soldiers serving the Commonwealth estates in the so-called economy of Brest (Brześć), including Lebiedziewo, Małaszewicze and Kobylany, as well as in Studzianka, thirty kilometres away, where another mizar is preserved. This is where the Studzianka Development Association operates actively, organising exhibitions and events promoting the history of Podlasie Tatars, such as, among others, the Tatar Culture Days.



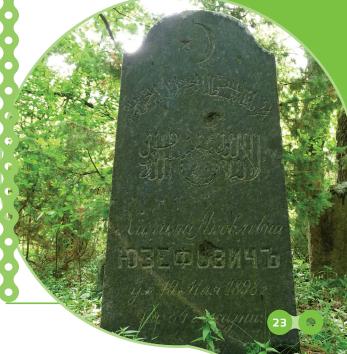


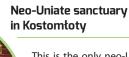
Studzianka Development Association

21-532 Łomazy www.studzianka.p



phone: +48 501 266 672 **phone:** +48 83 341 73 79





This is the only neo-Uniate parish in Poland that uses the Byzantine-Slavic rite, developed since the interwar period in the area where the Uniate Church used to operate, before it was dissolved by the tsarate.

The 1631 wooden church of St Nikita, renovated and developed in the mid-19th century, has since 1998 been the sanctuary of the Blessed Martyrs of Podlasie – the Uniates persecuted and murdered by the tsarist military while defending their faith in 1874. The Orthodox church has richly-equipped interior with an iconostasis including valuable 17th and 18th century icons. The greatest events in Kostomłoty are the indulgence days of the Blessed Martyrs of Podlasie in June and of St Nikita in September.



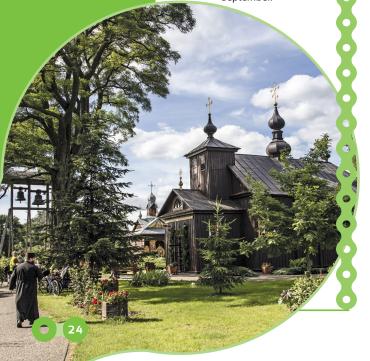


Uniate parish of St Nikita Kostomłoty 15 21-509 Kodeń

21-509 Kodeń www.kostomloty



phone: +48 83 375 52 27



Tourist attractions

Marian shrine in Kodeń

The most famous Marian Sanctuary of the Bug River Valley is associated with a sensational story of the acquisition of the Madonna of Guadalupe las Pius Sapieha. According to legend, popularized in The Blessed Guilt, a book by Zofia Kossak-Szczucka, the image was allegedly stolen from the papal chapel. Today, it is located in the main altar of the Kodeń basilica. worship, attracting crowds of pilgrims and tourists to the Bug area, who stay at in the resort run by the Missionary Oblates. Left over from the old castle of the Sapieha family are the cellars and a brick chapel from the first half of the 16th century, combining Gothic architecture with Renaissance stonework decorations.





Convent of the Missionary **Oblates of Mary Immaculate**

ul. Rynek 1 21-509 Kodeń



phone: +48 83 375 41 19



Convent of the Missionary **Oblates of Mary Immaculate**

ul. Rynek 1, 21-509 Kodeń, www.koden.com.pl oblaci@koden.com.pl



phone: +48 83 37 54 119



Opening hours:





