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LIDZBARK WARMIŃSKI - THE PEARL OF WARMIA



fot. Michał Misztal

Lidzbark Warmiński is called the "Pearl of Warmia" not without reason. It is eagerly visited by tourists, and the unique microclimate, abundance of green areas and clean air were already appreciated before the war, when there was a Luftkurort (resort) here. The authorities have been striving for years to get the town the status of a health resort again, and are on the "final straight".

For this purpose, a borehole more than 1,000 meters deep was created, from where highly mineralized Jurassic water with health-giving properties is drawn. It is used in the neighbouring Warmia Thermal Baths and in brine graduation towers. The graduation towers are heavily visited by locals and visitors - nearly 50,000 people visited them for the first year. The completion of the second phase of the spa's infrastructure, the health pavilion will have been finished in August this year. A private investor will have built a spa hospital, which will be the last necessary step in the process of the city obtaining the spa status.

The largest Warmia river - the Łyna – flows through Lidzbark Warmiński. There are boulevards along its banks, equipped with outdoor gyms, a large playground for children, recreational shelters and a bicycle repair station. There is also an covered outdoor stage, where numerous concerts and cultural events are held, such as the Lidzbark Jazz Evenings, which attract the most important jazz musicians from Poland and the world. The construction of the last section of the boulevards is running to an end, which will make it possible to safely travel on foot or by bicycle from one end of the city to the other. Speaking of the two-wheelers enthusiasts, it should be mentioned

that Lidzbark Warmiński is crossed by two bicycle trails. The longer one - Green Velo - is about 2,000 kilometres long and crosses five provinces. Shorter, but no less picturesque, is the Lynostrada. It is 113 kilometres long and connects Lidzbark Warmiński with Olsztyn, the capital of the Warmia-Masuria province, and other picturesque towns in the region. Lidzbark Warmiński is an important city of the Copernicus Route, as well as a founder of the Polish Network of Cities of the Good Life Cittaslow.

At a distance of about 3 km from Lidzbark Warmiński there is a city beach on Lake Wielochowskie. We can also get there by a traffic-free bicycle path. The beach itself is equipped with a rich recreational and sports infrastructure: a two-basin swimming area surrounded by a pier, volleyball courts, an outdoor gym, a recreational shelter, a camping area, refreshments and toilets. It is also possible to rent swimming equipment - kayaks and pedal boats. The safety of bathers is taken care of lifeguards. We will get to the city beach not only by bicycle, but also by environmentally friendly public transportation, free for all. Currently, the city is served by two zero-emission electric buses backed by internal combustion vehicles, but the city has purchased two more green energy-powered vehicles that will soon hit the streets. It is worth mentioning that much of the energy used to charge the fleet comes from chargers powered by photovoltaic cells.

Speaking of the tourist attractions of Lidzbark Warmiński, one must mention the castle of the bishops of Warmia. Called the "painted castle", the "Wawel of the North", it was built in the 14th century and has been preserved to this day in excellent condition. In recent years, thanks to multimillion-dollar grants from the so-called "Norwegian Funds," many rooms have undergone extensive renovation and have been opened to the public for the first time; the same funds were used to build a new bridge leading to the castle and the walls surrounding the castle are being rebuilt. Here resided one of the world's most famous Poles - Nicolaus Copernicus, whose traces, literally, can be found on the walls - on the cloister one has come across an engraved diagram of the heliocentric system attributed precisely to Copernicus. It was here, thanks to observations of the Warmia sky, that the foundations of the heliocentric theory were laid, which forever changed our knowledge of the world. In addition to the eminent astronomer and medic, other well-known personalities also resided in the castle. It is worth mentioning the "prince of poets" Ignacy Krasicki, Jan Dantyszk, Stanislaw Hosius and Marcin Kromer.

