

Bike Kingdom At the Vistula Lagoon

East of Poland Cycling Trail
Green Velo

Table of contents

How to use this guide	3
Map of the kingdom	4
Legend	5
Kingdom information	
Bike Kingdom At the Vistula Lagoon	6
Tourist attractions	
Elbląg – Old City	9
Bażantarnia (Pheasantry) in Elbląg	12
Elbląg Upland	14
Łęcze	15
Vistula Lagoon	16
Kadyny	18
Tolkmicko	20
Suchacz – Battle of Vistula Lagoon	22
Frombork	24
Braniewo	26
Nowa Pasłęka	28
Excursions	
Braniewska Loop	30
Elbląg Canal trail	32
The Mennonite trail	34
The Postman's trail	36
Around Druzno Lake	38
Practical information	40



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/

Suchacz – Battle

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.



Excursion map

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



Excursion description

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



The excursion leads thro to an interesting examp engineering - the dam River and the hydroeled in Pierzchały. At the

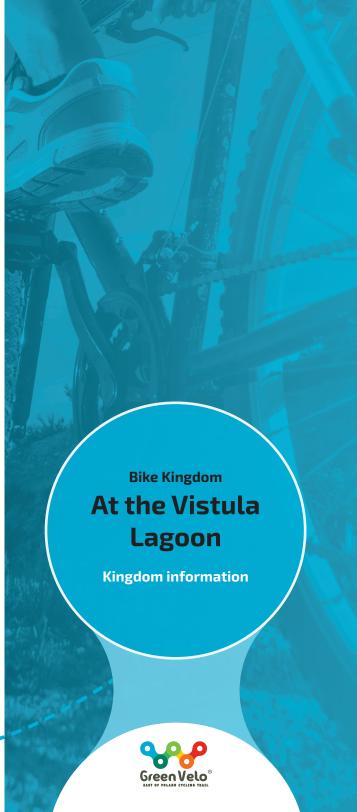
Excursion information

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

Practical information



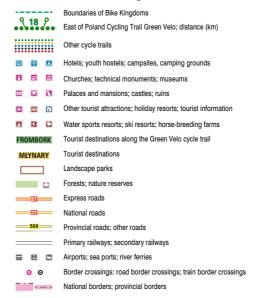






Scale 1 : 410 000

Legend





Bike Kingdom At the Vistula Lagoon

The East of Poland Cycling Trail Green Velo starts (and finishes) in the kingdom of the Vistula Lagoon, whose name derives from this vast body of water separated from the open sea by the Vistula Spit. Only between Braniewo and Elbląg will you find parts of the trail where you are able to see the surface of the Baltic Sea from your saddle.

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The landscape of the Vistula Lagoon Kingdom is remarkably diverse. The area is divided into three smaller regions, each quite different from the next. There is the flat region of Žuławy Elbląskie, the hilly beech forest covered landscape of Elbląg Upland, the Vistula Lagoon shore and the Western Warmian plains. Elbląg, Frombork and Braniewo, all three worth a visit in their own right, are the most important cities that the trail passes through.

The trail begins (and ends) in Elblag, an important transport centre and the second biggest city of the Warmia and Mazury Voivodeship. This Hanseatic harbour town once competed against Gdańsk for the title of the most important harbour in the Republic of Poland. The city, rebuilt after wartime destruction, is now the first (or last) point for riders following the Green Velo trail.

To the South and West of Elbląg there are the Vistula River delta and the fertile Żuławy Elbląskie regions. Although flat as a pancake, Żuławy is not at all monotonous to ride through. It owes much of its magic to the majestic weeping willows, leaning as though in a pensive mood over omnipresent canals. Most Żuławian villages contain impressive gothic churches built from brick, and characteristic arcaded houses in which rich peasants used to live. The shallow and overgrown Druzno Lake, a paradise for water and marsh birds, is the pearl of Żuławy. Also in the vicinity is the settlement of Raczki Elbląskie, which is the lowest point in Poland. The whole Żuławy area is a marshy depression, drained over time through the long-lasting efforts of many generations of inhabitants. The spirit of the Mennonites – Dutch religious outcasts who found their second

of the First Republic of Poland is still present here. Their melioration skills are largely responsible for the current look of Żuławy.

homeland in the area during the times

The Elbląg Canal - constructed in the 19th century - is a place of unique European interest and reopened in 2015 after some years of restoration works. The Canal leads from Elblag to Ostróda and a canal tour here means nothing more surprising than travelling by boat ... across the grass! This unusual journey is possible, because aside from the locks found on most canals, there are also five inclined plains along the water trail, which form a set of very unusual hydro-engineering places of interest.

