

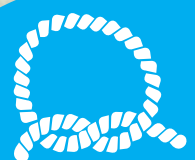
tourist attractions



THE GREAT WATERWAY LOOP OF WIELKOPOLSKA



wielkopolska



THE GREAT WATERWAY LOOP
of WIELKOPOLSKA

Editor:

Wielkopolska Tourist Organization,
www.wot.org.pl

Text:

Zbigniew Szmidt

Graphic design and the map:

Studio Corner/Marek Klimek

Cover Photos:

A. Piechocka, Palace in Rogalin,
archive of the Town Hall in Mosina,
archive of the Town Hall in Konin,
photo: A. Łącki

Print:

ZAPOL, www.zapol.com.pl

ISBN 978-83-63729-40-0

Poznań 2013

www.wielkopolska.travel
www.wielka-petla.pl/en



**REGIONAL
PROGRAMME**
NATIONAL COHESION STRATEGY



WIELKOPOLSKA
VOIVODESHIP

EUROPEAN UNION
EUROPEAN REGIONAL
DEVELOPMENT FUND



The project is cofunded by the European Union from the European Regional Development Fund
under the Wielkopolska Regional Operational Programme 2007-2013

EUROPEAN FUNDS – FOR THE DEVELOPMENT OF INNOVATIVE WIELKOPOLSKA

The Great Waterway Loop of Wielkopolska

INTRODUCTION

The Great Loop of Wielkopolska is a water trail, covering a distance of 687.9 kilometres, and leading along the Warta River (from Konin to Santok – 338.4 km), the Noteć (from Santok to Nakło – 187.2 km) the Bydgoszcz Canal (from Nakło to Bydgoszcz – 15.7 km) and the waterway linking the Bydgoszcz Canal with the Warta (from Bydgoszcz to Konin – 146.6 km). The latter section is greatly varied and leads along the Górnonotecki Canal, the Upper Noteć River flowing through the following lakes: Wolickie, Sadłogoszcz, Wojdala, Mielno, Szarlej and Gopło. The Ślesiński Canal starts from Gopło Lake and leads via Lakes Czarne, Ślesińskie, Mikorzyńskie, and Pątnowskie to the Warta River. The water route traverses three provinces: Wielkopolskie, Lubuskie and Kujawsko-Pomorskie. It is accessible to vessels whose maximum length is: for the Warta from Santok to Luboń near Poznań – 41 m, the Warta from Luboń near Poznań to Konin – 24 m, the Ślesiński Canal – 57 m, Lake Gopło – 67 m, the Upper Noteć and the Górnonotecki Canal – 24 m, the Bydgoszcz Canal – 57 m, the Lower Noteć from Nakło to Krzyż – 41 m, the Lower Noteć from Krzyż Wielkopolski to Santok – 57 m. The permissible draught of vessels for specific waterways depends on the current minimum water depth for safe navigation which is published by the administration of the waterway on its website.

The Great Loop of Wielkopolska connects the waterways of Poland with a large network of waterways in Western Europe (via the Oder and the Spree Rivers) and in Eastern Europe (via the Vistula, Narew and Neman Rivers). The northern part of the Loop is part of European Inland Waterway E70 leading from Antwerp to Klaipeda.

The Great Loop is an extremely attractive area with a varied natural and cultural environment. Along its entire length we



Archive of the Town Hall and Commune Office in Kwilcz, photo: K. Idzik

can encounter protected areas such as the landscape reserves called Nadwarciański, Żerkowsko-Czeszewski, Rogaliński, and Sierakowski, Gopło Milenium Parks, as well as the Wielkopolska National Park and Natura 2000 areas. In the historical areas of Wielkopolska, Kujawy and Lubuskie Region tourists will be able to visit towns with a wealth of history and impressive landmarks. Along the trail of the Great Loop there are 28 navigation locks allowing for overcoming differences in water levels. Most of them were built in the 1800s, and only the locks on the Ślesiński Canal have recently been modernized. Among the area's curiosities are the warm lakes in the vicinity of Konin – the temperature of their water has increased by approx. 6-11°C due to the discharge of water from the power stations of Pątnów and Konin. In recent years local governments and private investors have been building a network of harbours and mooring docks. Hydro-technical structures of the locks and weirs are being upgraded. The fact that better times are coming for water routes can be seen in the massive numbers of tourists participating in boating events.



Photo: Z. Szmidt

The Great Waterway Loop of Wielkopolska

Waterway the Bydgoszcz Canal – the Warta River

39 km–26.2 km THE GOPŁO MILENIUM PARK Wielkopolska's youngest landscape reserve, it was established in 2009. Its total area of 3,075 ha comprises the southern part of Gopło Lake, the lakes in the area of Skulsk and the northern section of the Ślesiński Canal. Its postglacial landscape features ribbon lakes, peat bogs and marshes. The park was established to preserve its natural and scenic qualities, particularly the populations of water and marsh birds as well as the habitats used by migratory and wintering birds. The GMP adjoins a park bearing the same name and established within the Kujawsko-Pomorskie Region in 1992.

29.0 km WARZYMOWO A village with the Gothic Church of St. Stanislaus, whose origins go back to 1443; it is located along the Ślesiński Canal. Tradition has it that Warzymowo was home to the legendary founder of the first Polish royal dynasty, Piast the Wheelwright and his wife Rzepicha. Near the church there is a platform for mooring boats and an area with other facilities for tourists.

SKULSK This large village is located 4 km west of the southern end of Gopło Lake. Skulsk is a former town which lost its municipal rights in 1870. The Church of the Nativity of the Blessed Virgin Mary, dating from 1810-15, in its structure incorporates Gothic relics from the 14th century. The main altar holds a Gothic figure of Our Lady of Sorrows (Pieta) from ca. 1420, and the church is a sanctuary of Our Lady of Sorrows.

In the early 1800s, when Skulsk was located close to the border, local residents in addition to their traditional professions picked up new types of business. Very good income was generated by trade of devotional items. Shortly, Skulsk became a renowned manufacturing centre specializing in hand-painted religious pictures. Roving traders, who became a well-established group, used to sell pictures and prayer books. Their trading routes took them to Lithuania, Belarus and even deep into Russia. For the needs of their transactions they developed their unique jargon, which was quite different from the Polish language and was incomprehensible to other people. The jargon was called *kmina ochwaśnicka*, by reference to *kminić* – which meant “to speak”, and *ochwest* – “a picture”. In the jargon a trader was called “*ochweśnik*”. The jargon consisting of about 800 words contained imports from Polish slang used by thieves, from Ruthenian beggars' jargon, and words originating from Russian, German, Greek and Latin. Here are some examples: father – *jarus*, mother – *karyga*, goose – *agata*, horse – *choťot*,



Church of the Blessed Virgin Mary in Skulsk, archive of the Commune Office in Skulsk

inn – *weselicha*, to deal – *ślirować*, Mother of God – *Deuśnica*. In the late 1800s, after printing technologies developed, the craft of painting pictures became much less profitable and *ochweśnik* traders switched to peddling medicinal products. Ultimately, the downfall of the trade occurred after the First World War as a result of the altered borders. Today the old jargon can be heard during market fairs in Skulsk (Wednesday following the eighth day of each month). In the nearby village of Mielnica Duża, on Gopło Lake, there is a Community Culture Centre, with a harbour, slipway and sanitary facilities.

RENTAL OF WATER SPORT EQUIPMENT:

- Community Culture Centre in Mielnica Duża, with a free-of-charge rental of watersport equipment (tel. 63 268 55 46).

EVENTS FOR BOATERS:

- Powerboat World Championship (August)

17.3 km ŚLESIN A small town located between Lakes Ślesińskie and Mikończyńskie, today it is one of Wielkopolska's major leisure centres with numerous hotels and facilities for watersports, such as a marina and harbours. Cycling trails with the total length of 200 km were established in the vicinity of the town. Along the western shore of Mikończyńskie Lake there is waterfront with sports and recreational facilities and mooring platforms. A new promenade leads to Ślesińskie Lake, and the company called *Termy Ślesińskie* is planning to build a complex of swimming pools fed by geothermal spring where the temperature of water flowing out is 65°C.

Tourist attractions include a Classicist triumphal arch erected by townsmen in 1812 to honour Napoleon.

In the 1800s Ślesin was famous for goose breeding and trading. Geese were bought by customers even from such distant lands as the Vilnius Region, Podolia and Volhynia. Sometimes thousands of geese were driven towards the Prussian border 30 kilometres away in Słupca. Memory of these times is brought back by the goose-shaped fountain and a figure of a trader carrying a goose which we can see at the town square.

RENTAL OF WATER SPORT EQUIPMENT:

- E & T Marine, 62-561 Ślesin, ul. Napoleona 15b, tel. 783 031 936
- *Termy Ślesińskie Sp.z.o.o.*, 62-561 Ślesin, ul. Napoleona 15b, tel. 63 270 40 48, 63 270 41 68, www.termy-slesinskie.com.pl, recepja@termy-slesinskie.com.pl
- “*Verano*” spa and recreation centre, 62-561 Ślesin, ul. Leśna 5, tel. 63 270 41 32, www.verano-slesin.pl, recepja@verano.slesin.pl
- “*Pawetek*” ship, lake cruises along the route from Kruszwica to Konin, Town Hall of Ślesin, 62-561 Ślesin, ul. Kleczewska 15, tel. 63 270 40 11 extension 11

EVENTS FOR BOATERS:

- Blue Riband Regatta – Days of Ślesin (July)
- Competition for the Wielkopolska Voivode's Cup (August)
- Shanties on Water (August)

LICHEŃ STARY While sailing along Pątnowskie Lake we can see the basilica located 5 kilometres away in Licheń Stary. The Sanctuary of Our Lady of Sorrows the Queen of Poland is the nation's second largest centre of the cult of Mary. The object of the cult is a tiny image of Mary (9.5 × 15.5 cm) located in the most imposing church in Poland. The image, which was painted on woodboard, probably in Wielkopol-

The Great Waterway Loop of Wielkopolska



Basilica in Licheń, photo: Z. Szmidt

ska, either in a monastery or in a craftsman's workshop in the late 1700s, was a copy of the painting from Rokitno. The basilica erected during 1994-2004 by Marian Fathers makes a great impression with its dimensions: length – 139 m, width – 77 m, height of the main nave – 44 m, height of the dome – 103.5 m, total space – 23,000 m². A wonderful panorama can be seen from the 141.5 metre tall tower with viewing platforms (98 and 114 m). It is a good idea to take a break at one of the harbours along Licheńskie Lake to visit this special place.

9.0 km KONIN-GOSŁAWICE The northernmost neighbourhood of Konin located near Gosławskie Lake not so long ago was a village. We can still see here the Gothic buildings of a knight's castle and a church. The latter was founded by Andrzej Łaskarz (1362-1426), the Bishop of Poznań, a statesman of King Władysław Jagiełło, a delegate to the Council of Constance and a pilgrim to the Holy Land. This is where he may have had the idea for building a church modelled after the chapel within the Basilica of the Holy Sepulchre. The construction of the Church of St. Andrew the Apostle was initiated in the mid-15th century. This unique church with an octagonal nave is topped with a magnificent palm vault supported on one pillar standing in the middle of the church. The place holds the largest collection of Polish medieval coats of arms sculpted in the consoles and keystones of the vaults. One of the earliest private structures of this type in Poland, the brick castle has retained a lot of its original features. Thoroughly restored, since 1986 the building has been home to the District Museum, whose other locations include the nearby manor house with an exposition of gentry-style interiors, as well as a granary with exhibits originating from lignite coal mines called Konin and Adamów. Next to the castle there is a small open-air museum consisting of a peasant's croft, two windmills and a blacksmith's shop.

