

**kujawsko-
pomorskie**
constellations
of good places



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of good places**



Welcome to Kujawsko-Pomorskie Constellations of good places

Kujawsko-Pomorskie Constellations of good places is a land of independent towns, culturally diverse with people respecting their historical identity. It cannot be conveniently pigeonholed; it constantly surprises and intrigues. You will never get bored with it, discovering its ever-changing images. Its scenery features meandering rivers, wilderness, sandy forest trails, small valleys, salt resources, prehistoric settlements, austere Gothic walls, and towers guarding secrets. The region has towns with deep-rooted traditions, creating their present and future on a grand scale, aware of their assets and looking bravely into the future. Developing according to the principles of economy, implementing new technology and crafts, they continue to preserve their centuries-old heritage written in the stars.

Let's discover tourist sites of our region, building our own constellation of travel! It can be full of flavor, like

the hospitable land of Kuyavia; tempting with mysterious tales, like Pałuki; organically connected with nature, like the Tuchola Forest Biosphere Reserve - UNESCO; slow and picturesque, like the Lower Vistula River Valley; immersed in history like the Chełmno Land; wild and full of adventures, like the Brodnica Lake District; idyllic, like Krajna; mild, like Kociewie; undiscovered, like the Dobrzyń Land; fascinating, like Bydgoszcz; and reaching for the stars, like Toruń.

We do hope that you will sense good energy when you visit our region, which comes from our land and the inspiring power of planets and stars, which we continue to observe and explore. Combine selected sites into your own, unique itineraries, explore undiscovered paths and sightsee our lands.

Kuyavia bustles with good energy. Drops of saline in the graduation towers of Inowrocław and Ciechocinek can improve your health and vitality. Kuyavia is known for its fertile black soils, fields of colza crops – the Kuyavian sun, and flocks of white geese. You can have a picnic under the Kuyavian sky, catch the wind on Włocławek Reservoir, and taste regional flavors. You can visit the Kuyavian village in the ethnographic park of Kłóbka, the royal town of Brześć Kujawski and megalithic tombstones in Wietrzychowice. Learn about the history of Piasts, the legend of evil Popiel and Lake Gopło. Take some legendary local faience souvenirs known as “Włocławki” and go back. Everything ahead of you!

Kuyavia

Ciechocinek



When in 1836 four copper therapeutic bathtubs were installed in one of the inns of Ciechocinek, attracting first health resort visitors, curative properties of local waters were noticed. It led to establishment of a spa known as Zakład Zdrojowy, which originated the local health resort. Over the years, Ciechocinek had become a favorite spa town for elites, continuing its traditions as a popular resort to this day.

Three impressive graduation towers made from wood are very unique structures, ranked among the biggest in Europe. Their total length is 1,742.3 m and the height reaches almost 16 m. Saline water to the tower is drawn

from the spring no. 11 – the famous fountain in the shape of a mushroom called "Grzybek." Saline water is drawn from this site, from the depth of 414.6 m, from which it is transported through a pipeline to the graduation tower. A walk alongside the graduation tower is not only a time for relaxation, but also a perfect way to improve your health. Salt water running down the tower, through bundles of blackthorn, under the influence of wind and solar energy, intensively evaporates, creating a local microclimate rich in iodine. Inside one of the towers, there is a saline grotto, a natural inhalation room supplied with salt water of Ciechocinek.



The saltworks is a unique industrial heritage site, known nationwide and worldwide. It is the last link in the technology chain of Ciechocinek table salt production. Salt has been produced here in a traditional way for nearly two centuries, with the use of simple tools, and works related to salt production are made by hand by salt workers. In order to learn about salt production process and the origins of the spa town of Ciechocinek, you have to visit the local museum. Among many exhibits, there is restored equipment for therapeutic gymnastics made in the early 20th century. The complex of graduation towers along with Tężniowy Park and Zdrojowy Park were designated as a national historic landmark. This Kuyavian spa town charms with the greenery of

parks, flower carpets and eclectic architecture. The Summer Theater, built in the "Swiss" style, a gem of 19th-century wood architecture, the Mineral Water Well Room with façade decorated with castellated cladding and the Concert Shell in the Zakopane style make an impression not only on architecture enthusiasts. Walking through the alleys of Zdrojowy Park we can notice a fairy tale couple hiding under the umbrella. It is the famous Ciechocinek fountain called "Jaś i Małgosia," which is one of the landmarks of the town. Visiting Ciechocinek, you have to try the local mineral water known under the name of "Krystynka," extracted here since 1902. Along with local spa cosmetics, it is a perfect supplement to every therapy.

Inowrocław

Entering the local park known as Solankowy Park, you cross the border between everyday urban life and green area, in which time is measured with deep breaths and slow walking speed. The distinctive turrets that are seen on top of the Inowrocław graduation tower invite to a zone of blissful relaxation. Its shape is created by two combined polygons, surrounded with saline aerosol with all its healing properties. Take a deep breath and feel curative powers of local air. Go to the Well Room and try the local mineral water called "Inowrocławianka" and the curative water called "Jadwiga." Experience some exotics in the local Tropical Greenhouse and explore folklore in a stylized local cottage known as Chata Kujawska. Cellars of the Municipal Theater will take you

right to the Inowrocław salt mine. It offers an insight to the history of salt production in Inowrocław. One of the most prominent historic landmarks of Inowrocław is the Romanesque Church of the Most Holy Name of the Blessed Virgin Mary. The bas-relief sculptures seen on its walls, depicting human and animal heads, have for years been a source of speculations and legends. Supposedly, no other writer described the Kuyavian Land better than Jan Kasprowicz. The monument dedicated to this one of the most outstanding Polish poets, born in Szymborze (today's district of Inowrocław), can be found in one of the squares of Inowrocław. In order to learn about his life and oeuvre, you should visit the Jan Kasprowicz Museum.

The local rhyming tradition known as "przywołówki dyngusowe" is an old Easter custom celebrated in Kuyavia. It has been observed to this day in Szymborze, an old village and now the district of Inowrocław. "Przywołówki" are short, rhymed texts praising virtues or reprimanding vices of young ladies, featuring an announcement of an upcoming "dyngus," when traditionally boys throw water over girls. This custom was established by members of the Bachelors' Club Association, founded in a period between the end of 1833 and the beginning of 1834. They are proclaimed on Easter Sunday from a special stand. In 2016, the custom known as "przywołówki dyngusowe" in Szymborze was registered on the Polish Intangible Cultural Heritage List.



Graduation tower, photo from the K-POI collection

Kruszwica

These days, Kruszwica - which is linked to the origins of the Polish State – is associated primarily with the legend about evil King Popiel and Mouse Tower standing in town. It is a remnant of a 14th-century fortified castle, built by King Casimir the Great. In the past, it served as a fortress on the border between Poland and the Teutonic State, which has not survived to this day due to numerous wars and fires. These days, we can see preserved parts of the fortified walls and a 32 m high octagonal tower.

Its top can be reached by a spiral staircase. It offers a breathtaking view of the vast waters of Lake Gołto. The most magnificent historic landmark of Kruszwica is the Collegiate Church of Sts. Peter and Paul. This place of worship, built in the middle of the 11th century, is one of the best preserved gems of Romanesque art in Poland.



Collegiate Church of Sts. Peter and Paul, photo by Wojciech Zdunek



Mysia Wieża, photo by Daria Foch/MWKP

Strzelno

Strzelno is a must-see for Romanesque art lovers. There is a complex of the former Norbertine Sisters, designated as a national historic landmark, featuring valuable works of art.

The Rotunda of St. Procopius is one of the oldest Romanesque places of worship and the biggest Romanesque rotunda in Poland. Its original spatial layout and unique architectural design make it Europe's only rotunda with a square chancel, preserving its original cross-ribbed vault. Its austere, stone interior features the original Romanesque stoup dating from the 12th century, Poland's oldest Stations of the Cross made in 1531 and bas-relief sculptures from the turn of the 16th century.

