



Green Velo®

EAST OF POLAND CYCLING TRAIL

Bike Kingdom Northern Mazury

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.

1 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.



1

2 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/seniors).

2

3 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.



Organic Farm
www.zajazd-rudzewicz.pl

open: V-X

opening:

3



Zatyki

A 300-hectare safari park in Zatyki in the Szeskie Hills can be visited from May to October. The visitors can drive the park in designated vehicles in order to see the fauna, such as fallow deer, but also animals of the

4

4 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.



5

5 Excursion description

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



towards Europe Borecka Forest

The main attraction of this excursion is the amazing Wolisko, where a Display Enclosure can be visited twice a day with a mals' feeding time. The charming landscapes and many hills

6

6 Excursion information

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



Travel time:

- day 1
 - without sightseeing: 3 h
 - with sightseeing: 3 h 30 minutes
- day 2
 - without sightseeing: 5 h
 - with sightseeing: 6 h

7

7 Practical information



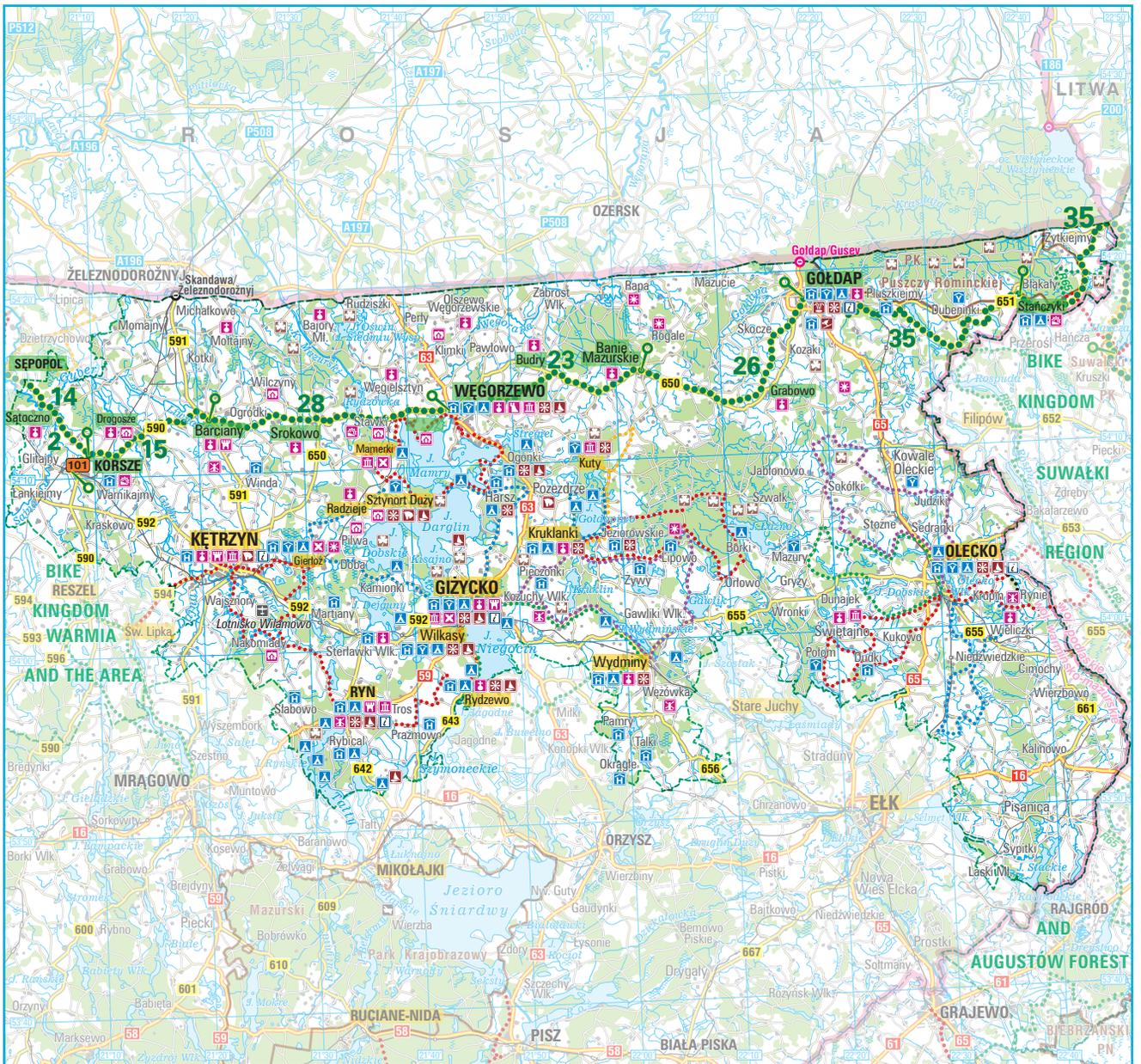
Tourist Information
bulwar Loir et Cher 4
11-600 Węgorzewo
phone +48 87 427 40 05

Tourist Information C
pl. Zwycięstwa 16
19-500 Goldap

3

Bike Kingdom Northern Mazury

Kingdom information



metres above sea level



Scale 1 : 670 000

2 0 2 4 6 8 10 km

Legend

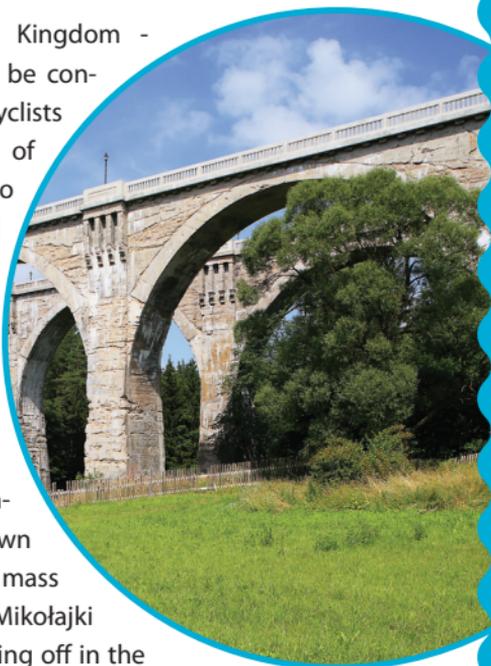
-  Boundaries of Bike Kingdoms
-  East of Poland Cycling Trail Green Velo; distance (km)
-  Other cycle trails
-  Hotels; youth hostels; campsites, camping grounds
-  Churches; museums; palaces and mansions
-  Castles; ruins; fortifications
-  Technical monuments; windmills; other tourist attractions
-  Water sports resorts; ski resorts; horse-breeding farms
-  Holiday resorts; health resorts; tourist information
-  **GOŁDAP** Tourist destinations along the Green Velo cycle trail
-  **OLECKO** Tourist destinations
-  National parks; landscape parks
-  Forests; nature reserves
-  National roads
-  Provincial roads; other roads
-  Primary railways; secondary railways
-  Airports; river ferries
-  Border crossings: road border crossings; train border crossings
-  National borders; provincial borders



Bike Kingdom Northern Mazury

The name of the Kingdom - Northern Mazury - can be confusing, especially to cyclists following this section of the Green Velo trail who expect to see lakes and sailing boats. In fact, riders may be surprised by the natural wilderness, secluded places and diverse landscapes, through which the trail leads. The route circumnavigates the best-known part of Mazury, i.e. the mass tourism destinations of Mikołajki and Giżycko, only stopping off in the northernmost town of the area, Węgorzewo.

Visitors wanting to further explore the Great Masurian Lakes further can stay in one of the best-located BSPs (Bike Service Points), lying on the shores of Lake Mamry, near Węgorzewo.



From Srokowo the trail follows a specially designated cycle route in which fields, lakes and forests prevail, and which runs along the main road making travelling through such a hilly landscape less exhausting. Just outside Srokowo, cyclists should expect an arduous uphill section, but will be rewarded with the breathtaking panorama of Diabla Góra at the top. More relaxing is the long downhill section to Leśniewo, where visitors can see the giant unfinished water locks of the Masurian Canal.