Lidzbark Warminski is an old town. It received city rights in 1308 and was the capital of Warmia for years. Monuments and historical remnants of the old days can be seen at every turn. Worth mentioning is the High Gate from the 14th century, the Church of St. Peter and Paul, built in the 14th century, or the remains of the medieval defensive walls. Particularly noteworthy are the "newer" historical buildings, such as the Orangery of Ignacy Krasicki, the Orthodox Church of Saints App. Peter and Paul, or the historic municipal cemetery, where there were bishop's gardens years ago. The authorities of Lidzbark Warmiński have placed great emphasis on sports and recreation. Directly from the city we can enter the Symsarna Valley Health Resort Park, where the unspoiled nature, moraine terrain and picturesque meanders of the

Symsarna River create perfect conditions for walks or bike rides. From the park we go directly to the spa area. The city also has had a rich sports infrastructure. Numerous sports fields, orliks – public playgrounds, sports halls and a stadium, allow practicing virtually any sporting discipline.

Jacek Wiśniowski Mayor of Lidzbark Warmiński has far-reaching plans for the city's development. Talks are underway with parliamentarians regarding the restoration of the railroad connection between Bartoszyce - Lidzbark Warmiński - Dobrze Miasto. In recent months, which the mayor has also sought, Lidzbark Warmiński's connectivity with the rest of the country has been improved through the construction of the Smolajny bypass (DK51), and in the near future further reconstruction is announced to improve the operation and capacity of this most important road in Warmia.

www.lidzbarkw.pl

GREAT SPECTACLES ON THE FIELDS OF GRUNWALD (12 JULY – 16 JULY): BATTLE RE-ENACTMENT – 15 JULY 2023



fot. Arkadiusz Rutkowski

The re-enactment of the Battle of Grunwald, which brings to life the spirit of the past, is an extraordinary cultural event. Every year, since 1998, thousands of re-enactors and enthusiasts of medieval history have gathered on the fields of Grunwald to celebrate the victory that left an indelible mark on history.

The year 2023 marks the twenty-fifth edition of this event, and the centerpiece of the program will be a spectacular reconstruction of the Battle of Grunwald. This remarkable initiative attracts participants from all corners of the world, including Lithuania, Germany, Italy, France, Finland, the Czech Republic, Slovakia, Hungary, Ukraine, and even the United States and New Zealand. The re-enactment of the Battle of Grunwald becomes not only a historical reconstruction, but also a true festival of culture and entertainment.

From Wednesday to Sunday Grunwald Days are held, during which we can be transported to the magical world of the Middle Ages. The knightly tournaments that take place during the Grunwald Days provide unforgettable emotions. Admiring the struggle of knights in full armour, along with the bang of shields and the flash of steel blades, we can move back in time and feel the spirit of those days. Demonstrations of ancient crafts, such as blacksmithing and pottery, allow us to see how the most important items of daily use were created in the past. For lovers of medieval music, numerous concerts have been prepared, during which artistic ensembles bring to life the sounds of historical instruments, transporting us to the magical world of melodies of past centuries.

The Sunday mass, preceded by a Gregorian chant workshop, is the real jewel of Grunwald Days. Participants demonstrate their skills by singing ancient hymns and sacred songs.

The re-enactment of the Battle of Grunwald is a unique journey in time that allows us to explore the mysteries of our past and experience the extraordinary atmosphere of the medieval era. This event, which attracts crowds, is also an opportunity to celebrate Polish heritage and pay tribute together to the heroes of those days. **The re-enactment of the battle will be held on 15, July 15^{oo} this year.** The fields of Grunwald come alive again, reminding us of our roots and building bridges between the past and the present.

www.grunwald1410.pl

THE COUNTRY AND FOLK PICNIC FESTIVAL IN MRĄGOWO



fot. Anida Keller

The 42nd edition of the legendary Picnic Country and Folk Festival in Mrągowo is approaching! This oldest and largest Country Music Festival in Poland and one of the most prestigious European events associated with this genre of music, will be held on July 28 and 29 at the amphitheatre on Lake Czos in Mrągowo. The beginning of the concerts each day at 7:30 pm.

