

Bike Kingdom Białowieża Forest and Knyszyn Forest

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.



Białowieża National

The oldest national park in located near the Belarusi der, was established in o protect the last area of a broadleaved lowland in Europe. The park natural object in



phone +48 85 681 29 01

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.



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



Through forest ga Podlasie Tatars

The excursion presents t ting places in the Knys: intertwines here with You can visit

Excursion information

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

Practical information

Regional Tourist ul. Odeska 1 15-406 Białystok phone +48 85 732 68 3 cit@podlaskieit.pl www.podlaskieit.pl

Tourist Service

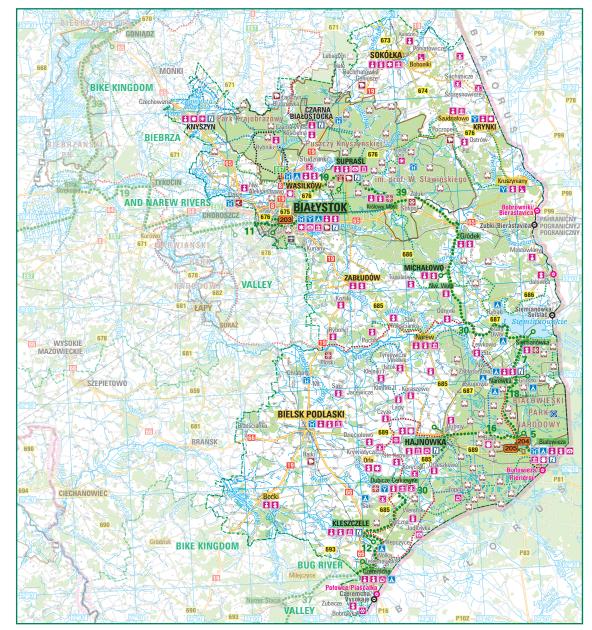






Kingdom information







Scale 1 : 740 000

Legend

	Boundaries of Bike Kingdoms
9.18 /	East of Poland Cycling Trail Green Velo; distance (km)
	Other cycle trails
A Y X	Hotels; youth hostels; campsites, camping grounds
	Churches; Orthodox churches; mosques; Jewish culture relics Palaces and mansions; museums; open-air museums; other tourist attractions
	Technical monuments; windmills; fortified settlements
	Health resorts; ski resorts; horse-breeding farms
% 7 0	Holiday resorts; tourist information; UNESCO sites
SUPRAŚL	Tourist destinations along the Green Velo cycle trail
KRYNKI	Tourist destinations
	National parks; landscape parks
*	Forests; nature reserves
 65	National roads
686	Provincial roads; other roads
	Primary railways; secondary railways
	Airports; river ferries
o o	Border crossings: road border crossings; train border crossings
	National borders
	Provincial borders
EEBLAG LIDZBARK KERZYN SIZYCKO WARM. WOI. WARDINISHO THE LIDSLING ELK. WARM SIZYCKO OSDWIEC UNDAN SIZYCKO OSDWIEC WOI. DOCHOSTIN SIZYCKO OSDWIEC BIALYSTOK BIALYSTOK BIALYSTOK BIALYSTOK BIBLISK HAJNONKA POLIASKI SIEMIALYCZE LERESPOL	
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Bike Kingdom Białowieża Forest and Knyszyn Forest

The region can be described as a kingdom of the bison. Most of the route running between Białystok and Czeremcha leads through two major forest complexes, including the ancient Białowieża Primeval Forest protected as a World Biosphere Preserve, UNESCO World Heritage Site, and National Park. You may be able to spot bison living in the wild, and encounters with elk are fairly common. The Białowieża and Knyszyń Primeval Forests are also home to wolves, lynx, wild boar, red deer, roe deer and many species of birds, including rare raptors, wood grouse and black grouse.

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At the start, the trail through the kingdom takes in the capital of the Podlaskie Voivodeship – Białystok. It is an important railway hub and administrative, educational and economic centre. The city has numerous wide, safe, paved cycle routes and bike racks.

You should take a look at the imposing Branicki Palace and gardens – known as the "Versailles of Podlasie" – and the recently renovated market square and promenade along Lipowa Street, fascinating churches and Orthodox churches, museums, and the modern Podlasie Opera and Philharmonic, which also houses the Regional Tourist Information Centre. There are also several thematic trails through the city, focusing on the churches of Białystok, local wooden architecture and the Branicki family.

Białystok is one of the most important stage points along the Green Velo route. It is the perfect place to start or finish a trip along the northern part of the trail (for example to or from Elbląg) or for heading south to Rzeszów or Przemyśl.

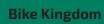
From Białystok, the route leads east, almost immediately entering the dense Knyszyń Primeval Forest, following a paved cycle track alongside the main road. In the Suprasil river valley, in the very heart of the forest, the charming spa town of Suprasil can be found. It has been the setting for the popular film "In Heaven as it is on Earth" and the TV series "Blondynka". The town's unusual, smart wooden architecture is dominated by the magnificent Orthodox Lavra Monastery, reconstructed after the Second World War. It is home to a unique Icon Museum, which is a must-see point of any trip. Supraśl is also the perfect spot for sampling local cuisine. In spite of its small size, there are many fascinating historical buildings, and homely agrotourism quarters and tourist accommodation to suit any budget, as well as the highly acclaimed Wierszalin Theatre. A few years ago, the beautiful Suprasl Reservoir was opened by the river, forming a part of the Suprasl Water System dating back to the 17th century. You can also take a canoeing trip on the River Supraśl.

Next, the route leads through the heart of the Knyszyń Primeval Forest, protected as a W. Sławiński Landscape Park. Interesting points along the trail include the historical towns of Michałów and Gródek. The majority of local villages are home to Orthodox churches crowned with distinctive domes. Stop off in Gruszki in the Browsk Forestry to take a look at the herbarium.