RENTAL OF WATER SPORT EQUIPMENT:

– "Przystań Gosławice" Recreation and Leisure Centre, 62-506 Konin, ul. Rybacka 1, tel. 63 247 1449

EVENTS FOR BOATERS:

– Regatta for the Cup of the President of Zespół Elektrowni PAK (September)

Waterway – the Warta River from 406.6 to 68.2 km

406.6 km KONIN-MORZYSZŁAW A neighbourhood of Konin, this is where the Ślesięński Canal flows into the Warta River in the vicinity of lock No. 1 Morzysław. The latter was built in the late 1930s, and modernized in 2011.

402.8 km KONIN Boaters are greeted by the town with Nadwarciański Waterfront which opened to the public in 2011. The Warta River divides Konin into two parts: the old town located in the valley of the river and established in the Middle Ages (before 1285) and the new town which was launched in 1951, to provide a support base for coal mines and power stations which were being established nearby. In 1967 and 1976 the town limits were expanded to include former villages, including Morzysław, Gosławice and Pątnów. The most interesting landmarks can be seen near the harbour along the new waterfront.

One of the most unique and mysterious landmarks is a Romanesque road post made of sandstone in the shape of a bowling pin. An inscription carved in capital letters informs that it was built by Comes Palatinus Peter in 1151 in the middle of the road linking Kalisz and Kruszwica. Today it graces the square in front of the Church of St. Bartholomew. Built towards the end of the 14th century, this is the oldest church in the town. Its Gothic interior features lierne and ribbed vaults. Relics dating from the time when the church was originally built include the Gothic chalice-shaped stoup, monolithic cross made of sandstone set in the sacristy wall, and the Gothic sculpture of Madonna and the Child. Other highlights of the interior include the tombs with epitaphs for the Przyjemski family. Another epitaph, for Jan Zemełka (deceased in 1607) can be seen in the Renaissance chapel.

Near the church there is the Town Hall built before 1803; today it also holds the seat of the city authorities. The classicist facade with four Tuscan columns supporting a triangular tympanum is embellished with a wooden clock tower. In front of the Town Hall we can see a bust of Józef Piłsudski.

In the centre of the old town there is the town square (Plac Wolności) delineated in the late 13th century, lined with brick houses mainly dating from the 1800s; most notable among these are the House of Jan Zemełka dating from the late 16th century and the former seat of the district authorities from 1828. In the corner of the square we can see a unique sculpture – a statue of a horse or a "horse-man" – from 2009, and making a reference to the city's emblem. Evidence of the multicultural history of Konin includes such landmarks as the Baroque building formerly (from the 1700s) holding a monastery of Reformed Franciscans, the neo-Romanesque Evangelical Church of the Augsburg Confession (Church of the Holy Spirit) from the mid-19th century, and the old synagogue and the Talmudic school from the 1800s.

TOURIST INFORMATION CENTRE ***:

ul. Dworcowa 2, 62-510 Konin, tel. 63 246 3248, www.turystyka.konin.pl

RENTAL OF WATER SPORT EQUIPMENT:

– Canoe and Water Sports Club in Konin, 62-500 Konin, ul. Z. Urbanowskiej, gsm 886 506 735, tel. 63 270 7531

EVENTS FOR BOATERS:

– Canoeing down the Warta: Konin – Łąd (June)

– Canoeing along the route of navigation locks of the Great Loop of Wielkopolska (July)

– Winter "Barbara-Day" Regatta (November) – Sailing Club of „Konin” coal mine in Pątnów

The Great Waterway Loop of Wielkopolska



Nadwarciański Waterfront in Konin, photo: A. Łącki

392.2 km SŁAWSK Near the private harbour there is a neo-Renaissance manor house from 1768, which was later reconstructed. In the village we can see Church of St. Lawrence from 1614 with a tower added in 1765. This is where Marcin of Sławsk was born. He was a Castellan of Kalisz, advisor to King Władysław Jagiełło, and he led his own unit of cavalry during the Battle of Grunwald.

385.1 km–348.0 km NADWARCIAŃSKI LANDSCAPE RESERVE Established in 1995, the Reserve comprises an area of 13,428 hectares along a 30-kilometre section of the Warta, from the bridge along A2 motorway near Sługocinek to the outlet of the Prosna River beyond the town of Pyzdry. The Warta flows here along the bottom of the wide and flat Warsaw-Berlin ice-marginal valley, which was formed by water originating from a melting glacier approx. 12 thousand years ago. In the past the Warta created numerous oxbow lakes, and winds blowing here accumulated long stretches of sand dunes. Today the landscape of the Reserve constitutes a mosaic of marshy meadows, farming fields, forests overgrowing the dunes and oxbow lakes. In the past each year the swelling water of the river used to inundate the entire valley, this phenomenon however has been reduced by the dammed reservoir in Jeziorsko. In the river valley there are very few traces of human activity. A number of villages and towns originating from the Middle Ages are situated along the high-rising edges of the valley, these include Łąd, Ciążeń, Pyzdry and Zagórów. In Łąd we can visit the Centre for Natural Education promoting the Nadwarciański Landscape Reserve.

372.8 km ŁĄDEK A seat of commune authorities, the village is located on the high-rising edge of the Warta River valley. From afar one can see the Baroque church of St. Nicholas from 1760-77. Besides mainly Baroque and Rococo furnishings its interior contains two holy water fonts representing late Romanesque and Gothic styles. In the vicinity of the river, within the forest area called Borek Łądkowski we can see a monument commemorating the historical quarters of participants of the 1863 uprising. This is also the place where members of the Polish Military Organization made their oath of allegiance in 1918.

371 km ŁĄD A village with a former Cistercian monastery entered on the list of Heritage Sites. In the late 9th/early 10th century there was a tribal settlement on the bank of the Warta (the gord of Rydlowa Góra) – today approx. 2 km south of the village; later it was a seat of Castellany. A replica of the gord was built within the Centre for Natural Education.

Cistercians were brought to Łąd after 1193 by Prince Mieszko III Stary, although in accordance with tradition, the monastery was founded in 1145. By the time the property was confiscated by the Tsarist author-

ities in 1819 an impressive complex of the monastery had been built here by some of the most outstanding architects working in the Polish lands. Today the restored buildings are home to the Higher Theological Seminary of the Salesian Order. The present Baroque structure of the monastery dates from the late 17th/early 18th century. Architects who contributed to the construction of the Church of the Blessed Virgin Mary and St. Nicholas the Bishop include Tomasz Poncino, Georgio Catenazzi, Jan Koński and finally Giuseppe Belotti. The imposing dome (height: 38 m.) was designed by Pompeo Ferrari and ornamented with frescoes by a Silesian artist, Georg Wilhelm Neunhertz. In the cloister we can see older, Gothic style arcaded galleries, an oratory chapel and a chapter house. The most valuable examples of Gothic painting in Poland include the polychrome in the oratory chapel of St. James, dating from ca. 1370. The adjoining chapter house is covered with Gothic lierne vaults supported on a centrally located pillar. In the church and along the arcaded galleries we can see numerous frescoes painted by an extremely prolific artist, Adam Swach, a Franciscan of Bohemian origin but living in Poznań.



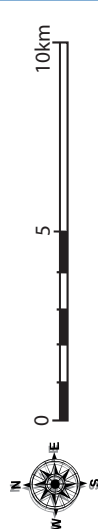
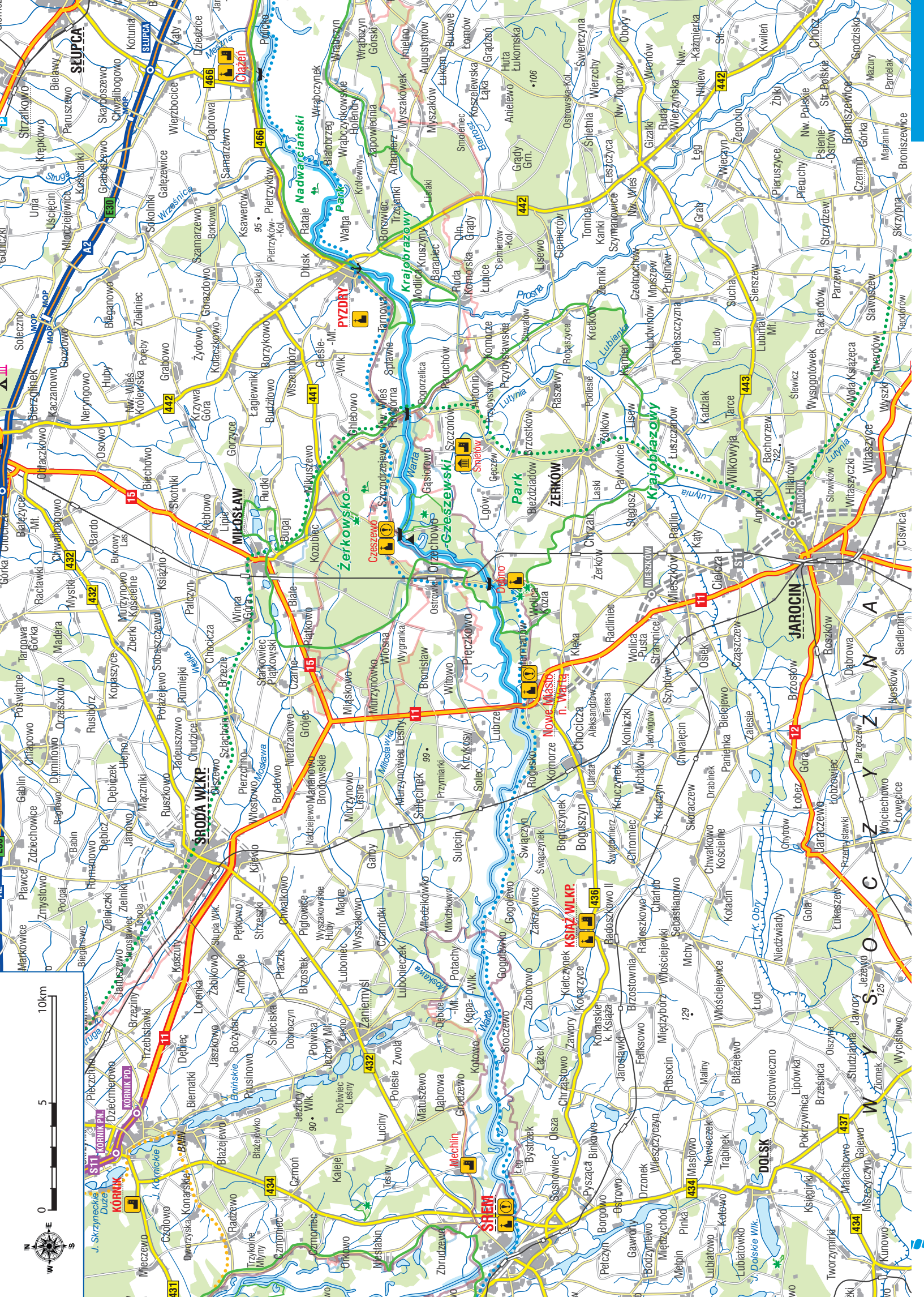
Former Cistercian monastery in Łąd, photo: Z. Szmidt

The nearby mansion and park complex is home to the Centre for Natural Education, at the Landscape Reserves of Wielkopolskie Province. The restored manor house from the 1800s holds conference rooms, exhibitions, research laboratories as well as an accommodation facility. At the other end of the village there is Marina Łąd, one of the first privately owned harbours along the Warta.