There are many Romanesque treasures in the Basilica of the Holy Trinity, despite its reconstruction in Gothic and Baroque styles. Two Romanesque columns with

personification of human virtues and vices, seen in its interior, are ranked among the most precious Romanesque works of art in Poland. Similar columns can be found only in St. James' Cathedral in Santiago de Compostela, Spain and St. Mark's Basilica in Venice, Italy. Among many altars, our attention is drawn to the Altar of the Holy Cross with 658 relics of holy martyrs and True Cross relics. A crucifix with a 14th-century statue of the Crucified Christ is seen in its central part. In the former Norbertine Monastery, adjacent to the church, there is a small museum with Poland's biggest collection of Romanesque sculptures.



Romanesque columns in the Basilica of the Holy Trinity, photo by Wojciech Zdunek



Włocławek



Włocławek allows to catch the wind. Włocławek Reservoir, a huge water body created as a result of damming the Vistula River, is a perfect place for those who enjoy recreational activities on the water. They can take advantage of marinas that offer rental of water equipment. A modern marina on the Vistula River, operating in the city center, offers a breathtaking view of the riverside image of the city. The Marshal Piłsudski Boulevard, stretching alongside the Vistula, encourages walking and cycling.

Take a closer look at Włocławek dam and the Vistula River, known as the queen of Polish rivers. The Basilica of the Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary is one of the oldest Gothic cathedrals in Poland. Many valuable sacred works of art are seen in its interior. The best place to learn about the history of Włocławek is the Museum of the Kuyavian and Dobrzyń Region. Here, you can also explore the history of Włocławek faience and folk culture of Kuyavia.

Walking with a goat known in Polish as "chodzenie z kozą" is a custom observed in Kuyavia, during which groups of people in colorful costumes walk from house to house in the end of carnival (from Fat Thursday to Fat Tuesday before Ash Wednesday). It is continuation of old folk traditions, which purpose is to ensure a good harvest. In 2020, the custom was registered on the Polish Intangible Cultural Heritage List.



Włocławek, photo by Wojciech Zdunek



Skansen in Kłóbka, photo by Wojciech Zdunek

Skansen in Kłóbka

An image of an idyllic village can be seen while visiting the Kuyavian-Dobrzyń Ethnographic Park. A traditional village from the past was recreated in Kłóbka, a picturesque Kuyavian settlement. Old cottages with home gardens, full of blooming hollyhocks, sunflowers and phloxes, surrounded by the scent of herbs and the sound of buzzing bees coming from straw beehives... It is a place where time stops. There are old craft workshops – a smithy, pottery an oil mill, as well as a windmill known as "koźlak," and an old inn, church, fire station, and even an old school, in which you can kneel on

peas, experiencing a traditional punishment for disobedient pupils. An exhibition in a historical manor granary educates about issues related to economy and agriculture in old villages of the Kuyavian and Dobrzyń Region. The ethnographic park on the Lubieńka River features a 19th-century manor of the Orpiszewski family. Its interior was restored as a mirror image of a gentry house. In the past, it served as residence of Maria Wodzińska Orpiszewska, with whom Frederick Chopin fell in love in his youth.

Brześć Kujawski

This small town has a deep-rooted history. During the Middle Ages it served as capital of the Duchy of Brześć and Kuyavia, hosting meetings between Poles and the Teutonic Knights as well as councils participated by monarchs. The Gothic Church of St. Stanislaus, the Bishop is a witness of the oldest history of town.

You can learn about the history of Brześć Kujawski, from the Neolithic to the present, thanks to a multimedia exhibition called "The Pendulum" displayed in the "Wahadło" Center of Culture and History in Brześć Kujawski. Here, you can find such exhibits as Neolithic trapezoid houses discovered in this area as well as dishes used during the Bronze Age and the Iron Age. You can glance into the chamber of Duchess Euphrosyne, the mother of Ladislaus the Short, King of Poland who will tell you about her courtly life and will introduce to you the little Ladislaus. Brześć Kujawski was the birthplace of the future king of Poland. There is also a medieval market stall, where craftsmen will demonstrate to you all secrets of their trades. You can take a seat in a car of a narrow-gauge railway and go on a trip from Włocławek to Brześć. The name of this place is related to this railway. In the past, there was a transfer station of a narrow-gauge railway offering shuttle service.



Wietrzychowice Culture Park

Wietrzychowice will surprise you with... pyramids, which are older than the Egyptian pyramids by more than a millennium! "The Polish pyramids" are huge stone tombs erected by Neolithic people of the Funnelbeaker culture. They were built in order to assure a permanent burial site for the deceased. Such burial places were dedicated to people who were generally respected; therefore, it is believed that leaders of tribal groups were laid to rest in them. Tombs were built from sizeable builders, topped with massive earthworks with more than 1,000 cubic meters in capacity, over 100 meters in length and up to 3 meters in height, formed on a plan of an elongated triangle. In Wietrzychowice Cultural Park, we can find 5 preserved Kuyavian megaliths.

In the past, they awakened curiosity, sometimes anxiety. These days, they are ranked among the oldest and most precious objects of Europe's cultural heritage.

In one of the tombs, relics of two men with traces of trepanation were discovered. Adhesions allow to believe that the surgeries were successful and both of them lived after them for a few years.

Olender Ethnographic Park in Wielka Nieszawka

Wielka Nieszawka reminds about the times of the Olenders, Protestant settlers from the Netherlands and Friesland. Their earliest traces in this area indicate the beginning of the 17th century. Until the outbreak of World War II, there had been one of the main centers of this community.

Part of the cultural scenery of a Vistulan village from the turn of the 20th century was restored in the Olender

Ethnographic Park. Farmsteads moved from the Lower Vistula Valley are recognized as some of the most valuable examples of architecture typical of Olender settlement preserved to this day. Along with the surrounding croplands, meadows and orchards they create an image of an old village. It is completed with a Mennonite cemetery that is situated in the park.



Olender Ethnographic Park, photo by Daniel Pach



Kalwaria Pakoska (Pakość Calvary), photo by Wojciech Zdunek

Pakość

Kalwaria Pakoska (Pakość Calvary), known as Kuyavian Jerusalem, attracts pilgrims from different parts of Poland. It constitutes a complex of 24 chapels and the Church of the Crucifixion. It is the second oldest (after Kalwaria Zebrzydowska) calvary in Poland. Its construction was initiated by the local parish priest, Wojciech Kęsicki in 1628. Taking the map of Jerusalem drawn by Christian van Adrichem, a Dutch priest, as an example, he outlined paths imitating the Jerusalem trails, marking individual Stations of the Cross with wooden crosses, establishing two procession routes, the Capture of Jesus and the Way of the Cross. In 1647, the Calvary was taken over by the Franciscans-Reformers, who have

been watching over this place – with some breaks - to this day.

In 2018, Kalwaria Pakoska was named the Archdiocesan Shrine of Christ's Passion. Its central part is the Monastery Church of St. Bonaventure, erected by the Franciscans, which holds relics of the True Cross. The church that is not part of the Calvary complex was built on ruins of a 14th-century castle. It is part of the Piast Trail.



JuraPark Solec

Solec Kujawski will take you on a journey to the lost world. In JuraPark, you will enter the land of the dinosaurs, where you will meet over a hundred formidable creatures from ancient times. In the Earth Museum, you will find a 13-meter high skeleton of Opisthocoelicaudia and stand eye-to-eye with ... a mammoth. This one of Poland's biggest collections of fossils will take you

through consecutive periods of our Planet. The Winter Garden features relict plant species. There is also something for our national history enthusiasts, which is Poland in miniature. There are miniature models of historical Polish castles and monarchs of Poland, displayed as statues made during plein-air sculpture events.



Nature

Lake Gopło was called Mare Polonorum (the Sea of the Poles) in old chronicles. These days, this lake – the subject of legends – lies in the center of Gopło Millennium Park, a unique site on the natural and historical maps of Poland. A mosaic of farm fields, meadows, woods and the vast lake create not only a unique landscape of Lake Gopło area called Nadgopie, but also a bird sanctuary attracting many bird species.

