



## **NEWSLETTER 1/2022**

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## Interactive Trail of the Gothic Castles



You can get to know the former Prussian land by following marked trails. Moreover, you can find out more about it virtually. An interactive map which presents the most up-to-date and probable visualizations of the Teutonic, bishops' and chapters' castles in the territory of the former Prussia from the beginning of the 15th century, seen from a bird's eye view, with the possibility of zooming in or out a given model is posted on the website of the Association [www.zamkigotyckie.org.pl](http://www.zamkigotyckie.org.pl). In this way, the map enables you to visit virtually more than 21 castles from the 15th century, which are currently located in the Polish-Russian borderland. They include: Człuchów, Bytów, Lębork, Gniew, Kwidzyn, Nowe, Malbork, Sztum, Działdowo, Nidzica, Ostróda, Olsztyn, Lidzbark Warmiński, Giżycko, Kętrzyn, Ryn, Bałga, Pokarmin, Królewiec, Ragneta, Lochstedt. The castle models were created according to available historical and archaeological materials. Additionally, a game is embedded on the map which consists in finding the letters of the password, hidden among construction details of the various castles from the interactive map. The full version of the map can be downloaded from the website: <https://zamkigotyckie.org.pl/3d/>.

Paweł Moszczyński, an aficionado of the medieval history, is the author and creator of all the visualisations of the castles and of the concept of the interactive map with the game.

## The castle in Działdowo



arch. Stowarzyszenie gmin „Polskie zamki gotyckie”

Działdowo was located directly on the border between the Teutonic state and Masovia. In the foundation charter of the town from 1344 the castle was mentioned already as existing. In the 1960s the main wing was enlarged and the construction of a new building on the south-west side were undertaken. However, these works were not completed for a long time. It was not until 2000-2003 that the new building was completed, which today serves as the seat of the city government. In 2018, the main building underwent a general renovation and has been adapted into the Borderland Museum in Działdowo. Since September 2018, you can visit the museum exhibition "Działdowo - the city and people of the former borderland".

[www.muzeum.dzialdowo.pl/](http://www.muzeum.dzialdowo.pl/)



## The castle in Ryn



arch. Stowarzyszenie gmin „Polskie zamki gotyckie”

Ryn is located at the eastern end of the medieval settlement area, on the border with the "Great Forest". The castle belonged to the late constructions of the German Order and was only partially completed. Since 2006, after considerable building conversion, the former castle has been used as a hotel. A memorable history lesson provides the sightseeing of this castle - a witness to the turbulent history of Masuria and the former East Prussia. A new amenity in this 4-star hotel is the Princess Anna Spa & Wellness. It is a place where ancient rituals are intertwined with modern therapies.

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

## The castle in Lidzbark Warmiński



arch. Stowarzyszenie gmin „Polskie zamki gotyckie”

Lidzbark was the residence of the bishops of Warmia between 1350 and 1772. The castle in this town was the largest, the most distinguished and architecturally most perfect castle in Warmia. The interiors, i.e. vaults and wall paintings, convey a very authentic impression of the late 14th and 15th centuries. The castle has four wings and an inner courtyard with a two-storey cloister and a main tower. The layout of the rooms underwent a number of modifications that can be explained with the particular purpose of using the building as a bishop's residence. However, visitors are most impressed by the large rooms of the main floor, with their original vaults and wall paintings from the 14th to 16th centuries. Today, the main castle is accessible to visitors on all floors as a branch of the Museum of Warmia and Masuria. The structure is called the Wawel of the North. In front of the castle there is a bailey with buildings from the Middle Ages and Baroque period. In front of it there is a watered moat, from behind which there is a wonderful view of the whole complex of the former bishop's residence. Since 2012, the luxurious Krasicki Hotel has been located in the bailey.

[www.lidzbark.muzeum.olsztyn.pl](http://www.lidzbark.muzeum.olsztyn.pl)

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



## The castle in Nidzica



aut. Dariusz Pudelko. Photos passed on by the Nidzicki Dom Kultury

The castle was built between 1370 and 1400 as the seat of the monastic pfleger; it was rebuilt several times. In the 16th century it was surrounded by an additional defensive wall with two round towers on the western side. The castle partially burnt down in 1812. It was rebuilt in 1828 with the purpose of accommodating the court, the prison and officials dwellings. After different destructions, this time in 1945, the castle has been rebuilt between 1961 and 1965 for cultural purposes. It is a rectangular building with a courtyard. There is the main house on the western side whereas there is the former entrance gate with two powerful defensive towers on the eastern side. The three-storey main house, covered with a gable roof, is the most magnificent part of the Nidzica fortress. The Gothic portals leading from the cloister to the representative chambers have also been preserved. There are beautiful 15th century polychromes and Gothic vaults in the Knights` Hall. The castle is beautifully located on a hill above the town. You can see it when you approach Nidzica. Nowadays, the Teutonic castle houses a hotel, a restaurant, the Nidzica Cultural Centre and the Museum of the Nidzica Region with an ethnographic and historical exhibition .

[www.nok.nidzica.pl/zapraszamy/zwiedzanie-zamku](http://www.nok.nidzica.pl/zapraszamy/zwiedzanie-zamku)  
[www.zamek-nidzica.pl](http://www.zamek-nidzica.pl)