



NEWSLETTER 7/2021

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Ilawa - a town by Jeziorak Lake



arch. Urząd Miasta i Informacja Turystyczna Ilawa

Ilawa (formerly German Eylau) is a charming town located in the western part of Warmia and Masuria Voivodeship, at the southern end of Jeziorak Lake, the longest lake in Poland. Within the city limits there is also the largest inland island in Poland, Wielka Żuława (82.4 ha), where once one of the two Ilawa castles was located.

Despite the passage of time, Ilawa still has its wonderful culinary atmosphere, which is appreciated by many famous chefs e.g. Karol Okrasa. There are numerous restaurants offering a wide range of cuisine, from regional to exotic one. You may taste here zander from Jeziorak Lake e.g. in the fried fish stand "Pod Żaglami" (Under the Sail), in the restaurant "U Czapy" (The Cap's) or in the oldest tavern in Ilawa - "Pod Omega" (Under the Omega), or savor the Mexican or Italian cuisine, e.g. in La Maro or La Stella.

Ilawa is a town of various cultural and sports events. Every year the Louis Armstrong Amphitheatre hosts traditional festivals, such as the Złota Tarka Old Jazz Meeting and the Soundlake. For sports enthusiasts the town has on offer the La Rive Half Marathon, the Orange Bike Rally and the Five Lakes MTB Marathon. For water sports lovers, there are regattas of the Polish Cabin Cup series, the Blue Ribbon or the Orange Regatta in the Optimist class for the youngest sailors.

During vacations, in addition to an extensive calendar of events, you are invited to take part in our cyclical tours "From water and land". Every Wednesday at 12:00 p.m., guided tours with Dariusz Paczkowski start. They finish with the ship Ilavia cruise on Jeziorak Lake. Every Friday at 6:00 p.m., there is a romantic cruise, with the Ilavia heading for the sunset. This is a longer cruise, which finishes at Sarnówek. Every Saturday, after the bugle call resounding at 12:00 from the town hall tower, free Ilawa guided tours begin.

All roads lead to Ilawa. In fact, rather literally. The town can be reached by any means of transport. For example, the National Road No. 16 runs through Ilawa, leading from the border with Lithuania, or actually (under a different name) even from Vilnius. The Pendolino train is also noteworthy. It takes only 1 h 34 min to travel from Warsaw to Ilawa, and less than 5 hours from Krakow. Besides, tourists who get off the train at the historic Central Railway Station have an opportunity to get to know the charming Ilawa Railwaymen Square from the very first moment. Another important asset of Ilawa is the connection of Jeziorak Lake with the Elbląg Canal, what creates a waterway for sailors and motorboaters.

Ilawa is a paradise for tourists who love long walks and bike rides. The town centre and its surroundings offer many walking and bicycle paths (over 40 km all together), and interesting other marked trails. You can go for a walk or ride around the Little Lake, along the shoreline of the Big Lake and along the Ilawa River. Such trips will surely appeal not only to adults, but also to children, because there are several well-equipped playgrounds along the routes (including the unique Mill Island), where kids can rest and have fun. In order to spend pleasant evenings, you can light a bonfire under one of the local recreation shelters and watch sailing boats gliding across Jeziorak Lake.

Ilawa - a town by Jeziorak Lake invites for an inspiring visit.

www.it.miastoilawa.pl

Jeziorak - the longest lake in Poland



arch. Urząd Miasta Iława

There is no doubt Jeziorak is the longest lake in Poland, it measures 27.5 km in a straight line. It is the sixth largest lake in Poland regarding water surface. There are two towns located on the edges of the lake: Iława in the south and Zalewo in the north.

There are many bays, peninsulas and sixteen islands on the lake, including Wielka Żuława – the biggest inland island in Poland. Jeziorak is a perfect destination for water sports lovers, sailors and canoeists. There are many water sports contests organized here. The popularity of the region's canoeing and sailing routes contributed to the creation of hotels, hostels, marinas, campsites in Iława and its surroundings. Waters of Jeziorak are also a friendly place for SUP, windsurfing and diving enthusiasts.

To enjoy the beauty of being by the longest lake in Poland, you don't need to have your own equipment, because there are water equipment rentals, where you can easily rent kayaks, canoes, pedal boats or scooters. Experienced sailors can also charter a yacht or a boat.

Sailing from Iława, on the right side of Jeziorak Lake, we may see a beautiful village - Szalkowo. Just behind it, on the left side, we can notice the Recreation Centre in Sarnówek.