Between the Knyszyń and Białowieża Primeval Forests, the trail runs through farmland, and there is a section opening out onto wide panoramic views. After you pass the extensive Siemianówka Reservoir and the village of Narewka, the route leads right into the heart of the Białowieża Primeval Forest along the boundary of the national park to the Old Białowieża range. Set among ancient oak trees, dating back to the reign of King Władysław Jagiełło, the main route turns westwards towards Hajnówka, but it's worth continuing east, via the forest village of Pogorzelce to Białowieża. Set in an expansive glade, it is the capital of this region and a popular tourist resort which still maintains the atmosphere of a wooden settlement of colourful houses set within the forest. The locals are friendly and hospitable, making all visitors feel at home. There are several restaurants serving traditional regional dishes. While you're there, the absolute must-see spots are the Nature and Forest Museum, the Bison Show Preserve and the Orthodox church with a splendid iconostasis, while the best walks are through the palace gardens by the former Tsarist residence and a guided hike to the most treasured section of the park - the Protected Preserve.

There are many agrotourism quarters throughout both forests, and a dense network of marked cycle routes. It's also worth heading away from the main trail to explore the area. Of course you'll need to set aside more time, but – as ever along this route – it's worth it!

From Białowieża, the route leads along forest vistas to Hajnówka, where you should visit the Orthodox church of the Holy Trinity. Next, the trail runs across an expansive lowland terrain of the Bielska Plain along the edge of the forest. There are numerous picturesque villages along this section with colourful wooden architecture. The route continues via Kleszczele to Czeremcha, a local railway hub, leaving the wilderness behind to take cyclists to the next magical kingdom along the Green Velo route: the Bug River Valley.



Białowieża Forest and Knyszyn Forest

Tourist attractions



Branicki Palace

This is the most important and magnificent most monument of the city, often referred to as "the Versailles of the North". Its final shape can be attributed to Great Crown Hetman Jan Klemens Branicki, a lover of sumptuous balls, known for his sophisticated tastes, who lived in the 18th century. Currently, the palace serves as the headquarters for the Medical University of Białystok. It is also available to visitors. The palace gate houses the Multimedia Tourist Information Centre. The palace surroundings are equally impressive. The Great Gate, also known as the Gryphon, antecourtyard with fountains and a garden salon with stone sculptures and a pavilion under an eagle are also a feast for the eyes.





Branicki Palace

ul. Jana Kilińskiego 1 15-087 Białystok www.umb.edu.pl/palac_ branickich



phone: +48 85 748 54 67 **phone:** +48 85 748 54 05



Białowieża Forest and Knyszyn Forest



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Regional Tourist Information Centre in **Białystok**

15-406 Białystok cit@podlaskieit.pl



phone: +48 85 732 68 31



Opening hours:

- 1 VI 15 IX
- Sat Sun 10am 5pm
- off-season Mon - Fri 9am - 5pm

Białystok

Białystok is the capital and the biggest city of the Podlaskie Voivodealmost 300,000 residents. The first historical mentions of its existence date back to the 16th century. In 1660, the city became the property of the Branicki family, its most meritorious residents. The Branicki Palace was built upon their order, with garden complexes, which became an architectural showcase of the city. Jan Klemens Branicki ordered the construction of the Guest Palace. perhaps for his wife - Countess Izabella Poniatowska - which nowadays houses the Registry Office and is thus known as the Palace of Weddings.

The achievements of the family can be seen by walking along the Branicki Family Trail.

Białystok always was and to this day remains a city of many cultures and many denominations. Poles, Jews, Russians and Germans lived here side by side. Ludwik Zamenhof, a doctor of medicine of Jewish descent, crea-

> was born here - he decided to create a simple and universal language that would connect all nations, inspired by the coexistence of the nationalities in his home city. The city's architecture reflects this mosaic of religions. The magnifi-

cent cathedral stands watch the city. over



The neighbouring Baroque parish church, known as the White Church could not accommodate all the believers in the middle of the 19th century, and the Tsar was asked to build a new church. After 40 years, permission to build an annex was finally obtained; the "annex", or the cathedral, outgrew the old church by several orders of magnitude. After exiting the cathedral, the old City Hall (currently housing the Podlaskie Museum) and the entire revitalised Kosciusko's Market can be seen. On ul. Lipowa, the name of which comes from the linden trees growing along its sides, there is the Orthodox Church of St Nicholas, erected in 1846. The church houses the relics of St Gabriel.

An impressive building which houses the Podlasie Opera and Philharmonic and the European Centre for Music and Art can be seen on ul.

Odeska. It is the biggest artistic institution in north-eastern Poland and the most modern cultural centre in this part of Europe. The building also houses the Regional Tourist Information Centre.

It is best to use the marked thematic trails to navigate around the city. One can choose from: The trail of churches in Białystok, Wooden Architecture, Manufacturers of Białystok, Architecture of the Polish People's Republic, Esperanto and many cultures, Boyar and the Trail of Jewish Heritage.

Many popular events take place in the city, among others the Original Source Up to Date Festival, Fashionable East, Halfway Festival and the Modern Art Days.





Municipal Tourist Information Point

ul. Kościelna 1a 15-087 Białystok www.odkryj.bialystok.pl



phone: +48 85 879 71 49



Opening hours:

1 VI – 30 IX
 Mon – Fri 9am – 5pm

off-season
 Mon - Fri 9am - 5pm



Multimedia Tourist Information Centre in the Branicki Palace Gate



Opening hours:

• 1 V – 30 IX Mon – Sun 10am – 6pm



Tourist Services Point "Bukowisko"



phone: +48 85 710 24 70



Museum of Icons in Suprasil, a branch of the Podlaskie Museum in Białystok

bialystok.pl



Supraśl

The modern history of this town, located near Białystok, in the very heart of the Knyszyn Forest dates back to the 15th century. The town is considered a health resort.

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Among the places worth seeing in Suprasil, there are the Orthodox Monastery with the exceptional Museum of Icons, Buchholz Palace, which currently houses the Fine Arts High School, and the wooden Weavers' Houses, which are what remains from weavers' workshops. It is also worth to see a play in the Wierszalin Theatre, take a walk on the shores of the Suprasl River and taste some of the dishes of the tasty local cuisine. The Suprasil River, flowing through the town, and the adjacent Sokołda River make an interesting kayaking trail. The town also houses the offices of the Knyszyn Forest Landscape Park Administration.