RENTAL OF WATER SPORT EQUIPMENT:

– Marina Łąd, 62-405 Łąd 137, tel. 63 276 30 47, 507 47 83 49,
www.marinalad.pl, kapitanat@marinalad.pl

ZAGÓRÓW A small town 4 km south of Łąd, it has interesting urban layout with the Small Town Square (from the times of early settlement) and the Big Town Square (delineated after 1407, when the settlement was officially established). At the Small Square we can see the Baroque Church of St. Peter and St. Paul, dating from 1740-60 and featuring an older Gothic chancel from the 1400s. It is a good idea to visit the town on Saturdays, when a large fair is held in the market square. In the past, Zagórów, with its nearby riverside meadows, was known for goose breeding.



W
N
E
S

W
S
E
N

The Great Waterway Loop of Wielkopolska



Palace in Ciążeń, photo: Z. Szmidt

365 km CIAŻEŃ The large village along the edge of the Warta River valley was once a property of the Bishops of Poznań, who had one of their residences here. The palace, which can easily be seen from the level of the Warta, was built in 1760-68 for Bishop Teodor Kazimierz Czartoryski, to the design by Giuseppe de Sacco; it received its Rococo finishing in 1810. Today it holds the Centre for Creative Work and Branch of the Library of Adam Mickiewicz University in Poznań. Its special section contains the largest Polish collection of Masonic prints (approx. 80,000 volumes) accumulated during WWII by the Nazis and left behind in Środa Śląska. The palace is surrounded by a large landscaped park sloping down towards the Warta. In the centre of the village, near the ferry crossing, we can see the Church of St. John the Baptist, dating from 1535; the original Gothic structure was altered in Baroque style in 1760.

351.7 km PYZDRY The town situated on a tall escarpment along the Warta greets boaters with a picturesque panorama, one of the most beautiful in the whole country. Today a small town, during the Middle Ages it ranked much higher – there were a royal castle, two monasteries, and seven churches. In its long history the particularly notable incident, reported by Jan of Czarnków in his Chronicle, related to the first use of cannon in Poland in 1383. A stone ball fired from the cannon shattered the castle gate and killed the parish priest, Mikołaj of Biechowo. The only remnants of the castle are its foundations, and a replica of the cannon can be seen in the museum. During the times



Former Franciscan monastery in Pyzdry, photo: Z. Szmidt

when the territory of Poland was divided between three neighbouring countries, Pyzdry was a border town; this fact greatly contributed to its fall. The relics of that period include a metal border post with Russian imperial eagles, in the holdings of the museum, and the reconstructed border crossing in the nearby village of Borzykowo.

On the escarpment along the Warta there is a former Franciscan monastery, founded in the mid-1200s and comprising the Church of the Beheading of John the Baptist and the adjoining quadrilateral cloister. The Gothic buildings from 1339 were later reconstructed many times; the late Baroque facade of the church and its interior furnishings date from the latter half of the 1700s. The arcaded gallery in the cloister retains fragments of medieval frescoes and a group of paintings by Adam Swach from 1733, which were devoted to the founder of the order, St. Francis. A part of the cloister – the refectory, the monastery kitchen and cellars – are occupied by the Regional Museum, whose holdings also include an original collection of bones of prehistoric animals. Another landmark here is the Gothic Church of the Nativity of the Blessed Virgin Mary, from the mid-15th century; its massive structure includes a tower with crenellation in its upper part. The unusually large town square was delineated after 1814. The most notable here is a wooden gable house with an arcade supported on four pillars dating from 1768 and mansard roof. On the bank of the Warta there is a new harbour called “Przystań Pyzdry” administered by Perkoz Water Tourism Association.

RENTAL OF WATER SPORT EQUIPMENT:

– Perkoz Water Tourism Association in Pyzdry, 62-310 Pyzdry, ul. 3-Maja 23, tel/fax: 63 276 8313, 796 675 212, www.ttwpkoz.pyzdry.eu, e-mail: ttwpkoz@wp.pl
– Tomasz Wojtyński, 62-310 Pyzdry, ul. 3-Maja 23, tel/fax: 63 276 813, 608 035 412

EVENTS FOR BOATERS

– Regional Amateur Canoeing Rally Łąd - Pyzdry (May)

342.5 km–328 km ŻERKOWSKO-CZESZEWSKI LANDSCAPE RESERVE

Established in 1994, the reserve comprises an area of 15,640 ha in the Warta-Oder ice-marginal valley near the outlet of the Lutynia River into the Warta and the upland of the Żerkowski Bulge. The protected features include the area's varied terrain, rich plant communities as well as cultural heritage. Difficult to access, the floodplain of the Warta River is overgrown with riparian and wet-ground forests, which are protected here. In the early 20th century the area was designated as a nature reserve, in fact the first one in Wielkopolska. We can notice there are considerable differences in the elevation within the area when we admire the distant view towards the river valley from the overlook situated on top of the Żerkowski Bulge. The particularly noteworthy heritage sites include the palaces and churches in Śmiełów, Żerków, Miłosław and Dębno. In Czeszewo there is the Centre for Environmental Education administered by Jarocin Forest District.

336.3 km CZESZEWO The village is located near a ferry crossing. In its centre we can see the wooden Church of St. Nicholas from 1792. Within the building with a shingled roof, in the main altar we can admire a valuable Gothic sculpture of Madonna and Child dating from ca. 1440. In the vicinity there is a true rarity in Wielkopolska – a half-timbered tavern with mansard roof, dating from the late 18th

The Great Waterway Loop of Wielkopolska

century, and still open. Along the riverbank, in a historical building which in the 1800s used to hold a salt store, there is the Centre for Environmental Education. On the other side of the river there is the nature reserve called Czeszewski Las (Czeszewo Forest) with gigantic oaks, which in 1899 were admired by the renowned writer, Henryk Sienkiewicz; this fact is commemorated by a modest monument.

ŚMIEŁÓW The village is located in the Commune of Żerków, approx. 5 km south of the Warta; we can visit a museum devoted to the poet, Adam Mickiewicz here. The overlook near Żerków allows for an excellent panorama of the Classicist palace situated here. It was built in 1797 by a royal chamberlain, Andrzej Gorzeński, to the design by Stanisław Zawadzki, an architect from Warsaw. Ranking among the most interesting architectural designs in Poland, the palace consists of the main building which on both sides is connected with annexes by means of semi-circular galleries. The front facade is dominated by a monumental four-column portico with a triangular tympanum. The interiors retain the original stucco ornaments contributed by Michał Ceptowski and painted decorations by Antoni and Franciszek Smuglewicz, from ca. 1800. In late August/early September 1831 the palace hosted a visit of Adam Mickiewicz who was planning to cross the border along the nearby Proсна River in order to join the November Uprising. Ultimately the poet did not cross the border and stayed in the hospitable mansions of Wielkopolska for the subsequent five months. In 1887 the estate was purchased by Franciszek Chełkowski, and the new owners started collecting artefacts related to Mickiewicz and his stay in Śmiełów. In 1975 the National Museum in Poznań established its branch of the Adam Mickiewicz Museum.

330.6 km DĘBNO A small village near a ferry crossing. The gothic Church of the Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary was built in

1444-47 by Primate Wincenty Kot, a native of Dębno. We can still see here the foundation plaque from 1447 with the Doliwa coat of arms and Latin inscription confirming the foundation of the church. In a side altar we can see an image from the early 1500s, Christ, the Man of Sorrow, an example of local Gothic panel painting. Within a landscaped park there are the ruins of a palace from 1877. During 1847-62 the village was known in Wielkopolska for a hydrotherapy facility founded by Stanisław Mycielski from Miłosław. A physician from Poznań, Teofil Matecki inspired by the renowned Vincenz Priessnitz who applied healing methods based on water, established baths in the park and conducted hydropathic treatment using the local forest springs. A nearby hall with 400 seats hosted concerts and theatre performances of major Polish artists.

324.4 km NOWE MIASTO NAD WARTĄ Contrary to its name which means "New Town on the Warta" this is a large village, comprising an area of two former towns: Nowe Miasto (from 1283) and Laskówka (existing from 1664 to the 1700s); it lost its municipal rights in 1934. Its urban layout retains two central squares, one of these is a relic of the medieval town (the other is called Zielony Rynek). The most valuable landmark is the Gothic Church of the Holy Trinity from the 15th century. Inside we can see Renaissance polychromes from the 16th century which had been commissioned by Bishop Jan Rozdrażewski. Along the banks of the Warta we can see the remains of an ancient fortified settlement with a moat, and a private marina called "Pod Czarnym Bocianem".

313 km GOGOLEWO Near the harbour we can see the Church of the Elevation of the Holy Cross from 1777. The half-timbered church and the bell tower are covered with shingle rooves. In the vicinity there is a pretty Classicist manor house with a four-column portico, from the late 1700s.



Palace in Śmiełów, archive of the Town Hall and Commune Office in Żerków

The Great Waterway Loop of Wielkopolska

302.4 km KOTOWO A popular camping area called "Biały Gościniec" (white roadside inn) by reference to the tavern near the old ferry crossing. On the bank of the Warta there is a camping area with conveniences, and a harbour for small vessels. In the proximity there are two beautiful pedunculate oaks, the largest of them with a girth of 750 cm. The nearby forest as well as the oxbow lakes and pastures are comprised within an area called "Łęgi Mechlińskie" and protected for its natural landscape. The manor and park complex in Mechlin (2km north of the Warta) is home to the Andrzejówka leisure centre. The manor house dating from 1814 was founded by Edward Raczyński from Rogalin. The Count spent the final days of his life here, before he left to Zaniemyśl, where on the isle of Grunt he committed suicide by firing a silver ball from the small cannon, which can be seen at the Śrem Museum.

292 km ŚREM Spreading on both sides of the Warta, Śrem is one of the few towns in Wielkopolska which did not "turn its back" on the river. While sailing along the attractive promenade we can see sculptures in the form of benches with statues of people who rendered great service to the town: Father Piotr Wawrzyniak and Prof. Heliodor Świącicki. Boaters can use the local harbour and a large marina; in 2017-18 a river port will be built here. A popular Bajka cruise boat has its mooring station here.

Śrem can be called a 'wandering' town. Since times immemorial it was a strategic point for crossing the river. As early as the 10th century, there was already a fortified gord (the area today called Żydowskie Góry) in the vicinity of the river. In 1000, during the Congress of Gniezno, Bolesław Chrobry hosted Emperor Otto III here. Then the town was established on the high river bank in 1253, at the same time as Poznań. Today a 44 metre tall water tower standing there is a distinctive feature of the town's panorama. After the town had been destroyed the settlement was moved to Ostrów Kobylec, an island surrounded with overflow areas of the Warta. In the mid-1900s the town returned to its location along the high bank, as a result of the construction of the largest iron foundry in Poland.

The late medieval urban layout of the town on the island has been preserved. At the town square, in front of the Town Hall we can see a statue of Józef Wybicki, the author of the Polish national anthem, who was a citizen of Śrem from 1791. At a distance there is the impressive silhouette of the Gothic Church of the Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary, and its 62-metre tall tower. The interior features lierne vaults from the 15th/16th century, and over the chancel there are Renaissance frescoes, dating from 1517. Appointed mainly with Baroque furnishings, the church also contains a particularly valuable late Renaissance painting by Andrzej Stuss entitled Adoration of Our Lady by St. Adalbert and St. Stanislaus dating from ca. 1620.