The Elbląg Upland forms the middle part of the kingdom and begins in the forest park of Bażantarnia in Eastern Elbląg. Cycling through the Upland area is a serious challenge for riders as altitudes differ significantly throughout the many steep up and downhill sections. This entire area is divided by numerous little valleys and ravines and is covered with beech forests, which are protected within the Elbląg Upland Landscape Park. Over a hundred years ago this was a popular hunting region for the German Emperor, Wilhelm II, who frequented his residence in Kadyny.

The trail runs through the hills of the Upland along asphalt and dirt roads to the shore of the Vistula Lagoon near Suchacz. There it follows the railway through the charming little harbour town of Tolkmicko to Frombork – Nicolaus Copernicus' hometown. From the top of Radziejowskiego Tower on the Cathedral Hill stretches a vast and breath-taking panorama, which incorporates the Vistula Lagoon, the meadows in the valleys of the Bauda and Pasłęka Rivers, and the broad meadows of Warmia, through which both rivers flow. The route to Braniewo is along the Lagoon shore, which then meets the banks of the Pasłęka River. This region is the cultural and historical borderland of the neighbouring kingdom of "Warmia and the area" and used to be inhabited by pagan Prussian tribes before they were destroyed by the Teutonic Order in the 12th and 13th centuries... but the best way to get to know this story is by visiting the very spot where it all happened...

Braniewo is the last place on the trail in the kingdom of the Vistula Lagoon worth visiting. This Warmia town was founded in the Middle Ages and it belonged to the Hanseatic League and operated as an important commercial harbour. In spite of its partial destruction during the Second World War, there are still a number of interesting historical sites there. The trail passes through the centre of Braniewo near the picturesque Pasłęka River, and then leads visitors towards the plains of Warmia, which is the next kingdom on the trail.

There are many well-signed bike routes in the kingdom of the Vistula Lagoon. Strongly recommended routes are to the aforementioned mentioned Druzno Lake in Żuławy, and the remarkably diverse Elbląg Upland.



Elblag - Old City

It is worth to see Elblag, the oldest and the second biggest city in the Warmian-Masurian Voivodeship, from above - from one of the tallest church towers in Poland - the tower of the Cathedral of St Nicholas, which is 95 metres tall. The city was given town privileges in 1246. It used to be an important port town, belonging to the Hanseatic League. Up until 1309, the headquarters of the Order of Brothers of the German House of Saint Mary in Jerusalem was located here. After the Second Peace of Thorn, between 1466 and 1772 Elblag belonged to Poland, and under the reign of King Sigismund II Augustus it was an important military and commercial port, connected with the entire world known by the contemporary Europeans. Standing on the observation deck, visitors will be able to see a wide panorama





The Old Town Hall

ul. Stary Rynek 25 82-300 Elbląg



Tourist Information Point Opening hours:

- Mon Fri. 9am 6pm
- Sat Sun and holidays,



of the city and its surroundings. The Old Town was completely destroyed

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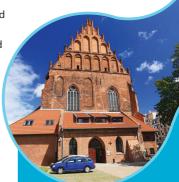
in 1945 and later the process of rebuilding began according to the old urban plans, however the new buildings were built using modern technologies and original stylistics, which was a unique undertaking. Nowadays the Old Town stuns with its beauty. Visitors may get acquainted with the

history of the city as well as the results of archaeological excavations in the museum, located in a preserved part of the castle. Among other monuments which are interesting for the visitors are the City Gate (Brama Targowa), St Mary's Church (which currently houses an art gallery – Galeria EL), the old Holy Ghost Church with hospital (currently a library) and a Town Hall, rebuilt in a modern form. A sea port and industrial facilities can be seen near the Old Town. Modern Elbląg is an important industrial



centre, focusing on machine and electrotechnical industry.

The city also houses universities and other institutions of higher education, a drama theatre and other cultural institutions. It may also serve as a great starting point for all tourists who want to see the north-western part of the region by riding on the Green Velo Trail.

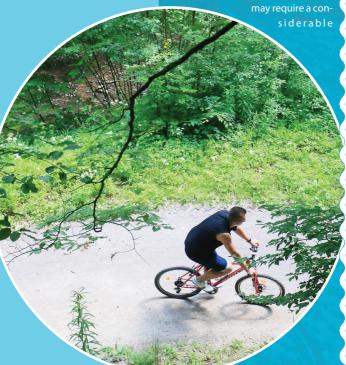






Bażantarnia (Pheasantry) in Elbląg

A significant area of the forests (370 hectares), city since 1913, is located on the southwestern edge of the Elblag Upland. For many years, it served as a traditional place of recreation for residents of the city. Steep hills and slopes are covered by a beautiful beech and hornbeam forest. The Silver Creek Valley and the Devil's Stone entice the tourists to take a walk. The park can be traversed by hiking trails; however, using a bike is also possible, even though it



physical effort. Bikes may also be left behind near Myśliwska restaurant in order to hike using a blue trail, which leads back to the starting point after 10 kilometres, the hikers can also use a slightly easier yellow trail of similar length (9 kilometres), which also ends watchful hiker may sometimes see some wild animals: does, wild boars, foxes and birds. Mount Chrobry (also known as Krucza), the highest mountain in the area is located close to the park. It offers a panorama of the city and the Vistula Lagoon. The Pheasantry is located at the edge of the Elbląg Upland Landscape Park - a further part of the Green



