



NEWSLETTER 4/2020

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TOP FIVE of Varmia and Masuria, 5 things to see in the region



fot. Robert Wróbel

Varmia and Masuria is a combination of history and the present day, of nature and modernity. You can find many peaceful and quiet corners here. Besides, you can admire beautiful landscape which you can't see anywhere else.

The region's most famous tourist attractions include: The Great Masurian Lakes, The Elbląg Canal, The Krutynia River, Gothic Castles, Grunwald and Gołdap, which is the only health resort in the region.

Tourism today means much more than sightseeing. For instance, there are a lot of cultural events referring to history (so-called reenactments). The region also offers delicious cuisine, supported by the association "The Culinary Heritage of Varmia, Masuria and Powiśle". Other forms of tourist attractions include: aviation tourism, winter tourism, as well as a huge number of cultural and sports events.

Link to our latest spot:

www.youtube.com/watch?v=Er8GWtyUMlg

and 5 TOP of our region

THE ELBLĄG CANAL



fot. arch. Żeglugi Ostrodzko-Elbląskiej

The Elbląg Canal connects Ostróda and Iława with Elbląg, i.e. West Masuria with the Vistula Lagoon. The 14.5 km-long section of the canal from Miłomłyn to Lake Jeziorak is called the Iława Canal. Lake Jeziorak is a ribbon lake, the longest natural lake in Poland and the biggest one in the region of Pojezierze Iławskie (The Iława Lake District). It is also the sixth biggest lake in Poland. The lake has a rich shoreline and is surrounded by beautiful forests. There are 16 islands on Lake Jeziorak. There are remnants of an early medieval stronghold on Wielka Żuława - the biggest inland island in Europe. You can get to the island by ferry. Lake Jeziorak is perfect for water sports, such as sailing, windsurfing, canoeing or kitesurfing. Additionally, it is a proper place for diving and fishing.

The Elbląg Canal is the longest shipping canal in Poland. Its originality consists in overcoming the height difference of 100 m by means of 5 inclined planes installed on the section of 10 km. They are driven by water power, which can be seen in one of the engine rooms. Ships or other vessels are transported on special platforms which move on rails running through the slope overgrown with grass. This is the most interesting section of the canal, located between Buczyniec and Elbląg. The inclined planes are situated in Buczyniec, Kały, Olesnica, Jelenie and Całuny. They are 350-550 m long. The cruise over the grass lasts about 20 minutes. The longest dry section is located in Buczyniec.

This world-famous marvel of hydro technology was designed by a Prussian engineer Georg Jacob Steenke in the second quarter of the 19th century. It was built to connect economically East Prussia with the Baltic.

Canal cruises are organised by:

Żegluga Elbląska (The Elbląg Navigation) - www.zegluga.com.pl

Ship Cyranka F.H.U. Krzysztof Rojewski - www.statki.ostroda.pl

Ship Bursztyn - www.statkiempotrawie.com

Ship Zefir – www.zefir.ostroda.pl

THE GREAT MASURIAN LAKES



fot. M. Achtel

The Land of the Great Masurian Lakes is one of the most attractive regions of Poland, taking into consideration both – tourism and landscape. It is exactly where nature shows us its beauty in full bloom. Fresh water and air encourage to spend every free minute in the lap of nature. It is the biggest in Poland complex of lakes, connected by canals or bays, which altogether create an unforgettable water route, from Węgorzewo in the north to Pisz and Ruciane Nida in the south. The route of Great Masurian Lakes begins on the lake Brzozolasek in the vicinity of the town Pisz and it terminates on the canal in Węgorzewo. The length of the route in a straight line amounts to 111 km. There is no other lake route in any European country which would be so extensive, diversified and at the same time so perfect for water tourism. It is an exceptional area not only in Poland, but in whole Europe. Above all, the route creates excellent opportunities to go sailing, kayaking and windsurfing. What's more, you can find eco-marinas in this region. In addition, ships are at disposal of those who prefer cruising. Houseboats have been very popular in recent years. You can enjoy your time on water, spend a night on a boat and you don't need to have a licence. This region is adored by water sports and angling lovers and summer holiday makers. Rare bird species nest in the region of the Great Masurian Lakes. Moreover, there are a lot of nature reserves and the Masurian Landscape Park in this region.

www.mazury.travel/en/

www.it.mragowo.pl/szlak-wielkich-jezior-mazurskich,8,1826,pl.html

THE KRUTYNIA RIVER



foto. Mazury PTTK

The length of canoeing route amounts to approximately 100 kilometers. The network of 10 PTTK (Polish Tourist and Sightseeing Society) water lodge – kayak bases make the area accessible. They are located in such a way as to enable visitors to cover the distance between them during one day.