Lovers of sailing can extend their stay in the fore-mentioned Węgorzewo. There is an assortment of bike trails in the area reaching many of the interesting places around the Great Masurian Lakes. Węgorzewo and the surrounding area is very well set up for cyclists. There are specialist firms providing bike rentals and a wide variety of accommodation and service choices. Visitors may well be tempted to spend a bit longer than planned in order to have time to explore the fantastic network of bike routes in the Węgorzewo region.



Kingdom information

About 20 kilometres south of the trail, in the direction of Kętrzyn (which can be reached using new cycle roads) is the 'Wolf's Lair' – Hitler's wartime headquarters. Not far from here, in Wolisko, is a European Bison (usually seen in the wild living in Borecka Forest) show farm.

The Prussian Boyen Fortress is situated nearby in Giżycko. The sailing and outdoor activities of this wooded lake land are well known, but more great cycling adventures await further down the Green Velo trail.

East of Węgorzewo, the trail follows former railway lines. The region of Hilly Masuria, also called Wild Masuria, spreads from around the village of Banie Mazurskie to the East. The section between Węgorzewo and the border with Podlaskie Voivodeship consists of long up and downhill sections which as cyclists say, are a "leg killer". This is a reason why it is important to be reasonably fit before setting off, and to have good equipment, a supply of food and most importantly, a good sense of humour. The former railway lines lead cyclists to the second most important place along this part of the trail – the Goldap Health Resort. This interesting town with its



graduation towers and Health Resort park is located near the Russian border. It has a market square with an impressive fountain, numerous historical sites including the remains of the German World War II experimental missile development centre, and an excellent network of bicycle roads.

East of Gołdap a mysterious, Romantic Forest spreads across the land. The eastern section of this dense forest complex consists of Scandinavian taiga spruce and which is unique in Poland. The central part of the forest is marshy and barely accessible, but the region of the village of Żytkiejmy to the east, consists of vast meadows and is sometimes called the Polish prairie. It is not uncommon to encounter elk, wolves, lynxes, wild boars, martens, many bird species and almost all types of Polish forest dwellers with the exception of bears. One of the highest tallest bridges in Poland can be found in the village of Stańczyki and is an unusual attraction in this eastern part of the forest.

Past Stańczyki, the Green Velo trail takes cyclists along the border to the tripoint of the borders of Poland, Lithuania and Russia not far from the village of Bolcie, before it enters the next magical kingdom of the Suwałki Lakeland and the Augustów Plains.

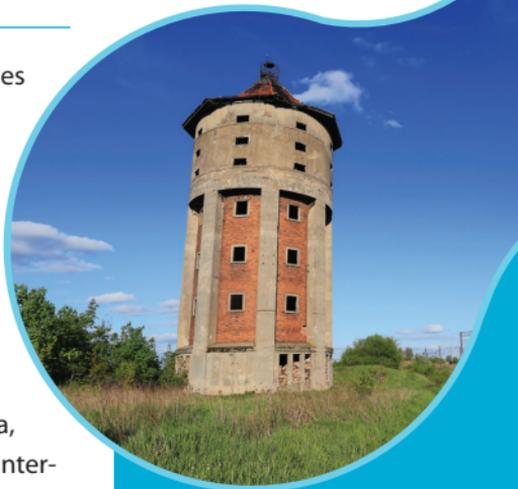


Bike Kingdom
Northern
Mazury

Tourist attractions

Korsze

This is one of the newest cities in the region – it was granted city privileges in 1962. In its history, the town of Korsze, first mentioned in historical sources in the 16th century, had a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity in the second half of the 19th century. Because of its location in Prussia, a railway hub connecting two international railroads: Berlin – Wystruć and Königsberg – Odessa was established. A large train station and adjacent maintenance infrastructure were built there, including an engine house for several locomotives, which caused a dynamic development of the town during the rest of the century. These days, not much remains of the old hub, even though it is still an important station; however, the border changes after World War II diminished its importance. Among the remaining infrastructure there are a few interesting buildings and objects, such as the train station and the vast network of tracks, but the most visible are the water towers. The balloon-shaped one was built in 1915 in place of another one, destroyed during the Great War. It is a unique, Klonne-type building, the tank of which can hold up to 500 cubic metres (500 tonnes) of water. Only three water towers of this type exist in Poland (in Dąbrówno and Runowo Pomorskie). The second tower was built in the end of the 19th century. A water pumping station is also nearby.



www.korsze.pl
www.korsze.wm.pl



Drogosze



The biggest palace in the Warmia and Mazury region was owned by the Doenhoff family, and was passed to Stolberg-Wernigerode family after the last Doenhoff owner died. It was a royal palace, one of the three where the king of Prussia could spend the night. The Baroque palace was erected in 1710–1714, and it was similar to the Friedrichstein palace, which stood on the Pregolya River and does not exist anymore. Two wings are attached to the main representative part of the palace: the right wing contained the court theatre and was intended for guests only, whereas the left one houses a neo-Gothic chapel, build in the 19th century, with symbolic gravestones of the last representatives of the Doenhoff family – their real graves are located elsewhere. All that has remained of the garden and park complex with three ponds is its general design, still visible to this day. The park is connected with a small forest, which contained a small zoo in the past.



The palace is surrounded by outbuildings, among which the most notable one is an interesting neo-Gothic barn. The nearby 14th century Gothic church contains the mortuary chapel of the Donhoff family.

Barciany

A village which had city privileges from 1628 to 1945. In the times before the Teutonic Order's conquest of the land, it was the most important town of the Bartians – one of the Prussian tribes. After the conquest it became an important centre of Teutonic administration. The oldest buildings are the Gothic castle built by Teutonic Order in the 14th century and the Gothic Church of the Immaculate Heart of Mary. The big castle (with 50-metre long wings) was built in order to improve the defence against Lithuanian raids, which often occurred in these territories. The current state of the castle is a result of the works that started after 1990, aiming to reverse the redesigns and changes to the layout made by the owners in the 19th century. Sadly, these works were never completed. The equipment in the Gothic church is modest, however it houses one of the oldest church organs in the Mazury region, installed by a company from Königsberg around 1850. Thanks to its location in the area with the most fertile lands in the region, the city's existence has always been connected with agriculture. It is surrounded by a multitude of granges; some of the manors and palaces built during that period survived to this day; however, in most cases they are in very bad condition. Examples of such castles include the impressive neo-classicistic palace in Silginy, as well as the ruined Baroque palace in Arklity.