Other sites with valuable natural assets can be found in the Gostynin-Włocławek Landscape Park. One of them is "Lake Rakutowskie" Nature Preserve, protecting the biggest lake in the Gostynin Lake District along with ad-

acent meadows with distinctive plant communities and nesting habitats of many rare bird species. In the fall, you can participate in a congregation of cranes. A perfect place for bird watching is a wooden tower standing in the area of the village of Krzewent. Another place is Lake Gościąż, which due to its lakebed deposits has been recognized as a natural phenomenon, unique in the world. The distinctive lakebed sediment deposits of this water body, dating back 13 thousand years, create a unique geological calendar.

Pałuki

Pałuki is like an education center under the naked sky. Every hill has a different history! The route of narrow-gauge railway runs through gates of changing epochs to the museum in Wenecja, where you will find decommissioned steam locomotives and railcars in the proximity of the castle ruins. There is also the mysterious village of Biskupin with its ancient history ... Pałuki has also the impressive, postindustrial Żnin Sugar Factory and a stately palace in Lubostroń. Come and see!

Archeological Museum in Biskupin

“Polish Pompei” – one of Europe’s biggest and most recognizable archeological sites (POT Certificate) stretches on the picturesque shore of Lake Biskupińskie. There are traces of settlement, from the Stone Age to the Early Middle Ages, including remains of a fortified settlement dating from the Late Bronze Age and the Early Iron Age. Reconstructed dwellings bring our attention to ghosts of the past. In them, you can meet craftsmen

restoring old life of ancient residents. A unique event is the Archeological Festival (POT Certificate) organized annually in September. Reenactors from various parts of the world remind us about customs and daily life of ancient cultures. On site, there are also small fields with crops of archaic plant species as well as farms with animals similar to original breeds, which used to live in this area centuries ago.



POLISH TOURIST ORGANISATION

Archeological Festival, photo from the archives of the County Office in Żnin



Żnin Sugar Factory, photo by Kamil Suchta

Żnin



POLISH TOURIST ORGANISATION

Żnin, known as capital of Pałuki, is a town with a deep-rooted and stormy history. The history, culture and traditions of this land can be explored in the Museum of the Pałuki Land. A 15th-century gothic town hall tower, commonly referred to as “baszta,” will take us back to the Middle Ages, when Żnin was one of the biggest and most prominent towns of the region of Wielkopolska. Its old atmosphere can be found in the reconstructed interiors of the armory, the meeting room of town councilors, and the town treasury. You can learn about folk culture of Pałuki in the old municipal office, which displays traditional folk costumes and interior of a typical Pałuki cottage. You will explore the history of Żnin printmaking and visit the Museum of Motorboat

Sports. Visiting town, you can tour the Żnin Sugar Factory (POT Certificate). These days, it is a modern hotel established in a postindustrial facility. An atmosphere of an old factory and its original equipment highlight the uniqueness of this place.

ŻNIN, thanks to the national publishing concern of Anna and Alfred Krzycki, was the place that originated Poland’s first colorful women’s magazine. **“Moja Przyjaciółka”** – an illustrated biweekly magazine with advices for daily living, latest fashion news, recipes and reports from distant parts of the world - became the most popular publication for women in prewar Poland.

Wenecja



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A visit to the Narrow-Gauge Railway Museum is like time travel to the past. It is one of Europe's biggest museums of historical steam locomotives and traction vehicles with 600 mm gauge. It features 17 steam locomotives (the oldest one dates from 1899!), passenger and freight cars, hand-operated and motorized handcars, and a unique postal service car. The exhibition is completed with necessary railway infrastructure, including a historical waiting room, trackman's booth, trackways with switches and junctions, and a water crane used to fill up

water in locomotive boilers and a turnout that enables change of direction. Train madness! A unique experience is a tour of the Museum at night, illuminated by stars and reflectors. Such opportunity is offered by the Wenecja Night with Steam Locomotives (POT Certificate). Puffing locomotives, illuminated exhibits and stylish music will charm everyone.

In the proximity of the Museum, there are ruins of a 14th-century castle of Mikołaj Nałęcz, called the Bloody Devil of Wenecja. What did he do to be called by this sinister nickname? He earned it due to his ruthlessness and harsh judgement ... according to a legend. Mysterious ruins attract thrill seekers. At night, when you walk around the castle, supposedly you can hear moans of the Devil himself who was killed in lightning strike during an uproarious party, loosing also his castle and all treasures kept in it. Allegedly, they have been there to this day ... if you want, you can look for them!

Narrow-gauge railway is an inseparable part of the Patuki scenery. In the past, it was the principal mean of both passenger and freight transport. These days, a ride on this popular choo-choo train is an enjoyable experience. During the tourist season, its route runs from Żnin, through Wenecja and Biskupin, to Gąsawa.



Żnin Narrow-Gauge Railway, photo from the archives of the County Office in Żnin

Lubostroń Palace

In "sercu lubym ustroniu" (translated as a retreat close to the heart), as Count Fryderyk Skórzewski used to say about his property, he built a palace in the late 18th century, which these days is recognized as a gem of Polish Classicism and one of the best preserved residential estates in Poland. This magnificent residence reminds the Renaissance Villa Rotonda of Vicenza. Atlas, holding up the earth, is seen on the dome of the palace. The

décor of palace interiors confirms strong patriotism of the former owners. Lubostroń was not only a residential estate of the Skórzewski family, but also a place preserving our country's national identity, and a meeting place for scientists and artists. The palace along with manor buildings is immersed in an English landscape park occupying 40 hectares.



Lubostroń Palace, photo by Filip Kowalkowski / UMWKP



Church of St. John the Apostle, photo by Daniel Pach / UMWKP

Benedictine Abbey in Mogilno

On a small hill, on the shore of Lake Mogileńskie, there is a former Benedictine monastery, which origins date back to 1050. The Church of St. John the Apostle, reconstructed many times over the years, preserved its original style of a Romanesque basilica with Gothic, Renaissance and Baroque components. Some of the most interesting places in the church are crypts in the cellar. The western crypt with a cross vault, supported by one pillar, called the abbot, is one of only a few of this type in Europe. The austere stone altar in the eastern crypt

confirms celebration of services in this place for 800 years. Three monastery wings, along with the church wall, create a viridarium, which center is occupied by Poland's oldest well. These days, the monastery houses a friary of the Order of Friars Minor Capuchin, serving also as a unique place for relaxation for incoming visitors and pilgrims.



Gaŝawa

The Church of St. Nicholas attracts sacred art enthusiasts. It was built in the 17th by the Canons Regular of Trzemeszno. In 1705-1706 the church interior was decorated with Baroque paintings. The passing time and turns of fate left their mark on the structure. During remodeling works that were conducted in 1856-1858, the church murals were covered with reed and a thick layer of plaster. In this way, they disappeared from the Gaŝawa church for 150 years. They were rediscovered during renovation that was

carried out in 1998-1999. Removal of plaster revealed a beautiful image that after many years of restoration has been impressing to this day everyone who crosses the threshold of this little church. This multi-layer illusionist artwork, an example of fine art, depicts scenes from the Gospel and saints, flower and fruit garlands, as well as floral cartouches with inscriptions. The church interior features several styles, from Late Gothic, through Baroque, Mannerism, Classicism to contemporary styles.

Gaŝawa went down in history as a place hosting a meeting of Piast Dukes held in 1227, during which Leszek the White was assassinated and killed. The prince was attacked while bathing; he managed to escape to the nearby village of Marcinkowo, where he was caught and killed. This event is commemorated by a monument in Marcinkowo Górne, depicting the naked prince riding a horse, killed by an arrow by the people of Świętopełk.



Church of St. Nicholas, photo by Wojciech Zduńek



Church of St. Nicholas, photo by Wojciech Zduńek

Western Silverado City in Bożejewiczki

Bożejewiczki is a real treat for the Wild West enthusiasts. Gunslinger duels, bank robberies, stunt shows, horse shows, and real cowboys! All of that is shown in western scenery. There is the Sheriff's Office, Dr. Quinn Medicine Woman House, Saloon, and even a fort from the Ameri-

can Civil War, which is guarded by Sergeant Garcia. Gold seekers are invited to the Dakota Mine, reminding the times of the Gold Rush, which in the past captured imagination of many Americans.