Knyszyn Forest Landscape Park

The park was created in 1988 in order to protect the natural environment, culture and history of the area. It encompasses almost the entire Knyszyn Forest, and it is the second biggest landscape park in Poland. In the forest, around 160 species of birds can be found, as well as mammals, such as deer, wild boars, does, wolves, badgers and many rare and protected plants. However, the biggest inhabitants of the park are the European bison, living in the wild. The Suprasil River flows through the Knyszyn Forest, connecting all the waterways together and making up an interesting kayaking trail.

The park also contains the second health resort in the voivodeship, two forest gardens - the Arboretum in Kopna Góra and the Silvarium in Poczopek, as well as a dense network

of hiking trails, which lead to the most interesting and the wil-

dest places in the forest.





Tourist Information Point Knyszyn Forest Landscape

sekretariat@pkpk.pl www.pkpk.wrotapodlasia.pl



phone: +48 85 718 37 85





Silvarium

Poczopek 6d 16-113 Szudziałowo krynki@bialystok.lasy.gov.pl www.krynki.bialystok.lasy. gov.pl



phone: +48 85 722 96 47 **phone:** +48 85 722 96 58



Open-air objects:

Open to visitors every day, from dusk till dawn, every day of the year "Na Skraju Puszcz" Gallery: IV–X every day, 9am – 5pm



Arboretum Nadleśnictwo Supraśl

ul. Podsupraśl 8 16-030 Supraśl www.start.lasy.gov.pl



phone: +48 85 71 31 570



Opening hours:

- IV IX
 - Mon Fri 8am 3pm,
- Sat Sun 9am 7pm
- Free entrance
- Guided tours available for a fee after prior arrangement

Forest gardens in the Knyszyn Forest

The Arboretum, dedicated to the Insurgents of 1863, is a forest park and botanical garden, where various kinds of forests typical for the Knyszyn Forest, as well as collections of shrubs such as juniper, cypress, thujas and rhododendrons, can be observed. There are three crosses commemorating the fighting between the participants of the January Uprising and Cossack forces near the Sokołda River.

Silvarium is not only a forest garden, but also a herb pharmacy. The most interesting exhibit of the garden is a sundial that shows the time of day and seasons. The Herb Aisle is another interesting place - it is a trail with herbs, growing on each side, along with additional plaques with their description and possible use. The Tropinka trail with preserved footprints of various forest animals, a megalith park and the Gallery "Na Skraju Puszcz" complete the experience.



The Tatar Trail

The Podlaskie voivodeship encompasses two important religious centres of the Polish Tatars - Bohoniki and Kruszyniany. Both villages were given to the Tatars by King John III Sobieski instead of unsettled payments for their participation in the war against the Ottoman Empire in the 17th century. Both villages have open wooden mosques and Muslim cemeteries. While travelling on the Tatar Trail, one has to taste traditional Tatar cuisine, which is worth trying even though it may be too greasy and too spicy for some. Kolduny, or traditional Tatar stuffed dumplings, are also popular, as well as chakchak, halva, dżajma dessert with honey and perekachevnik - a traditional stuffed pie, the first regional product listed on the official list of traditional products of the Polish Ministry of Agriculture.





Bohoniki – Muslim Commune

ul. Głowackiego 13 16-100 Sokółka www.bohoniki.eu

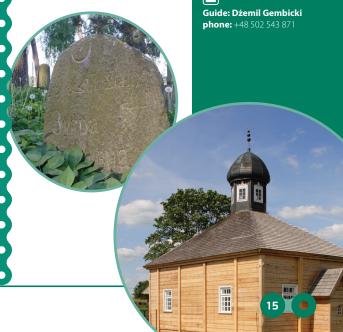


phone: +48 667 037 691



Muslim Commune in Kruszyniany Kruszyniany – mosque 16-120 Krynki







Municipal Information Centre in Czarna Białostocka

ul. Torowa 9 16-020 Czarna Białostock gci@czarnabialostocka.pl



phone: +48 85 873 04 18



Tourist Information Point in Lipsk Municipal Cultural Centre ul. Rynek 23 16-315 Lipsk mgok@lipsk.pl mgok@kulturalipsk.pl



phone: +48 87 642 35 86 **phone:** +48 698 621 115



Centre of Folk Crafts

Niemczyn 42 16-020 Czarna Białostocka www.crl.czarnabialostocka.p



phone: +48 85 710 91 49 **phone:** +48 698 519 658

Trail of Folk Crafts

The trail was designed by the Department of Ethnography of the Podlaskie Museum in 1994. The main reason for its creation was the protection of the most interesting workshops, shops and centres of folk crafts, endorsement of the centuries-long tradition of regional arts and crafts, as well as its presentation and promotion to connoisseurs of folk art. The trail is about 50 kilometres long. One may see, among others, the pottery workshops and a forge in Czarna Wieś Kościelna, the wooden spoon workshop in Zamczysko, double-warp weaving workshops in Janów and the nearby towns, the folk sculptor's shop in Sokółka and many Easter egg workshops in Lipsk, near the Biebrza River.

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Michałowo

The city, which is the seat of the municipality, is located about 40 kilometres south-east of Białystok. It was founded in 1832 by Seweryn Michałowski as a colony for German cloth manufacturers and their families. Among its most interesting monuments, the 19th century urban planning, a wooden Orthodox church erected in 1908, as well as the Divine Providence Church stand out the most. "Niezbudka" - a Film, Photography and Sound Workshop in Michałów, is also worth visiting.

It is worth noting that Gorbacz natural preserve, which was established in order to protect a lake which is a remnant of the Ice Age, one of the last in this part of Poland, as well as the unique Siemianówka Lake are both part of the Michałowo municipality.



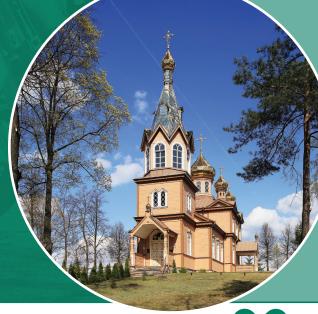


Michałowo Town Office ul. Białostocka 11 16-050 Michałowo

16-050 Michałowo sekretariat@michalowo.eu www.michalowo.eu



phone: +48 85 713 17 74



Białowieża Forest and Knyszyn Forest

Tourist Information Point in Narewka

Kayaking Pier ul. Hajnowska 33 17-220 Narewka stanica-narewka@o2.pl www.gci.narewka.pl



phone: +48 85 685 80 62

Siemianówka Lake

This is the third biggest artificial lake in Poland and also an attractive recreation spot, not only for fans of water sports. The Tourist and Recreation Centre in Stary Dwór enables visitors to spend their free time at the lake actively. The lake is artificially stocked with 28 species of fish, which makes it a perfect place for anglers and bird watchers, as the variety of fish results in visits from interesting species of birds. The lake was also appreciated by filmmakers - the frozen lake appeared in one of the most spectacular scenes in The Chronicles of Narnia:

The Lion, The Witch and the Wardrobe.