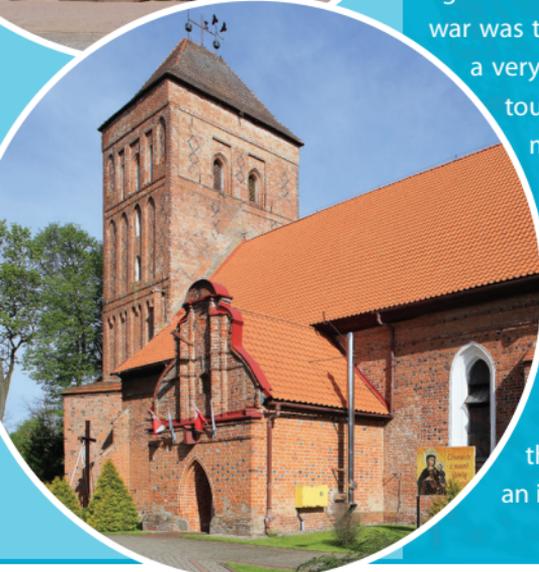
www.barciany.pl



Srokowo



www.srokowo.warmia.mazury.pl
www.oswin.org.pl

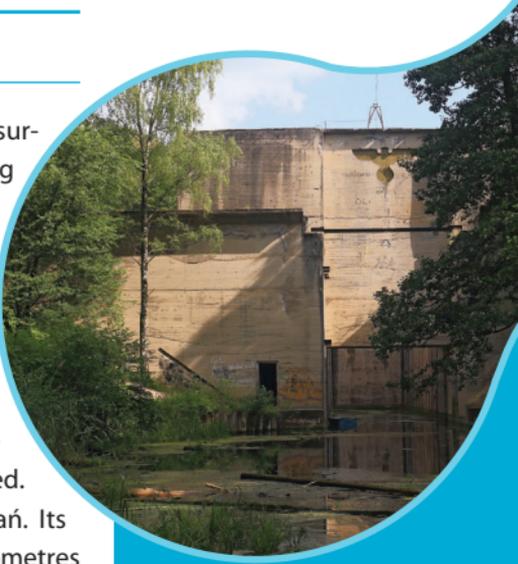


A village that had city privileges in the past, located in the foot of Diabelska Góra (156 metres elevation), where a great panorama of the east and west can be seen. It is located near the Masurian Lake District. The village's name was changed in 1950 in order to commemorate Stanisław Srokowski – an exceptional geographer, researcher of the East Prussia, Polish Consul in Königsberg, and the director of the Commission for the Determination of Place Names after World War II. Srokowo was granted city privileges in 1405. The fact that it was once a city is reflected in the layout of the buildings around the main square, a Baroque town hall and a granary. A Gothic parish church is located near the Main Square. The church was designed to be aisleless, however the structure of its wooden interiors, supported by pillars, divides the nave into three parts. Srokowo lost its city privileges in 1945 due to the fact that the damage sustained by the city during the war was too extensive. The village is a very good starting point for all tourists who want to visit the manors of wealthy lairds in Jegławki and Skandławki. A 10 km bike excursion to the Seven Island Lake Nature Preserve established around Oświn Lake can be an additional attraction for bird lovers. A hill on the western shore makes for an ideal observation point.

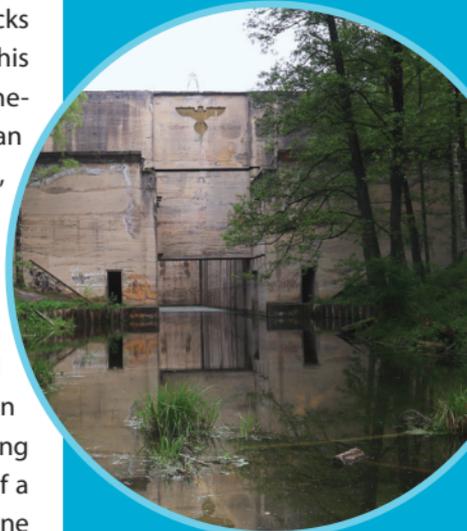
Leśniewo

The idea of connecting Masurian Lakes with the Königsberg port was first introduced in the 18th century, however neither of proposed plans was implemented. The construction of a channel on Mamry Lake began in 1911, and after 31 years it was suspended, never to be concluded.

The channel starts in Przystań. Its overall length is 50.4 kilometres (from Przystań to Alleburg/Druzhba in Kaliningrad Oblast), 20.5 kilometres of which are located in Poland. Ten water locks were planned on the channel. Two unfinished water locks in Leśniewo impress visitors to this day; the upper water lock is 46 metres long, 7.5 metres wide and can increase water level by 17 metres, and the unfinished lower water lock was supposed to have similar properties. Several hundred meters from the dike ending the upper part of the channel constructed in a bank there is an interesting roller dam, protecting the valley from flooding in case of a breakdown. On the Polish side, one of the five water locks (Piaski/Guja) on Rydzówka Lake channel is functional and complete. Near the mouth of the channel, the visitors can see unfinished large docks. A rope park located nearby is an additional attraction.



www.kanalmazurski.pl
www.kanal-mazurski.eu



Węgorzewo

The city of 11,800 residents is an important tourist centre in the northern part of the Masurian Lake District. An old Teutonic castle, built in the 14th century, still stands in the city after multiple destructions and redesigns, along with a neo-Gothic parish church built at the beginning of the 17th century with the oldest church organ in the Mazury region. A Greek-Catholic (previously Lutheran) modernist church built of red brick in the 1930s is also worth visiting.

The Museum of Folk Culture, including its open-air part, is located



Museum of Folk Culture

ul. Portowa 1
11-600 Węgorzewo
www.muzeum-wegorzewo.pl

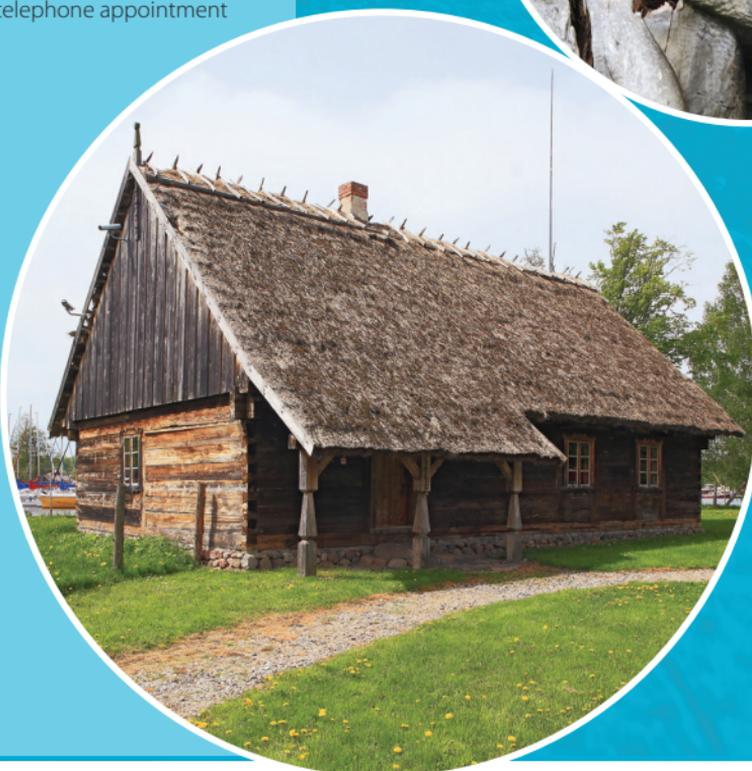


phone: +48 87 427 52 78
phone: +48 87 427 32 42



Opening hours:

- Mon – Fri, 8am – 4pm
- 15 VI – 15 IX Sat – Sun, 10am – 6pm
- 16 IX – 14 IV Sat – Sun by telephone appointment



near the port. The old train station building houses the Museum of the Railway, and the tourists can make a trip by special train to Gierłoża and Kętrzyn.

A large port for yachts and a passenger pier are connected with the nearby Mamry Lake via Węgorapa River and Węgorzewski Canal.

A World War I cemetery, where 340 German and 234 Russian soldiers were buried, is located in the southern part of the city, on a hill near the Świącajty Lake, just right by the bike loop around Węgorzewo. The hill offers a picturesque panorama of the city and its surroundings.

Georg Andreas Helwing, who was born in the city in 1666, and who lived his entire life there was the most notable resident of the city during its entire history. He was a botanist



Museum of the Railway Train Station

ul. Jaracza 4, 11-601
Węgorzewo



phone: +48 87 427 16 07



Opening hours:

• 10am – 6pm





and Lutheran pastor, the most outstanding researcher of Prussian nature, and a member of the Berlin Academy of Sciences. He created unique herbaria and collections of birds' eggs, and he also collected samples of minerals – his collection was bought by the Polish King Stanisław Leszczyński.