Another church can be seen in the former suburb of Ostrówek. The Baroque monastery complex, formerly belonging to Franciscans, consists of the Church of the Nativity of the Blessed Virgin Mary and a cloister, which were built in the 17th/18th century. The nearby Municipal Park ranks among the largest and most beautiful in Wielkopolska. Amidst the old trees we can see a statue of Drummer Boy – honouring participants of the Wielkopolska Uprising as well as remnants of the ancient gord at Żydowskie Góry.

On the high bank of the Warta there is another landmark, a mysterious Klasztorzek (little cloister) – a former monastery, originally home to Franciscan monks, then Clarisse nuns, and then Jesuits. Today the neo-Gothic buildings hold a nursing home.



Water tower in Śrem, archive of the Economic Union of Śrem Region, photo: A. Wartecki

TOURIST INFORMATION **:

- Economic Union of Śrem Region, 63-100 Śrem, ul. Okulickiego 3, tel./fax 61 283 27 04, www.unia.srem.pl, unia@srem.com.pl
- Municipal Information Centre, 63-100 Śrem, Pl. 20 Października 11, tel. 61 670 61 35, 600 924 173, www.cafetej.pl, cafetej@gmail.com

RENTAL OF WATER SPORT EQUIPMENT:

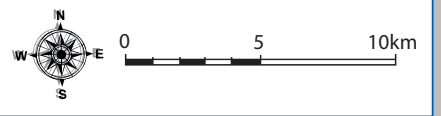
- „Bajka” cruise boat, Company „Finezja” s. c., 63-100 Śrem, ul. Brzechwy 27/2, tel. 603 137 788, www.statekbajka-srem.pl, statekbajka-srem@o2.pl, mkbajka@poczta.onet.pl
- Autolux, 63-100 Śrem, Pysząca, ul. Zachodnia 5, tel. 506 425 045, tel. 509 916 005, e-mail: biuro@czarterjacht.eu

EVENTS FOR BOATERS:

- Opening (2nd half of May) and closing (1st half of Oct.) of motor boating season – “Wodniacy Śrem” Association
- Canoeing rallies with “Śremski Sport” Company (from May to Sept.)
- Music festival “I love Śrem - Blues nad Wartą” (1st half of Sept.)



Śrem, archive of the Town Hall in Śrem, photo: M. Dziuba



The Great Waterway Loop of Wielkopolska



Jaszkowo, photo: Z. Szmidt

285.7 km JASZKOWO Since 1995 the small village has become an equestrian centre, well-known throughout Europe. Antoni Chłapowski, who bought the palace and park grounds, soon transformed the estate into a large sports and recreation complex, called Centrum Hipiki. There are indoor riding arenas, an outdoor course, cross-country track, stables for approx. 200 horses and 200 hectares of diversified land picturesquely situated within the Rogaliński Landscape Reserve. The palace dating from 1912 holds a modern hotel; the old blacksmith's shop has been transformed into a restaurant and the farm buildings are used as stables. On two occasions the Centre has hosted the European Pony Championships; horses participating in such events are up to 148 cm tall. Facilities for boaters include a dock and a mooring platform next to a barge.

Near the horse riding centre there is the Gothic Church of St. Barbara from 1463, expanded in the 1500s; inside we can admire beautiful lierne vaults. Next to the church there is a statue of Edmund Bojanowski, a religious activist and founder of the order of Sister Servants of the Immaculate Conception of the Virgin Mother of God. Initially, the old rectory was home to the first novices who joined the order in 1856. Today we can see an exhibition room devoted to the Beatified Edmund Bojanowski. A new rectory was in 1862 transformed into the home of the order. Today, reconstructed, it holds an agri-tourist accommodation facility called „Na plebanii” (at the rectory).

RENTAL OF WATER SPORT EQUIPMENT:

– Jaszkowo Equestrian Centre, Jaszkowo 16, 63 112 Brodnica,
tel. 61 28 37 556, fax: 61 28 39 940, www.centrumhipiki.com,
info@centrumhipiki.com

270 km ROGALIN Along the high edge of the Warta River valley there is a village with a former Raczyński family estate consisting of a large palace and park, ranking among the most magnificent in Poland. The construction of the Baroque palace was initiated in 1768, presumably by Jan Fryderyk Knöbel, and continued by Dominik Merlini and Jan Christian Kamsetzer, who introduced Classicist elements into its design. The imposing main building is connected with annexes by semi-circular galleries. Along the sides of the large courtyard we can see buildings which hold horse stables, a riding arena, a coach house and servants' lodgings. Beyond the gate, along the line of the panoramic view, there is the neo-Classicist Chapel of St. Marcellinus erected in 1817-20 and modelled after a Roman temple; its vaults hold a mausoleum of the

Raczyński family. Specially designed for this purpose, a building erected next to the palace in the early 1900s holds a gallery of Polish and European art. Behind the palace we can see the reconstructed Baroque garden with a hill called Parnassus, and with rows of hornbeams; further away the garden changes into a natural landscape park. Amidst the ancient trees we can see the famous oaks called Lech, Czech and Rus, which are slowly approaching their end because they are a feeding ground for the Great Capricorn Beetle, an endangered species. The Palace in Rogalin is a branch of the National Museum in Poznań.

290 km–257 km ROGALIŃSKI LANDSCAPE RESERVE Established in 1997, it comprises an area of 12,750 ha between Śrem and Luboń, where the Warta creates numerous ravines. Here the protected valley of the Warta contains numerous oxbow lakes and riverside wetlands with communities of aquatic plants, bulrush, meadow plants, xerothermic grasslands and willow thickets. The area's highlights include one of Europe's largest clusters of pedunculate oaks growing within a floodplain. Delineated within the reserve are numerous tourist trails and an educational path called "Beaver's Trail".



Rogalin Oaks, archive of the Town Hall in Mosina

265.4 km ROGALINEK In the vicinity of a small harbour we can see the wooden Church of St. Michael and Our Lady Who Helps Christians, dating from the early 1700s. The one-nave church with a Baroque turret is covered with a shingled roof. The main altar holds a sculpture of Madonna and Child; a copy of the statue known for miraculous powers was made in 2002 (and is concealed behind a painting). Adjoining the church there is a cemetery, in which we can also see a monumental boulder with plaques honouring the memory of victims of both world wars as well as a rock commemorating the 750th anniversary of Rogalinek.

MOSINA The 750-year old town at the outskirts of the Wielkopolski National Park and 2 kilometres away from the Warta has retained the medieval layout of a town with a central square. We can see here an old shul from ca. 1870, today housing the Municipal Gallery and a small museum. The town is associated with the proverbial character "Dandy from Mosina", whose statue stands on the bank of the Mosiński Canal. On top of the hill called Pożegowska Góra, within the Wielkopolski National Park there is a tower with observation deck, and close by we can see Napoleon's Well – a legend has it that the French Emperor himself stopped here to drink water.

The Great Waterway Loop of Wielkopolska

TOURIST INFORMATION:

– Municipal Information Centre in Mosina, ul. Dworcowa 4, 62-050 Mosina, tel. 61 81 92 746, gci@mosina.pl, www.gci.mosina.pl

RENTAL OF WATER SPORT EQUIPMENT:

- Rental of water sport equipment, Harbour on Dymaczewskie Lake – Dymaczewo Nowe, tel. 663 588 634
- Organization of canoeing events along the Warta – Sowinki 64, 62-050 Mosina Daniel Markowski, tel. 506 742 137
- Canoe rental, Nikodem Kujawa, tel. 502 681 630.

EVENTS FOR BOATERS:

- Motor-boating competition on the Warta River (May), "Kotwica Rogalinek" Student Sport Club ,
- Canoeing along the Warta, (August), Sport and Recreation Centre in Mosina
- International "Warta-Tour" Canoeing Event, (August), Wielkopolska Association for Water Tourism and Recreation "Warta"

261.5 km PUSZCZYKOWO The town was established in 1962 by integrating the former villages of Niwka, Stare Puszczykowo, Puszczykowo and Puszczykówko. Located in the buffer zone of the Wielkopolski National Park, the area is a traditional destination for weekend breaks. Because of its well-spaced layout of buildings merging with the green areas it is often called a garden town.

Here you can explore the changes which occurred in the 19th and 20th century in architectural concepts for villa construction. Suburban houses were built by remarkable Polish and German designers for wealthy residents of Poznań. Some of the best known buildings inspired by Swiss and Tyrolean style date from that period; these include the train stations in Puszczykowo and Puszczykówko.

Tourist attractions of Puszczykowo include the Arkady Fiedler Literary Museum with the Garden of Cultures and Tolerance. The Museum, named after a famous Polish traveller and writer, is administered by his sons and contains artefacts brought back by him from his numerous expeditions: collections of butterflies, musical instruments, sculptures and totem art as well as an exposition of his books translated into many languages. In the garden we can see miniatures of famous monuments and statues related to ancient cultures from all over the world as well as replicas of Christopher Columbus' ship Santa Maria, the Pyramid of Cheops, and the Hurricane fighter aircraft which was used by No. 303 Polish Fighter Squadron during the Battle of Britain.



Arkady Fiedler Literary Museum in Puszczykowo, archive of the Town Hall in Puszczykowo

Puszczykowo is located in the vicinity of the Wielkopolski National Park adjoining the Warta from the west. It was established in 1957 and comprises an area of 7,584 ha. Within the small Park we can encounter various forms of post glacial terrain, and truly picturesque landscapes ranking among the most diverse in Wielkopolska. Along Góreckie Lake, in the village of Jeziory there is an Exhibition and Educational Centre.

253 km-235 km POZNAŃ The capital of Wielkopolska ranks among the most impressive cities of Poland. It is not only a lively academic, cultural and industrial centre. Poznań stands out for its wealth of history, numerous heritage sites and landmarks related to important events. Here, visitors will find sights, museums and sports facilities matching their preferences and interests.

The oldest part of the city is Ostrów Tumski, an island embraced by the arms of the rivers Warta and Cybina. In the 10th century a fortified gord was established here and contained the palatium of Prince Mieszko I and the first Christian chapel in Polish lands erected for his wife Dąbrówka. The contemporary Cathedral of Sts. Peter and Paul is a Gothic basilica with a sequence of chapels. Its interiors conceal older pre-Romanesque and Romanesque relics, including remnants of a baptismal basin and the tombs of Mieszko I and King Bolesław Chrobry. Yet, the most renowned is the Golden Chapel from the mid-19th century – a mausoleum of the earliest Polish monarchs. Its interior appointed in Byzantine style holds a stone sarcophagus of the monarchs as well as their bronze statue. Following wartime destruction, the cathedral was partly appointed with furnishings brought from other churches. Next to the cathedral there is the small Gothic church of the Blessed Virgin Mary from the mid-1400s and the Psalter House from ca. 1520. The imposing edifice of the former Lubrański Academy from the early 1500s today holds the Archdiocese Museum.

In 2012 an archaeological reserve „Genius Loci” (Latin: protective spirit) opened nearby. Here we can see the original fortifications of the Poznań gord from the Middle Ages and the times of the Renaissance.