Tourist and Recreation Centre in Stary Dwór

The Centre, located near Siemianówka Lake, is a perfect place for active recreation by the water. Water sports equipment, which may be rented in the Centre, includes kayaks, oars and life jackets. Visitors may spend their time on the beach, three recreation piers, tennis courts, basketball, volleyball and badminton courts, a playground and a climbing wall. The Centre has convenient parking and covered fireplaces. Electrical outlets are also available, and the sanitary facilities (bathrooms, showers, washbasins) are open for visitors.



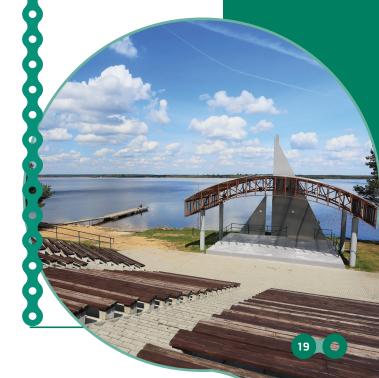


Tourist Information Point in Narewka

Kayaking Pier ul. Hajnowska 33 17-220 Narewka stanica-narewka@o2.pl www.gci.narewka.pl



phone: +48 85 685 80 62



Narewka

From the environmental standpoint, the green municipality of Narewka is exceptional. A big part of the Białowieża National Park falls within the borders of the municipality - the northwestern part of the Rezerwat Protective District, which can be toured without the need to be accompanied by a licensed guide. The Forest Chamber in the village of Gruszki, located in the Forest District of Browsk, is another interesting place in the municipality, with a herbarium (a collection of herbs and plants), a unique sundial, original wild beehives, feeders for animals, a Celtic circle of power and the Golden Trail of Saint Eustace with an interesting shrine in an old oak tree. A kavaking pier also operates in Narewka

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Tourist Information Point in Narewka

Kayaking Pier ul. Hajnowska 33 17-220 Narewka stanica-narewka@o2.p www.gci.narewka.pl



phone: +48 85 685 80 62



Narrow-gauge railway in the Białowieża Forest

Railways in the forest were established at the beginning of the 20th century. They were constructed by Germans in order to facilitate logging operations. Nowadays, they serve as an exceptional way to see the beauty of the forest. The Railway allows visitors to reach three destinations from Hajnówka: Dolina Leśna, Postołowo and Topiło. The latter is located near forest ponds, where the tourist may go for a walk on the "Curiosities of the Primeval Forest" educational nature trail, visit an open-air railway museum, rest for a moment in a shed or make a bonfire.





Tourist narrow-gauge railway

Kolejki Leśne 12 17-200 Hajnówka www.hajnowka.bialystok.lasy. gov.pl



phone: +48 85 683 23 78



Białowieża National Park Park Pałacowy 11 17-230 Białowieża www.bon.com.pl



phone: +48 85 681 29 01



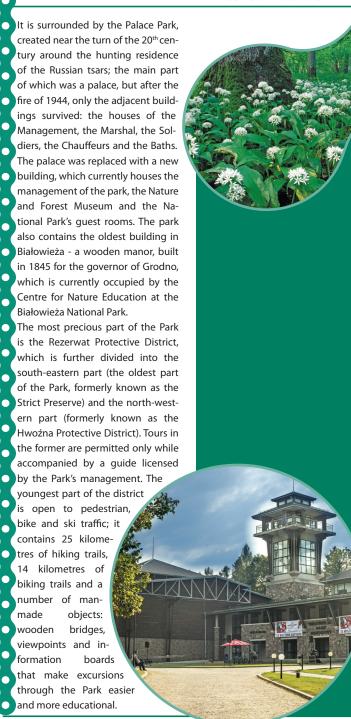
Białowieża National Park

The oldest national park in Poland, located near the Belarusian border, was established in order to protect the last area of primeval broadleaved lowland forests in Europe. The park is the only natural object in Poland listed as a UN-ESCO Heritage Site.

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The old and multispecies forest ensures a unique richness of fungi, plant and animal species, a big part of which is made up of primeval species, which are extinct or endangered in other places. Monumental trees can be seen on the hiking trail "To the Jagiełło Oak", part of which runs through the Strict Preserve.

The forest is also a habitat for a multitude of animals; over 12 000 species have been found so far, with birds being the most numerous (250 species), and mammals, including bison, which is the symbol of the National Park, are the best known. The European bison may sometimes be seen during hiking; however, if visitors are not that lucky, they may go to the Bison Display Preserve. The small zoo, located near the road connecting Hajnówka and Białowieża (about 3 kilometres from Białowieża) houses all the ungulates living in the Park, providing them with an environment similar to nature. It is a great place to see the European bison, deer, tarpans - Eurasian wild horses, does and wild boars, as well as big predators: wolves and bobcats. It is also a great place to learn about the natural environment, just as with the Nature and Forest Museum, which presents both the environment and the history of the Białowieża Forest.



Białowieża Forest and Knyszyn Forest

Białowieża National Park

Park Pałacowy 11 17-230 Białowieża www.bpn.com.pl



phone: +48 85 681 29 01

Białowieża

One of the most recognisable tourist destinations in the Podlaskie voivodeship, very popular among bird lovers, nature observers and people who like peaceful interactions with nature. It is known because of the Białowieża National Park - its heart and the biggest attraction.

The park is often called The Kingdom of the European Bison, because of the presence of the biggest European mammal. The Rezerwat Protective District is the most important place to visit here - an area devoid of any human activity.