Elbląg Upland

Elblag Upland Landscape
Park was established in
1985 in order to protect
the unique landscape
of unexplained genesis,
forests with variety of
natural life growing over
50% of the park, as well as
man-made objects such as
historic buildings in Kadyny.
It encompasses the northern

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area of the Elblag Upland, including the highest mountain of the area – the Silver Mountain (Srebrna Góra, 198.5 metres above sea level), as well as the south-eastern shore of the Vistula Lagoon. The overall area of the park is 134,6 square kilometres, and the offices of Park's administration are located in Elblag.



Elblag Upland Landscape Park

ul. Bohaterów Westerplatte 1 82-300 Elbląg www.pkwe.pl



phone: +48 55 611 45 90 **phone:** +48 663 502 525



Łęcze

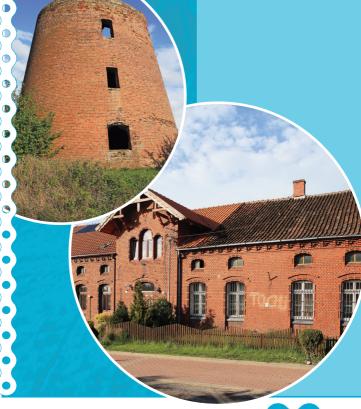
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Łęcze is an old village, established in the 12th century, with an old church built in 1746. Apart from its picturesque location, the village attracts visitors with rare arcaded houses, built on wooden skeleton which was filled with bricks. Such houses appeared in the region with the Mennonites, who arrived from the Netherlands in the 16th century. The village also has a viewpoint, located over 150 metres above sea level, from which the Vista Lagoon can be seen.





Łęcze Society www.lecze.com.pl



Vistula Lagoon

For many kilometres the Green Velo Trail runs along the Vistula Lagoon, a Baltic Sea •

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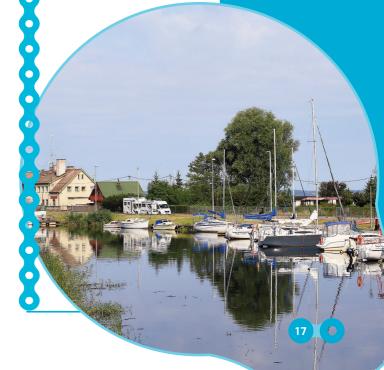
bay with the area of 838 square kilometres, 328 of which belong to Poland. It is separated from the sea by Vistula Spit, although in Copernicus" times there were only small islands through which one could navigate to the open sea. Nowadays ,the only way to

the open sea leads through the Strait of Baltiysk in the Russian part of the Lagoon. The bay, which was known by the name of "Fresh Lagoon" in the past, and which was given its current name in early 20th century, is not deep. The average depth of the water is about 2.7 metres, with a maximum



depth of 5 metres (on the Russian side). In the Polish part, the bay is approximately 7-8 kilometres wide. Because of the shallow water, sailing on the lagoon is possible only in designated channels, which were previously deepened. Only ships with a draft of up to 2.5 metres may sail these channels. These water lanes are indicated by fixed beacons and floating buoys, which are illuminated at night. The waters of the Vistula Lagoon are brackish, saltier in the northern part and fresher in the south. Because of that quality, the bay is a habitat for both saltwater and freshwater fish like herrings. eels, perches and zanders.

It is worth remembering that the Polish part of the Lagoon is three times bigger than Śniardwy, the biggest Polish lake.



Kadyny

Kadyny is a town located in the foot of the Elbląg Upland, with a large beach on the Vistula Lagoon, tourist facilities and rich history. From 1431, the manor, previously owned by the Teutonic Order, became a property of Johannes von Baysen, leader of the Prussian Confederation. Later in history one of the owners, Edward Birkner, bequeathed the manor to Wilhelm II, the German

or to Wilhelm II, the German Emperor. In 1898, the emperor became the formal owner of Kadyny, and the following years were a golden age for the village. A court complex was built here, a horse farm, farmhouses,



a school and a church, destroyed after 1945. The entire complex was designed by architects from Berlin and built out of red brick in the same style. A famous maiolica tile factory was also built here, along with a Baroque palace on the border with "Kadyński Las" nature preserve. An old, 700 years old oak commemorating Johannes von Baysen can be found here. 10 metres in circumference and 25 metres high, it is one of the oldest trees in Poland. The hollow in its trunk could accommodate 11 imperial soldiers. Near the oak, there is a trail, leading to a historic Franciscan monastery built in the 18th century, and to a nearby observation tower, which offers a beautiful panorama of the Vistula Lagoon.





