



## **NEWSLETTER 4/2021**

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fot. M. Achtel

If you want to get to know Warmia and Masuria, to really discover its charms, why not do it by bike? The region is ideal for all kinds of cycle tourism.

Getting around by bike makes it possible to cover large distances while still reaching areas of natural beauty with numerous reserves, natural landmarks, and a myriad of lakes, both large and small ones hidden deep within forests. You can visit historical buildings in large and small towns and marvel at picturesque views of fields, meadows and villages scattered along the moraine plateaus and hills.

The region's rich network of roads is suited to cycle tourism as the roads are mainly gravel (preferred by cyclists) but also asphalt roads which have minimal traffic. The terrain will satisfy everyone – amateurs cyclists, those who like to take family outings, and those looking for together expeditions.

## GREEN VELO IN WARMIA AND MASURIA



fot. M.Achtel

The tourist bicycle trail called Green Velo runs through five voivodeships from the eastern part of Poland: Warmia and Mazury (Warmińsko-Mazurskie), Podlasie (Podlaskie), Lubus (Lubuskie), Subcarpathia (Podkarpackie) and Holy Cross (Świętokrzyskie). Its total length amounts to 2000 km. The route runs partly along existing roads, partly along bicycle paths. It gives an opportunity to see interesting landscapes and enjoy sights of the regions mentioned above.

In the Warmia and Mazury voivodeship the route reaches 397 km, of which around a half runs along special bicycle paths. The majority of them is located in the middle and eastern parts of the route. You can follow the Green Velo trail from Elbląg, through Frombork, Braniewo, Pieniężno, Górowo Iławeckie, Lidzbark Warmiński, Bartoszyce, Korsze, Węgorzewo till you get to Gołdap and the eastern border of the region, in order to continue your trip in the Suwałki region. The trail is well marked with orange, metal plates with the trail's logo. Information about the distances between places or the locations of the nearby attractions is provided as well. Moreover, there is information about side routes leading to interesting places or communication junctions. On the trail tourists will find cyclist service areas - roofed places with parking space for bicycles which gives them the opportunity to find shelter from rain or just simply some rest.

In Warmia and Mazury the trail runs through three so-called cycling kingdoms. This term is used to describe interesting areas around the trail. In the western part of the region, near Elbląg, we speak of the kingdom of the Vistula Lagoon, then we have the kingdom of Warmia and its surroundings, and in the eastern part of the trail the kingdom of the Northern Masuria.

In each of these "kingdoms" there are circular routes marked out in the field or only described in guidebooks, allowing you to make a day trip around the main route. When you are for

example in Braniewo, you can visit Lake Pierzchalskie, the largest dammed lake in the region, and see the 100-year-old hydroelectric power station. From Górowo Iławeckie it is worth cycling to the stork village Żywkowo to admire the birds nesting there. In the area of Węgorzewo one of the trips leads around the second largest lake in Poland, Mamry. From Goldap you can go to Szeskie Hills and get to the safari park. But these are of course only examples of routes.

Detailed planning of the route is possible due to publications, including maps (available at the Provincial Tourist Information Centre in Olsztyn), and on the portal [www.greenvelo.pl](http://www.greenvelo.pl). It has extensive functions enabling you to get to know the values and attractions on the trail, but also to select a section according to your interests and physical fitness.

In our region the Green Velo trail is not technically difficult. Apart from some minor ascends in the Elbląg Upland and in a few other places, it does not require much effort, although it leads through a scenically interesting area with many monuments - well-known but always worth visiting, such as the Old Town in Elbląg, the Cathedral Hill in Frombork, the Bishop's Castle in Lidzbark Warmiński. There are on the route Braniewo, Pieniężno, Górowo Iławeckie and other small towns less known by tourists.

The greatest opportunities for riding on separated cycle paths are in the eastern part of the trail. Starting from the railway station in Korsze, you can ride these roads all the way to Goldap. A good starting point is also Kętrzyn, from where a separate cycling route leads to Srokowo (except for a 6 km section that has to be covered on municipal roads). There are also several other cycling routes in the vicinity of Węgorzewo which are connected to Green Velo. They allow you to make additional trips from one starting point. We can then complete the small Węgorzewo loop. We can also reach Pozezdrze via Ogonki. Almost the entire route to the famous pyramid at Rapa is covered without any contact with car traffic. There is little car traffic on the cycle tour routes proposed on [www.greenvelo.pl](http://www.greenvelo.pl), which run along ordinary roads.