The Nature and Forest Museum presents the peculiarities of the Park. It is also worth going around the surrounding Palace Park, which serves as a reminder of the tsars who used to visit Białowieża. Tsar Alexander III visited the construction site of the nearby Orthodox Church of Saint Nicholas the Wonderworker on the 20th of August 1894. The ceramic ico-

postasis in the church, the only

made of Chinese porcelain imported from Petersburg. The construction was completed before Tsar Nicholas II visited Białowieża in 1897. At the time, he arrived to the town of Białowieża on the very first train from Hajnówka. After his first visit, he returned often enough to warrant the construction of

the railway station complex; the

Towarowa

(Białowieża

Białowieża

Tourist attractions

Cargo Station) has survived in good shape, and after conservation works, it houses a restaurant serving both Polish and Russian cuisine, with decorations that reflect back to the times of the tsars. Białowieża Towarowa is also the first stop for the Białowieża Trolleys - a unique way to see the forest. The unique qualities of the nature in the forest can be observed from one of the four Nordic walking trails: Wysokie Bagno (3.6 kilometres), Dziedzinka (8.8 kilometres), Exploring Białowieża (8.9 kilometres) and Journey in Białowieża (10.6 kilometres). They all begin on the eastern outskirts of the town, near the forest car park on ul. Waszkiewicza.

Many attractive biking trails surround and cross the town of Białowieża, with one of the most important, the Białowieża Transborder Trail, crossing the National and Landscape Parks and connecting Belarus with Poland. The trail runs through a network of roads, with wooden road signs stylised after the architecture of the region. Other trails in Bia-

The Royal Oaks and Great Lithuanian Princes". presenting centuries-old oaks, and the "Ribs of the Bison" trail, the first natural forest trail, are also worth seeina, because by taking a walk along them, one may see the local curiosities and picturesque parts of the forest.

lowieża, such as "The Trail of





Tourist Information Point PTTK Białowieża

ul. Kolejowa 17 17-230 Białowieża pttk@pttk.bialowieza.pl www.pttk.bialowieza.pl



phone: +48 85 681 22 95



Bialowieża handcars

most original form of sightseeing and way of getting to know the forest's natural habitat. Handcars are light, human--powered rail vehicles, and thus the strength and dexterity of the passengers decides the speed of the Białowieża Towarowa

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starting station. The routes available include: to Białowieża Pałac station (Białowieża Palace) (4 kilometres, both ways), to Grudki (7 kilometres, approx. 60 minutes both ways), to the Place of Power (14 kilometres, approx. 2 hours), to Czerlonka (22 kilometres, approx. 3h 30 min both ways). It is possible to organise a trip with another group or to rent a handcar only for a single group.



Białowieża Handcars



phone: +48 783 002 927



Opening hours:



Open-air museum in Sioło Budy

The open-air museum is a unique place in the village of Budy, located 9 kilometres from Bialowieża. In a 1.5 ha lot in the middle of the village, there is a small open-air museum which hosts a well-preserved hut built in 1836, a pigsty, a barn, a coach house, a hay rick, a well with a winch and a fence made of interwoven branches. The museum also houses the Gallery of Crafts. which presents exhibitions of folk art, paintings, sculptures and houses a permanent exhibition of weaving and a cloth production line. Karczma Osocznika – a tavern – can be found nearby, serving dishes of regional cuisine.





Sioło Budy

Budy 41 17-230 Białowieża www.siolobudy.pl



phone: +48 660 681 274 phone: +48 664 775 554



Białowieża Forest and Knyszyn Forest



Tourism Centre of Białowieża Primeval Forest Region in Hajnówka

ul. 3 Maja 45 17-200 Hajnówka turystyka@powiat.hajnowka.pl www.lot.bialowieza.pl



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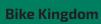
phone: +48 85 682 43 81

Hajnówka

Hajnówka is one of the youngest Polish cities. It is the seat of the county, often called "the Gateway to the Forest", because of its location on the border of the Białowieża Forest. It is one of the best starting points for any adventure in the National Park.

Among the most notable places, there is the Orthodox Church of the Holy Trinity, which hosts the Hajnówka Orthodox Church Music Days Festival every year, with choirs from all over the world participating in the event. Tourists will also find a monument of a European bison, the private Museum of Ironwork and Blacksmith Craft, as well as the Museum and Centre of Belarusian Culture. Hajnówka is the starting station of the narrow-qauge railway.





Białowieża Forest and Knyszyn Forest

Excursions



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length: 95.4 km

- to Kruszyniany: approx. 559 asphalt, 35% gravel/sand tamped road
- the most difficult sections: approx. 10% are paths, where forestry work has been done and a short section of a rocky surface
- Kruszyniany Supraśl: harc surfaced gravel-sand 35%, asphalt 65%
- initial section after Kruszyniany: loose sand hindering travel



partially marked route

- majority of route: green trail Kresowe Wędrówki, marked according to PTTK tourist bik trail marking standards
- Ostrówek Ostrów Północny Road No. 676
- Walify Stacja Suprasi returr trip: mostly Green Velo
- Kruszyniany Waliły Stacja: yellow trail through Gródek municipality, marked according to PTTK tourist bik trail marking standards
- Waliły Stacja Supraśl: Greer Velo, orange



type of excursion: MTB level of difficulty: for beginners



travel time:

- without sightseeing: 7 hours
- with sightseeing: 10 hours
 30 minutes



Through forest gardens to the Podlasie Tatars

The excursion presents the most interesting places in the Knyszyn Forest. History intertwines here with the nature of the forest. You can visit Suprasl and the Museum of Icons, as well as two forest gardens: the Arboretum in Kopna Góra, with its memorials to the participants of the 1863 Uprising, and the Silvarium in Poczopek, also called the forest pharmacy. The crowning glory of the effort required will most certainly be an encounter with Tatar culture and cuisine in Kruszyniany. On the way back, you will commune with Orthodox and Catholic architecture. In Królowy Most, made famous by Jacek Bromski's films, you should see the Orthodox Church of Saint Anne and the Roman Catholic chapel, and in Supraśl, the Orthodox monastery with the Museum of Icons. And all of it among the slender Suprasl pines, which undoubtedly have medicinal properties.

