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THE GREAT MASURIAN LAKES



fot. Krzysztof Nowosielski

The Great Masurian Lakes is one of the most attractive regions of Poland in terms of landscape and tourism. It is a reservoir of lakes connected by canals. The route of the Land of the Great Masurian Lakes connects Węgorzewo, Giżycko, Mikołajki, Pisz, Ryn and Ruciane Nida. The total length of all sections amounts to 120 km, and together with side sections on larger lakes exceeds 200 km. The total length of the canals connecting the lakes reaches 15 kilometres. Here you can enjoy water sports, you can sail, fish or go kayaking. In recent years, a network of eco-marinas has been established here, making sailing very easy. The Land of the Great Masurian Lakes is also home to cities that are worth visiting during your stay by the water. You will find there ports from which you can embark on a boat trip. The towns are not large, but in summer they are quite crowded. They have an interesting history and are certainly worth visiting.

MIKOŁAJKI



fot. Mateusz Klimek

Mikolajki is a Masurian town, unusually charmingly situated on the isthmus of two lakes: Mikolajskie and Tałty. It is a famous sailing base. The largest lake in Poland, Śniardwy, is located nearby. One of Poland's largest forest complexes, the Piska Forest, begins at the edge of the city. Unlike other towns in the region, Mikolajki was not destroyed during the Second World War, so the centre of the town consists of historic buildings with a market square. There is in the fountain the King of the Fish, a dummy of which is attached to the bridge in summer. Along the waterfront stretches a modern promenade, which is one of the longest and most beautiful in Masuria. Saint Nicholas, after whom the town is named, is the patron saint of sailors. As early as 1844, ship navigation was launched here (Ryn-Mikolajki-Czarci Ostrów- the island on Śniardwy Lake). There is in the town a classicist Evangelical-Augsburg church from 1842. The Museum of the Polish Reformation has been operating at the Evangelical parish since 1973 .

www.mikolajki.eu

RYN



arch. Hotel Zamek Ryn****

Ryn is beautifully situated between Ryńskie and Ołów lakes. There is a Teutonic castle in the town. The fortress in Ryn was founded by Grand Master Winrych von Kniprode in 1377. It is now beautifully renovated and serves as a 4-star hotel. Other noteworthy sights include a Dutch-type windmill from the 2nd half of the 19th century, located on a hill near the castle, and several houses in the centre. In 2020, the revitalisation of the historic water tower in Ryn, built in the late 19th century, was also completed. A viewing terrace has been created on the top floor of the building, which has been made available to tourists with a passenger lift and a lift for the disabled. A marina for Mazuria Navigation is located by Rynskie Lake. The promenade encourages walking and cycling.

www.rck-ryn.pl

www.zamekryn.pl/

GIŻYCKO



arch. Krzysztof Nowosielski

Giżycko is the main port of the Great Masurian Lakes. The origins of the town are linked to the missionary expedition of Bishop Bruno of Kwefurt, which ended with the missionary's martyrdom in 1009. This tradition is commemorated by a cross-monument erected by the Evangelical community on 30 October 1910, on a hill above Niegocin Lake. In the 14th century, the Teutonic Knights built a castle, which is now used as a hotel. Next to the hotel is a swing bridge from the 2nd half of the 19th century. The bridge weighs more than 100 tonnes and is turned manually by a single operator. The movable span, 20 m long and 8 m wide, is pulled sideways. It is the only structure of this kind in Poland. A new neo-classical church, probably designed by Karl F. Schinkel, was built in the town centre in 1827. The construction of Giżycko's fortress, Feste Boyen, which began in 1844, was a turning point in the town's history. This artillery barrage fort was built on the plan of an irregular 6-pointed star. The whole is surrounded by a 2.3 km long Camot wall and a dry moat. The communication was provided by four gates. The neo-Gothic water tower from 1900, now an observation point and the highest cafe in Masuria is also noteworthy in Giżycko.

www.gizycko.turystyka.pl

www.hotelstbruno.pl

WĘGORZEWO



arch. IT Węgorzewo

Until 1945 Węgorzewo was called the Gate of Masuria because cruises on the Masurian lakes started and ended here. The Late Gothic Church of Saints Peter and Paul from 1605-1611 with Late Renaissance furnishings is located on the hill. In the floodplains of the Węgorapa, a sailing harbour has been arranged and the Museum of Folk Culture is located next to it.

www.wegorzewo.pl

RUCIANE NIDA



arch. Urząd Miasta i Gminy Ruciane Nida

Ruciane Nida is a tourist town and a sailing centre on the Great Mazurian Lakes trail. The Piska Forest and the Mazurian Landscape Park are located in the vicinity. In the town you can see the Evangelical church, now Catholic, built in 1910. There is also a seed hulling plant, the largest in former East Prussia, built between 1890 and 1892 (rebuilt in 1934); the historical equipment is preserved and used, as well as a process line for hulling cones.

www.ruciane-nida.pl

PISZ



arch. Urząd Miasta Pisz

The Church of St. John the Baptist with a tower from 1694 with a half-timbered wall construction is noteworthy in Pisz. The interior features a Renaissance altar and a Baroque pulpit. The cellars of the town hall, built in 1900, house the Pisz Land Museum with a rich collection of flora and fauna of the Pisz Forest. In the park by the Pisa, one can find traces of a post-Teutonic castle, the ruins of which were removed in the 1960s. From the Great Masurian Lakes, the Pisa and later the Narew rivers lead to Warsaw.

www.muzeumziemipiskiej.pl/