Passing the touristic village of Makowo on our right, we must slowly prepare to make a decision which way to choose. We can head for the town of Zalewo by Ewingi Lake through the historic Dobrzycki Canal built in the 14th century or we can follow the Elbląg Canal.

Łąkowa Island is the best place for sunbathing, especially if you sail with children. The shallows, which make it possible to go on foot far into the lake and make water warmer than anywhere else in the lake, are therefore called "the Hawaii of Jeziorak".

Just after passing Łąkowa Island, we have an opportunity to sail towards Siemiany, the oldest sailing village by the lake. We pass Bukowiec Island, which can be approached from the mainland along a causeway. Further, we pass mysterious Lipowiec Island. This is where two mysterious graves are located under a linden tree on the hill. The legend has it that these are the graves of a fisherman Arthur and his beloved Gerda. The graves are taken care of by sailors.

Lake Jeziorak is rich in a variety of fish species, such as tench, catfish, pikeperch, pike, eel, carp, bream, roach and crucian. It is also a place where many species of birds live. Ducks, grebes, coots nest

here as well. Additionally, the lake is a hunting area for the white-tailed eagle and the osprey. Moreover, cormorants and herons nest on one of the islands on the lake. Swans and gulls can also be spotted here. What is interesting, the vicinity of Lake Jeziorak is where the action of the book "Nowe przygody Pana Samochodzika" ("The new adventures of Mr. Toy Car") is set. The main character of this book searches for treasures plundered during World War II. What`s more, the action of all parts of the novel "Rejs po Jezioraku" (The cruise on Lake Jeziorak) by Katarzyna Sarnowska take place in this area, too.

Jeziorak Lake is a unique place where sailing tradition meets modernity, and passing time leaves unforgettable impressions and one-of-a-kind memories. Ilawa simply invites for an inspiring visit.

www.gmina-ilawa.pl/jezioro-jeziorak/

Along Jeziorak by bike



arch. Urząd Miasta Iława

The Iława Lake District is a region, which offers cyclists a wide range of possibilities to pursue their passions concerning sightseeing and physical activities. The longest lake in Poland, Jeziorak, together with the surrounding forests protected as the Iławskie Lake District Landscape Park, creates favourable conditions for recreation in close contact with nature. Numerous lakes, rivers and vast forests make it possible to go on long trips, during which we visit mainly small towns. The dense network of local, forest and country roads make it possible to visit many corners of the region, avoiding crowded routes with heavy car traffic. You can go round the lake by taking two trails: the green trail Iława -Zalewo "The Elbląg Canal Trail" and the blue trail Iława-Zalewo "The Prussian Trail".

the green trail Iława -Zalewo "The Elbląg Canal Trail"

length of the trail: 41,6 km

time of the ride: 4 hours

route: Iława – Kamionka – Ząbrowo – Szymbark – Starzykowo – Piotrkowo – Siemiany – Jerzwałd – Dobrzyńki – Zalewo

the blue trail Iława -Zalewo "The Prussian Trail" (we choose the variant 3)

length of the trail: 68,7 km

time of the ride: 7 hours

route: Iława – Szałkowo – Jezierzycy – Tynwałd – Frednowy – Wiewiórka – Gil Wielki – Gil Mały – Zalewo – Liwa – Lubień – Miłomłyn – Dębinka – Karnity – Mozgowo – Duba – Boreczno – Śliwa – Rąbity – Zalewo

The blue trail "Prussian" runs through varied terrain; through forests and fields, as well as through densely built-up villages. We will be riding mainly through hilly areas, but without any strenuous climbs. There is a distance of over 1000 m of elevation gain to cover on the way. We can expect good quality roads on the trail – of asphalt or gravel surface. The initial section of the trail runs along the eastern shore of Lake Jeziorak, then turns towards Lake Gil Wielki. We will visit Miłomłyn and

continue along the Iława Canal. We will visit the palace of Karnity, find ourselves at the bay of Krag and end our trip in Zalewo. We can modify our itinerary by choosing the proposed options. Thanks to variant 1 we will be able to bypass a significant section of the trail with the city traffic of Iława, heading for the promenade on Jeziorak Lake. The option 2 will allow you to shorten the route and thus Miłomłyn can be omitted. The variant 3 extends the route slightly by including a section by Lake Jeziorak. The best way to return to Iława is by following the green cycling trail, which enables us to ride around Lake Jeziorak.