Port Keja

ul. Braci Ejsmontów 2
11-600 Węgorzewo
www.keja.com.pl

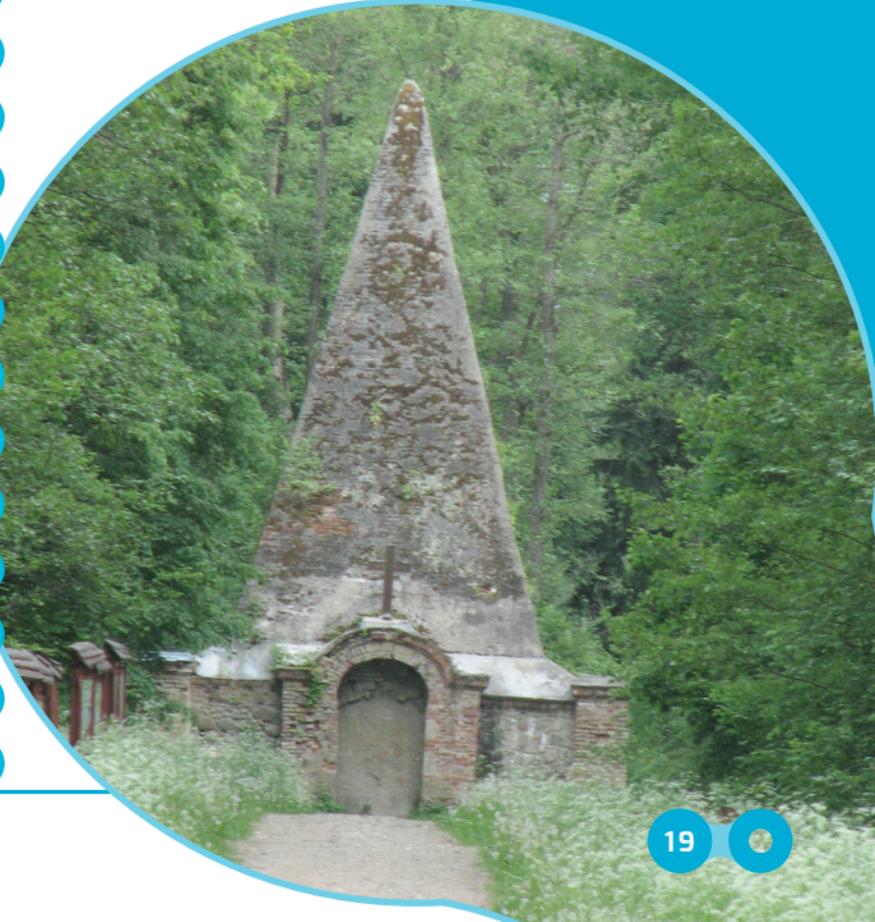
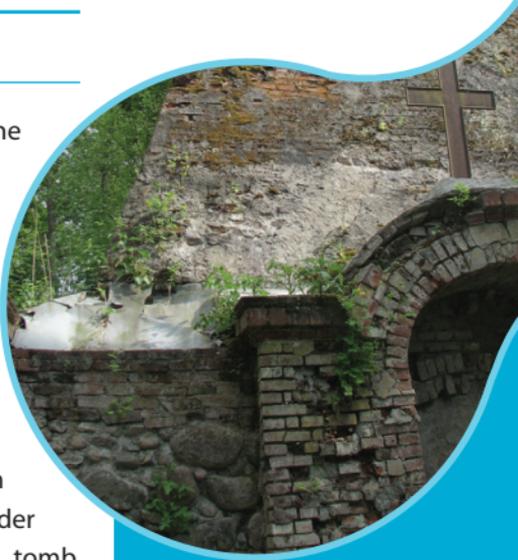


phone: +48 603 846 199



Rapa

Rapa is a town built where the estate of the Fahrenheit family known for its love of ancient classical culture once stood. The Palace in Beynuhnen, which contained a vast collection of works of art remained on the Russian side of the border. In 1811, baron Friedrich von Fahrenheit gave an order to build a pyramid-shaped tomb designed by B. Thorvaldsen for deceased members of his family. His daughter, Ninette, who died at the young age of 3 was the first one to be buried there. After World War II, the pyramid was mostly destroyed, but nowadays it is a well-maintained tourist attraction. The building is 16 metres tall and has a square-shaped base, with every side being 10 metres wide.





Zajazd Piękna Góra Rudziewicz

Konikowo 11, 19-500 Gołdap
www.zajazd-rudziewicz.pl



phone: +48 87 615 49 43



Revolving café, funicular- -chair rail

Opening hours:

- III – VI Sat – Sun,
10am – 8pm
 - VII – VIII daily, 10am – 8pm
 - IX – XI Sat – Sun,
10am – 6pm
 - XII – II daily, 10am – 6pm
- rail operation depends on the weather conditions

Line park

Opening hours:

- V–VI
Sat – Sun 12pm – 6pm
- VII–VIII
daily, 12pm – 6pm

Gołdap

A city and a health resort in the Mazury region with 13,500 residents, located near the Szeskie Hills. It was created around mid-16th century, however its stable development began in the 19th century, when the seat of the powiat was located here.

Nowadays, it is a perfect destination for the tourists in every season, even in winter – the fact that the snow cover remains for a long time made it possible to build ski lifts and a toboggan run on the slopes of Gołdapska Hill. Riding a bike up the mountain via the 1250 metres long toboggan track is quite an undertaking, but it will be rewarded with a wide panorama of the region, including a beautiful view of the Szeskie Hills, Romnicka Forest and the Węgorapy region, both on the Polish and Russian side of the border.



In the summer, the long days are what attracts tourists to Gołdap (in the summer the sun shines 1h 45m longer than in Zakopane).

The chairlift on Beautiful Hill (Piękna Góra) remains operational all year round. The Main Square with a fountain provides an excellent opportunity to rest in the city, too.

The district with all health resort facilities is located on the edge of the forest near Goldap Lake. In the forest, visitors can find a German bunker complex from World War II, used by the German scientists and soldiers for research on rockets. A border crossing open 24/7 can also be found in the city. The woods of Romnicka Forest surround the city from its eastern side.



Zatyki

A 300-hectare safari park is located in Zatyki in the Szeskie Hills. It can be visited from May to October. The visitors can drive around the park in designated off-road vehicles in order to see the local fauna, such as fallows, deer and does, but also animals from other parts of the country, such as wild sheep, ostriches and peacocks.



Organic Farm

www.zajazd-rudziewicz.pl

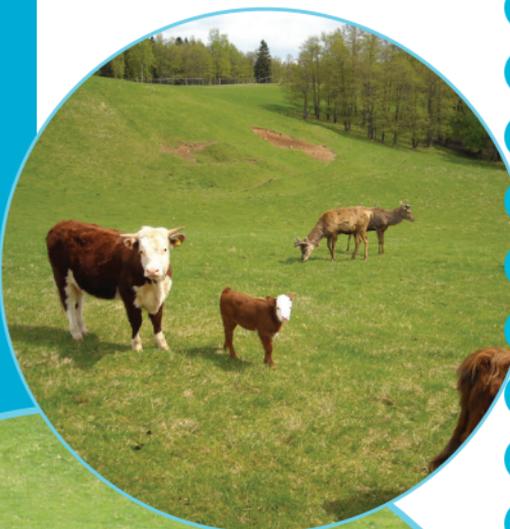


Opening hours: V – X



touring:

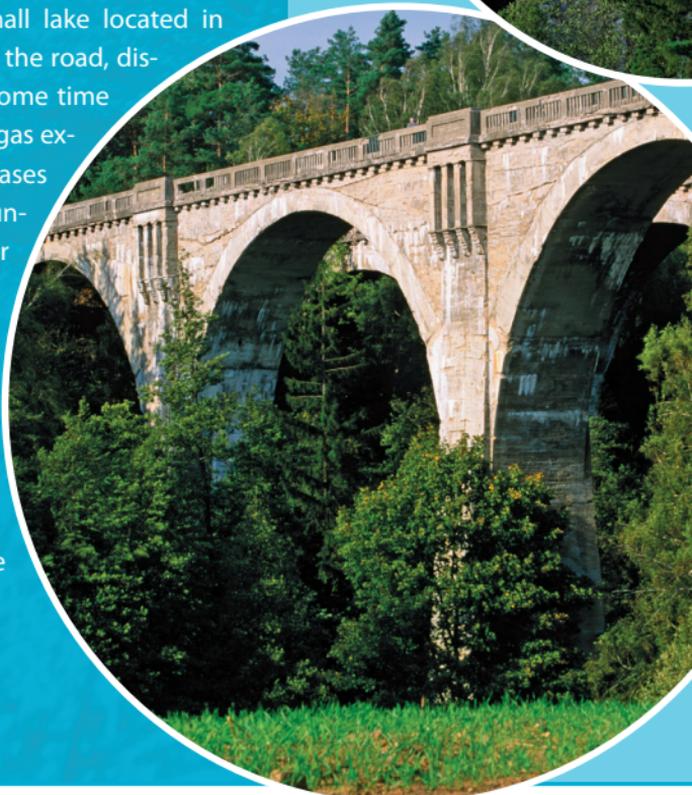
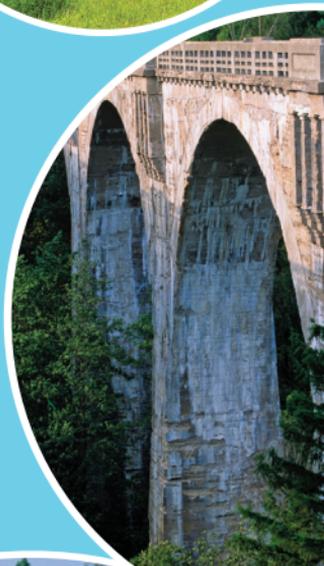
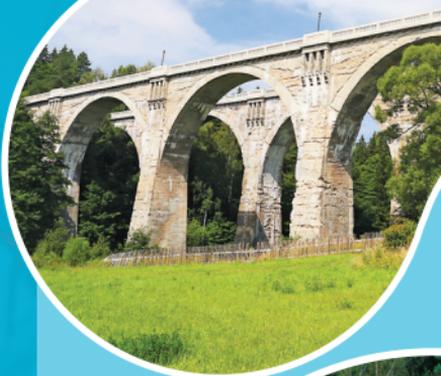
- approx. 2 hours
- safari: 1 hour
- amphibious ride: 20 minutes
- gondola ride: 30 minutes



Stańczyki

In the beginning of the 20th century, an attempt to build a railway from Prussia to Lithuania was undertaken. The southern bridge was finished just before World War I, and the construction of the northern bridge – the only bridge in use until 1945 – was finished in 1926. Due to political and administrative changes, the railway was never finished. The bridges over the deep valley of the Błędzianka River are both 36 metres high. There are more impressive constructions in the vicinity: five interesting bridges on the way between Goldap and Stańczyki – two in Botkuny over the Jarka River, two in Kiepojcie over the Bludź River and one in Kiepojcie over the road to Żabojady. They are all worth seeing.

In 1926 there was an interesting occurrence in Stańczyki. Tubellus (Dauble), a small lake located in the valley near the road, disappeared for some time as a result of a gas explosion. The gases had gathered under water, near the bottom of the lake. Low atmospheric pressure and a thunderstorm also played a part in this rare phenomenon.



Wisztyniec – a meeting point of three borders



Between the towns of Żerdziny in the Mazury region and Bolcie in the Suwałki region there is one of the few points in Poland where borders of three countries meet. The Lithuanian, Russian and Polish borders meet 150 metres north of the road. The border between Warmińsko-Mazurskie Voivodeship and Podlaskie Voivodeship also ends in this place, marked with a big granite obelisk.

The border between the two voivodeships is also a historical border between Mazury and Suwałki regions, which is visible to this day – for example, due to differences in architecture. Both this border and the current border of Kaliningrad Oblast and Lithuania were determined in the 16th century, during the reign of King Sigismund Augustus, when the borders between Poland, Lithuania and the Duchy of Prussia were established.



Bike Kingdom
Northern
Mazury

Excursions



length: 49 km

surface:

- asphalt: approx. 80%
- from the town of Solanka: bike path
- remaining roads: dirt



route partly marked

- Kętrzyn–Gierłoż: red bike trail, partly blue walking trail
- Gierłoż–Nowa Różanka: bike trail (untypical markings – cut tree stumps; yellow-green)
- from Solanka: bike path along the road (separate lane)
- from Srokowo: Green Velo



type of excursion: tourist

level of difficulty:

intermediate



travel time:

- without sightseeing: 3 hours
- with sightseeing: 9 hours 30 minutes

From Kętrzyn to Węgorzewo through Wolf's Lair and Masurian Canal

During the excursion, you can see the famous attractions of Mazury: Wolf's Lair – Hitler's wartime headquarters, and the unfinished Masurian Canal, with its impressive water locks. An interesting diversion will be a visit to Warmia and Mazury Miniature Park, which gives visitors an opportunity to explore the most important historical monuments of the region. Meanwhile, in Kętrzyn, you can see some of the oldest monuments of Mazury. The route of the excursion is connected with the East of Poland Cycling Trail Green Velo and – given the good access to Kętrzyn on public transit – may be the beginning of a longer expedition.

Route: Kętrzyn PKP train station – starting point (0 km) – Gierłoż (Wolf's Lair, 9.8 km) – Warmia and Mazury Miniature Park (10.1 km) – Nowa Różanka (19.4 km) – Solanka (27 km) – Srokowo (32.3 km) – Water Lock Leśniewo Dolne (Masurian Canal, 37.4 km) – Trygort (43.6 km) – Węgorzewo (46 km) – Węgorzewo (PTTK resort centre, 49 km)

The excursion starts at the PKP train station in Kętrzyn, and from there it leads to Gierłoż via the main streets of the city. Before leaving the city, it is worth taking a couple of hours to tour around it. After leaving Kętrzyn, you will reach the Karolewo town. You will know that you are near the next attraction of the route by the change of your surroundings into a forest, which hides Hitler's former wartime headquarters – the Wolf's Lair. Depending on how much time you have, it is worth visiting the Warmia and Mazury Miniature Park, which is about a kilometre away, in the town of Parcz. Later, the route takes you on a local road to Nowa Różanka, where you will pass a beach at the Mój Lake and





In the town of Nowa Różanka, there is a local road from Szczecinek to Solanka. The trip is extended by about 6 kilometres – thanks to the modification, you will avoid the ride on the busy Road no. 650 between Nowa Różanka and Solanka, where there is no bike path.

nature information boards by an old growth of trees. In Nowa Różanka, you can choose a route variant that will allow you to avoid a 6-km ride on the busy Road No. 650. From Solanka, the excursion runs along a comfortable and safe bike path. Then we arrive in the tiny Srokowo, a good spot for a break. From Srokowo, the trip continues on the Green Velo trail. Before Leśńiewo, there is

a cobbled road diverging to the left, which leads to the Bismarck Tower. Further attractions are the Masurian Canal and the water lock at Leśńiewo Górne. In Węgorzewo, after passing the canal, the route turns right on the promenade and passes the ethnographic part and a Teutonic castle. The excursion ends at the PTTK resort centre.

- 1 **Kętrzyn** – it is worth visiting the Teutonic Knights' castle and the museum inside, the Church of St George, which was part of the defensive system of old Kętrzyn, a historical 19th century horse stud farm famous for breeding cold blooded horses and the demonstrations in which over a dozen stallions are led harnessed together in one row (the world record the stud farm holds is 22 stallions)
- 2 **Karolewo** – the tall spires of a neo-Gothic church from the late 19th century are visible in the town.
- 3 **The Wolf's Lair** – the wartime headquarters of Hitler.
- 4 **Parcz** – the Warmia and Mazury Miniature Park.
- 5 **Srokowo** – historical buildings in the town centre.
- 6 **Leśńiewo** – the Bismarck Tower is nearby.
- 7 **Masurian Canal**, Leśńiewo Dolne lock, Leśńiewo Górne lock.
- 8 **Węgorzewo**
 - ethnographic park, a 14th century Teutonic Knights' castle, railway museum, a weir damming the waters of the Węgoropa River, the Museum of Folk Culture, the Church of Holy Apostles Peter and Paul.



length: 28.3 km

surface:

- asphalt (low-traffic roads) and concrete paving blocks (bike path): approximately 80%
- gravel roads: approximately 20%



partially marked route:

- Pozezdrze – Ogonki area: blue bike trail Blue Ribbon of Lakes trail



type of excursion: tourist

level of difficulty:

intermediate



travel time:

- without sightseeing: 3 hours
- with sightseeing: 4 hours

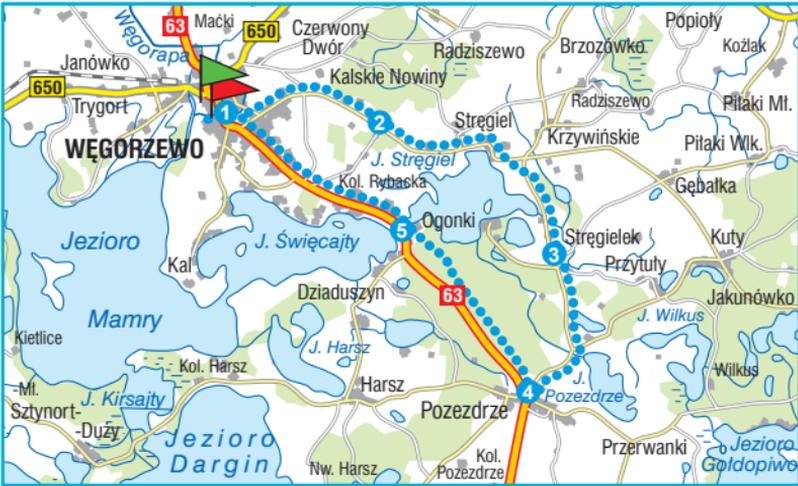
Around Stręgiel Lake

During the trip, it is worth to plan extra time to spend on the beach in several charming spots on Stręgiel Lake, or a little way off the route, on the Sapina River. An unquestionable attraction is also a sightseeing tour of the remnants of the field command headquarters of the SS in Pozezdrze. At the end of the excursion, you can rest in the centre of Węgorzewo in Helwing Park, through which the Węgorapa River – an interesting kayaking trail – flows.

Route: Węgorzewo (PTTK resort centre, 0 km) – Kalskie Nowiny (3.2 km) – Stręgiel (7.4 km) – Stręgielek (11.2 km) – Pozezdrze (15.8 km) – Ogonki (21.4 km) – Węgorzewo (25.5 km) – Węgorzewo (PTTK resort centre, 28.3 km)

From the PTTK resort centre, the excursion route leads along a promenade in the direction of the castle, and then it reaches the main road and turns right. Turning left, you can see the Church of the Holy Apostles Peter and Paul a few hundred metres farther. Riding along the main road of Węgorzewo, by the army base, the route heads towards Stręgiel. At the edges of the town, you will ride on a viaduct over the Giżycko – Węgorzewo rail line, which is currently a bike path. Next, you will pass a military cemetery dating back to World War I. In Stręgiel, there is a beach. Next the road runs towards the Stręgielek town, and before the town there is another comfortable





Before Węgorzewo, head towards the town of Kal and on the way, visit the World War I cemetery with a memorial statue. Next, head towards the town beach at Mamry Lake, from which the promenade leads to the PTTK resort centre in Węgorzewo.

Route options

access to the lake. From here, leaving the excursion route and heading right, you can reach lakeside resort centres or one of the gravel roads to Sapina River. The trail keeps going to Pozezdrze and then to Ogonki along the old train track, passing several mysterious marsh groves. A comfortable bike path

leads to Węgorzewo, but you can use a different route variant.

- 1 **Węgorzewo** – the castle built in the late 14th century was the seat of the Teutonic prosecutor. In the Church of Holy Apostles Peter and Paul, built in the early 17th century, pay particular attention to the decorations, particularly the oldest organs in Mazury with a natural sound.
- 2 **World War I cemetery** – reminds visitors of fierce combat during the First Battle of the Masurian Lakes in 1914.
- 3 **Stręgielek** – pay attention to the pre-war architecture of the farmsteads.
- 4 **Pozezdrze** – during World War II, the woods in the vicinity of the

village hid the field command headquarters of the SS. In 1945, it was blown up by sappers. The best-preserved element is Heinrich Himmler's bunker, stronger than the others. Information boards outlining the local history have been set up in the area, and an educational nature path runs here as well.

- 5 **Ogonki** – a bunker stands by the bridge, which used to guard the narrow isthmus between the lakes. In the interwar period, the town and Świącjay Lake were one of the most important iceboating centres in Europe.

Tourist attractions on the route



length: 74.3 km

surface:

- most of the route: asphalt
low-traffic roads



partially marked route

- Kutý–Jakunów: green bike Trail of Masurian Legends
- Gołdopiwo Lake–Jaziorowskie Lake isthmus: blue hiking trail
- Podleśne colony – Wolska: green bike Trail of Masurian Legends
- Pozezdrze – Ogonki area: blue bike trail Blue Ribbon of Lakes



type of excursion: tourist

level of difficulty:

advanced



travel time:

day 1

- without sightseeing: 3 hours
- with sightseeing: 3 hours
30 minutes

day 2

- without sightseeing: 5 hours
- with sightseeing: 6 hours

Towards European bisons in Borecka Forest

The main attraction of this excursion is reaching Wolsko, where a European Bison Display Enclosure can be found. You can tour it twice a day with a guide, at the animals' feeding time. The excursion is full of charming landscapes stretching out from the many hills on the route. Supplementary attractions include a rest at Gołdopiwo Lake, the demolished rail bridge in Krukłanki and the remnants of the command headquarters of the SS in Pozezdrze.

Route: Węgorzewo (PTTK resort centre, 0 km) – Stręgiel (7.4 km) – Kutý (15.8 km) – Jakunówko (19.3 km) – Jeziorowskie (24.7 km) – Wolsko (36 km) – Możdżany (41.6 km) – Krukłanki (50 km) – Przerwanki (55 km) – Pozezdrze (62 km) – Ogonki (67.3 km) – Węgorzewo (71 km) – Węgorzewo (PTTK resort centre, 74.3 km)

The excursion begins at the PTTK resort centre in Węgorzewo, passing by the Teutonic Knights' castle after a few hundred metres. Next it runs along the main street of the city and after about a kilometre it heads towards the town of Stręgiel. On the way, it passes into the former rail tracks of the Giżycko–Węgorzewo rail line (currently used as a bike path) and then, closer to Stręgiel, it runs by a World War I military cemetery. A picturesque point is the bridge of the Gołdopiwo Lake isthmus. In the town of Jeziorowskie, there are several resort centres as well as food markets. This is a good spot for a night stay for tourists who want to divide the trip into two days. Next the route changes direction to the east and enters Borecka Forest. Halfway





Route options

Approximately 4 km past Stręgieł, at the intersection, turn towards Gębalka. This is the Trail of Masurian Legends, which leads back to the basic route through Piłaki Wielkie, Grodzisko and Diabla Góra. The distance of this variant is similar to the excursion route.

through the forest, the Trail of Masurian Legends branches off to the right, leading to Devil's Stone after several hundred metres. In Wolisko, there is the European Bison Display Enclosure. The route leads to Kruklanki along a local road. Before the town, a marked gravel road leads to a demolished rail viaduct over the Sapina River – the river itself is an interesting kayaking trail. In

Kruklanki, there are several restaurants, shops and resort centres. Farther on, the route leads to the beach at Goldopiwo Lake. Another attraction is the water lock in the town of Przerwanki. A local road with picturesque views leads to Pozezdrze. The route to Ogonki runs along an old rail embankment, and from there to Węgorzewo, down a bike path.

- 1 **Węgorzewo** – the 14th century Teutonic castle. In 1945, along with much of the town, it was burned, and later reconstructed in its present form.
- 2 **Borecka Forest** – inhabited by a herd of free-ranging European bison. Crossing the forest, you can admire old tree growths and several marsh groves.
- 3 **European Bison Display Enclosure in Wolisko** – it can be toured at the animals' feeding time.
- 4 **Przerwanki** – a water lock and a bunker.
- 5 **Pozezdrze** – the forest covers the former command headquarters of the SS. Most of the bunkers were demolished, but one remains well-preserved – it belonged to Heinrich Himmler.