On the other bank of the Warta there is the town originally established in 1253 by Prince Przemysł I. Around the Old Town Square we can see stylish brick houses, which were restored after wartime destruction and retain facades representing Gothic and a number of other historical styles. Located centrally, the Renaissance Town Hall ranks among the most beautiful in this part of Europe. Its tower holds a great attraction for children – each day at noon we can see two goats and their horn-butting “ceremony”. In the proximity there is a large complex of buildings formerly used by Jesuits. Particularly impressive is the Baroque Church of the Holy Mother of Perpetual Help, St. Mary Magdalene and St. Stanislaus the Bishop – one of the largest churches in Poland. Towering over the Old Town is Góra Przemysła (Mount of Przemysł). The Gothic foundations of the castle once belonging to Duke Przemysł I and his son Przemysł II today support a reconstruction which was designed in Gothic and Renaissance styles.

In the early 1900s the Prussians built an impressive imperial quarter with monumental buildings whose designs made references to various historical styles. Most notable in this area are the imperial castle, royal academy, opera house, church and bank, all of which even today are a characteristic feature within the cityscape.

Poznań provides fascinating options for every visitor. Enthusiasts of fortifications will see medieval walls and massive forts of a Prussian stronghold, those interested in modern architecture can admire the unique, modernist “Okraglak” (round building) and the Old Brewery.

The Great Waterway Loop of Wielkopolska

Poznań is a major Polish centre for water sports. In addition to Lake Malta, today more and more activity focuses on the Warta River – the first temporary harbours have been built here and in the coming years we can expect other related projects and investments.

TOURIST INFORMATION:

– Tourist Information Centre***, 61-772 Poznań, Stary Rynek 59/60, tel. 61 852 61 56, it@cim.poznan.pl

– City Information Centre****, ul. Ratajczaka 44, 61-728 Poznań, tel. 61 194 31, fax 61 856 04 54, centrum@cim.poznan.pl

RENTAL OF WATER SPORT EQUIPMENT

– Disport – Izabela Dylewska, 61-065 Poznań, ul. Wilcza 16, disport@disport.com.pl, www.disport.com.pl

– Ravelion s.c., 60-566 Poznań, ul. Szamotulska 59a/17, tel. 516 726 863, 516 726 864, biuro@czarternawarcie.pl, www.czarternawarcie.pl

– „Żegluga na Warcie” – Houseboat rental, ul. Dębowa 28, 62-005 Potasze, tel. 602 556 788, www.zegluganawarcie.pl, poczta@zegluganawarcie.pl

234 km CZERWONAK The suburban village is situated on the slopes of moraine upland delineating the limits of the Poznań Ravine of Warta. The village is known for its well-developed industry. The nearby areas of the Puszcza Zielonka Landscape Reserve are extremely interesting for their scenic values; particularly noteworthy is the hill of Dziewicza Góra (143 metres above sea level), with a tower with observation deck. Along the river bank there is Akwen Marina harbour administered by AKWEN Centre for the Development of Physical Culture (www.akwenczerwonak.pl).

230 km OWIŃSKA A large village with a former Cistercian monastery founded in 1248-52 by Princes Bolesław Pobożny and Przemysław I. Today we can see the late Baroque Church of St. John the Baptist dating from 1720-28; its structure designed by Pompeo Ferrari incorporated the foundations of earlier Romanesque and Gothic buildings. The late Baroque interiors contain polychromes by Adam Swach from 1730. Adjoining the church there is a Baroque cloister with a garth, dating from ca. 1700, built by Giovanni Catenazzi and completed in 1720 by Pompeo Ferrari. Today the monastery buildings are home to an educational facility for visually impaired children. The first Polish tactile museum (where exhibits can be explored by touch) opened here in 2011 and a year later a sensory park, unique in Europe, was created here. Visually impaired children can learn to independently move around in open space.



Former Cistercian monastery in Owińska, photo: Z. Szmidt

ity for visually impaired children. The first Polish tactile museum (where exhibits can be explored by touch) opened here in 2011 and a year later a sensory park, unique in Europe, was created here. Visually impaired children can learn to independently move around in open space.

Along the road we can see a large landscape park from the first half of the 1800s, designed by Peter Joseph Lenné, as well as a classicist palace built in 1804-06; its design is attributed to David Gilly.

224.9 km BIEDRUSKO In 1904 Albert Otto von Treskow sold Biedrusko and the nearby villages to the Prussian army, which established a large military camp and training grounds. Once Poland regained independence, an army garrison was located here. After the facility was expanded, the training grounds were used by various army units, and visited by distinguished guests such as Marshal Józef Piłsudski, President Ignacy Mościcki and foreign visitors. Following WWII the military range was again expanded. In 1995 the training grounds were designated as an Area of Protected Landscape, which currently is administered by the Training Centre of Land Forces in Poznań. The training grounds were used for shooting a number of films, e.g. “Kazimierz Wielki” and With Fire and Sword.

Some of the former barracks today are used for civilian purposes. On the outskirts of the Warta River valley there is an old palace and park complex. The palace designed in eclectic style making reference to Italian Renaissance villas was built in 1877-80 to the design by German architect Ludwig Huhn. In the past it was used for official purposes by commanding officers; today it holds a hotel and restaurant.

MUROWANA GOŚLINA The distance from Binduga harbour in Mściszewo to Murowana Goślina is approx. 4 km. The small river Goślina separates the two parts of the town. The old part is concentrated around the town square with the late Gothic Church of St. James, from the late 15th/early 16th century; its Baroque chancel was added in 1717. The outer wall holds a Renaissance tombstone of Urszula Potulicka (nee Ostroróg). In reference to the patron of the church the town hosts a large event called St. James’ Fairs (July).

On the other side of the Goślina river valley there is a housing estate called Zielone Wzgórza (Green Hills), whose construction was started in 1985. The new town, which emerged around the central square with a town hall, stands out for the varied style of the houses, gardens and backstreets and its layout is an interesting example of a suburban residential area.

206.3 km OBORNIKI An old royal town along the Warta linked by three bridges. Near the town square we can see the Church of the Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary, originally built in Gothic style in the 15th/16th century; its present form dates from 1814. On the other side of the Wełna River, we can visit a modest half-timbered Church of the Holy Cross from 1766, with Baroque and Rococo furnishings. The main altar holds a crucifix from the 1500s. The characteristic feature of the cityscape is the 90-metre tall tower of the neo-Gothic, formerly Evangelical, Church of St. Joseph from 1900. The Wełna River flows into the Warta in Oborniki. A nature reserve called Słonawy was established at its mouth to protect the spawning grounds of salmonidae. Sometimes called “a mountainous river”, the Wełna is one of the most popular and most demanding waterways of Wielkopolska.

CANOE RENTAL:

– Delfin, 64-600 Oborniki, ul. Bielawska 8, tel. 607 387 952, www.nauka-plywalnia.pl

– Kajakownia, 64-600 Oborniki, Słonawy 3, tel. 503 753 656, www.kajakownia.pl, kajakowania@02.pl

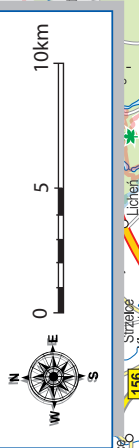
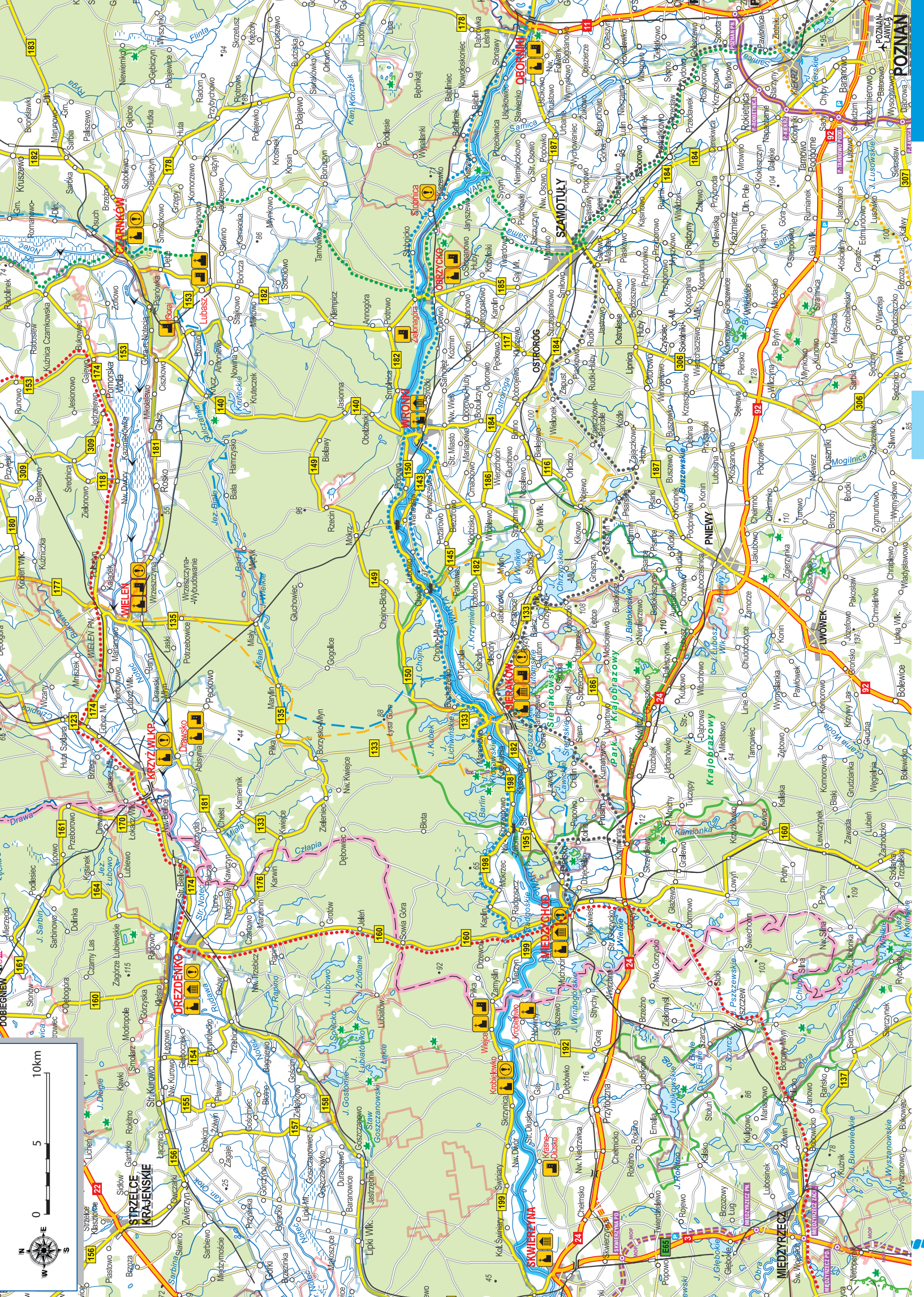
– Swim Live, 64-600 Oborniki, ul. Leśniaka 11, tel. 606 877 613, www.swimlive.pl

– Rob-Fil, 64-600 Oborniki, ul. Wodna, tel. 512 277 366

EVENTS FOR BOATERS:

– beginning of boating season (April), end of boating season (October)

– “Aplaga” Boaters’ Association in Oborniki



POZNAŃ
WARSZAWA
LUBLIN
KRAKÓW
WROCŁAW
GDAŃSK
SZCZECIN
BYDGÓSKA ZDRÓJ
KATOWICE
WARSZAWA
LUBLIN
KRAKÓW
WROCŁAW
GDAŃSK
SZCZECIN
BYDGÓSKA ZDRÓJ
KATOWICE