Silverado City, photo by Rafał Frąckiewicz



Gašawka River Valley, photo by Lukasz Kwiatkowski

Nature

Take a deep breath and explore the charms of Pałuki nature. A walk along "The Gašawka River Valley" provides relaxation, far away from the hustle and bustle of daily life. This trail runs through parts of the nature preserve "Gašawka River Source," featuring charming woodland areas, alongside a lazy meandering river, creating many floodplains. You can listen to tales told by the wind about a sorcerer's castle turned into a huge boulder called "The Stone House." The mysterious stone, shrouded in legend, is a glacial erratic boulder with im-

pressive dimensions, 13 m in circumference and over 3 m in height. In the forest wilderness, on a hill of Lake Ostrowieckie, there is the Spring of St. Hubert. According to a local legend, it once saved the life of a certain hunter. Dive into the water of Piechcin quarry and find sunken treasures. It is like a "Mediterranean paradise" for diving aficionados.

TUCHOLA FOREST and Krajna

The Tuchola Forest Biosphere Reserve UNESCO – a place in which people live in harmony with nature. When you want to get away from your daily life and experience the healing power of nature with all your senses – you have come to the right place! You will be captivated by mid-forest lakes and the rapid course of the Brda River ... This forest region will surprise you with its heritage – the mining traditions of the “Montania” mine and an intersection of waterways in Fojutowo. The neighboring region of Krajna, full of gently rolling hills and lakes, will take you to idyllic landscape. Just relax...

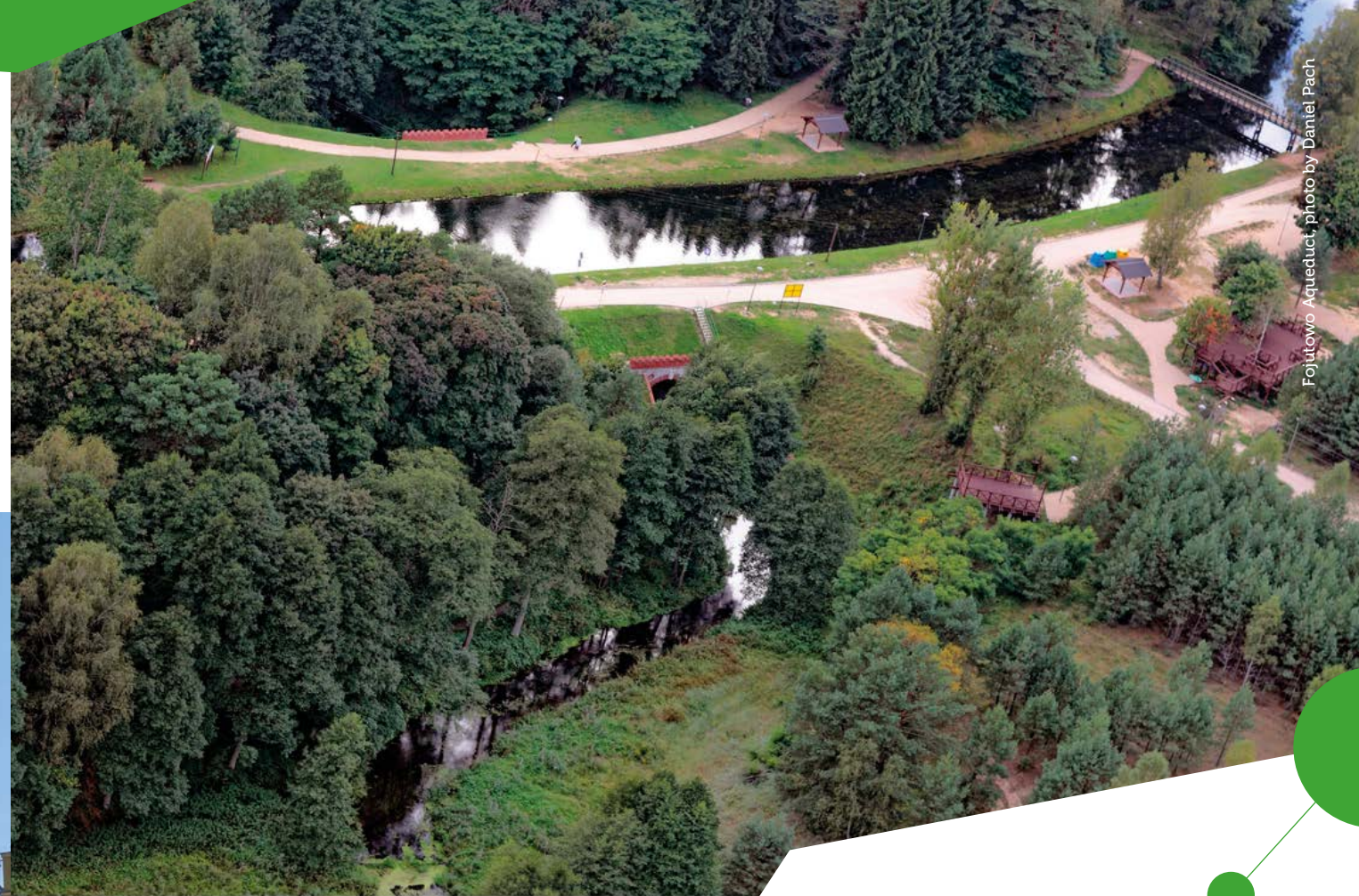
Tuchola

Tuchola invites to a meeting with history, tradition and nature of the Tuchola Forest. You can take a look at the former life of an ethnic group called Kuyavian Borowiaks. There are also interiors of a typical Borowiak cottage, traditional costumes, everyday appliances and tools, which in the past helped their users in their daily

activities. You will explore the abounding fauna and flora of the Tuchola Forest. In addition, looking at a miniature model of medieval Tuchola, you will be able to learn about the history of one of the oldest towns of Pomerania.



Wolności Square in Tuchola, photo by Wojciech Zdunek



Fojutowo Aqueduct, photo by Daniel Pach

Fojutowo Aqueduct

The aqueduct, built in 1845-49 by Prussian engineers, is one of the most interesting landmarks of hydrotechnical heritage in Poland. Modeled after ancient Roman infrastructure, it serves as intersection of waterways – the Czerska Struga River running down and the Grand Brda Canal running over it.

Mining Village in Piła-Młyn

Mines in Silesia are quite obvious, but mines in the Tuchola Forest? This is it! Piła-Młyn will surprise you with its mining history. In 1850-1939, the only brown coal underground mines in the north of Poland operated in this area. Only one of them – “Montania” – has survived to this day, originating the Mining Village.

This site restores and cherishes the old mining traditions. This place has an interesting history. Here, you can also discover sinkholes caused by mining, an inclined drift, and remain of technical infrastructure of the mine. Moreover, with a little bit of luck, you can meet the mysterious ghost of the mine.



Tleń

It is one of the most popular summer resorts in the Tuchola Forest. Situated picturesquely among woods, on Lake Mukrza and the Wda River, it attracts active recreation enthusiasts. The Wda River, meandering among green woods, loved by kayakers, is a lowland river that looks like a mountain river. There are also numerous trails that wait for hikers and cyclists. A must-see is Żur Reservoir. It is a perfect place to run away from the hustle and bustle of daily life.

This manmade reservoir, created as a result of establishing the Żur hydroelectric power station, serves as habitat for beavers, otters and water birds, with charming bays and islands. The Active Nature Protection Center of the Wda Landscape Park is also worth visiting.

Raciaż Settlement

A bridge across Lake Śpiewnik will take you to a reconstructed 13th-century settlement. In the past, this fortified settlement was a center of Raciaż castellany within a secular duchy with local administrative, military, judicial and economic authorities. It outlined and defended the duchy boundaries. It was one of only a few settlements at the sparsely populated Tuchola For-

est region. Fires, caused primarily by enemy troops, brought an end to the settlement. These days, we can take a look at the recreated settlement. It features the restored entrance gate, marked locations of homesteads and other buildings, and a place of the former cemetery. Numerous information boards offer an insight to an interesting history of this site.