Tolkmicko

This is a port city on the Vistula Lagoon, with approximately 2800 residents. It offers a modern yacht port with facilities for tourists (bathrooms, showers, etc.) as well as a fishing port. Vessels from the passenger pier sail to Krynica Morska, a town which is located only 8 kilometres from Tolkmicko. The city was established in 1299 by the Teutonic Knights. Among the preserved monuments, there is the Old Town, built according to the medieval principles of arrangement, with parts of the old defensive wall and a corner tower from the 14th century, as well as a Gothic church, which was rebuilt multiple times, with a fascinating

interior. A 1736 sculpture of St John Nepomucene, the patron saint of

travellers, stands in front of the

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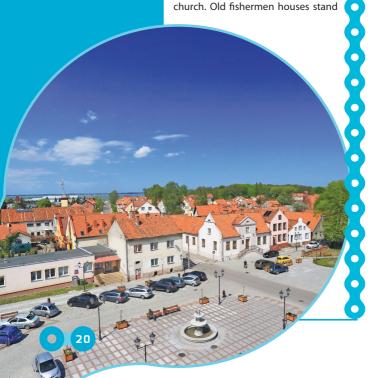


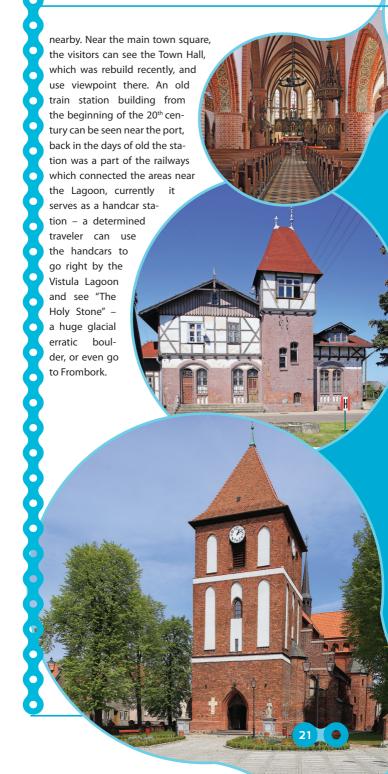
Tourist Information

ul. Swiętojańska 1 82-340 Tolkmicko



phone: +48 55 231 61 82





Suchacz – Battle of Vistula Lagoon

Suchacz is a small village and a summer resort located on the shore of the Vissmall beach and a pier. commemorates the great event that immortalised the village in the annals of history, stands in the town. On 15 September 1463, a great naval battle, known as the Battle of Vistula Lagoon, was fought. Residents of Elblag and Gdańsk fought against the Teutonic navy in one of the battles of the Thirteen Years' War. The battle erupted when the Teutonic Knights decided to move their fleet and troops from Königsberg to the river, in order to help the city of Gniew, which was besieged by Polish forces. A blockade of the river forced the

Knights to turn back. Near Suchacz, 44 vessels belonging to the Teutonic Knights met with 30 vessels from Elblag and Gdańsk. Thanks to the efficient actions of the Polish fleet, they managed to force the Teutonic fleet to sail to the shallow waters of the Vistula Lagoon, where Polish forces boarded the Teutonic ships and won the battle. The Grand Master of the Order, who was aboard one of the ships, managed to flee all the way back to Königsberg. The defeat caused the Order to fall into debt, and it is not an exaggeration to say that the Thirteen Years' War was won because of that naval battle, which today remains mostly unknown to the general public. Three years after the battle, as a part of the Second Peace Treaty of Thorn, the Warmia and Pomerania

nexed by Poland.





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Nicolaus Copernicus Museum

ul. Katedralna 8 14-530 Frombork www.frombork.art.p



phone: +48 55 244 00 71

Frombork

A city in the Warmia region, established in 1310 and located near the Vistula Lagoon, with a passenger and fishing port, and approximately 2600 residents. In medieval times, it belonged to the chapter house of Warmia, and served as the seat of the chapter since 1288. Between 1329 and 1388, the chapter built a magnificent cathedral dedicated to the Assumption of the Virgin Mary and St Andrew the Apostle along with surrounding fortifications. From 1510 until 1543 Nicolaus Copernicus, a canon of the chapter, lived in the city with some short breaks. All his research and the writing process of De revolutionibus orbium coelestium took place here. In 1945, 80% of the the town was destroyed, and in the years 1967-1973 the city was restored