Tourist attractions on the route



length: 55.3 km

surface:

- asphalt low-traffic roads: around 80%
- past Ogonki (approx. 2 km): loose gravel
- along the Masurian Canal: path, bumpy in places, designed for MTB



marked route:

- Węgorzewo: Green Velo
- past Ogonki – past Sztynort: the route connects with the blue trail Blue Ribbon of Lakes (approx. 1.5 km)
- past Sztynort – Masurian Canal: the trail partly overlaps with the red hiking trail
- from the Masurian Canal: green hiking trail
- Leśniewo–Węgorzewo: Green Velo



type of excursion: tourist

level of difficulty:

intermediate



travel time:

- without sightseeing: 6 hours
- with sightseeing: 8 hours 30 minutes

Around Mamry Lake

The excursion runs mainly in the vicinity of lakes, giving visitors the opportunity to rest and admire the sights. On the route there are famous Masurian attractions: the palace in Sztynort along with the park, the best-preserved Masurian World War II bunker complex in Mamerki, and the large hydraulic engineering construction of the Masurian Canal and its impressive water locks.

Route: Węgorzewo (PTTK resort centre, 0 km) – Ogonki (11 km) – Okowizna (19.3 km) – Harsz (21 km) – Sztynort (29 km) – Kamionek Wielki (33.8 km) – Mamerki (38 km) – water lock Leśniewo Górne (43.2 km) – water lock Leśniewo Dolne (43.8 km) – Trygort (49.9 km) – Węgorzewo (PTTK resort centre, 55.3 km)

The excursion begins in Węgorzewo at the PTTK resort centre, follows the promenade towards the castle, before which it crosses Węgorapa River at the weir damming the river. Next the trail leads along the promenade to the Green Velo cycling trail, from which a comfortable bike path branches off along the old rail track towards Ogonki. Here, the bike path moves to the old rail track of the Węgorzewo–Giżycko line and then connects with the bike trail Blue Ribbon of Lakes and follows the shore of the forest Lemięt Lake to Okowizna. Next on the trail you can admire the picturesque views of Harsz Lake and Dargin Lake, along with the road to Sztynort. The next attraction is Mamerki. Next the





Route options

- You can shorten the route by several kilometres in Ogonki, by leaving the bike path and riding through the town on the main road, and then turning right towards Harsz (black hiking trail).
- Another shortcut variant is riding through the town of Przysań to Green Velo (excludes the ride along the Masurian Canal and the water locks) from the excursion.

excursion reaches the Masurian Canal and runs alongside it – in some areas, it is difficult and requires getting off your bike. The effort is repaid by the surrounding nature, including many signs of beaver feeding grounds. The path leads to the water lock Leśniewo Górne, and

then to the water lock Leśniewo Dolne – from there the Green Velo trail leads back to Węgorzewo. In Węgorzewo, the excursion follows the promenade beside the ethnographic park to the PTTK resort centre.

1 Węgorzewo

- ethnographic park
- 14th century Teutonic Knights' castle. In 1945, along with much of the town, it was burned, and later reconstructed in its present form
- railway museum
- weir damming the waters of Węgorzapa River – the damming of the Węgorzapa dates back to Teutonic times.

- 2 **Ogonki** – a World War II bunker by the bridge, an example of fortification on the strategic passage between the lakes. Before the war, Ogonki and Święcajty Lake were famous for iceboating. Here, in the iceboat Firebird (Ognisty ptak),

speed records of the time were broken.

- 3 **Okowizna** – an early 20th-century palace.

- 4 **Sztynort** – an alley of monumental oaks leads into the town; there is a stately palace from the 17th century and a park with a several hundred years old tree growth.

- 5 **Mamerki** – a well-preserved bunker complex, the former command headquarters of Nazi land forces. The complex can be toured; there is also a small World War II museum.

- 6 **Masurian Canal** – water locks at Leśniewo Górne (construction almost finished) and Leśniewo Dolne.

Tourist attractions on the route



length: 16 km

surface:

- most of the route: asphalt and concrete paving block bike paths
- gravel road: approx. 4 km



marked route:

- Węgorzewo (to the city limits): separate bike path (partly Green Velo)
- farther to the cemetery and observation point: gravel local road
- next: separate pavement and estate road
- town beach – resort centre: promenade



type of excursion: tourist

level of difficulty:

beginner



travel time:

- without sightseeing: 2 hours
- with sightseeing: 3 hours

Around Węgorzewo

The route of the excursion is very recreational and intended for families with children. It is also safe, running mostly on separate bike paths. The attractions awaiting tourist on the way include: a railway museum in Węgorzewo, then a trip along a bike path over an old rail track. Farther along the route is an observation point looking out onto Święcajty Lake and the mysterious Kalska Column. The excursion ends with a rest on the town beach at Mamry Lake.

Route: Węgorzewo (PTTK resort centre, 0 km) – World War I cemetery, 9.4 km) – Kalska Column (11.5 km) – town beach (13.8 km) – Węgorzewo (PTTK resort centre, 16 km)

The route initially follows the promenade along Węgorapa River, passing the castle, the Museum of Folk Culture and several yacht ports. Then the promenade leads along the Młyński Canal and joins Green Velo at the main road. If you turn left here, you can reach the railway museum.

Green Velo leads the excursion to the outskirts of Węgorzewo, where a bike path runs along the old rail track. From the bike path, you should turn right onto a gravel road towards the World War I cemetery (note: you will need to cross a busy street). Next the route leads along the shore of Święcajty Lake with several rest spots. At the road to Kal, the excursion route diverges to the right. On the way, you will pass the





It is possible to extend the excursion by heading to Pozezdrze via Ogonki on the bike path, and returning the same way.

Route options

Kalska Column. After this, you will enter Węgorzewo again – you should turn left on the estate road, ul. Zbożowa, which leads to the town beach at Mamry Lake. The last section of the excursion is on the promenade along Węgorza River and Węgorza Canal.



- 1 **Węgorzewo** – a promenade along Węgorza River, a castle, the Museum of Folk Culture, several yacht ports and a railway museum in the building of the old train station. The town is a significant sailing centre on the trail of the Great Masurian Lakes.
- 2 **World War I cemetery** – an observation point with an imposing panorama of Święcajty Lake; it reminds visitors of the combat in the First Battle of the Masurian Lakes that took place near Węgorzewo in 1914.
- 3 **Kalska Column** – dated to 1537, the cause for its creation has been described on decorative information boards.
- 4 **Mamry Lake** – there is a swimming area with a lifeguard at the town beach, with a view of the main basin of the lake.
- 5 **Węgorza River and Węgorza Canal** – a waterway for yachts and ships sailing to harbours in Węgorzewo.

Tourist attractions on the route



length: 72.3 km

surface:

- Green Velo route and to Ściborki and Żabin: gravel
- remaining section: asphalt



marked route

- Węgorzewo – Banie Mazurskie: Green Velo
- Budry – Węgorzewo: bike path along Road No. 650 attention! no bike path past Więcki (3 km), high traffic road
- remaining section of the route: no tourist markings, local roads with low traffic



type of excursion: tourist

level of difficulty:

advanced



travel time:

day 1

- without sightseeing: 3 hours
- with sightseeing: 4 hours

day 2

- without sightseeing: 3 hours
- with sightseeing: 4 hours

Pyramids and Indians in Mazury

The excursion runs through a terrain with picturesque views. The Green Velo trail portion of the excursion leads along the old rail track; you can see buildings of an old Masurian village. The main attractions are the Ściborska Republic, where harness dogs are bred, as well as an Indian museum, and a pyramid in Rapa – a place of power. In the small Żabin there is a church built in 1652, and in Węgorzewo's Church of the Holy Apostles Peter and Paul you can hear the oldest organ in Masuria.

Route: PTTK resort centre (0 km) – Budry (MOR, 13.6 km) – Banie Mazurskie (24.2 km) – Republika Ściborska (31 km) – Żabin (35.7 km) – pyramid in Rapa (38 km) – Banie Mazurskie (46 km) – Budry (58.5 km) – Więcki (61.8 km) – Czerwony Dwór (67.7 km) – Węgorzewo (69.6 km) – Węgorzewo (PTTK resort centre, 72.3 km)

The excursion begins at the PTTK resort centre, where it follows the promenade towards the castle, and then – by the Museum of Folk Culture – to the Green Velo cycling trail. On the section to Banie Mazurskie, the path runs along the old rail track. The route splits off from the Green Velo trail in Banie Mazurskie.