The green trail of " the Elbląg Canal".- the route from Iława to Zalewo is a part of a regional trail leading tourists through the entire Elbląg Canal Land from Iława to Elbląg. A ride along the green trail from Iława to Zalewo will provide us with loads of natural attractions. We will ride through vast backwoods protected in the Iława Lake District Landscape Park and nature reserves. On the route you will meet historic tree alleys, old cemeteries and one of the most interesting architectural structures in Warmia and Mazury - the ruins of the castle of the Pomezania chapter in Szymbark. We will ride pass several lakes, including the largest in the region - Jeziorak Lake. The route runs along mostly asphalted public roads, but with little traffic. Additionally, we will cover kilometres of charming fields and forest roads. We can close the whole trip with a loop, returning to Iława along the blue bicycle trail. Thus we will ride along Lake Jeziorak. The tour will require from us to be in good physical condition because of its length.

Enjoy your bike ride by the lakeside!!

www.it.miastoilawa.pl/aktywnosci/okolice-ilawy/zwiedzaj-rowerem

The Max Toppen Trail



arch. Informacji Turystycznej w Iławie

There is a hiking and biking trail called "Following Max Toeppen's Traces" in the picturesque Iława Lake District Park. It runs along the longest lake in Poland, Jeziorak, among woods. There are relics of the old settlement in the area- tar pits, barrows, ruins of the forester's lodge Feldchen, an old Evangelical cemetery and an old ash protected in Sarnówek.

The trail is dedicated to the researcher of this land, Max Toeppen. The trail starts at the exit road Iława - Siemiany towards Sarnówek and ends at the picturesque Bay Widłagi. There are 7 information boards along the route. They describe the places in the surroundings and inform about the history and remains of the past.

The last board is located on one of the most beautiful bays on Jeziorak Lake. This bay is a small oasis in the shape of a lake with a diameter of about 1.5 km, water is very clean and the shores are covered with woods. This is also where the white eagle lives. This trail is a fantastic combination of history and scenic beauty, so everyone will find something for themselves. See you on the trail!

www.parkikrajobrazowewarmiimazur.pl/pojezierzailawskiego/galeria-park_krajobrazowy_pojezierza_ilawskiego_szlaki_turystyczne_historycznno_-_przyrodnicze_.html

Canoeing trip between Miłomłyn and Hawa



arch. Urząd Miasta Hawa

The Hawa Canal is the name of the western section of the Elbląg Canal, which connects Miłomłyn with Lake Jeziorak and enables canoeing to Hawa or Zalewo. The length of the Hawa Canal amounts to 10 km. It was put into operation as early as in 1860. It was difficult for the builders to level the height difference between Lake Karnickie and Lake Jeziorak, which amounted to 3 m. The problem was solved by creating an embankment dividing Lake Karnicke into two parts, which allows for canoeing 3 metres above its surface. The section on Lake Karnickie is often referred to as the Karnicki Aqueduct.

You can start either after the lock in Miłomłyn or before the lock in order to experience the sluicing. However, you have to remember that the lock opens at 9:00. The first part of the route from Miłomłyn to Hawa goes along the Hawa Canal, which is the part of the western section of the Elbląg Canal. The length of this section amounts to 10 km. Canoeing down the Hawa Canal is as safe and peaceful as possible. The water is practically devoid of a current. The river bed has a constant width. There are no trees toppled over in the water. However, you can encounter larger floating units on the way. If you want to go canoeing with absolutely nothing to worry about, the Hawa Canal is an excellent choice. The banks of the Hawa Canal are overgrown with trees and bushes along the entire section. The greenery is to be spotted all along the route. On the 10 km route to Lake Jeziorak, you will pass several picturesque 100-year-old concrete bridges. You will be canoeing on the Karnicki Aqueduct, and go across the small Dauby Lake. The Hawa Canal ends at Lake Jeziorak, where it joins the Krag Bay. Over the next 4 km we will be canoeing in the Krag Bay mentioned above. At the end of the bay you can see very well the islands of Jeziorak - Łakowa Island and islands Duży Gierczak and Mały Gierczak. There are as many as 16 islands on Jeziorak Lake. The further route towards Hawa leads south. It is advisable to keep closer to the western shore of the Lake. It is wilder and therefore more attractive. This section of the trip will probably be completed in the afternoon, thus the sun on the west side will nicely illuminate the opposite bank. The section across Lake Jeziorak is quite different from the first 10 km along the Hawa Canal. On the lake you can expect waves and a changing wind, which

can affect the pace of the canoeing trip. But this is the key to the attractiveness of this route: first peaceful 10 km along the green Hława Canal, and then an adventure on the waters of the spacious Lake Jeziorak with stops on deserted islands.

www.paragonzpodrozy.pl/21914/splyw-kajakowy-kanal-elblaski-milomlyn-ilawa/