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during the countrywide scout action "Operation 1001 Frombork", commemorating the 500th birthday of the astronomer. The entire centre of the town was then rebuilt, and a lot of precious monuments were restored. While visiting the Archcathedral Basilica it is worth to spend a while and listen to one of the best pipe organ in Poland, built in 1930s and restored after the war, decorated with a beautiful casing from 1684. The tomb of the great astronomer is another place worth seeing. The Ferber's Palace houses the Copernicus Museum. The Radziejowski Tower, erected in the 18th century serves as a viewpoint for the entire area, and houses a planetarium in its octagonal base. Apart from Cathedral Hill it is worthwhile to visit the Museum of Medicine in the Hospital of the Holy Ghost, with the chapel of St Anne.





Opening hours:

- Cathedral:
- Polltowor
 - daily 9 30am 5pm
- Hospital of the Holy Ghost Tues – Sun. 9.30am – 5pm





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www.braniewo.pl

Braniewo

The Green Velo Trail that runs along the Pasłeka River leads to the town of Braniewo, the oldest town of the region with 18,300 residents, which was granted town privileges in 1254. The Baroque church of the Holy Cross, built at the beginning of the 18th century, stands near the town's border and the river. Braniewo used to be a sea port, part of the Hanseatic League, a centre of education and literature, but currently only a yacht pier with Jesuits, invited to Poland by Cardinal Stanislaus Hosius, settled here in 1565. They established a school in the town - Collegium Hosianum. After the Society of Jesus was suppressed, the school was turned into Gymnasium Academicum, later renamed Lyceum Hosianum. In 1912 it became a State Academy.



In the course of the World War II the town lost many valuable monuments. Some of the most important were rebuilt. The town's skyline is dominated by the Gothic Church of St Catherine, and rebuilt from ruins in the 1980s. The old moat houses a botanical garden and a zoo. A Baroque House of Converts was built outside the Old Town in the 18th century, it currently houses a library. A large war cemetery of the Red Army soldiers fallen in 1945 is located near the road to Frombork. There is a railway border crossing with Russia, and in the nearby towns of Grzechotki and Gronowo are road border



Nowa Pasłęka

Nowa Pasłęka is a small villocated near the Vistula Lagoon. There is a large yacht port with tourist facilities (showers, bathrooms), which is the northmost port of the so-called Żuławy Loop, as well as a big fishing pier. The village is located very close to the border with Kaliningrad Oblast (Russian Federation). A careful observer will notice the buoys which indicate the border between the two countries. The village is located near the 0

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lage is located near the spot where Pasłęka River (known in the past under the name Pasaria) connects with the Vistula Lagoon. It is important to note that Pasłęka is the third longest Polish river which directly flows into the sea, bested only by the Oder and the Vistula. Pasłęka forms a delta composed

of a three distributaries, one of them contains a beach with a view on the border with Russia (the seaside forest grows

on the other side of the border). From the westernmost promontory, a beautiful view on the southern part of the Vistula Lagoon with Frombork

can be seen.





length: 29 km surface:

- acnha
- · cobblestones



the route is unmarked



type of excursion: tourist level of difficulty:

ntermediate



travel time:

- without sightseeing: 2 hours
- · with sightseeing: 4 hours

Braniewska Loop

The excursion leads through calm roads to an interesting example of hydraulic engineering – the dam on the Paslęka River and the hydroelectric power plant in Pierzchały. At the largest artificial lake in the region, you can rest at the beach. Two possible routes lead back to Braniewo – the excursion takes the shorter route, but you can come back through Frombork and Nowa Paslęka.

Route: Braniewo Stare Miasto (0 km) – Pierzchały (village, 10 km) – Pierzchały (power plant, 10.8 km) – dam by Pierzchalskie Lake (11.9 km) – Pierzchały (beach, 12.8 km) – Czosnowo (intersection, 15.7 km) – bridge over Road S22 (20.8 km) – Braniewo (old town; 29 km)

The excursion starts in Braniewo. Its goal is to reach the hydroelectric power plant in Pierzchały, about a kilometre from the dam, and then a drive to the artificial reservoir – Pierzchalskie Lake. At the lake, there is the opportunity to rest and return to Braniewo via a shorter route, with 13 kilometres left to go. There is also a variant return route, which means an additional 35 kilometres through

Chruściel. On a farther section of the route, you will pass over the "Berlinka" expressway.

to reach Frombork after a dozen or so kilometres.
Touring Cathedral Hill in town could take several hours. A return to Braniewo is possible via a Green Velo trail through Nowa Pasłęka or via the motorway through Stępień, which shortens the trip by ap-

proximately 6 kilometres.