Koronowo and Lake Koronowskie

The town has origins related to the Cistercians. Its name derives from the monastery that was called Corona Marie by the monks. Traces of the Cistercians can be found in the local basilica. One of the must-sees in the area, attracting cyclists and hikers, is a picturesque overpass of a narrow-gauge railway, the tallest in Europe, built more than 120 years ago. This steel, openwork structure is 18 m high. Its top offers a breathtaking view of the Brda River Valley. Park Grabina, named after beech for-

ests growing on local hills, is a perfect place for hiking. Here, you can take a look at the meandering Brda River and the town lying at its foot. Lake Koronowskie, surrounded with woods, is a paradise for water sports enthusiasts. Charming bays, scenic islands, and wild shores invite sailing aficionados and encourage to set sails. Sails fluttering in the wind have become a fixture of the local scenery.

Nakło nad Notecią

Nakło invites to the water with its name. The Noteć River is part of the E70 International Waterway running from Antwerp to Klaipeda. Yachts swing in the port of Nakło County Marina. The facility offers rental of water equipment. Therefore you can admire the charms of Noteć scenery from the water. The Noteć River Valley

is a perfect place for nature lovers. It is one of Poland's most important routes for migratory birds. Visiting the Museum of the Krajna Land you will learn about the history of Nakło and Krajna, dating back to the ancient times, as well as folk culture of this region.



Nakło County Marina, photo by Maciej Boński



Palace ruins in Runowo Krajeńskie, photo by Daniel Pach

Runowo Krajeńskie

At the turn of the 17th century, Jan Orzelski, the then owner of Runowo Krajeńskie, built on this site a Renaissance manor surrounded with a scenic park. A stone foundation plaque with the year 1595 has been seen to this day on one of the walls. The estate, brought as dowry by Jan's daughter, Izabela, became later the property of the Działyński family. This place, as well as Kórnik, had been used as a retreat by Teofila Szoldrska-Potu-

licka nee Działyńska, the owner of Kórnik castle, known as "The White Lady." Unfortunately, the later history and fate were not kind to the castle. It was destroyed by the German troops in 1945. These days, we can look at its mysterious ruins in the proximity of Lake Runowskie. The entire estate is surrounded by the Krajna Landscape Park.

Nature

Vast woodlands, cut by rapid rivers, blue creeks, myriad lakes, and charming landscapes. They comprise the Tuchola Forest – Biosphere Reserve UNESCO. Take a deep breath and enjoy nature in full, take a listen to the mysterious whispers of reeds and tales of the murmuring forest.

Discover the charms of the Brda River, best seen from a kayak. It is one of the most interesting kayak trails in Europe. One of the birds seen in the area is the river kingfisher – the symbol of the Tuchola Landscape Park. The “Jeziorka Kozie” Nature Preserve will surprise you with “floating bogs.” The nature trail “Jelenia Wyspa” runs through a charming area of the “Bagna nad Stążką” Nature Preserve. The Stążka is one of the cleanest rivers in the Tuchola Forest. You can admire its meanders from a lookout tower. With a little bit of luck, you can watch such birds as the crane, which is a true gem seen on these marshes. Tree stands of the “Nad Stążką” Dendrological Park planted more than a hundred years ago, serve as an oasis for nature lovers. There are nearly 150 tree and shrub species. Footpaths on the marshes will take into the world of mud birds and unique plants.

Poland’s first “Quiet Trail” was established in the Wda Landscape Park. This 11-km long path runs far away from human habitats and transportation routes. It runs from the Stara River to Lake Piaseczno through some scenic areas with beautiful nature. Feel the power of nature and immerse yourself in a forest.





The Lower Vistula Valley is a slow & flow land. Looking into the panoramic view of the Queen of Polish Rivers, cultivating traditions of Polish landed gentry, abounding in fields, pastures and apiaries, it charms with its open spaces. Green meadows are intertwined with the blue ribbon of the Vistula River and the red Gothic architecture of the old towns of the Chełmno Land – Chełmno and Grudziądz. You can visit at your own pace the sites remembering the Order of the Teutonic Knights, Mennonite settlers and brave rafters. Discover orchards full of old plum and apple trees, harvest Vistula riverside herbs, taste traditional lamb and goose dishes, accompanied by local wines and ciders ...

LOWER VISTULA RIVER VALLEY and the Chełmno Land

Chełmno



European Route
of Brick Gothic



POMNIK
HISTORII



CERTIFICATE



POLISH
TOURIST
ORGANISATION

Chełmno that lies on nine hills is one of the most beautiful medieval cities of Poland. Its historical center was designated as a historical landmark. Walking along its scenic streets, you will learn about an interesting history of this old city located on the European Route of Brick

Gothic. The history of the city is related to the Teutonic Order, which in 1233 granted to Chełmno its foundation charter, known as Chełmno Law, which had served as a local constitution for a municipal form of government used by more than 225 Polish towns, including Warsaw, Toruń and Gdańsk. Chełmno fascinates with its fully preserved grid plan reminding a chessboard, and one of the longest perimeters of fortified walls in Europe, which is 2,270 m long. The town hall in Gothic and Renaissance styles, which is a highlight of the Market Square, charms with its architecture. One of its walls features the so-called Chełmno rod, an official medieval measure. These days, the town hall houses the Museum of the Chełmno Land, in which you can learn not only about history of the city, but also about Ludwik Rydygier, one of the most famous surgeons in the world, who in 1880 performed world's first surgical removal of pylorus in a patient suffering from stomach cancer. A unique panoramic view of the town is outlined by the towers of six Gothic churches. One of them is the Parish Church of the Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary, which has for years kept a relic of St. Valentine. Thanks to it and the annual event "St. Valentine's Day in Chełmno," Chełmno has been known as the "city of lovers" (POT Certificate). Perspectives - 9 Hills Festival (Certificate of Internet users) is an event that shows a unique image of Chełmno, discovers its secrets and hidden sites. The name of the festival refers to the nine hills, to which protection was assigned of the Nine Muses of Apollo. Their creative breath permeates the city walls and for three days turns it into an art city. Visiting the Miniature Park of Teutonic Castles, you can take a look at the fortified strongholds erected in the historical Chełmno Land by the Teutonic Knights centuries ago.



Panoramic view of Chełmno, photo by Wojciech Zdunek



Granaries, photo by Piotr Jurczyk

Grudziądz

Grudziądz charms with its panoramic view of historical granaries, situated picturesquely on a Vistulan scarp, which in 2017 were registered on the list of Historic Landmarks. Serving as grain warehouses, over the time they were incorporated to the system of city walls, defending access to the city. These days, we can admire parts of the 14th-century city walls with the distinctive Water Gate, the only city gate that has survived. The city is part of the European Route of Brick Gothic. On the Castle Hill, there are relics of a Teutonic castle and the restored Klimek Tower. It is worth climbing up the tower, since it offers a breathtaking panorama of the city and the meandering Vistula River. The FLIS Vistulan Trade Museum housed in the historical granaries is a place from which you can look at the city from the Vistulan Trail, which was an important trade route in the past.

The statue of an Uhlan with a girl, decorating the crown of the city walls refers to the cavalry history of the city. During the interwar period, it housed the Cavalry Training Center – the most important military school educating future military staff of this type of combat arms. Fortification aficionados will enjoy an 18th-century citadel, which is one of the most magnificent objects of military art in Europe and the Wielka Księża Góra Fort.

On March 21, 1522, during the Assembly of Royal Prussia, Nicolaus Copernicus presented his famous treatise "De aestimatione monetarum" (On the Value of Coin). These days, the famous astronomer is seen sitting on a bench in Grudziądz Market Square.



European Route
of Brick Gothic



POMNIK
HISTORII

Ruins of the Teutonic Castle in Radzyń Chełmiński

Radzyń Chełmiński has fascinating ruins of a Teutonic castle that are seen from far away. In the past, it was one of the strongest fortresses in the State of the Teutonic Order. In its heyday, it was the second largest castle in the country, just behind Malbork. Although the present ruins are a mere reminder of the former glory of this Teutonic stronghold, you can still sense its old splendor in the preserved walls. You can tour the castle cellars,

which feature the torture chamber and the museum room, visit the castle chapel and climb the towers that have survived, looking at the former penitential cells on the way. You can also notice mysterious signs engraved on the castle walls. They remind about filming of the popular TV series "Samochodzik and the Knights Templar."