POZNAŃ
WARSZAWA
LUBLIN
KRAKÓW
WROCŁAW
GDAŃSK
SZCZECIN
BYDGÓSKA ZDRÓJ
KATOWICE
WARSZAWA
LUBLIN
KRAKÓW
WROCŁAW
GDAŃSK
SZCZECIN
BYDGÓSKA ZDRÓJ
KATOWICE

POZNAŃ
WARSZAWA
LUBLIN
KRAKÓW
WROCŁAW
GDAŃSK
SZCZECIN
BYDGÓSKA ZDRÓJ
KATOWICE
WARSZAWA
LUBLIN
KRAKÓW
WROCŁAW
GDAŃSK
SZCZECIN
BYDGÓSKA ZDRÓJ
KATOWICE

POZNAŃ
WARSZAWA
LUBLIN
KRAKÓW
WROCŁAW
GDAŃSK
SZCZECIN
BYDGÓSKA ZDRÓJ
KATOWICE
WARSZAWA
LUBLIN
KRAKÓW
WROCŁAW
GDAŃSK
SZCZECIN
BYDGÓSKA ZDRÓJ
KATOWICE

POZNAŃ
WARSZAWA
LUBLIN
KRAKÓW
WROCŁAW
GDAŃSK
SZCZECIN
BYDGÓSKA ZDRÓJ
KATOWICE
WARSZAWA
LUBLIN
KRAKÓW
WROCŁAW
GDAŃSK
SZCZECIN
BYDGÓSKA ZDRÓJ
KATOWICE

POZNAŃ
WARSZAWA
LUBLIN
KRAKÓW
WROCŁAW
GDAŃSK
SZCZECIN
BYDGÓSKA ZDRÓJ
KATOWICE
WARSZAWA
LUBLIN
KRAKÓW
WROCŁAW
GDAŃSK
SZCZECIN
BYDGÓSKA ZDRÓJ
KATOWICE

POZNAŃ
WARSZAWA
LUBLIN
KRAKÓW
WROCŁAW
GDAŃSK
SZCZECIN
BYDGÓSKA ZDRÓJ
KATOWICE
WARSZAWA
LUBLIN
KRAKÓW
WROCŁAW
GDAŃSK
SZCZECIN
BYDGÓSKA ZDRÓJ
KATOWICE

POZNAŃ
WARSZAWA
LUBLIN
KRAKÓW
WROCŁAW
GDAŃSK
SZCZECIN
BYDGÓSKA ZDRÓJ
KATOWICE
WARSZAWA
LUBLIN
KRAKÓW
WROCŁAW
GDAŃSK
SZCZECIN
BYDGÓSKA ZDRÓJ
KATOWICE

POZNAŃ
WARSZAWA
LUBLIN
KRAKÓW
WROCŁAW
GDAŃSK
SZCZECIN
BYDGÓSKA ZDRÓJ
KATOWICE
WARSZAWA
LUBLIN
KRAKÓW
WROCŁAW
GDAŃSK
SZCZECIN
BYDGÓSKA ZDRÓJ
KATOWICE

POZNAŃ
WARSZAWA
LUBLIN
KRAKÓW
WROCŁAW
GDAŃSK
SZCZECIN
BYDGÓSKA ZDRÓJ
KATOWICE
WARSZAWA
LUBLIN
KRAKÓW
WROCŁAW
GDAŃSK
SZCZECIN
BYDGÓSKA ZDRÓJ
KATOWICE

POZNAŃ
WARSZAWA
LUBLIN
KRAKÓW
WROCŁAW
GDAŃSK
SZCZECIN
BYDGÓSKA ZDRÓJ
KATOWICE
WARSZAWA
LUBLIN
KRAKÓW
WROCŁAW
GDAŃSK
SZCZECIN
BYDGÓSKA ZDRÓJ
KATOWICE

POZNAŃ
WARSZAWA
LUBLIN
KRAKÓW
WROCŁAW
GDAŃSK
SZCZECIN
BYDGÓSKA ZDRÓJ
KATOWICE
WARSZAWA
LUBLIN
KRAKÓW
WROCŁAW
GDAŃSK
SZCZECIN
BYDGÓSKA ZDRÓJ
KATOWICE

POZNAŃ
WARSZAWA
LUBLIN
KRAKÓW
WROCŁAW
GDAŃSK
SZCZECIN
BYDGÓSKA ZDRÓJ
KATOWICE
WARSZAWA
LUBLIN
KRAKÓW
WROCŁAW
GDAŃSK
SZCZECIN
BYDGÓSKA ZDRÓJ
KATOWICE

POZNAŃ
WARSZAWA
LUBLIN
KRAKÓW
WROCŁAW
GDAŃSK
SZCZECIN
BYDGÓSKA ZDRÓJ
KATOWICE
WARSZAWA
LUBLIN
KRAKÓW
WROCŁAW
GDAŃSK
SZCZECIN
BYDGÓSKA ZDRÓJ
KATOWICE

POZNAŃ
WARSZAWA
LUBLIN
KRAKÓW
WROCŁAW
GDAŃSK
SZCZECIN
BYDGÓSKA ZDRÓJ
KATOWICE
WARSZAWA
LUBLIN
KRAKÓW
WROCŁAW
GDAŃSK
SZCZECIN
BYDGÓSKA ZDRÓJ
KATOWICE

POZNAŃ
WARSZAWA
LUBLIN
KRAKÓW
WROCŁAW
GDAŃSK
SZCZECIN
BYDGÓSKA ZDRÓJ
KATOWICE
WARSZAWA
LUBLIN
KRAKÓW
WROCŁAW
GDAŃSK
SZCZECIN
BYDGÓSKA ZDRÓJ
KATOWICE

POZNAŃ
WARSZAWA
LUBLIN
KRAKÓW
WROCŁAW
GDAŃSK
SZCZECIN
BYDGÓSKA ZDRÓJ
KATOWICE
WARSZAWA
LUBLIN
KRAKÓW
WROCŁAW
GDAŃSK
SZCZECIN
BYDGÓSKA ZDRÓJ
KATOWICE

POZNAŃ
WARSZAWA
LUBLIN
KRAKÓW
WROCŁAW
GDAŃSK
SZCZECIN
BYDGÓSKA ZDRÓJ
KATOWICE
WARSZAWA
LUBLIN
KRAKÓW
WROCŁAW
GDAŃSK
SZCZECIN
BYDGÓSKA ZDRÓJ
KATOWICE

POZNAŃ
WARSZAWA
LUBLIN
KRAKÓW
WROCŁAW
GDAŃSK
SZCZECIN
BYDGÓSKA ZDRÓJ
KATOWICE
WARSZAWA
LUBLIN
KRAKÓW
WROCŁAW
GDAŃSK
SZCZECIN
BYDGÓSKA ZDRÓJ
KATOWICE

POZNAŃ
WARSZAWA
LUBLIN
KRAKÓW
WROCŁAW
GDAŃSK
SZCZECIN
BYDGÓSKA ZDRÓJ
KATOWICE
WARSZAWA
LUBLIN
KRAKÓW
WROCŁAW
GDAŃSK
SZCZECIN
BYDGÓSKA ZDRÓJ
KATOWICE

POZNAŃ
WARSZAWA
LUBLIN
KRAKÓW
WROCŁAW
GDAŃSK
SZCZECIN
BYDGÓSKA ZDRÓJ
KATOWICE
WARSZAWA
LUBLIN
KRAKÓW
WROCŁAW
GDAŃSK
SZCZECIN
BYDGÓSKA ZDRÓJ
KATOWICE

POZNAŃ
WARSZAWA
LUBLIN
KRAKÓW
WROCŁAW
GDAŃSK
SZCZECIN
BYDGÓSKA ZDRÓJ
KATOWICE
WARSZAWA
LUBLIN
KRAKÓW
WROCŁAW
GDAŃSK
SZCZECIN
BYDGÓSKA ZDRÓJ
KATOWICE

POZNAŃ
WARSZAWA
LUBLIN
KRAKÓW
WROCŁAW
GDAŃSK
SZCZECIN
BYDGÓSKA ZDRÓJ
KATOWICE
WARSZAWA
LUBLIN
KRAKÓW
WROCŁAW
GDAŃSK
SZCZECIN
BYDGÓSKA ZDRÓJ
KATOWICE

POZNAŃ
WARSZAWA
LUBLIN
KRAKÓW
WROCŁAW
GDAŃSK
SZCZECIN
BYDGÓSKA ZDRÓJ
KATOWICE
WARSZAWA
LUBLIN
KRAKÓW
WROCŁAW
GDAŃSK
SZCZECIN
BYDGÓSKA ZDRÓJ
KATOWICE

POZNAŃ
WARSZAWA
LUBLIN
KRAKÓW
WROCŁAW
GDAŃSK
SZCZECIN
BYDGÓSKA ZDRÓJ
KATOWICE
WARSZAWA
LUBLIN
KRAKÓW
WROCŁAW
GDAŃSK
SZCZECIN
BYDGÓSKA ZDRÓJ
KATOWICE

POZNAŃ
WARSZAWA
LUBLIN
KRAKÓW
WROCŁAW
GDAŃSK
SZCZECIN
BYDGÓSKA ZDRÓJ
KATOWICE
WARSZAWA
LUBLIN
KRAKÓW
WROCŁAW
GDAŃSK
SZCZECIN
BYDGÓSKA ZDRÓJ
KATOWICE

POZNAŃ
WARSZAWA
LUBLIN
KRAKÓW
WROCŁAW
GDAŃSK
SZCZECIN
BYDGÓSKA ZDRÓJ
KATOWICE
WARSZAWA
LUBLIN
KRAKÓW
WROCŁAW
GDAŃSK
SZCZECIN
BYDGÓSKA ZDRÓJ
KATOWICE

POZNAŃ
WARSZAWA
LUBLIN
KRAKÓW
WROCŁAW
GDAŃSK
SZCZECIN
BYDGÓSKA ZDRÓJ
KATOWICE
WARSZAWA
LUBLIN
KRAKÓW
WROCŁAW
GDAŃSK
SZCZECIN
BYDGÓSKA ZDRÓJ
KATOWICE

The Great Waterway Loop of Wielkopolska

188 km STOBNICA Next to a defunct railway bridge there is a privately owned harbour called „U Agnieszki i Macieja”. The small village on the outskirts of the Notecka Forest is best known for wolf breeding. In 1974 the Experimental Station was launched in the hamlet of Papiernia, along the Kończak Stream by the Zoology Department at Poznań University of Life Sciences. It is designed to breed rare and endangered animals and reinstate them into their former habitats. As a result of research conducted in the Station the Eurasian beaver has become widespread in Poland. Other animals raised in this area include the subspecies of the horse called Polish konik, in its variation resembling Tarpan wild horse. Obviously, the most popular are the wolves, which can be seen following prior arrangements.

RENTAL OF WATER SPORT EQUIPMENT:

– Harbour „U Agnieszki i Macieja”, Maciej Szopiński, 64-607 Kiszewo, Stobnica 15, tel. 61 29 71 951, 69 76 23 418, maciek-67@o2.pl

182.3 km OBRZYCKO A small town, which once held a castellany, is located at the outlet of the Sama River to the Warta. Since the 18th century this was an estate owned by the Germanized branch of the Raczyński family. The Baroque Church of Sts. Peter and Paul built in the mid-1700s to the design by Pompeo Ferarri, was later expanded by Roger Sławski in the early 1900s. Within its Rococo style interiors we can see the painting by Eugenio Caxés from 1609 entitled The Last Supper; it was brought here from the Spanish Monastery of Jerónimos in Guadeloupe. Adjoining the wall is the bronze tomb of Archbishop of Gniezno Ignacy Raczyński, dating from 1854. At the town square there is the town hall from the mid-1600s; on one of its walls we can see an amply ornamented window framing from 1527, brought from Portugal.