Return trip from the Pierzchały beach through Chruściel, Frombork and the Green Velo trail through Nowa Pasłęka to Braniewo; the route is 35 km long.

- 1 Braniewo the old town in Braniewo ceased to exist in 1945 as a result of wartime actions and post-war destruction. From the former city the oldest in Warmia only the gate tower of the bishop's castle remains, one of the oldest buildings in the region, along with the enormous Church of St Catherine. There are also several smaller historical monuments, including the granary on the Pasłęka River. Braniewo was once a port city belonging to the Hanseatic League.
- 2 Hydroelectric power plant in Pierzchały a sizeable site with an interesting technical design, located approximately a kilometre from the dam, connected to it with a canal running on the western short of Pasłęka River approximately 12 metres above its surface.
- 3 Pierzchalskie Lake the largest artificial body of water in the region.
- 4 Pasłęka River almost the entire length of it is a beaver nature preserve. It is the third longest river in

Poland, flowing directly into the sea.

- 5 Chruściel a village with an interesting church, and a large fuel depot with a wide supply track from Russia.
- "Berlinka" formerly the motorway to Königsberg, today – an expressway.
- Frombork a city connected with Nicolaus Copernicus. While touring Cathedral Hill, it is worth it to climb Radziejowski Tower and admire the expansive panorama, as well as check out a show at the planetarium, listen to an organ music concert performed on the cathedral's excellent instrument. as well as view the richly decorated Warmia cathedral, in which the recently uncovered tomb of renowned astronomer, Nicolaus Copernicus, should be noted. Operating on Cathedral Hill is the Nicolaus Copernicus Museum. Also worth noting is the Museum of Medical History, located beyond the Hill, and the unique Water Tower – a remembrance of the old waterworks from 1572.



length: 49 km surface:



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type of excursion: tourist level of difficulty:

Elblag Canal trail

This excursion lets you explore the oneof-a-kind Elblag Canal - a waterway that covers, over the distance of approximately 10 kilometres, an altitude difference of nearly 100 metres between the Iława Lakeland and Żuławy Elbląskie, and the inclined planes used for ship transport that operate in the canal. In Buczyniec, you can tour the canal museum and the machine room of an inclined plane. Additionally, the route leads through Żuławian villages with characteristic buildings, to the lowest point in Poland located in Raczki Elbląskie. You can also reach the nature preserve at Druzno Lake.

Route: Zielonka Pasłęcka PKP (0 km) - Marzewo (2.5 km) - Drulity (6 km) - intersection with Road No. 526 (7.5 km) - Buczyniec (intersection to inclined plane, 10.45 km) - Katy (inclined plane, 11.15 km) -Oleśnica (inclined plane, 14.05 km) - Jelenie (inclined plane, 16.25 km) - Jelonki (18.4 km) -Marwica (21.15 km) - Dzierzgonka (28.74 km) -Krzewsk/Żółwiniec (33.44 km) – Węgle (40.04 km) - Raczki Elbląskie (46.6 km) - Elbląg (city limits, 49 km)

The excursion starts at the railway station in Zielonka Pasłęcka. From the railway station, head down the route via the local road through Marzewo and Drulity after the first inclined plane in Buczyniec.

Near the intersection to the inclined plane, on Road No. 526 over the canal is an interesting reinforced concrete bridge. In the vicinity of the inclined plane in Buczyniec, there is an overnight campsite. Next, the route leads to the next three inclined planes: Katy, Oleśnica and Jelenie (reaching the fifth inclined plate in Caluny Nowe requires a detour of several hundred metres from the trail). Next,





After the following town of Dzierzgonka, at the intersection of the Żółwiniec-Krzewsk road, it is worth taking a detour to Druzno Lake

the trail leads to the village Jelonki. (nature preserve). Another attraction along the route is the lowest point in Poland, located in Raczki Elblaskie. The excursion ends at the administrative border of Elblag.

- 1 Zielonka Pasłęcka you must visit the Baroque sanctuary in the village.
- Reinforced concrete bridge near the inclined plane in Buczyniec, along Road No. 526, is one of the oldest reinforced concrete bridges in northern Poland, built in 1894.
- 3 Inclined plane Buczyniec at the end of the section of the Elblag Canal running from Miłomłyn. The inclined plane is located approximately 100 metres above sea level; running over 9 kilometres from it, with the help of five inclined planes, ships descend nearly 100 metres in elevation. Located in Buczyniec is an interesting museum, where visitors can explore the history of the channel and where an inclined

plane machine room is available for

- 4 Jelonki in this village there is a boulder that memorialises the residents who died in World War I, as well as a Gothic church from mid-14th century and arcaded houses.
- **5 Dzierzgonka** a swing bridge over the Dzierzgoń River is located here, built in early 20th century, no longer operating due to the lack of sailing traffic on the river.
- Druzno Lake a nature preserve.
 - Raczki Elbląskie near the village is the lowest, natural point in Poland, lying 1.8 m below sea level, marked with a sign.