Teutonic castle in Radzyń Chełmiński, photo by Wojciech Zdunek



Teutonic Castle in Świecie

The origins of the Teutonic stronghold in Świecie date back to the first half of the 14th century. The Teutonic Knights chose a very unique site for construction of the castle – a vast peninsula, situated low in the bifurcation of the Vistula and Wda Rivers. In this way, both rivers created in the middle a hard-to-reach place. Such water defense was very unique among the castles built in the State of the Teutonic Order. In the past, the castle was

a strategic structure in the defensive system of Gdańsk Pomerania. The most distinct part of the Świecie stronghold is its main tower, which is 34.75 m high, deflected from the axis by 106 cm! Our attention is focused on its unique finial in the form of a battlement on stone corbels, yet another exception in construction of the State of the Teutonic Order.

Castle in Świecie, photo by Wojciech Zdunek



Olender cottage in Chrystkowo

Chrystkowo with its historical wooden cottage dating from the late 18th century creates a very idyllic image of the village, reminding the times of the Mennonites, Dutch settlers, who after persecution in their country were forced to look for a new place to live outside their homeland. The Mennonites, also known as the Olenders, were known primarily for their skills in farming on waterlogged soils and floodplains. The cottage

in Chrystkowo is one of the most valuable and last Olender objects in the Lower Vistula River Valley. It is an example of architecture that is perfectly adjusted to such natural disasters as flooding. This wooden cottage with thatched roof, with an impressive arcade and a loft, was used in the past as a granary and alternative accommodation during flooding.

Olender cottage in Chrystkowo, photo by Wojciech Zdunek



Palace and Park in Ostromecko

Andrzej Szwalbe, a great promoter of music and art, described Ostromecko as "The Bydgoszcz Wilanów." It is not an overstatement. In the middle of green woods and gardens designed in them, we can notice two palaces. The Classicist New Palace was built between 1832 and 1840. Its beautiful palace interiors feature a collection of instruments made in the former Bydgoszcz factories – the Bydgoszcz Piano Factory and the Bydgoszcz Accordion Factory. Situated at an edge of the Vistulan scarp, the Old Palace is an 18th-century Baroque residence with some components of Saxon Rococo. It houses the

A. Szwalbe Historical Piano Collection, one of the biggest collections of this type in Poland. Both palaces are surrounded by gardens with unique plants and a vast park. This view was designed by the outstanding Prussian gardener and landscape architect - Peter Joseph Lenné, who also designed the famous Potsdam gardens at Sanssouci. Walking along the park alleys, you will find the mausoleum with graves of the Schönborn-Alvensleben family, the former owners of Ostromecko.

New Palace, photo by Wojciech Zdunek



Zamek Bierzgowski

Zamek Bierzgowski is a village which name tells us about a local castle that was built here by the Order of the Teutonic Knights. As a seat of the monastic order, it played an important administrative and military role in the past. Despite its stormy history, it has not lost its original character. Walking through a magnificent gate with an ogival portal our attention is focused on a ce-

ramic tympanum depicting three knights. It is regarded as the oldest example of architectural sculpture in Prussia and an outstanding ceramic artwork in Europe from the turn of the 14th century. The former spirit of the place is recalled by the castle chapel, in which the knights fulfilled their monastic rule. These days, the castle houses the Diocesan Culture Center.



Zamek Bierzgowski, photo by Szymon Zdziebio, tarantoga.pl for UMWWP



Writing and Printing Museum in Grębocin, photo by Wojciech Zdunek

Writing and Printing Museum in Grębocin

Grębocin discovers the secrets of papermaking and printing. A little church, built by the Teutonic Knights in the 13th century, houses the Writing and Printing Museum. Its Gothic interiors feature such exhibits as collections of unique printing presses, a group of Asian printing matrices from China, Japan, Tibet and India, and a collection of paper from different parts of the world.

During museum workshops, you can do calligraphy and make your own paper, drawing it with a ladle from the papermaking vat using a sieve, and discover old trade secrets of a scribe.

Specialties from the Vistula

In the Lower Vistula River Valley nothing disturbs the serenity of rural life. On the trail "Niech Cięż Zakole," you will find the tradition and subtlety of flavor, coming directly from simplicity and nature. These days, it is the most desired composition.

Home orchards are full of fruit trees. They are an inseparable fixture of the Vistula area scenery. The Lower Vistula River Valley is a region that has been involved in fruit harvesting for centuries. Fruit preserve production was booming here at the turn of the 20th century. Ripe fruits were dropped to copper boilers held over the fire, in which women were heating and mixing them with

the use of a special mixer called stork, even for as long two days. There are still places that continue this tradition. Every year in September, Strzelce Dolne invites to the Plum Festival.

Gruczno is a good address for both culinary enthusiasts and regular foodies. The August Taste Festival attracts to this charming place gourmants from all over Poland. The vast Vistula region, featuring Polish Heath Sheep grazing, a historical mill, old plum and apple trees, create natural scenery for meetings between producers and fans of traditional tastes, regional recipes and local products.



Willow trees in the Lower Vistula Valley, photo by Wojciech Zdunek

Nature

The Queen of Polish Rivers has seen and heard a lot. It remembers the times of the diligent Mennonites, who were able to meet its whims, the times of the strong state of the Order of the Teutonic Knights, and a fortified settlement that protected our national borders. It runs through picturesque landscapes full of fruit orchards, apiaries and natural wonders. The precious assets of the natural scenery of the Vistula Valley – one of only several wild rivers of Europe – are protected in the Complex of Landscape Parks on the Lower Vistula Valley. Czarcie Góry, commonly referred to as "Diabelce," are rugged, wooded valleys, slopes and cliffs, stretching between Świecie and Sartowice, offering a magnificent view of the Vistula and the Wda River flowing into it. Allegedly, in the past, these hills were inhabited by devils, who prevented fishermen and rafters from flowing through this section of the Vistula at night.

"Góry Łosiowe" (Elk Mountains) is the most recently established landscape park in Kujawsko-Pomorskie Voivodeship. Although the local hills are far away from the mountains in the south of Poland (the tallest hill is 88 m above sea level), in this lowland area they stand out in the local scenery, providing magnificent views. The lookout seen on a peak offers a unique panoramic view of the Vistula River Valley along with the estuary of the Osa River.

In Topolno, our attention is focused on a distinct hill, towering over the local village. It is a reminder of a medieval city dating from the turn of the 9th century. In the second half of the 10th century there was a fortified settlement that protected the Vistulan trade route, connecting Pomerania with Wielkopolska. These days, only one, high, cut hill has remained, which due to its distinctive shape is called "Plate." From its top, you can admire a panoramic view of the Vistula River Valley.

You will never get bored with the Brodnica Lake District and its glacial landforms. Clean lakes, picturesque ravines, meandering rivers, and vast woods, full of berries and wild blackberries. Pristine nature, tamed only for you, allows you to discover its mysteries during kayak trips, cycling escapes and treasure hunts in the geocache kingdom. Regardless of the season, there is always a thrilling adventure with a dose of adrenaline waiting for you! A feeling of serenity is offered in the sounds of Chopin's mazurkas, which like sparrows sit on fences and porches of the hospitable Dobrzyń Land. Take a listen...

BRODNICA LAKE DISTRICT and the Dobrzyń Land

Brodnica

Brodnica will surprise you with its triangular market square, which allegedly owes its unique shape to God himself. Overlooking construction of the city, the Creator took a break and placed a trowel on the ground. As legend has it, the bricklayers working on site patterned the market layout on its shape ...

A 54-meter high tower seen over the town is a remnant of a Teutonic castle. There are interesting castle cellars full of exhibits that educate about the history of this place. The town owes its development to Anna Vasa, who became county head of Brodnica in 1604. She established a strong intellectual center, proud of its religious tolerance. The princess, who was interested in music and literature, became a patron of young artists and people with a passion for science. She was very interested in botany and herbal medicine, growing medicinal plants and making her own medicines. She served as county head in two centers; in 1611, she also became county head of Golub. Anna Vasa died in Brodnica on February 6, 1625. Due to her denomination (contrary to her brother, King Sigismund Vasa, a devout Catholic, Anna was a Protestant), she was not allowed to be buried in the Vasa family crypt at Wawel Cathedral. For 11 years, the body of the princess waited for burial in Brodnica Castle. In 1636, King Ladislaus IV, the nephew of Anna Vasa, arranged a royal funeral for her. Her resting place became the Church of the Blessed Virgin Mary in Toruń, which back then was a Protestant place of worship.