 \boxtimes

Stauropegic Monastery of St Onuphrius

Jabłeczna 69 21-515 Sławatycze www.klasztoriableczna.r

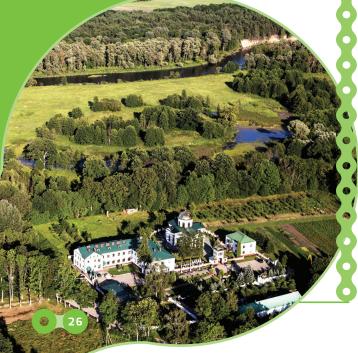


phone: +48 83 378 31 11

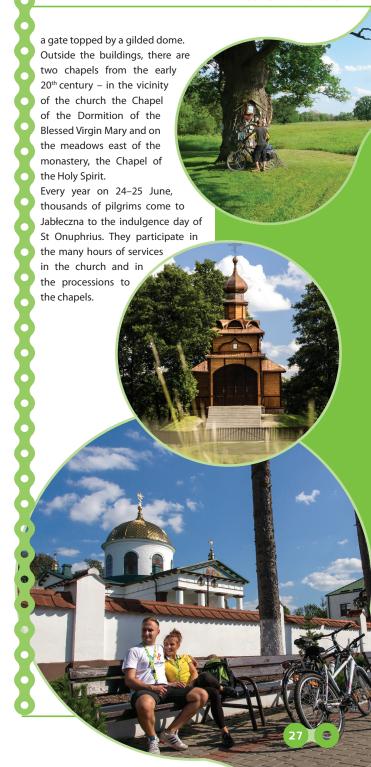
Monastery in Jabłeczna

One of the most important and the oldest sites of the Orthodox Church in Poland, with the cult of St Onuphrius the Hermit growing continuously since at least the 15th century. According to legends, the secluded place on the Bug river meadows, approximately two kilometres away from the village Jabłeczna, was chosen by the saint himself. His icon is said to have floated here on the waters of the Bug.

The heart of the sanctuary is a Classical brick Orthodox church, topped with a gilded dome, erected between 1838–1840. The most eye-catching element of the temple's decoration is the richly decorated 18th century iconostasis and the two older miraculous images – of St Onuphrius and the Theotokos. The church and convent complex is walled, with



Tourist attractions



Bug River Valley

ERSIES!

Municipality Cultural Centre

ul. Rynek 14 21-515 Sławatycze sok@slawatycze-gmina.pl www.slawatycze.pl



phone: +48 83 378 34 73

Bearded men of Sławatycze

Participants of the colourful costume parades, appearing in and New Year period are uncountry. Dressed in bearded masks, heavy fur coats, straw shoes and high caps decorated with ribbons and flowers, they are a very original element of the carnival folklore. They refer to the former multicultural past of the Bug area lands in the so-called 'Sławatycze State', inhabited by Poles, Ukrainians, Jews and Dutch settlers from Pomerania. Sławatycze Cultural Centre co-organizes a contest for 'Bearded Man of the Year,' and three bearded figures stand at the town square of Sławatycze.





Bug River Valley

Excursions





length: 42 km surface:

- good quality asphalt: 85th
- · roads with little car traffi
- Moszczona Królewska Grabarka: route with larger rolling resistance than asphal



the route is partly marked:

- Siemiatycze Melnik: trail Czeremcha – Siemiatycze marked in green, according to PTTK tourist cycling trail standards
- additionally Osłowo Mielni Green Velo marked in orango
- Moszczona Królewska –
- the remaining part: outside o the marked bicycle paths



type of excursion: tourist level of difficulty: for beginners



travel time:

- without signtseeir
 3 hours 5 minutes
- · with sightseeing: 6 hour

At the Bug Gorge

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The untrampled Podlasie Nadbużańskie with Siemiatycze and Mielnik, as well as the most important Orthodox sanctuary in Poland – the Holy Mount of Grabarka. Apart from the above, the trip offers a unique opportunity to commune with unspoiled nature – the breathtaking scenery of the Bug River, the Uszeście nature preserve and the nature and landscape complex of Głogi. All this can be seen in one cycling tour.