Route: Supraśl (0 km) – Surażkowo (11 km) – Kopna Góra (15.8 km) – Poczopek (28 km) – Ostrów Północny (30 km) – Ostrów Południowy (32.5 km) – Nowy Ostrów (34 km) – Górany (37 km) – Nietupa (43.6 km) – Saniki (46.6 km) – Kruszyniany (50 km) – Waliły Stacja (65.8 km) – Załuki (75.2 km) – Królowy Most (81.5 km) – Kołodno (84 km) – Cieliczanka (90.5 km) – Supraśl (95.4 km)

The meeting with the Knyszyn Forest starts in Supraśl. Cyclists take the green trail towards Kopna Góra. The route goes through Surażkowo, passing the Krzemienne Góry Nature Preserve, and further on the January Uprising Trail. Continuing on, you reach the Arboretum, and farther on to the Silvarium, for about 15 km. When you leave, head to



On a road bike or a regular bike, you can take the asphalt Road No. 676 to Krynki. From there, turn south towards Kruszyniany. On the way back from Kruszyniany, road cycling fans have the option of a return through Łużany or Bobrowniki via Road No. 65 to Majówka. Next, turn right and take the asphalt road through Krasny Las to Supraśl. It is worth visiting Gródek, by following the yellow trail through Walily.

Ostrów Południowy. Follow the route to kilometre 38 of the route and turn right towards Nietupa at the fork at the edge of the forest. The direction is marked by the green trail at the turn by the cross. You can rest here under a shelter. From here on, at kilometre 42 of the route, one turn left in Saniki will take you to kilometre 49 in Kruszyniany. After a rest, you can start out for Suprasl. The route continues on a yellow forest trail. It leads 11.5 km in the direction of the highway running past Gródek and Waliły Stacja. From Waliły Stacja to Supraśl, you should take the Green Velo trail and head towards Załuki and Królowy Most until Kolodno for the next 21 km. This is how you reach Królowy Most, Beginning at the boundary marker obelisk past Kołodno, a dirt road begins and continues until Cieliczanka, from where the bike path leads to Suprasil from the south.

- 1 **Supraśl** the capital of the Knyszyn Forest with the Museum of Icons.
- 2 January Uprising Trail with sculptures presenting the fighters and places dedicated to their memory.
- 3 Arboretum a beautiful forest garden, where you can take a walk. There is a wooden house stylised into Baba Yaga's hut, and the Knyszyn Forest Museum. Nearby is a cemetery of the participants of the January Uprising.
- 4 Silvarium a herb garden, where you can see plants native to the Knyszyn Forest, a megalith park and an interesting museum with a cross-section of an anthill. You can also observe bees at work.
- **(5) Kruszyniany** you should visit the wooden mosque, the mizar (Muslim cemetery) and try Tartar delicacies.
- 6 Wality Stacja home to the largest boulder in this part of Poland, a glacier erratic with a circumference of 19 metres.
- **7 Królowy Most** a village known thanks to Jacek Bromski's films.



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length: 52.5 km surface:

- mainly clay and dir
- good (variable in wet periods
- Białystok Supraśł: bitumen ceramic path surface of goo quality
- central section Ogronicze: nearly 1 kilometre in a lane or a road shared with cars
- past Cieliczanka on kilometr 20 of the route and in the forest – Kołodno: dirt road
- 600 metres after the entry sign of Kolodno: to the left, an exhausting unmade road section (to the January Uprising Trail)
- return to the main tail, later to the left, a forest road leading to Góra Św. Anny
- return route requiring downhi skills through the January Uprising Trail: narrow path to the edges of Królowy Most



marked route:

- Białystok Ogrodniczki Cieliczanka – Kołodno: Greer Velo, orange markings
- Part of the trail: Knyszyn Fores Bike Trail, marked according to PTTK standards as blue
- Ogrodniczki Ciasne: Kresowe Wędrówki trail, green markings



type of excursion: MTB level of difficulty: intermediate



travel time:

- without sightseeing: 4 hours
 5 minutes
- with sightseeing: 6 hours 30 minutes

On two wheels through the Knyszyn Forest

Active recreation combined with communing with the pristine nature of the Knyszyn Forest and the multiculturalism of the surrounding area – these are the main advantages of this excursion. The most important attractions along the route are the town of Supraśl with its Museum of Icons and the film-famous Królowy Most. Additionally, the forest air, with its medicinal properties, will make you pleasantly dizzy.

Route: Białystok (0 km) – Ogrodniczki (10 km) – Supraśl (15.5 km) – Cieliczanka (19.7 km) – Kołodno (26.5 km) – Góra Św. Anny (28 km) – Królowy Most (31.5 km) – Napoleon's Route (32–46 km) – Białystok (52.5 km)

Białystok is the starting point and finish line of this bicycle excursion. The route turns toward Suprasil down ul. Raginisa and an asphalt bike path. After the village Nowodworce, you will pass along the edge of the Knyszyn Forest. In Ogrodniczki, the bike path breaks off in the town. On the way, on the right side, you will pass a car park and a rest area for cyclists and then the ponds in Krasno. This is where you enter Supraśl. Surrounded by slim, fragrant Suprasl pines, the route takes ul. Cieliczańska to Cieliczanka – a small summer resort town - and reaches the village of Kołodno. On the right, you can clearly see the range of the Świętojańskie Hills. Through Kołodno, you will reach Saint Anne Mountain. The blue trail will take you farther, to Królowy Most, and from there, via the Napoleon's Route, the trail follows the blue markings to Białystok.



The proposed route for fans of trails with a lower rolling resistance: through Kolodno, without visiting Saint Anne Mountain, in the direction of the junction with National Road No. 65. There, past a charming small Orthodox church in Królowy Most, head west to the right and towards Bialystok on a 10 km section of highway with a wider dirt shoulder. This variant is strongly recommended in rainy periods, since the Napoleon's Route has a variable surface in such weather conditions.