Teutonic castle tower, photo by Daria Pęcz



Górzno, photo by Wojciech Zdunek

Górzno

Vast woodlands and picturesque landscapes – hills, deep ravines and wide valleys. These areas are the best description of the Górzno-Lidzbark Landscape Park. This charming site features one of the smallest towns of Poland, which is Górzno. It is a perfect place for hiking and biking enthusiasts as well as ... treasure hunters. Górzno is recognized as the Polish capital of geocaching, an outdoor recreational activity, consisting in hiding and seeking containers (called "caches") with the use of GPS receiver. Going on a natural-educational trail called

"Szumny Zdrój," you will discover many secrets of the forest. The Church of the Exaltation of the Holy Cross, dating from the turn of the 19th century, proudly towers over Górzno. It was once a place of worship of the Canons Regular of the Holy Sepulcher of Jerusalem. Its distinctive feature is the two-tower façade with the Miechów cross over the entrance.

Golub Castle

Golub-Dobrzyń has an impressive Teutonic castle towering over the town. Although built by the Teutonic Knights, the structure reminds a Renaissance palace rather than a Gothic stronghold. It has been accomplished thanks to the efforts of Anna Vasa who became county head of Golub in 1611. The Golub Castle was a favorite residence of the princess; thus, she has been protecting it to this day. Allegedly, she still appears in the castle, dressed in a white robe, walking in the castle gallery...

The beat of the horses' hoofs, clanking of armor and brave shouts... Every year, the Golub Castle attracts courageous knights who compete here during the Grand International Knight Tournaments.

You can access the second floor of the castle from the courtyard by horse stairs. They owe their name to the knights, who used to horse ride straight to the chambers. According to a local legend, when you climb these stairs and glance over your shoulder, you will neigh within a year at the least appropriate time. Standing in the gallery, you can enter one of the rooms hidden in the wall. These are old penitential cells, in which sinful monks were locked to pray in seclusion and repent for their sins. Allegedly, everyone with an unclear conscience, should enter the cell to have their sins forgiven. The castle chapel retained its original Gothic style. Close to it, there is an infirmary. It is a hospital room in which medical care was provided to the friars. Later, Princess Anna Vasa used them for her herbal medicine practice. The refectory, in which the friars used to have their meals and feasts, these days features replicas of old artillery weapons. In the chapter house, in which meetings of the Teutonic Knights were held in the past, used later as a bedroom by Anna Vasa, a portrait of the princess is seen on the wall. Supposedly, this painting covers one of the mysteries of the castle – a secret passage hidden in the wall...



Chopin Center in Szafarnia

Szafarnia sounds with the music of Chopin. Young Frederic stayed here twice during his vacations (in 1824 and 1825), hosted by his schoolfriend Dominik Dziewanowski. He was exploring the neighboring and local folklore, listened to folk songs and music played by village musicians, and participated in local customs. He described his vacation adventures in a journal addressed to his parents, called "The Szafarnia Daily." Under the influence of new experiences, Frederic changed his way of perception of rhythm in music. He started composing his first mazurkas, inspired by Polish folk

dances. Leaving his home country in 1830, Chopin took with him memories about his native folklore, which later became the source of his music masterpieces. These days, Szafarnia houses the Chopin Center with a concert hall and a small museum dedicated to this outstanding composer. Numerous piano concerts and competitions attract to this place throngs of music lovers from all over the world. The local 19th-century eclectic palace is surrounded with a picturesque park with old trees, abundant vegetation and a charming pond in the shape of a piano.



Szafarnia, photo by Szymon Zdzreblo, tarantoga.pl for UMWKP



Pola Negri Hall of Memory, photo by Wojciech Zdunek

Lipno

Lipno was the first place that saw Pola Negri, the later Hollywood star. It was here, where she was born as Apolonia Chatupiec on January 3, 1897. The Lipno Hall of Memory displays collections related to the life and movie career of the actress who became not only a silent movie star, but also won the hearts of Charlie Chaplin and Rudolph Valentino. Her star is seen on the

famous Hollywood Walk of Fame in Los Angeles. Every year, the Nawojka Cinema of Lipno hosts old film enthusiasts and silver screen stars during the "Pola i inni" Film Festival.

Marian shrines

Obory and Skępe have for centuries been attracting pilgrims and penitents. The Shrine of Our Lady of Sorrows in Obory comprises the Baroque Church of the Visitation of the Blessed Virgin Mary with the Carmelite Monastery. A statue known as Obory Pieta has been worshipped here. In the proximity of Obory Carmel, there is a hill called "Calvary" with a historical cemetery, tombstones of local noblemen and multi-level catacombs.

The origins of the Shrine of Our Lady of Skępe, housed in the Bernardine Monastery, date back to the 15th century and the first apparitions. The most precious treasure of the shrine – the miraculous statue of Our Lady dating from 1496, being worshipped to this day, has become well known thanks to numerous graces granted by Her.



Shrine in Skępe, photo by Wojciech Zdunek



Boggy Drwęca River Valley, photo by Daniel Pach

Nature

The Brodnica Lake District is a power of nature. This land of lakes, rivers and forests is a paradise for those who enjoy communing with nature. The Drwęca River, predominantly meandering, is sometimes quiet and at other times rapid, serving as a perfect place for kayakers. The river, along its entire length, is protected as the longest ichthyological reserve in Poland. The boggy

Drwęca River Valley is a bird sanctuary known across Europe. The most valuable part of this region is protected in landscape parks – Brodnica and Górzno-Lidzbark. Their areas are incorporated to the Green Lungs of Poland – the cleanest part of the country and best endowed in terms of natural riches.

Many Polish towns have strong ties with the water, although only a few are able to utilize their potential, like Bydgoszcz. The city draws its power from the energy of the river, listens to its history related to craft trades, recalls the times of prosperity, and reveals with pride its unique assets, full of natural charm. It tells its story in the locks of the Old Bydgoszcz Canal, propels with a water wheel, and measures with the industrial rhythm of manufactures...

Bydgoszcz

The Bydgoszcz Water, Industry and Craft Trail TeH₂O in Bydgoszcz combines places blended in the urban space, offering an interesting narrative. The local Mill Island known as Wyspa Młyńska (POT Certificate), the enclave of greenery in the city center, is undoubtedly one of the most charming sites in the city. It reminds the local mill traditions and history of the Royal Mint. Rother's Mills are interesting examples of industrial architecture. These days, these well-preserved granaries and mills feature exhibitions of the Leon Wyczółkowski District Museum in Bydgoszcz. 19th-century buildings, known as Bydgoszcz Venice, tower over the rapid Młynówka River surrounding the Island. Reflections of the stately building of the Opera Nova and the Cathedral Church with the painting of Our Lady of Beautiful Love are seen

in the Brda River. Wyspa Młyńska is the main venue of the Bydgoszcz Water Festival "Set Your Heading on Bydgoszcz" (Polish "Ster na Bydgoszcz"). The Jerzy Sulima Kamiński Bridge is a perfect place to take a photo while visiting Bydgoszcz. It offers an iconic view of the city center, featuring the Brda River with its boulevards, historic landmarks standing by the riverside and the statue of "Man Crossing the River" balancing over the Brda. The majestic silhouettes of the three half-timbered granaries remind about the important role of river trade played for centuries in the local economy of Bydgoszcz, including trade in grains harvested in Kuyavia. Lemara Barge, moored at the Brda riverside, tells about the daily life of skippers, about navigation in the past, and the bustling river. The names of market squares commemorated on



Bydgoszcz, photo by Marcin Zaborowski



Lock on the Bydgoszcz Canal, photo by Wojciech Zdunek

signs remind about businesses that once boomed in the city. A cruise by a water tram is a perfect opportunity to admire this charming city from the river. Going through locks on the river, which is a very thrilling experience, and learning about the Bydgoszcz Canal allow to understand the inseparable connection between Bydgoszcz and the water. We also suggest a walk by the charming green area alongside the Old Canal and visit the Bydgoszcz Canal Museum, in order to comprehend the important role played in development of the city by this investment in the then "water highway". The Museum of Soap and the History of Dirt (POT Certificate) refers to the traditions of Bydgoszcz baths, soap and cosmetics factories. In a charming and unconventional way it re-

veals household and public secrets of "hygiene" – from ancient times to the present. This unique place takes visitors to the times when soap was not a daily necessity and proves that dirt was widely accepted. In order to take a closer look at the multilayered history of the city, we recommend a visit to its outskirts. In the Bydgoszcz Forest, you will find the Exploseum (POT Certificate) - War Technology Center DAG Fabrik Bromberg. It is an interesting example of industrial architecture, unique in the world, preserved almost unchanged since the times of World War II. Walking through a network of tunnels, connecting former production facilities, we can learn about the gloomy history of the German explosives factory, which supplied the Third Reich.