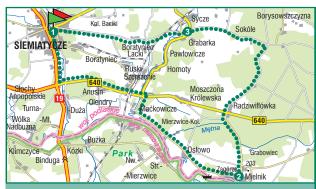
Route: Siemiatycze (0 km) – Anusin (6.3 km) – Maćkowicze (10.3 km) – Osłowo (14.8 km) – Mielnik (18.8 km) – Radziwiłłówka (23.8 km) – Moszczona Królewska (26.1 km) – Końskie Góry (29.2 km) – Holy Mount of Grabarka (31.5 km) – Boratyniec Lacki (35.7 km) – Siemiatycze (42 km)

The cycling meeting with the attractions of Bug Valley starts in the district city of Siemiatycze. From the Church of the Assumption of the Blessed Virgin, follow the river and Kościuszki Street southward for four kilometres. Then, turn left on Road No. 640 leading along the green

Trail of World War I. Then, ride for 5.3 kilometres and on the kilometre 9, take

bike trail and the Eastern Front

the road to Makowicze. From there, the very good quality asphalt road leads along the river bank through Osłowo to Mielnik. It is yet another stop that deserves a longer rest. Further on, the road leads in the direction of Grabarka. On the



A variant of the tour is the passage from Radziwiłlówka, through Końskie Góry, to Grabarka and stopping by a viewing point, which is a part of the nature-landscape complex of Glogi. It is also worthwhile to extend the route slightly in Mielnik. Go straight ahead past the turn to Radziwiłlówka and visit an active open-cast chalk mine in Mielnik.

19th kilometre it turns left in the centre of Melnik to Radziwiłłówka. There it again turns left and follows Road No. 640 to the forefield of Moszczona Królewska, where it turns to the right, entering Green Velo again in the direction of Grabarka. The road leads straight to the village Grabarka through the village Końskie Góry, where it turns left. From the Holy Mount (Świeta Góra), exit the alley by the blue chapel of the miraculous water and take the asphalt road leading to the left. At the next intersection, turn right on Road No. 658 and after 30 metres turn left in the direction of Bogatyniec Lacki. From here, the route leads straight to the intersection with a roundabout in Siemiatycze, which is visible in the evenings even from Bogatyniec.

- 1 Siemiatycze the heyday of the city fell in the second half of the 18th century, when it was owned by the Duchess Anna Paulina Jablonowska née Sapieha a reformer of the time in the areas of crop fields, forestry, beekeeping and bookkeeping. It was also she who modernized the manor. In the city, you should visit the Church of the Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary, the monastery of the Oblates, the synagogue, the Talmudic school, the Orthodox church, as well as see the statues of sphinxes at the historic gate to the palace of the Duchess.
- 2 Mielnik a city with a rich historic past. It is here that in 1501 the documents were signed expressing readiness to more closely connect the Polish Crown and the Grand Duchy of Lithuania. Its greatest landmark is Castle Hill with an 11th-12th century stronghold with the remains of the later castle and a clearly visible moat. It is a perfect vantage point from which a beautiful panorama of the Bug spreads. Noteworthy is the opencast chalk mine.
- **3 Grabarka** called the Orthodox Jasna Góra shrine, a pilgrimage destination.





length: 39 km

· asphalt of varying quality: 70

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- gravel: 30%
- exception: Castle Hill constantly washed up b the Bug



the route is partly marked:

- marked according to PTTK standards
- most of them belong to the Bug River Bicycle Trail
 Klekotów – Wólka Nadbużna:
- Klekotów Wólka Nadbużna red bike trail



type of excursion: tourist, family

level of difficulty: for beginners, for families with children



travel time:

- without sightseeing 3 hours 10 minutes
- with sightseeing:
- 4 hours 40 minute

Discover the historic capital of Podlasie

Undiscovered by mass tourism, the Bug Valley has a lot to offer – a lazily flowing river, Drohiczyn – both the first capital of the Podlaskie Voivodeship and a city with centuries-old and turbulent history, the bunkers of the Molotov Line, Castle Hill and the religious and historic buildings. All this is available for sightseeing in just one trip.