There are similar excursions in the area of the spa town of Goldap, for example, a loop trail running through Szeskie Hills on a well-maintained gravel road will lead you to Tatarska Góra and the safari park in Zatyki. You will ascend to an altitude of almost 300 m above sea level. However, the descent on the separated cycling path along the national road will allow you to rest and enjoy the easily reached high speed.

The Green Velo trail in the Warmian-Masurian Voivodeship allows you to visit well-known attractions, but also to get to know areas rarely described in guidebooks, where the cyclist will have the pleasure of feeling like an explorer!

[www.greenvelo.pl](http://www.greenvelo.pl)



**REGIONAL TRAIL OF THE ELBLĄG CANAL LAND: ELBLĄG-IŁAWA, SIGN  
COLOUR - GREEN, 130.0 KM. RENEWED IN 2020.**



fot. Bartosz Rybaczewski

It is a regional trail leading from Elbląg (Rubno Wielkie district) to Iława. It leads tourists through the whole area of the Elbląg Canal Land. The route leads through: Nowakowo, Kępa Rybacka, Bielnik II, Janowo, Kazimierzowo, Władysławowo, Wikrowo, Jegłownik, Gronowo Elbląskie, Różany, Zwierzeńskie Pole, Zwierzno, Kępniewo, Brudzędy, Stare Dolno, Święty Gaj, Kwietniewo, Dymnik, Rychliki, Marwica, Jelonki, Jelenie slipway, Oleśnica slipway, Kąty inclined plane, Kąty, next to Buczyniec inclined plane, Lepno, Bartno, Kreki, Wielki Dwór, Jarnołtowo, Bądko, Zalewo, Dobrzyki, Jerzwałd, Jeziorno, Siemiany, Leśnictwo Szwałewo, Piotrkowo, Starzykowo, Szymbark, Ząbrowo and Kamionka. The trail is easy and accessible for every tourist, it takes several days to cover it. It leads mainly along asphalt roads, on some distances along dirt roads, mainly in forests. The total ascent is 1360 m, the descent 1250 m. The trail starts in Rubno near Elbląg and leads through the flat land of Żuławy. On the trail there is a pontoon bridge in Nowakowo, the nature reserve Zatoka Elbląska (Elbląg Bay), watercourses, canals and drainage ditches, the Elbląg and Cieplcówka rivers, Żuławy polder landscapes with characteristic Dutch-style buildings, the Mennonite cemetery in Władysławowo, the Evangelical cemetery in Rozgart, historic churches in Jegłownik, Kwietniewo, Rozgart, Rychliki, Święty Gaj, Zwierzno, memorial sites of the Stutthof camp, and the site of the death of St. Adalbert.

The trail is perfectly marked along its entire length. It leads along the Elbląg Canal, running past the following inclined planes: Jelenie, Oleśnica and Kąty. We ascend along the Canal and the inclined planes by 100 metres on a distance of 10 km. In Jarnołtowo, in the so-called Immanuel Kant's corner, you can philosophise a little bit. Further on, the trail goes through Zalewo and through the protected areas of the Iława Lake District Landscape Park. The castle ruins in Szymbark are very interesting. The trail ends in Iława, by the longest Polish lake -

Jeziork Lake.

Nearby the trail you will find agritourism farms where you can stay for a couple of days and where the owners will make you feel at home.