Located on the other side of the river, the former suburb of Zielonagóra once was the centre of the Raczyński family estate. Within a large park along the Warta there is a palace representing eclectic style and built around 1856, then expanded in 1906-1910. Today it holds the House of Creative Work and Leisure Centre of Adam Mickiewicz University.



Former Dominican monastery in Wronki, archive of the Town Hall and Commune Office in Wronki, photo: R. Sierchuła

171.5 km WRONKI An old royal town, it is known as a manufacturer of home appliances and as a location of one of the largest correctional facilities in Poland. Near the town square we can see the Gothic Church of St. Catherine, dating from the 15th century. The main altar holds valuable sculptures: the late Gothic – Christ, Man of Sorrows from ca. 15th century, and the Renaissance Pieta from the 16th century. On the bank of the Warta there is a former Dominican Church of the Annunciation of the Blessed Virgin Mary, built in the late 17th century to the design by Krzysztof Bonadura Starszy. The neo-Gothic building of a granary from the mid-1800s is home to the Museum of the Wronki Region with impressive ethnographic and archaeological holdings and exhibitions of local artists. The large prison complex was built by the Prussians in 1894 in the neo-Gothic style which was fashionable at the time. On the other side of the Warta there is a modern Olympic Hotel. The nearby Notecka Forest is known for the multitude of mushrooms growing there, and is a perfect place for recreational activities such as cycling and hiking trips as well as Nordic walking.



Church of Saints Peter and Paul in Obrzycko, photo: Z. Szmidt

The Great Waterway Loop of Wielkopolska



Museum – Opaliński Family Castle in Sieraków, photo: Z. Szmidt

RENTAL OF WATER SPORT EQUIPMENT:

– “Na skarpie” River Harbour, Piotr Matuszewski, 64-510 Wronki, ul. Rzeczna, tel. 503 571 590, 502 098 698, www.szcutnik.com.pl, szcutnik@poczta.onet.pl

– River tours, Mikołaj Staszek, 64-510 Wronki, Obelzanki 8a, tel. 791 517 629, 502 654 067, www.turystykarzeczna.pl, info@turystykarzeczna.pl

145 km SIERAKÓW A town with an old birth certificate, in the 16th-18th century it held a residence of the Opaliński magnate family, and today is a major tourism centre in Wielkopolska. On the bank of the Warta we can see the castle of the Opaliński family. It was reconstructed in 1994-95 incorporating the only remaining part of the old Renaissance structure, the basement of one of its wings. The original 16th century cellar, transformed into a chapel, holds five sarcophagi of the Opaliński family. They were retrieved in 1983 from a crypt underneath a former Bernardine church. The sarcophagi made in the 17th century from tin and copper, and ornamented with coats of arms and coffin portraits are excellent works of a tinsmith’s art. The castle holds an exposition related to the Opaliński family and the history of Sieraków.



Stud Farm in Sieraków, archive of the Stud Farm in Sieraków

The town’s most precious landmark is the Church of the Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary from 1625-39. The late Renaissance church with a Bernardine monastery founded by the Voivode of Poznań Piotr Opaliński was designed by Krzysztof Bonadura Starszy. The Baroque altar with intricate ornamentation holds a valuable painting entitled Descent from the Cross from 1645 by the Flemish artist Artus Wolfortt. Other highlights of the interior include the Renaissance-style choir stalls ornamented with intarsia and Baroque tombs of the Opaliński family.

Sieraków is known for a Stud Farm, with approx. 200 horses, mainly of the Wielkopolska breed; horse breeding was initiated here in 1829. Amidst the nearby forests along the shores of Jaroszewskie Lake there is a large complex of leisure centres, including the Central Leisure and Training Centre of the Association for the Promotion of Physical Culture, with a number of sports facilities.

TOURIST INFORMATION

– Museum – Opaliński Family Castle, 64-410 Sieraków, ul. Stadnina 3A, tel. 61 29 52 392

– Information point: “Na Słoneczku” (during season), ul. Poznańska 28, tel. 604 419 609

RENTAL OF WATER SPORT EQUIPMENT:

– Sports and Recreation Centre, 64-410 Sieraków, ul. Poznańska 28, tel. 61 29 52 868

– “Czapla” Regional Canoeing Association, 64-410 Sieraków, ul. Poznańska 28, tel. 509 296 920 zbyszek@klubczapla.pl, www.klubczapla.pl

157.5 km-135.4 km SIERAKOWSKI LANDSCAPE RESERVE The Reserve, spreading on both sides of the Warta, was established in 1991 in an area of 30,413 ha. Its varied terrain consists of moraine hills, numerous lakes, dunes and the valley of the Warta. The northern part, which comprises ribbon lakes, is covered with pine forests, known for its abundance of mushrooms. To the south of the Warta there are hilly areas separated by deep valleys with lakes. The reserve is an important habitat of nesting birds. To see the best panorama of the reserve it is a good idea to go to the scenic overlooks in Grobia (Góra Głazów) or in Łęczeczki. Because of

The Great Waterway Loop of Wielkopolska

the multitude of unpolluted lakes, many leisure centres have been established here. The old mansion in Chalin is home to the Centre of Natural Education of the Wielkopolska Landscape Reserves.

128 km MIĘDZYCHÓD Town with interesting urban layout, consisting of three parts: the old town which had existed by 1400, the new town established in the late 1500s, and the suburb of Lipowiec dating from 1671. Located between the Warta and Miejskie Lake, the oldest part consists of a number of narrow streets running towards the central square. Of notice here is Rynkowa St. with an attractive layout of eight old houses facing the street with their gable ends. One of the streets leads towards the Church of the Martyrdom of St. John the Baptist; its original Gothic structure from 1591 was altered in classicist style during the 18th-20th century. Near the church there is the so-called lauf-pompa – a cast iron pump, from 1912, connected to an artesian aquifer flowing from the depth of 90 m. Rich in mineral elements, the water is used by local people for various purposes, and the promotional slogan of Międzychód is „Miasto z Pompą” (Town with great pump).

At Lipowiec we can see the former Evangelical church of the Immaculate Heart of Mary. The late Classicist building was erected in 1838-40 to the design of a renowned architect from Berlin, Karl Friedrich Schinkel. Its vestibule holds a tombstone commemorating Krzysztof Unrug, a Lutheran from Swabia who owned the town in the 16th century. Other tombstones were fitted into the wall surrounding the church. A little further we can see an impressive eclectic-style building from the 19th century – originally a residence of the owners of Lipowiec and today a seat of the local authorities. A fine-looking promenade with a beach runs along the shores of Miejskie Lake. In the Old Port there is a riverside hostel of the Międzychód Society for Tourism and Water Sports and next to the Old Bridge there is a harbour – a camping area, also used for public events. On the outskirts of Notecka Forest, along Mierzyńskie Lake we can visit Mierzyn-Ustronie leisure centre with a camp site as well as sports and recreational facilities.



Church of St. John the Baptist in Międzychód, archive of the Town Hall and Commune Office in Międzychód



Bird's eye view of Międzychód, archive of the Town Hall and Commune Office in Międzychód

TOURIST INFORMATION

– Regional Museum, 64-400 Międzychód, ul. 17 Stycznia 100, tel. 95 748 27 01

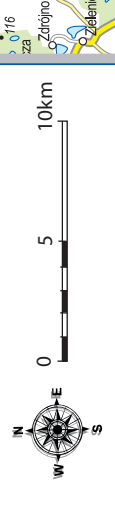
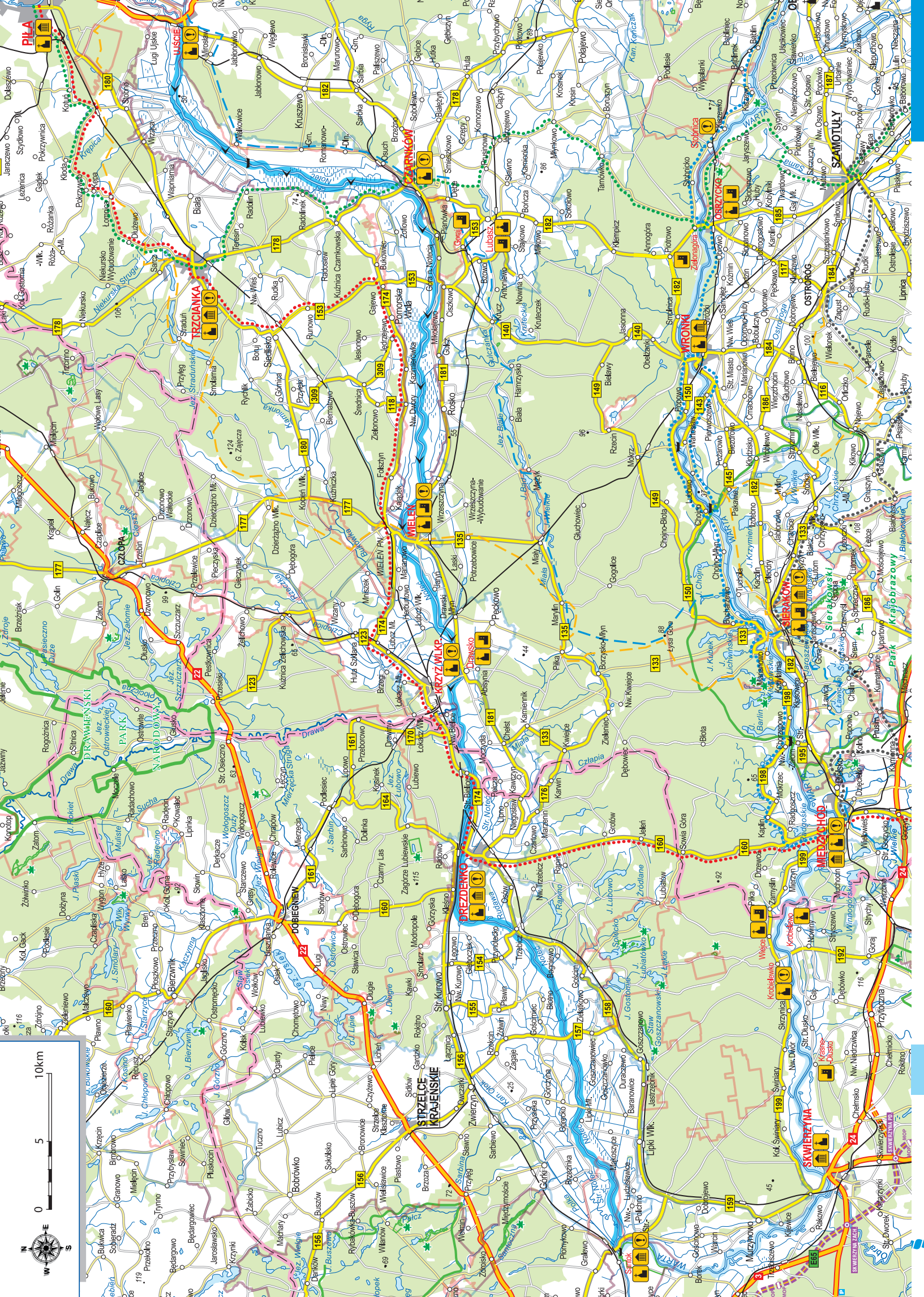
CANOE RENTAL:

– Canoe station Piotr Czarnecki, 64-400 Międzychód, ul. Wały Jana Kazimierza, tel. 667 277 560, www.czarny-kajaki.pl

92.1 km SKWIERZYNA The town is picturesquely located at the outlet of the Obra to the Warta. Its history goes back to a fishing village at the junction of trading routes, which was granted municipal rights in 1295 by the Prince of Wielkopolska, Przemysł II. The most impressive landmark is the Church of St. Nicholas dating from the 1400s, and thoroughly reconstructed in 1861-1863. The main altar holds the image of Our Lady of Klevan dating from the 1600s, and brought here from Volhynia (today in Ukraine) after WWII. Another highlight of the place is the former Evangelical Church of Our Saviour; it was built in 1847-1854 in neo-Romanesque style. A unique attraction is an exposition devoted to road engineering with a collection of road works equipment, milestones, and road signs. On the bank of the Warta there is a hotel named “Dom nad Rzeką” with a harbour for boaters.