Route: Siemiatycze (0 km) – Rogawka (4.5 km) – Bujaki (9.4 km) – Koczery (11.8 km) – Drohiczyn (15.5 km) – Klekotowo (23 km) – Ogrodniki (25.6 km) – Wólka Nadbużna (30 km) – Turna Mała (31.8 km) – Siemiatycze (39 km)

The cycling adventure with a land utterly permeated with history begins in Siemiatycze. From the town, the blue bicycle trail leads through Rogawka and Bujaki – here, turn right in the centre towards Koczery to reach Drohiczyn. After an exciting meeting with Drohi-

No. 62 and this time turn right to Zajęczniki and Klekotowo. In Klekotowo, the trail again turns right towards Ogrodniki.

czyn, return to National Route





Next, take the red trail to Wólka Nadbużna and from there the blue bike trail will take you to Siemiatycze – the start and finish of the trip that will let you explore the history and nature of Bug Valley.



2 Drohiczyn – the former capital of Podlasie for nearly three centuries, since 1513. The Amber Trail led through here, which has been confirmed by numerous findings. This charming Bug Valley town was described in the works of many

well-known artists, including Jan Długosz and Stefan Żeromski. The landscape of Drohiczyn served as a set for several Polish films, such as Over the Niemen, God's Lining and Maids of Wilko. Those who want to explore the history of both these lands and canoeing, should head to the Historical and Cultural Park with the Museum of Canoeing. At the end of the meeting with Drohiczyn, you can visit the bunkers of the Molotov Line from 1941.







surface:

- acphalt-050
- dirt roads: 59



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- Janów Podlaski Gnojno Green Velo
- the remaining part of the route: the network of Southern Podlasie Cycling Routes



type of excursion: tourist level of difficulty: intermediate



travel time

- · without sightseeing: 4 hours
- with sightseeing: 6–7 hour.

From Janów Podlaski to the sanctuary in Leśna Podlaska

The Bike kingdom of Bug River Valley abounds with many beautiful places. These include, among others, interesting Catholic and Orthodox churches in Stary Pawłów, Stary Bubel and Gnojno, which can be seen during this trip. One of the most interesting buildings on the route is a magnificent palace in Konstantynów, dating back to the 18th century. The main destination of the trip is Leśna Podlaska, where a famous Marian shrine is located. Janów Podlaski is the starting and end point of the excursion. Its history is told by many monuments located here.

Route: Janów Podlaski (0 km) – Stary Pawlów (1 km) – Stary Bubel (8 km) – Gnojno (10 km) – Konstantynów (20 km) – Leśna Podlaska (33 km) – Ossówka (43 km) – Zaborek (51) – Janów Podlaski (55 km)

The beginning of the journey is in Janów Podlaski. In Wygoda, 2 kilometres away to the north, is the Arabian horse stud farm. You can get there following Piłsudskiego Street and Krzyształowicza Street.

From Janów Podlaski go further to Stary Pawłów and Stary Bubel. A few kilometres past these you reach Gnojno, from where an asphalt road leads to Konstantynów, along the Stary Las Nature Preserve. The main goal of the tour is a Marian sanctuary in Leśna Podlaska. Next, through Bukowice Kolonia and Ossówka reach the road from Biała Podlaska to Janów Podlaski, which you should take to return

to the starting point of the trip.



From Lesna Podlaska, head towards Witulin and then to Ossówka. The route from Ossówka to Janów Podlaski runs as in the basic variant.

- 1 Janów Podlaski a quiet town located on the Bug River. Its history is told by the numerous monuments, such as the 1770 Baroque palace of the bishops of Łuck, the Baroque Church of the Holy Trinity and the building of the former seminary.
- Wygoda the history of the world famous Arabian horse stud farm dates back to 1817.
- Stary Pawłów and Stary Bubel

 preserved in the villages are antique wooden temples.
- 4 Gnojno the local landmark is the brick church of St Anthony of Padua, built in the second half of the 19th century as an Orthodox church.
- **6 Konstantynów** the local landmark is the brick church of St Anthony of Padua, built in the second half of the 19th century as an Orthodox church.

