



NEWSLETTER 3/2020

stay home – virtual sightseeing

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The Boyen Fortress, the Museum in Elbląg, the Museum in Kętrzyn and Wolf's Lair - these are examples of the attractions that you can visit without leaving home. Supporting the very important action # stay home, we encourage you to visit our region, sitting on a sofa.

Yes, it is possible thanks to a rich offer of virtual tours in museums and not only. Take a chance of exploring Varmia and Masuria during your stay at home.

In our current newsletter, we would like to present 4 selected attractions and point out others.

WOLF'S LAIR FORMER HITLER'S HEADQUARTERS IN GIERŁOŹ



fot. arch. W-M ROT

The headquarters is located in a forest complex. It was established in 1940-1944 in the area of about 2.5 km². More than 70 reinforced concrete and brick structures were built here, including 7 heavy bunkers. Roads and paths were camouflaged by means of a stretched network of leaves` imitation over them.

Hitler arrived at the Wolf's Lair on June 24, 1941. He spent over 800 days

here. The life of all inhabitants was concentrated on him. In 1944, the headquarters was inhabited by over two thousand people, among them only 20 women.

It was here that on July 20, 1944 Claus von Stauffenberg and Werner von Haeften carried out an unsuccessful assassination attempt on Hitler's life. In 1945, the retreating German army blew up all the buildings of the complex.

The ruins of Hitler's HQ are open to the public .

At the disposal of the guests there are also accommodation possibilities, a restaurant, and a souvenir shop.

www.wolfsschanze.pl/en/

virtual walk:

www.polska.travel/panoramy/wilczy-szaniec/?lang=pl

THE BOYEN FORTRESS IN GIŻYCKO



fot. arch. Krzysztof Nowosielski

The construction of the Boyen fortress began in 1844. It had big impact on the development of Giżycko. This artillery fort was built on the plan of an irregular 6-pointed star. The whole structure was surrounded by the 2.3 km long Carnot wall and a dry moat. Its four gates guaranteed communication. The fortress's function was to prevent the natural barrier, created by the Great Masurian Lakes, from being crossed.

Taking the defense strategy into account, the Great Masurian Lakes line played an important role. On the eve of World War I, the role of the Boyen Fortress was to prevent the Russian army entering Eastern Prussia. In the meantime the war was supposed to be fought out on the Western Front. Simultaneously, the Giżycko fortress played an important role in the mobilization of troops in Masuria as well. After the mobilization most of the army left Giżycko and the city remained under the command of Colonel Busse with about 4,000 soldiers. These forces carried out numerous raids against the troops of the approaching Russian army. In August 1914 they successfully defended the Boyen Fortress against a

Russian attack.

During World War II the fortress was the seat of the Abwehr centre where soldiers from General Vlasov's army, who had gone over to the German side, were trained. In January 1945 the fortress was abandoned without a fight.

The Boyen Fortress is now open to the public. Historical reenactments take place here as well.

www.twierdza.gizycko.pl

virtual walk:

<http://3dscannerslab.eu/tbbramagizycka/?fbclid=IwAR3rEi3Vrl9vSQMAIjDG-rY8Jv-zxa2hFqpJ0-LH4cBloohKzjnNvKn2uIglh8b8XQ>

ARCHEOLOGICAL AND HISTORICAL MUSEUM IN ELBLĄG



fot. arch. Muzeum Archeologiczno - Historycznym w Elblągu

In the Archaeological and Historical Museum in Elbląg you can see interesting exhibits from two archaeological sites: the Old Town in Elbląg and the former commercial settlement Truso. Excavations have been conducted in the Old Town area on an unprecedented scale in Europe for over 20 years. That is why the museum collections grow by thousands of artefacts made of ceramics, metal, wood, leather, amber, glass, etc. every year.

The research in Truso also has brought excellent results. On the shores of Lake Druzno a trading factory was founded by Danish Vikings in the 8th/9th century. Commercial relationships with many regions of old Europe and with Arab countries can be traced in Truso as well.

The permanent exhibitions in the Museum are supplemented with interesting temporary and occasional exhibitions.

www.muzeum.elblag.pl

<https://my.matterport.com/show/?m=ZQxWwDYsb1i>

MUSEUM IN KĘTRZYN



fot. arch. Informacja Turystyczna w Kętrzynie

The Museum has been collecting artefacts related mainly to the history of the city and the region.

The museum houses among other things: a collection of sculptures from the end of the 15th century, epitaphs from the 16th -18th century, funeral banners: of Frederick Groeben, a participant in the Battle of Vienna and of Botho Eulenburg, the only preserved in Prussia funeral banner of a child with the image of the deceased at the age of three. There is also a collection of tin utensils from the 18th and 20th century and a collection of artefacts secured in the surrounding manors and palaces.

The ethnography department includes, among others: traditional equipment used until recently in Masuria villages and a collection of the 18th-century stove tiles. The geological collection is interesting as well. The photos, postcards and documentary materials housed in the Museum

are a valuable source of knowledge about the history of the city and the region. Besides, the museum library possesses , among others, a collection of old prints from the 15th-19th century, a rich collection of publications referring to the history of the region and unique copies of the local press from the 19th and 20th century. A collection of manuscripts from the 17th-20th century originating from the church and municipality archives is particularly valuable.

www.muzeum.ketrzyn.pl

www.muzeum.ketrzyn.pl/wirtualna-wycieczka/

OTHER SUGGESTIONS FOR VISITING OUR REGION FROM A SOFA

Other interesting panoramas can be found at:

www.masuria.eu/multimedia/panoramy/

Virtual walks on the inclined planes on the Elbląg Canal, in an open-air museum and in different museum exhibitions in the region:

www.cyfrowewm.pl/obiekty/20/wirtualne-spacery

Photos, 3D animations and panoramas from the Elbląg Canal:

www.cyfrowewm.pl/obiekty/92/kanal-elblaski

Museum in Lidzbark Warmiński: <http://213.184.21.175/lidzbarkm/>

Kętrzyn city - www.it.ketrzyn.pl/pl/wirtualny-spacer