- Białystok the city's showcase is the Branicki Palace, an excellent example of the coexistence of various faiths and cultures.
- 2 The Knyszyn Forest a freeroaming herd of European bison can be seen here. In addition to this, fans of close contact with nature can come eye to eye with deer, wild boars, does, martens, lynxes and even ermines. For the more determined watchers of nature, we
- recommend the forest streams and riverbanks, where dam-building beavers can sometimes be seen.
- 3 Supraśl one of two health resort towns in the Podlaskie Voivodeship.
 Its main attractions are the Museum of Icons and the Buchholz Palace, currently the site of the Fine Arts High School. It is also worth taking a walk on the boulevards of the Supraśl River.
- **4 Saint Anne Mountain** (202 metry elevation) the third highest mountain in this region
 - 5 Królowy Most a town that became famous thanks to the films of Jacek Bromski. As legend has it, King Sigismund Augustus, wanting to help the besotted son of a blacksmith who had to ford the river to see his beloved, ordered a bridge built over the river to make the couple's meetings easier.



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length: 46.5 km

- · asphalt: approx. 30%
- 70%
- the surface leaves much to be desired, especially between the sacred spot of Stara Białowieża and Narewka



marked route

- the route combines severa bike trails in the Białowieża Forest
- Narewka Budy: bike trail to Lady Forest, marked according to PTTK standards with blue markings
- Pogorzelce Bison Display Preserve – Białowieża: Green Velo, marked with orange and yellow signs of the Białowieża Transborder Trail
- Białowieża Narewka: Green Velo, which runs along the Podlasie Stork Trail, marked with red markings



type of excursion: tourist level of difficulty: for beginners



travel time:

- · without sightseeing: 4 hour
- with sightseeing: 6 hours

Rushing to Białowieża

The excursion from Narewka to Białowieża gives you the opportunity to directly encounter the natural and cultural wealth of the Białowieża Forest, as well as experience hospitality and courtesy, which are keenly felt in the Podlasie region. The Sioło Budy Open Air Museum, the Bison Display Preserve, the Nature and Forest Museum, the Saint Nicholas Orthodox Church in Białowieża, as well as close encounters with Białowieża European bison, are only a few of the attractions on the trail. The proposed excursion allows you to gain vitality and to become sensitised to ecological problems.

Route: Narewka (0 km) – Stoczek (1.2 km) – Budy Leśne (13 km) – Budy (14 km) – Teremiski (16.5 km) – European Bison Display Preserve (21.2 km) – Białowieża (26.5 km) – Pogorzelce (30.8 km) – Janowo (45 km) – Narewka (46.5 km)

The starting point of the proposed excursion is Narewka, called "the green land of good winds". Through the last remaining natural lowland riparian forest and the kingdom of the European bison

the largest mammal in Europe -

Preserve through Budy and Teremiski. There is a Tourist Information Point located at the entrance to the Białowieża National Park. After visiting the selected sites that the Białowieża National Park offers, you should head to the "green land" again.



A detour is possible at kilometre 24 of the route; turn right from the route to Białowieża to the so-called Place of Power of the ancient Slavs. It makes the route longer by about 8 kilometres, but people sensitive to it subtle powers may feel an indescribable sensation, only experienced by a few. Another possibility is to ride to Narewka by the red Stork Trail and turn right at kilometre 42 of the route to visit the office of the Browsk Forest Inspectorate.



- 1 Narewka Municipality often called the "green land of good winds". Why "green?" The explanation jumps into mind immediately after arriving here and seeing how close you are to the Białowieża Forest and Białowieża National Park. The "good winds" are for sailors every season is windy, which creates perfect conditions for sailing.
- 2 Białowieża National Park the remarkable Białowieża Forest lies

in two countries: Poland and Belarus. Its most precious part is the strictly protected area in the Rezerwat Protective District. It is also necessary to visit the palace park, which in the past surrounded the palace of Tsar Alexander III. Around 90 different species of trees and shrubs from Europe, Asia and North America can be seen here. O

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length: 49.5 km

surrace

- forest paths, gravel roads approx. 70%
- good quality asphalt: approx 30%



marked route

- multiple bike trails
- the signs on the entire trail are well preserved
- Białowieża Hajnówka: trail marked according to PTTK standards
- Dubicze Cerkiewne Białowieża: green marking
- Hajnówka Topiło Hajnówka: blue markings
- Hajnowka: blue markings
 Hajnówka Białowieża: Green Velo, orange, or the Białowieża



type of excursion: tourist,

level of difficulty:

level of difficulty:

intermediate, for families wit children



travel time:

- without sightseeing: 4 hours
 10 min
- · with sightseeing: 6 hours

In search of Slavic sources of power

The proposed excursion is a chance to explore the best-known attraction of the Podlaskie Voivodeship - the Białowieża Forest, It is one of the most valuable forest complexes in Europe. The Białowieża National Park, with the Bison Display Preserve, the Nature and Forest Museum, a palace park and the so-called Place of Power, will quarantee many attractions. In addition to encounters with nature, cyclists can also explore the cultural heritage of the Białowieża Forest. Orthodox and Catholic churches, open-air museums, as well as the wooden architecture typical of the region will make you feel like time has stopped, or slowed down significantly.

Route: Podcerkwa (7.2 km) – Sacharewo (25.8 km) – Hajnówka (28.8 km) – Budy (39 km) – Teremiski (41.5 km) – Display Preserve (46 km) – Białowieża (49.5 km)

The route starts at the Polish border in the geographical centre of the Białowie-ża Forest, marked with a monument that stands beyond the entrance to Białowie-ża. From there, head east on the highway. Along the first kilometre, by a wooden sign on the left, a dirt surface road

starts. At kilometre 3.5, the path branches off to the right from the main road, heading to the Place of Power. Keep going on the blue trail. At kilometre 14, look for blue markers, which will lead you to Hajnówka – the gate to the Forest. At kilometre 26, you will pass Sacharewo, and over a kilometre later, you will reach the intersection of the blue trail to the right and ul. Białowieska to the



A variant for a longer excursion (2 days):

Day 1: Bialowieża with a detour – Podcerkwa (green trail) – Topiło (blue trail) – Łozice - Orzeszkowo - Hajnówka (narrow-gauge railway, pond): around 42 kilometres. It ensures optimal use of time with the condition of the one-day loop rejected. Day 2: Hajnówka – Nowoberezowo – Czyżyki – Dubiny – Lipiny Budy – Teremiski – Display Preserve – Białowieża (ostrich farm in Nowoberezowo, variety of houses and Orthodox churches, an old cemetery in the forest near Nowoberezowo, near the cemetery chapel): around 42 kilometres. This variant allows tourists to get to know Białowieża and Hajnówka.

left. At kilometre 28.5, turn right into ul. Piłsudski and then right onto ul. Reja. Leaving Hajnówka, look for the orange markers of the Green Velo or the yellow markers of the Białowieża Transborder Trail. Entering the northern part of the forest from Hajnówka, you will see the open-air museum of the forest rail on the left. On the way, you will pass Budy and the Sioło Budy Open-Air Museum in Teremiski, and at kilometre 44, the Trail of the Royal Oaks and Great Lithuanian Princes. Close to kilometre 47, turn left into the car park at the European Bison Display Preserve, From there, take the yellow bike trail to Road No. 689. The forest adventure ends in Białowieża.