- 6 Marian shrine in Leśna Podla
 - ska in 1683, two boys herding cattle found a glowing image of the Virgin Mary with the Child Jesus on a wild pear tree. The place soon became famous for miracles and caused such an influx of the faithful that a parish was founded as early as 1695. Five years later, the Pauline Fathers from Czestochowa founded a monastery here and began the construction of the great basilica church. On the main altar there is a stone bas-relief of the miraculous image. Second to Kodeń, Leśna Podlaska is the most important centre of Marian devotion in Podlasie
- Zaborek a complex of historic wooden buildings (among others: the church, rectory, manor house and windmill), currently adapted for the needs of the hotel.





length: 39 km

- · asphalt roads: 87
- · dirt roads: 13%



the route is partly marked:

- Ierespol Kobylany, Kostomłoty – Terespol: Greer Velo
- Kobylany near Zastawek, Kopytów – Kostomłoty: the network of the Southern Podlasie Cycling Routes



type of excursion: tourist level of difficulty: intermediate

lacksquare



travel time:

- without sightseeing: 3 hour
- with sightseeing: 4–5 hours

Many cultures, one Bug River

The trip presents the unique multi-cultural aspect of the Bug River Valley areas of the Lubelszczyzna region. Terespol is where it starts – a border town situated on the Bug River. During the cycling trip you can see, among others the Orthodox church of St Apostle John the Theologian in Terespol, a fragment of the Brest (Brześć) Fortress fortifications and the Orthodox church of the Virgin Mary of Pokrów in Kobylany, a Tatar cemetery in Zastawek and the historic Orthodox church of St Nikita the Martyr in Kostomłoty, with the seat of the world's only Neo-Unite parish of the Byzantine-Slavic rite.

Route: Terespol (0 km) – Kobylany (5 km) – Zastawek (10 km) – Kostomłoty (22 km) – Dobratycze (31 km) – Terespol (39 km)

While exploring the history of the Bug River Valley areas of Lubelszczyzna, you will find it hard to believe that so many cultures and denominations coexisted and in many cases still coexist, in such a small area. The place to start out on your a 39-kilometre cycling tour is Terespol. Leaving the city via a bike path heading west, you can reach Koby-

lany. Farther on, the route leads southward. In Kobylany, pass the Orthodox church and after a few kilometres you will reach Zastawek. The next and most important destination of the trip is Kostomłoty, and after leaving the village, head for Terespol along the Green Velo markers. On the way to Terespol, the route also passes

through Dobratycze.



From Kostomłoty go in the direction of Michałki (loop no. 56 of the network of the Southern Podlasie Cycling Routes); there turn left and follow the regional Road No. 816. Then head towards Terespol, where the trip ends.

- 1 Terespol a border town located on the Bug River. Its most valuable monument is the 18th century Neoclassical Orthodox church of St Apostle John the Theologian. The city is dominated by a tower, visible from a long distance, of the 1863 parish Church of the Holy Trinity. Among the monuments documenting the history of the city is an 1825 iron obelisk, commemorating the completion of the route from Warszawa to Brześć.
- 2 Kobylany the local gunpowder tower is one of many buildings of the Brześć Fortress preserved near Terespol. The interior houses an interesting historical and military exhibition. In the vicinity there is a beautiful greenery and a swimming area. There is also the late-19th century Orthodox church of Our Lady of Pokrów.
- is a unique remnant of a Tatar settlement in the Lublin region. The old stone tombstones are decorated with inscriptions in Arabic, Polish and Russian.