One of the most charming places of Bydgoszcz is the Music District. In the scenery of magnificent Art Nouveau architecture with villas and tenement houses, and the greenery of Jan Kochanowski Park, you will find buildings of the Pomeranian Philharmonic, the Academy of Music and the Polski Theater.

The park alleys are decorated with busts and monuments of our outstanding composers, and the "Archer Lady" (in Polish "Łuczniczka") Monument, which is known as one of the symbols of Bydgoszcz. During summer evenings, the local multimedia fountain creates a unique, fairy tale atmosphere of this place.



Explozeum, from the collection of K-POT



Pomeranian Philharmonic, photo by Wojciech Zdunek

In order to get away from the hustle and bustle of the big city, we recommend a visit to the Forest Culture and Recreation Park in Myślęcinek, which is only 5 km away from the city center. It is the biggest urban park in Poland. The area, occupying 830 hectares, offers plenty of opportunities for recreation. The Entertainment Park – the Lost World and a meeting with animals kept in the Myślęcinek Zoo will be a treat for children. Adults will appreciate the beauty of the local Botanical Gar-

den. A vast expanse of the Park is a paradise for runners, cyclists and rollerbladers, and the Wakepark Bydgoszcz attracts water sports enthusiasts.



Gothic, gingerbread, Copernicus, and the Old City on the UNESCO List - Toruń magnets attract tourists from all over the world with cosmic energy! You have to explore them, in order to say – I was here, I saw and tasted it, and I want to come back. The group of the most popular attractions is constantly expanded by new ones, and the old ones try to change their image on a regular basis to adjust their offer to the changing taste of the tourist. Toruń stimulates all senses!

Toruń

The famous Toruń gingerbread is not only a tasty spice treat. It is also one of the symbols of this old Hanseatic city and an important part of its history. You can learn about its significance in the Living Museum of Gingerbreads (POT Gold Certificate) and the Museum of Toruń Gingerbread. The recipe of this local specialty is the best kept secret, protected even more than the discoveries of the famous astronomer who was born in Toruń. In the House of Nicolaus Copernicus, you will learn about the life and achievements of this great scientist. The Old City of Toruń was inscribed on the UNESCO World Heritage List. The Old Town Hall, which used to be the most prominent building in the city, continues to charm with its architecture. The top of the Town Hall offers a beautiful view of the Copernicus City. The huge walls tow-

ering over the roofs of tenement houses of the Old City belong to the oldest place of worship in Toruń, which is Saints Johns' Cathedral. Here, Nicolaus Copernicus was baptized in 1473. It is also the resting place of the heart of King John I Albert (Polish Jan Olbracht). The cathedral steeple features Poland's biggest medieval bell - Tuba Dei (Latin for God's Trumpet), which once welcomed kings arriving in Toruń. These days, it sounds only during special events. There is a unique clock seen on the southern wall of the steeple. It is the Rafter's Clock with only one arm showing hours, finished with the hand and finger. It is called the Digitus Dei - the Finger of God. Its richly decorated shield is directed toward the Vistula River - in the past, the clock was used by rafters navigating the river. The convenient location on the Vistula River contributed to development of the old city of Toruń. These days, its Vistulan traditions are reminded by the Vistula Festival, an annual event hosted by Toruń. In 2022, rafting was registered on the Representative List of the Intangible Cultural Heritage of Humanity. These days, the Leaning Tower, which in the past was part of the defensive system of Toruń, is used for performance of the "test of righteousness." The ones who are able to keep balance against the walls of the building, publicly demonstrate their honesty and fidelity. Military art enthusiasts will be impressed with the fortifications of Toruń, which are ranked among the best preserved defensive structures in Europe. Another site that is worth to visit is the Toruń Fortress Museum and Fort IV (POT Certificate), where you will learn about life in the barracks and experience some scary moments while touring the underground tunnels.



Old Town Hall, photo by Wojciech Zdunek

Gingerbread cookies, photo from the collection of the Living Museum of Gingerbreads



The Mill of Knowledge Center for Modernity is a place for science aficionados and those who enjoy experimenting on their own. Its main exhibit is Foucault's pendulum, a device that demonstrates the Earth's rotation around its own axis. In the fall, Toruń turns into the capital of world cinema. The International Film Festival of the Art of Cinematography EnergaCAMERIMAGE (POT

Certificate) attracts to the Copernicus city film lovers and some of the biggest movie stars in the world. Unforgettable experiences are offered by the Bella Skyway Festival (POT Certificate). It is a true explosion of light! Fascinating installations with historical scenery of the city conjure up its new image.

When you get tired with the hustle and bustle of the city, it only takes a while to move to a quiet Polish village. Just visit the Ethnographic Museum. In this charming place, you will find old cottages, utility buildings, a firehouse, a smithy, a windmill, a watermill, and a fishing barge. The rural atmosphere is completed with flower gardens, wayside crosses and outdoor shrines, creating a peaceful paradise! However, if you want to move to some distant parts of the world – it is equally easy! In the Explorers' Museum, Tony Halik and Elżbieta Dzikowska will take you to the ends of the world. Their joint travels resulted in a sizeable collection of exhibits

that these days fill the museum interiors. The Museum of Far East Art is a place for Oriental World aficionados. It features some precious exhibits from China, Siam, Tibet, Japan and India. The Museum is housed in the Under the Star Tenement House, one of the most beautiful townhouses in Toruń. It bears traces of different epochs, from Gothic walls, through the richly decorated Baroque façade, to interiors with designs dating back to the Renaissance period. The Space Popularization Center is an otherworldly experience taking you to Toruń Planetarium (POT Certificate).



Teutonic castle, photo by Daniel Pach / UJWKP

Monument of Nicolaus Copernicus, photo by Wojciech Zdunek



Sitting comfortably in a chair, you will conquer the immense universe, learn about constellations, and explore mysteries of faraway planets and galaxies.

The Toruń Gothic architecture looks great every time of day and in all seasons. The Philadelphia Boulevard, stretching along the Vistula riverside, is a favorite place for strollers in Toruń. It offers a magnificent view of the medieval city walls with towers and gates. Behind them, we can notice tenement houses, steeples of Gothic churches, and ruins of a Teutonic castle. You can take a picture that looks like a postcard from the lookout on "Kępa Bazarowa." A starry sky and the Hanseatic walls of the city reflect in the Vistula River, providing an unforgettable view. Sit down on the Vistula bank, look at the sky and enjoy the moment.

In Piwnice, Toruń area, there is the Astronomical Observatory, which is part of the Institute of Astronomy of Nicolaus Copernicus University in Toruń. Two radio telescopes featured here, RT-4 Kopernik (the biggest in Poland and the only one of this type in East-Central Europe, with 32 m in dish diameter) and RT-3 (with 15 m in dish diameter), and Poland's largest optical telescope with a 90 cm main mirror, make an impression with their size and capabilities.





“There`s nothing more beautiful than the sky, which encompasses everything that`s beautiful.”

Nicolaus Copernicus



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pomorskie**

constellations
of good places

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