Anyone who has attended the Picnic at least once knows that it is an event that goes far beyond just the musical dimension, it is a cultural phenomenon aimed at audiences of different generations. Probably the most beautifully located Amphitheatre in Poland is going to be a magical place for two days, filled with music, dance and incredible energy during many hours of concerts. It is a place of unforgettable fun for fans of real entertainment. Obviously, this year will be no different!

Mariusz Kalaga, called not without reason the Polish Roy Orbison, along with the invited guests, including Zbigniew Hofman, Czarek Makiewicz, Katarzyna Jurasz will perform for us in a special anniversary concert (30 years on stage) on Friday (28.07.2023) evening. Your favourites, associated with the picnic for many years, will be represented each day of the festival, among them: Michael Lonstar, Czarek Makiewicz and Koltersi, the band Babsztyl, Wojciech Dudkowski, , or the new music project called Step By Step with Gabrysia Mycielska and Janusz Nastarowicz. On Friday, Czarek Makiewicz and the Kolters, The road to Ostrołęka and Step By

Step with Janusz Nastarowicz and Gabrysia Mycielska are going to perform. The Mrągowo audience will have fun thanks the performers of the concert entitled Country Hits with our young, talented generation of artists accompanied by the Alabama band. As the name suggests, we are going to listen here to the most popular and energetic songs of the country genre.

The culmination of Friday's program will be the concert named "Summer Song Contest" (formerly the Road Song Contest) during which the performers of the 10 best songs qualified by the jury will present themselves. The jury will evaluate these songs and select the winners. Much is going to depend on how these songs are received by the audience gathered at the Amphitheatre. The concert, which has the patronage of the Polish Radio S.A., the Program I and the Authors Association ZAiKS, will be accompanied by the band Wheels Of Steel. There is going to be quite an excitement!

On Saturday (29.07.23) a wonderful multimedia show, Kornelius Pacuda's Benefis awaits us. This outstanding journalist, creator of the Country movement in Poland, celebrates his 80th birthday this year. On this occasion, we have prepared a special concert entitled Giants of Country. We will listen to the jubilarian's memories, watch excerpts from Cornelius' television interviews with the biggest stars of the genre, and their hits will be performed by country artists. They are going to be the most famous songs from the repertoire of Johnna Cash, Kris Kristoferson, Willie Nelson, Billy Ray Cyrus, Billy Joe Shiver and many others – the Giants of modern country music. The show will be accompanied by the line dancing at its best.

The foreign star of this year's festival is going to be JESSICA LYNN from the United States, along with her band. This artist, who has been living in New York, is considered one of the most promising singers of the younger generation. The singer and multi-instrumentalist, who has performed in 14 countries around the world so far, will be finishing her European tour in Mrągowo. Everywhere she has appeared she has created an extremely energetic show, earning the nickname "lady dynamite" for good reason. This time it will not be different at the Picnic,!

On Saturday we will also listen to the favorites of the Mrągowo audience, the Babsztyl group with Zbyszek Hofman, as well as our talented youth: Klaudia Magica, Karolina Jastrzębska, The Girls.

We are convinced that this year's program (which we will supplement with new items) will provide you with many unforgettable artistic experiences!

www.ebilet.pl/muzyka/festiwale/piknik-country

www.facebook.com/PiknikCountryMragowo

www.instagram.com/piknikcountry_pl/

XVI MASURIAN BALLOON COMPETITION FOR THE ELK MAYOR'S CUP



fot. Mosir Elk

The location of Elk provides opportunities to enjoy magnificent views of the lake, forests and river from above. The event has become a landmark of the city, attracting participants and spectators from all over Poland and abroad. The event is highly spectacular.

Programme:

20 July - Thursday

-inauguration ceremony

I flight / information about the starting point on facebook.com/mosirelk

PARADE BALLONMEN Kiliński, Wojska Polskiego, Pułaski

21 July - Friday

II flight - information about place of departure on facebook.com/mosirelk

III flight - information about place of start at facebook.com/mosirelk

22 July - Saturday

- Flight IV - information about place of departure on facebook.com/mosirelk

5th flight - information about place of departure on facebook.com/mosirelk

Closing ceremony of the competition.