The convenient place to start the route is the PTTK water lodge – kayak base in Sorkwity. Like other water lodge –kayak bases it provides accommodation and delicious food. What is more, there is well-equipped bikes and kayaks rental. You can set out from Sorkwity to a place Zyndaki which is located about 10 kilometers further. There, on the isthmus of Warpuńskie and Zyndacki Lake there is a starting point of the Krutynia Route. The route runs through 20 lakes, which are connected with streams bearing local names. The longest of them is the river Krutynia which gives its name to the whole route. The Ruciane Nida is considered to be the endpoint of the route.

To encourage you, I will quote the words of a Masurian poet - Karol Małłek:
"Who has not seen the Krutynia, hasn't seen Masuria."

www.mazurypttk.pl

THE BATTLE OF GRUNWALD REENACTMENT



arch. Fundacja Grunwald

In the battle of Grunwald, on 15 July 1410, the Polish king Władysław II Jagiełło defeated the Teutonic Knights. This was one of the greatest battles in the Middle Ages. By that time it was only the Teutonic Order that had succeeded on the battlefield. The Poles suffered numerous defeats. The battle was a great success of the Polish-Lithuanian army. 203 out of 250 Teutonic Knights were killed on the battlefields of Grunwald, including the Grand Master Ulrich von Jungingen and other dignitaries. Over 3,000 Middle Ages lovers from all over the world (e.g. Germany, Italy, France, Finland, the Czech Republic, Slovakia, Hungary, Russia, Belarus, Ukraine and the USA) meet on the fields near Grunwald every year. Over 1,400 knights gather on the field to take part in the largest outdoor reenactment of the medieval battle in Poland. This annual performance happens before the audience of over 80,000 viewers. There is also a museum in the fields of Grunwald, which can be visited all year long.

www.grunwald1410.pl

GOLDAP – MASURIAN RESORT



fot. M. Achtel

Goldap is the only health resort in the Varmia and Masuria region, a rapidly developing tourist and leisure centre, and a member of the elite Cittaslow international association of towns. It has the cleanest air in Poland. You can find here the Masurian Brine Graduation Tower, the fourth largest in Poland. Interesting is Zdrój – modern pump room for serving mineral and curative waters, also featuring a salt cave and working all year round mini graduation tower. Nearby, there are footpaths and cycle trails, a modern playground and a mini golf course. Moreover, there is a jetty on the lake, divided by the Russian-Polish border. There is a border crossing point to Russia 4 km from centre of the town, and the Lithuanian border is only 40 km away.

Patients with rheumatological, nervous system, digestive system, lower respiratory tract, women's diseases and orthopedic-traumatic, cardiological and hypertensive problems can seek professional help in the Gołdapien health resort. The treatment process involves the use of peloid mud produced in Goldap, as well as medicinal and mineral waters.

In addition to the virtues of its spa and landscape, Gołdap has ideal conditions for recreation and leisure all year-round. The East of Poland Cycling Trail Green Velo runs through here. It begins in Elbląg and ends in Końskie near

Kielce, so it runs through five voivodeships in the eastern part of the country. Furthermore, there are 170 km of picturesque bicycle routes in the vicinity of Gołdap. The ski station on Piękna Góra is famous for a unique revolving café at the summit, a chairlift and two kilometers of artificially snowed and lightened ski runs. The professional ski and snowboard school, surface lift, luge track and a ropes course work here.

Gołdap is a town of healthy, peaceful living. You can breathe easily here.

www.uzdrowiskogoldap.pl