length: 31.60 km surface:





type of excursion: tourist level of difficulty:



travel time:

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The Mennonite trail

The excursion runs through the Żuławy Wiślane area. The route is flat and does not present difficulties. Along it you can find elements of the culture of the Mennonites who lived in the Żuławy until 1945, as well as explore the unique Żuławy house architecture and Mennonite cemeteries. Those interested in technology will see numerous canals and drainage ditches, as well as technological equipment used to maintain the terrain in a state that allows for habitation and farm use.

Route: Raczki Elbląskie (0 km) – Tropy Elbląskie (4.22 km) – Żurawiec (5.79 km) – Jezioro (9.04 km) - Balewo (11.23 km) - Markusy (13.44 km) -Różany (17.76 km) - Rozgart (21.64 km) - Szaleniec (28.44 km) – Stare Pole (33.24 km)

The excursion begins near the southern administrative border of Elblag within the area of the village Raczki Elbląskie.

> Mennonite historical monuments, in Tropy Elblaskie, Jezioro, Rozgart and

> > Markusy.

Along the entire trail, cyclists will find old arcaded which homes, once belonged to the wealthiest peasants. The excursion ends in Stare Pole, a municipality village with a railway station on the Elblag-Malbork line.





The excursion ends in Stare Pole at the railway station. From here, you can take the train to the nearby Malbork or return to Elblag. Riding along National Road No. 22 is not recommended on account of high traffic and the lack of a separate shoulder. This poses a significant danger to cyclists. There is also the possibility to continue along the Mennonite Trail to Gdańsk.

- 1 Raczki Elbląskie in the village near the road along which the trail runs, and in the vicinity of Lake Druzno, is the lowest point in Poland. It lies 1.8 metres below sea level (there are lower areas in Żuławy, but they are a result of peatbog utilisation).
- 2 Mennonite historical monuments in Żuławy - from the 16th century until 1945, this area was inhabited by the Mennonites, religious refugees from the Netherlands, who found shelter in Poland. They knew how to drain wetlands and established their homes in the dried areas. Their families were generally wealthy, with the status of independent peasants, who held property and could administer it themselves. The year 1945 put an end to the Mennonites' stay in this area.
- 3 Tropy Elblaskie a Mennonite cemetery.
- 4 Jezioro in the village is a Mennonite cemetery and an old neo-Gothic Mennonite temple, built in 1898-1899. There is also a

neo-Gothic Catholic church here, which used to be a Protestant church. In the village, you can find examples of Dutch construction, in which residential and farmhouse buildings were parts of a whole.

Markusy – a Mennonite cemetery. 6 Rozgart – located in the village are a Mennonite cemetery and an old Mennonite church built in 1890, today used by the Catholics. Its freestanding bell tower is built with a wider base, which stabilises it on the difficult terrain. On the levees are buildings of the pumping station, one of many in Żuławy.





length: 46.1 km surface:

aspha



the route is marked

 marked according to PTT standards - vellow trail



type of excursion: tourist level of difficulty:



travel time:

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

The Postman's trail

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The excursion is fairly easy, although several fairly demanding uphill sections cannot be avoided. It runs along a fragment of the long-distance Postman's Trail (129 km) leading to the Iława Lakeland. Visitors remaining in Elbląg are advised to take the train to Zielonka Pasłęcka and return to Elbląg. Zielonka Pasłęcka is located approximately 100 metres higher than Elbląg. Along the route, you can see interesting historical sites, including the city of Pasłęk.

Route: Elbląg (0 km) – Gronowo Górne (0.9 km) – Nowina (4 km) – Przezmark (5.7 km) – Pilona (9.5 km) – Myślęcin (10.8 km) – Pasieki (12.3 km) – Weklice (13.6 km) – Aniołowo (15.6 km) – Marianka (18.9 km) – Pasłęk (21.8 km) – Gołąbki (27.1 km) – Rogajny (30.2 km) – Surowe (33.6 km) – Kwitajny (36.3 km) – Zielno (38.9 km) – Kronin (43 km) – Wójtowizna (46.1 km) – Zielonka Pasłęcka (47.5 km)

The excursion begins at the Zielonka Pasłęcka railway station and leads through many interesting towns

> such as Zielonka Pasłęcka or Kwitajny. It is worth making a

longer stop in Pasłęk, originally called Prussian Holland. Flowing through the town, located at the edge of the Iława Lakeland, is the River Wąska. On the way to Elbląg, the route leads through the interesting village Aniołowo and through Przezmark, located in the Elbląg Upland. From here, the route descends nearly 80 metres, to Żuławy Wiślane and Elbląg.