Next the excursion leads to Ściborki. Passing the small towns, you can see the construction of Masurian buildings. After passing through Żabiń, you will reach the next attraction, which is the Fahrenheit family mausoleum – the pyramid in Rapa. In Rapa, an alternative route splits off.

The main excursion reaches Banie Mazurskie and then Budry, along the same route that continues





Route options

- Return to Węgorzewo along local roads near the national border through the towns: Mieduniszki, Dąbrówka, Ołownik, Jakunowo, Maćki.
- -Return from Banie Mazurskie to Węgorzewo along the same route – the Green Velo trail.

jointly with the Green Velo trail. From Budry, there is an asphalt bike trail (attention! there is a 3 km section with no trail, you will have to

travel along Road No. 650). In Węgorzewo, the route leads down the main road to the town centre.

- 1 Old rail track** – on the Węgorzewo–Banie Mazurskie section, the bike path runs along the old rail track. In the interwar period, Mazury had a dense network of rail connections and Węgorzewo was an important railway depot.
- 2 Banie Mazurskie** – a small town in which buildings from the early 20th century can be seen, along with a 16th-century church, which was significantly damaged during World War II and then rebuilt.
- 3 Ściborki** – the village is the site of the Ściborska Republic and an Indian and Eskimo culture museum. The idea of ecological life is propagated here. The centre is run by Biegnący Wilk, a participant in extreme dogsled races. The animals living here can also be seen (minimum tour time: 1 hour).
- 4 Żablin** – a church built in 1652.
- 5 Piramida w Rapie** – the mausoleum of the Fahrenheit family, shrouded in mystery as a place where the energy of the cosmos can be felt. The site is connected with the family palace in Beynuhnen (today in the Kaliningrad Oblast, Russia), which is famous for its art collection.
- 6 Węgorzewo** – the Church of Holy Apostles Peter and Paul, built in the early 17th century. Inside, pay particular attention to the decorations, particularly the oldest organs in Mazury with a natural sound.

Tourist attractions on the route



length: 21 km

surface:

- asphalt
- gravel
- Bauma-type paving blocks



partly marked route:

- Goldap – intersection to Zatyki: green hiking trail



type of excursion: tourist

level of difficulty: beginner



travel time:

- without sightseeing: 3 hours
- with sightseeing:
5 hours 30 minutes

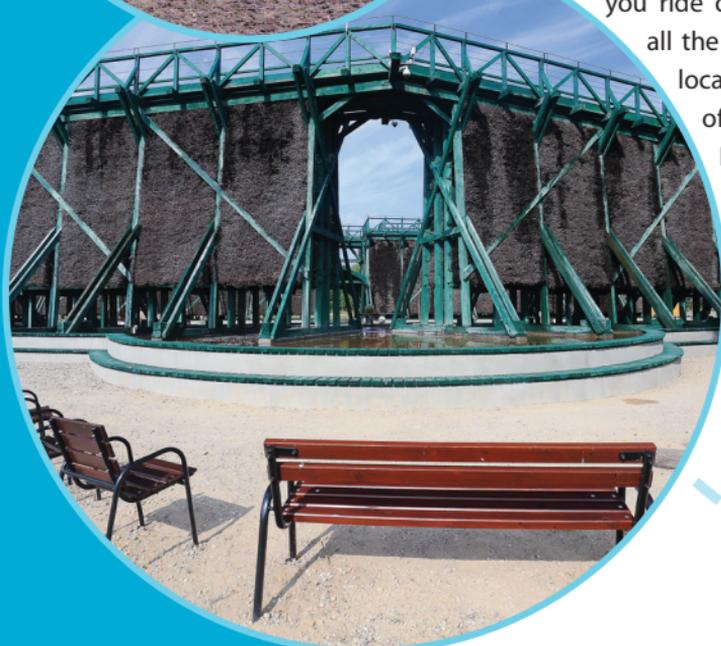
To the Szeskie Hills

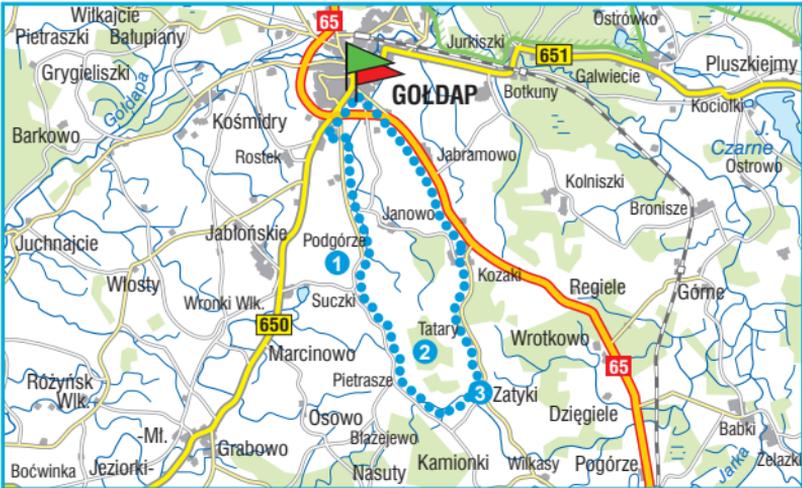
The excursion leads through the range of the Szeskie Hills, one of the highest elevations on the Eastern European Plain east of the Vistula. The goal of the excursion may be the safari park in Zatyki. The section from Goldap may be more difficult to complete because of an uphill approach, but the rest of the route is easy.

Route: Goldap (0 km) – Tatarska Hill (surrounding area, 7.7 km) – Pietrasze (8.5 km) – intersection to Zatyki (10.5 km) – Zatyki (12 km) – Tatary (14.3 km) – intersection to Kozaki (16 km) – Goldap (21 km)

The goal of the excursion is the safari park in Zatyki. On the way, you will pass the Beautiful (Gołdapska) Hill. Next, the trail leads towards the Tatarska Hill, where a lake is located – in order to reach it, you need to divert several hundred metres east of the route of the excursion.

After viewing the safari park in Zatyki, the return to Gołdap is easy, as you ride downhill almost all the way to the city located at the edge of the Romnicka Forest, which can be seen on the northern and eastern side of the road.





Route options

Along the part of the route, the bike path is accompanied by a green hiking trail, which is entirely accessible to cyclists. The excursion can be extended to Borecka Forest and Goldapiwo Lake.

- 1 **Piękna (Gołdapska) Góra** – you can see the landscape of the Węgorapa region and Romnicka Forest, as well as of the entire Gołdap from above.
- 2 **Tatar Hill** (308 metres elevation) – the highest-situated lake in Mazury is located here. It is a small, overgrown water reservoir located at 293 metres elevation. Tatar Hill is part of the Szeskie Hills – a geographical land in the Masurian Lake District, the highest peak of which is Szeska Hill (309 metres elevation). The region is colder than the surrounding areas (approximately 1°C),

and the snow cover lasts longer here.

- 3 **Safari Park in Zatyki** – in an area of approx. 300 hectares, the diverse terrain among hills and ponds is the habitat of fallow deer and red deer, as well as Manchurian sika deer, wild boars and boar-pig hybrids. The only habitat of maral deer – the largest of deer – in Europe can be found here. In addition, you can find mouflons, the arui wild sheep, tarpans (Polish horses), long-haired yaks, guanacos, llamas, ponies, cows, Highland and Hereford cattle, Cameroon sheep, goats, and even zebras and camels. IN the park, you can see also birds: white eagles, cranes, herons, cormorants that have their nests in the swamps, as well as exotic ostriches, peacocks and pheasants. The farm is toured in an all-terrain vehicle. Tours must be arranged in advance at the Piękna Góra Inn in Gołdap.



Tourist attractions on the route



Tourist Information Węgorzewo

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