**THE PO CZTYLION ROUTE: ELBLĄG-GORYŃ, SIGN COLOUR - YELLOW, 128.9 KM. RENEWED IN 2019.**



fot. Bartosz Rybaczewski

This is a regional trail leading from Elbląg to Goryń in the commune of Kisielice. The most important points on the route include: Gronowo Elbląskie, Nowina, Przezmark, Piona, Myślęcín, Pasieki, Weklice, Aniołowo, Marianka, Pasłek, Gołabki, Rogajny, Surowo, Kwitajny, Zielno, Tulno, Kronin, Wójtowizna, Zielonka Pasłęcka, Wakarowo, Sambród, Leśnica, Małdyty, Zajezerze, Jarnońtowo, Bądkí, Zalewo, Półwieś, Witoszewo, Bądze, Kamieniec, Rudniki, Olbrachtowo, Olbrachtówko, Michałowo, Susz, Bałoszyce, Łęgowo and Kisielice. The trail brings us closer the history of the Elbląg Canal Land. It is easy and accessible for every tourist, also for children. You can cover the route within a few days' bicycle trip. It runs along roads with little to medium car traffic. Several towns can be reached by train: Elbląg, Pasłek, Zielonka Pasłęcka, Małdyty, Susz. The terrain is varied, with nice views and some sightseeing attractions on the way. On the route there are towns with rich history, such as: Elbląg - the trail starts at the Kaliningrad roundabout, at the exit from the city towards Warsaw, Przezmark - an ancient Prussian settlement with impressive history and a Gothic church Pasłek - founded by Dutch settlers in 1297 on the Wąska River, nowadays you can admire here the historic defensive walls with the Kamienna and Młyńska Gates, the Old Town with a castle, a town hall and a church.

Along the way we also pass Kwitajny - the oldest Prussian settlement in the area (1281), which later functioned as a rent village with a knight's property, up to the landed estates of the Dönhoff family. The church built between 1714-1719, the palace from 1740, the ponds and the ruins of an orangery all bear witness to the village's previous splendour. Nearby there is a reserve "Oaks in Kruki Pasłckie".

Other interesting towns on the trail are Małdyty and Zalewo with its picturesque marina on Lake Ewingi and the Jewish cemetery.

Next, we reach Kamieniec, whose origins date back to the Teutonic Knights. It was a seat of

the richest family of East Prussia, von Finck Finckenstein. It was ruled by Alfred zu Dohna until 1945. The church dates back to 1706 and the palace, known as the "Versailles of the North" was built between 1716 and 1720. It is where kings and Emperor Napoleon Bonaparte stayed. Susz, in turn, is a town with history dating back to the Middle Ages. Numerous wars and plagues destroyed the town several times. The town has been developing since the 19th century. What has been preserved from the Middle Ages is St. Anthony's Church with rich Rococo and Baroque furnishings and a fragment of the adjacent fortified wall.

Another town situated on the trail is Kisielice which, just like Pasłęk, was founded by the Dutch in the 13th century. You can visit there a historic church (built between 1331-1334) with a 45 m high tower. Among the historic monuments of Kisielice there is also a water tower from the beginning of the 20th century.

The marked trail ends in Goryń, the unmarked one can end in Toruń.



**ELBLĄG-OSTRÓDA REGIONAL CANAL ROUTE, THE COLOUR OF THE SIGN IS ORANGE, WITH THE SYMBOL OF THE INCLINED PLANE 84.6 KM. MARKED IN 2019.**



fot. Bartosz Rybaczewski

The route of the trail: Elbląg, Gronowo Górne, Nowina, Janów, Komorowo Żuławskie, Wężina, Klepa, Karczowizna, Jelonki, pochylnia Jelenie, pochylnia Oleśnica, pochylnia Kąty, Kąty, Drulity, Dargowo, Marzewo, Karczemka, Małdyty, Wilamowo, Głędy, Miłomłyn, Ostróda.

The trail begins in Elbląg at the Kaliningrad roundabout at the beginning of the "Pocztylion" regional cycle trail (marked yellow), leading from Elbląg to Goryń. The end of the trail is located in Ostróda at the marina of Ostróda-Elbląg Navigation by Drwęckie Lake. The route is easy. The trail runs mainly along asphalt, gravel and board roads (13 km).

The Elbląg-Ostróda route runs from north to south. It ascends on inclined planes by about 100 metres over a length of about 10 km.

The greatest attractions of the trail include:

Druzno Lake - the most beautiful view of Druzno Lake is in Nowina. The lake has been a reserve since 1966, created to protect water and marsh birds (about 210 species). The area of the reserve amounts to 3,021.60 ha and the depth of the lake is about 0.8 m, with the waterway up to 3 meters. The reserve constitutes the Natura 2000 area "Lake Druzno".

The Elbląg Canal and its inclined planes - the route leads along technical roads from the Jelenie inclined plane to the Kąty inclined plane and past the Buczyniec inclined plane.

The lock in Miłomłyn. Here is the zero point of the Elbląg Canal water system leading towards Elbląg, Ilawa and Ostróda