The excursion can be shortened – take the train to Paslęk and return to Elbląg.

- 1 Zielonka Pasłęcka an old village with a Baroque church from the late 18th century. Of note is also the Divine Mercy image brought from a village in Volhynia by the people forced out of their homes following World War II.
- 2 Kwitajny a large property with a palace, church and preserved farm buildings, which belonged to the Donhöff family. Until 1945, they were owned by Marion Donhöff, a journalist. She described her escape from Prussia in the book more. The building complex forms a picturesque whole with the surrounding landscape. Also worth visiting is the adjacent cemetery.
- 3 Pasłęk once known as Prussian Holland after the Dutch settlers brought here to drain the marshes and wetlands. It received town privileges in 1279 and is one of the oldest cities of the voivodeship. Despite serious damage during World War II, valuable historical monuments have been preserved. The way to the old town, which is surrounded by defensive walls, leads underneath a Gothic gate. At the market square is a Gothic arcaded

town hall from the 14th century. The Gothic Church of St Bartholomew from the 14th century is famous for the exquisite organ made by the Hilderbrandt company in 1719. The old Teutonic Knights castle, rebuilt many times, currently serves cultural purposes. Also worth noting is the Stanisław Pankalla Ecological Park – a good place for a rest.

- Wąska flowing through Pasłęk, located at the edge of the Iława Lakeland, is the Waska River - a kayaking trail to the Druzno Lake.
- Names That No One Mentions Any- 5 Przezmark an old church built by the Prussians in the 13th century, under an agreement with the Teutonic Knights.





length: 45.7 km surface:

- concrete slabs
- asphal
- short sections of cobblestone and gravel



the route is marked

 marked according to PTT standards - blue trail



type of excursion: tourist level of difficulty:



travel time:

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

Around Druzno Lake

The entirety of the excursion takes place in Żuławy Wiślane, in the lowest area in Poland. It leads to the natural depression in Raczki Elbląskie, and around Druzno Lake, once a sea bay, and now a known nature preserve under protection, also under the Ramsar Convention. The excursion allows for the exploration of drainage drainage measures, which allows for the protection of Żuławy from flooding. The trip ends in the vicinity of Janów – the place where the legendary town of Truso was discovered.

Route: Elbląg (0 km) – Raczki Elbląskie (at the road to the depression, 2.4 km) – Jurandowo (intersection, 12.7 km) – Żółwiniec (intersection to observation tower, 15.5 km) – Dzierzgonka (bridge, 20.1 km) – Stankowo (most, 26 km) – Węzina (bridge, 42.05 km) – Komorowo Żuławskie (45.7 km)

The excursion begins in Elbląg. Its main attraction is the lowest natural place in Poland, found in Raczki Elbląskie. The trail leads through the depression area over the levees that secure Dru-

zno lake. It is worth noting the buildings in the villages

passed along the route

- they are very well organised, and some of the homes, to avoid danger of floods, stands on terpen, artificial dwelling hills. Near the village of Żółwiniec by Druzno lake is an observation tower. Next the route passes the village of Dzierzgonka.





- From the intersection in Zółwiniec, it is possible to reach the observation tower at Druzno lake by bicycle (approx. 2 km).
- From Komorowo Żuławskie, instead of taking the train to Elbląg, you can take the old road No. 7 (approx. 10 km).

Near the last part of the excursion, in the vicinity of the village of Janów, was the location of Truso – an old maritime trade settlement. The excursion ends at the railway station Komorowo

Żuławskie. Instead of returning to Elbląg by train, you can come back to the city via the old road No. 7 (10 km) – currently a local road.

- Raczki Elbląskie located here is the lowest natural place in Poland (1.8 metres below sea level). It is located within a depression, which can be seen while riding along the levees that maintain the Druzno Lake levels.
- 2 Druzno Lake an interesting fact is that the bottom of the lake is below sea level and is a cryptodepression. Druzno was once a sea bay, which is currently a nature preserve, a shallow reservoir with a maximum depth of 2.5 metres. Running through its centre is a water track to the Elblag Canal. Because of the occasionally occurring backflow from the Elblag Bay, the water in the lake is slightly saline.
- 3 **Dzierzgonka** in the village that lies on the Dzierzgoń River is an antique swing bridge, which was still in use in the 1970s, when goods were transported by water.

- The bridge is one of three such sites in the vicinity of Elbląg (the remaining two are railway bridges in Elbląg and Rybina).
- Janów in the late 20th century, this was the site of the discovery of a maritime trading settlement, described in the 9th century by the traveller Wulfstan, used to exchange products between the Prussians and the Slavs, as well as other European peoples.



Practical information



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