- Kostomłoty the seat of the world's only Neo-Unite parish of the Byzantine-Slavic rite. The historic Orthodox church of St Nikita the Martyr is the Sanctuary of the Podlasie Uniates.
- 5 **Dobratycze** located here is an Orthodox church of the Exaltation of the Holy Cross and a historic cemetery with 19th century tombstones.





surface:

asphalt: 100%



the route is marked

 Green Velo and a network of Southern Podlasie Cycling Trails



type of excursion: tourist, family level of difficulty: beginners and intermediate



travel time

without sightseeing: 2 hour

lacksquare

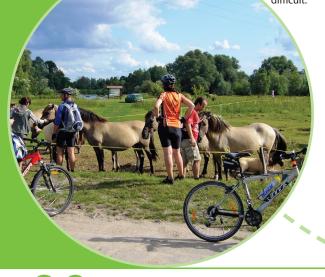
with sightseeing: 4 hours

Bug River Valley Secrets

This proposition is addressed to enthusiasts of nature, beautiful views and fantastic stories. The 25-kilometre route is characterized by a low degree of difficulty and a high degree of mystery. The highlight of the tour is an Orthodox monastery with the church of St Onuphrius in Jabłeczna, picturesquely situated by the Bug River.

Route: Sławatycze (0 km) – Krzywowólka (7 km) – Jabłeczna (16 km) – Sławatycze (25 km)

The route begins at the Market Square in Sławatycze; exit through Kraszewskiego Street. In the forest, south of Krzywowólka, there is a place in the shape of a circle, where trees have not grown for hundreds of years. To get there, on loop no. 63 of the Southern Podlasie Cycling Trails you need to head in the direction of loop no. 33. The road is not paved and in case of bad weather access might be difficult.





Returning from Jabłeczna, on loop no. 60 of the Southern Podlasie Cycling Routes turn left and head towards loop no. 30. The route is similar to the basic variant, but it leads through dirt roads. This, in turn is compensated by splendid views and the possibility of experiencing the nature of the Bug River Valley even more closely.

In Krzywowólka turn right and after a few kilometres reach Jabłeczna. Return to Sławatycze through the villages Nowosiółki and Liszna, admiring on the way the beautiful landscapes of the Bug River Valley. It's advisable to come here in June, during the Bug River Valley Bike Rally – a regular event allowing you to get to know the most interesting places of the Sławatycze municipality from the perspective of your two-wheeler.

- 1 Sławatycze standing in the town square are the over threemetre tall statues of bearded men. made of linden wood. Brodacze (Bearded Men) is the local name for the costumed revellers who, in the last three days of December, put on special outfits and parade through the streets of Sławatycze. The oldest locals say that their grandparents used to tell them about the custom.
- Krzywowólka in a forest south of the village is a 5-hectare spot in the shape of a perfect circle in which no tree has grown for hundreds of years. According to local legends,

an Orthodox church that used to stand there that was one day swallowed up by the ground.

Turystyka akty

3 Jabłeczna – in the place where, according to legend the icon of St Onuphrius stopped on its way down the Bug, a monastery was built. For centuries, it was a stronghold of Orthodoxy in the region. In the vicinity of the church, among the Bug River meadows, there are two wooden chapels built in the beginning of the 20th century. In June, the Orthodox monastery holds religious ceremonies on the Day of St Onuphrius, gathering hundreds of pilgrims.



Practical information



Tourist Information Point and Promotion Office of the Siemiatycze District

ul. Legionów Piłsudskiego 3 17-300 Siemiatycze phone: +48 85 655 58 56 promocja@siemiatycze.pl www.podlasie.siemiatycze.pl

Tourist Information Point in Melnik The Centre for the History of Mielnik Area

17-307 Mielnik phone: +48 85 657 71 00 odzm@mielnik.com.pl www.mielnik.com.pl

Tourist Information Point in Drohiczyn **Municipal and Community Culture Centre**

17-312 Drohiczyn phone: +48 85 655 70 69 info.drohiczvn@interia.pl www.drohiczyn.pl

Tourist and Cultural Information Centre

ul. Warszawska 11 21-500 Biała Podlaska phone/fax: +48 83 342 62 89 citbialapodlaska@o2.pl www.cit.bialapodlaska.pl