- **Białowieża** the capital of the Białowieża Forest, it offers a multitude of attractions; one day may not be enough to visit the palace park and the museum, to meet the king of the forest eye to eye and to go on a trip by trolley or chaise.
- 2 Place of Power where dowsers were able to find an accumulation of positive charges, beneficial for all living organisms. Apart from this, it is a place of worship for Slavic pagans. Trees grow in atypical, interesting shapes, and the rocks and stones lying there form a circle.
- Hajnówka remember to visit the Orthodox Church of the Holy Trinity, which hosts the Hajnówka Orthodox Church Music Days festival every year. The Miniature Park of Podlasie's Monuments is also worth seeing.



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length: 37.25 km

- asphalt of good and av
- quality: approx. 75%
 well-passable gravel roads
- from Narewka to kilometre
 of the route: asphalt
- of the route: asphalt

 Tarnopol after the black tra
- gravel until Road No. 687
- from kilometre 17 of the rout
 to Eliaczuki; acabalt
- Eliaszuki Ochrym, exit from blue trail into the red Podlasie Stork Trail: sand
- to Narewka: asphalt



marked route

- Narewka Eliaszuki: Greer Velo, orange markings
- Podlasie Stork Trail, red markings
- other bike trails (in sequence by markings): blue, black, blue, red
- Siemianówka (near the Orthodox church), Narewka (near the closed bar): maps of the area on information boards



type of excursion: tourist,

family level of difficulty:

for beginners, for families with children



travel time:

- without sightseeing: 3 hours
 10 min
- with sightseeing: 4 hours 30 min

Along Siemianowskie Lake and Narewka River

On a windless day, the trip makes an excellent choice for unseasoned fans of bicycle recreation. Although you will not see any monumental sites on it, the sublime flavours are worth tasting. The Siemianówka Reservoir, the Bread Museum in Suszczy Borek and Władysław Gryka, known for his baking, winner of awards for his bread and homemade lamb ham, the fields of wild garlic, Lewkowo mining site, the Orthodox church in Nareka from 1864, the well-preserved Jewish cemetery at the edge of Narewka – these are the attractions waiting for fans of two-wheeled travels.

Route: Narewka (0 km) – Mikłaszewo (3.3 km) – Leśna (5.3 km) – Siemianówka (10.5 km) – Tarnopol (14.2 km) – Nowa Łuka (18.5 km) – Michnówka (21.3 km) – Eliaszuki (23.2 km) – Ochrymy (29 km) – Suszczy Borek (31.6 km) – Zabłotczyzna (34.6 km) – Narewka (37 km)

The route of your adventure with Siemianówka and Narewka starts at the canoe stand in the town of Narewka, with a certified tourist information point and a canoe rental. From there, head north-west along the "axis of the town", turn left with the main road after 500 metres from the start and then turn right at the

school building. You can get from Narewka

to Eliaszuki on the
Green Velo trail
(or the blue trail
– the route then
turns to a black
bike trail). After
10 kilometres, you
will reach the Siemianówka Reservoir.





Longer excursion variant: In Eliaszuki, head right down the red Stork Trail and through Suszcza to Odrynki, where you will find a miraculously-formed Hermitage – Skit, which is the site of pilgrimages by people from all over the world, not only for Orthodox Christians. The Podlaski Stork Trail to Narew may give you troubles, which is why it is worth heading north from the centre of Odrynki and then take the asphalt road towards Narew (wooden church, Orthodox church). From here, take the blue trail – come back to the Podlasie Stork Trail at Eliaszuki: approx. 68 km. You can treat the route variant as a separate excursion, for example from Narew.

In Tarnopol, at kilometre 14, you will change directions and turn right, and at kilometre 15, after the black markings, turn left. In this way, you will reach kilometre 17, where after turning right, after 150 metres, you will take a left onto Road No. 687. Going straight ahead will lead you onto the blue trail to the right turn in Eliaszuki, before which you should take the path to the left and start the trip down the fragment of the red Podlasie Stork Trail – this is kilometre 23. At kilometre

26, there are two turns, first left and then right, and this way you will take you to where the route intersects the Narewka River. Following the red markings, you will reach kilometre 29 and turn left onto asphalt, which will lead, along the red Podlasie Stork Trail, to Zabłotczyzna, where at kilometre 35, you will go straight. After the entrance sign of Narewka, head for the axis of the town – at kilometre 36, turn left, and you will cross the Narewka River again, reaching the finish line.

- Narewka a tourist and recreation centre, where six bike trails intersect. Once home to representatives of many cultures and faiths you will find here the St Nicholas the Wonderworker Orthodox church, the Catholic St John the Baptist church, an evangelical cemetery, and a kirkut (Jewish cemetery).
- 2 Siemianówka Lake a silent refuge and paradise for bird watchers, anglers and kite-surfers. A scene from The Chronicles of Narnia: The Lion, the Witch and the Wardrobe was filmed on the lake, in which the children flee from the White Witch over the frozen surface of the lake.

Practical information



Regional Tourist Information Centre in Białystok

ul. Odeska 1 15-406 Białystok phone: +48 85 732 68 31 cit@podlaskieit.pl www.podlaskieit.pl

Tourist Service Point "BUKOWISKO" in Suprasil

ul. Piłsudskiego 64 16-030 Supraśl phone: +48 85 710 24 70 turystyka@powiatbialostocki.pl www.powiatbialostocki.pl

Tourism Centre of the Białowieża Primeval Forest Region in Hajnówka

17-200 Hajnówka phone: +48 85 682 43 81 turystyka@powiat.hajnowka.pl www.lot.bialowieza.pl