RENTAL OF WATER SPORT EQUIPMENT:

– Hotel and Restaurant „Dom nad rzeką”, 66-440 Skwierzyna, ul. Mostowa 3, tel. 95 717 21 06, 95 717 30 00, fax 95 717 30 05, www.domnadrzeka.com.pl, hotel@domnadrzeka.com.pl



PILA

USCIE

TRZCIANKA

CZŁOPA

DOBIEGNIEW

STRZELCE KRAJEŃSKIE

SKWIERZINA

SZARŃKÓW

WIELĘN

KRZYWIK

PREZDENIO

WŁODZISZAW

MIĘDZACHÓD

MIĘDZYZDRZE

MIŁOŚCIE

WIELKA WIEŚ

WIELKA WIEŚ

WIELKA WIEŚ

WIELKA WIEŚ

WIELKA WIEŚ

WIELKA WIEŚ

MIŁOŚCIE

MIŁOŚCIE

MIŁOŚCIE

MIŁOŚCIE

MIŁOŚCIE

MIŁOŚCIE

MIŁOŚCIE

MIŁOŚCIE

MIŁOŚCIE

MIŁOŚCIE

MIŁOŚCIE

MIŁOŚCIE

MIŁOŚCIE

MIŁOŚCIE

MIŁOŚCIE

MIŁOŚCIE

MIŁOŚCIE

MIŁOŚCIE

MIŁOŚCIE

MIŁOŚCIE

MIŁOŚCIE

The Great Waterway Loop of Wielkopolska

Waterway – the Noteć River from 226.1 km to 38 km

225.6 km SANTOK "The watchtower and key to the kingdom" this is what Gallus Anonymus, wrote about Santok in his Chronicle in the early 1100s. The fortified settlement located in the fork of the Warta and Noteć guarded the river crossing towards Pomerania and was one of the most important settlements in the country ruled by the first monarchs of the Piast dynasty, Prince Mieszko I and King Bolesław Chrobry. The relics of the ancient gord are dated to the 8th-14th century. Next to these remaining traces there is a ferry crossing and Museum of the Santok Gord, with an archeological exposition, which presents the history of the early medieval settlement. After destroying the gord, in 1437 the Teutonic Knights built the so-called "Upper Castle" on top of a moraine hill. Today the place is occupied by a brick tower, with a scenic overlook, built in 1936. Contemporary Santok is a small village located on the upland slopes along the Warta and Noteć. The area is even more attractive due to storks nesting on top of nearly all utility poles.

Along the right bank of the Noteć there is a promenade with an outdoor stage, a harbour for ships and other vessels. Each year in July, a national canoeing event called "Lubuski waterway", along the Obrzyca, Obra and Warta ends here.

188.2 km DREZDENKO Originally, in the times of the Piasts, the elevation within the marshy valley of the Noteć held the gord called Drzeń, then there was a castle, and finally a town was established here. Because of the surrounding terrain it was always a borderland fortress, and a source of conflicts between Pomeranians, Poles, Teutonic Knights and Brandenburgians. The dispute concerning Drezdenko and Santok was one of the reasons leading to the war with the Teutonic Order in 1410. Later in 1603, taking advantage of the town's strategic location Brandenburgians built a Renaissance fortress to the design of a Dutch military engineer, captain Nicolas de Kamp. The relics of that structure include earthen and brick walls, the outline of the moat and the gate building. The former powder magazine, later transformed into a granary, today holds the Museum of Drawaska and Notecka Forest. After the fortress was dismantled, in 1766 a Baroque palace was erected here; today it holds a middle school. The last stronghold was built in Drezdenko before WWII; the structure located along the Noteć was part of the fortifications of the southernmost part of the Pomeranian Line. Today, along the bank of the Noteć, we can still see a massive 250-metre long flap-gated weir built of concrete. Drezdenko is also a colourful town with a number of brick houses representing the style of Art Nouveau, as well as a neo-Renaissance town hall from 1884. One of the oldest buildings in the town is a still operating chemist's shop from 1697, at the Old Market (Stary Rynek). The area along the Stara Noteć River is occupied by the Park of World's Cultures where we can see miniatures of well-known structures, e.g. the Eiffel Tower, Sydney Opera House and the Statue of Liberty.

RENTAL OF WATER SPORT EQUIPMENT:

– Marek Paś, Przeborowo 30, 66-530 Drezdenko, tel. 95 762 56 05

176.2 km KRZYŻ WIELKOPOLSKI An important railway junction, it is often called a town of railwaymen. This is one of the youngest towns of Wielkopolska, as it received municipal rights only in 1936. It emerged from the small village of Łokacz at the time when tracks connect-



Drezdenko, photo: Z. Szmidt

ing Poznań and Szczecin as well as Berlin and Bydgoszcz were built (in 1848 and 1851 respectively). The place retains a unique urban layout established in the mid-19th century and expanded in the early 20th century. The most notable landmarks include the railways station from the late 19th century and the neo-Romanesque Church of St. Anthony from 1882. A few buildings erected in the early 20th century were designed in the neo-Gothic style, which was fashionable at the time. These include: the post office, abattoir, school and many residential buildings. Another interesting structure here is the lock and weir on the Noteć. Built in 1913 this is the last lock along the waterway linking the Vistula



Church of St. Anthony in Krzyż Wielkopolski, archive of the Town Hall and Commune Office in Krzyż Wielkopolski, photo: K. Boładź

The Great Waterway Loop of Wielkopolska



Bird's eye view to Drawsko, archive of the Commune Office in Drawsko

and the Oder. The Drwa River, in its upper section flowing across the Drawa National Park, joins with the Noteć in Krzyż Wielkopolski; it is particularly popular with enthusiasts of canoeing and adventure since it resembles a mountainous river.

– Organization of motor yacht tours along the Noteć, tel. 609 610 147, www.debogora.pl, rezerwacje@debogora.pl

CANOE RENTAL:

- Canoe harbour „Meta na Drawie”, 64-761 Krzyż Wlkp., Łokacz Wielki 54, tel. 662 728 361, www.metanadrawie.pl, rybarczykjakajaki@interia.pl
- Jan Adamski, 64-761 Krzyż Wlkp., Przesieki 26, tel. 692 146 426
- Mirosław Wiśniewski, 64-761 Krzyż Wlkp., Przesieki 23, tel. 67 253 10 00, 502 335 624
- „Świderek” Leisure Centre along Królewskie Lake, Adam Świdorski, 64-761 Krzyż Wlkp., ul. Mickiewicza 36, tel. 512 353 097
- Robert Boch, 64-761 Krzyż Wlkp., ul. Daszyńskiego 14, tel. 67 256 44 12, 514 929 277

174.4 km DRAWSKO A beautiful village with an impressive marina, called Yndzel which was launched in 2011. In the vicinity there is a large palace from the late 19th/early 20th century, today holding the headquarters of the local authorities. Other landmarks include an old park, the neo-Gothic Church of the Sacred Heart of Jesus from 1910, with a slightly older wooden belfry. Those interested in the technological heritage can see here a weir and lock system along the Noteć, in the village of Drawski Młyn, “Drawsko No. 21”, built in 1898. It consists of: a sluice chamber, weir with fishway, a residential building and an outbuilding, an office building with a technical and storage building. The nearby villages are inhabited by the ethnographic group called Mazurzy Wieleńscy, who were presumably brought here from the region of Mazovia by Duke Piotr Sapieha in the 18th century. The Notecka Forest in the vicinity of Drawsko is known for an abundance of mushrooms.

EVENTS FOR BOATERS:

- An event called “Let’s talk in dialects” YNDZEL (June)
- Motor-boat rally in Drawsko (May)
- Canoeing along „YNDZEL” in Drawsko (August)

162 km WIELEŃ An old settlement, one of the most important along the border of the regions of Pomerania and Wielkopolska. The royal town established in 1348 in the overflow areas of the Noteć River had a complicated history. We can see here the remnants of the spatial layout from subsequent stages of its development: the Old and New Town, as



Culture Centre in Wieleń, photo: Z. Szmidt

well as an old mansion and park complex at Ostrów and a palace complex. During the interwar period the national border ran along the Noteć and it split the town into two parts. Some traces of that can still be seen today: e.g. churches on the two sides of the river belong to two different dioceses.

The highlights of the Old Town include the early Baroque Church of the Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary and St. Michael the Archangel, dating from 1615. It is appointed with Renaissance and Baroque furnishings and the main altar holds a valuable painting The Assumption of Our Lady, from the workshop of Herman Han, an artist from Gdańsk. In a side chapel there is an early Baroque sarcophagus of Jan Kostka (d. 1624) – a work of a tinsmith from Poznań, Jakub Kanadej. Within the historical park at Ostrów there is a mansion complex which today is home to a residential nursing facility administered by Franciscan Sisters of the Family of Mary.

Along the right bank of the Noteć the area of a former castle is occupied by a large palace and park complex. The Baroque palace of the Sapieha family was built in 1749-50 to the design by Karl Martin Frantz, a court architect of the Sułkowski family. It was modelled after the castle in Rydzyna, yet its structure was never completed. It is surrounded by a large park with ancient trees, and a number of other buildings: a chapel mausoleum, a coach house, orangery, gardener’s house and an entrance building. Slightly further, along the right bank of the river there is a part of the town built by Germans after 1920. In its centre there is the Church of St. Roch.

GORAJ ZAMEK In the most interesting area of the so-called Czarnków Switzerland, among moraine hills and forests (1 km from the Lock of Pianówka) we can see a small village called Goraj Zamek (Goraj Castle). In the late 19th century the nearby areas were acquired by the Hochberg family. On top of an elevation in 1910-13 Duke Wilhelm



Goraj Castle, archive of the District Office in Czarnków, photo: P. Keil

The Great Waterway Loop of Wielkopolska

Bolko von Hochberg built an imposing neo-Renaissance castle modelled after Varenholz in Westphalia. Nearby there are stylish old buildings of horse stables, a garage and gardener's house. The place is surrounded by a forest-type park with monumental as well as exotic trees. Today the castle holds a School of Forestry.

132.1 km CZARNKÓW The best view towards the town is available from the hill called Góra Krzyżowa towering over the valley of the Noteć River. The old gord was built as early as the 10th century at the Noteć River crossing along the trading route leading towards the seaside region of Pomerania. The town was established in the mid-14th century, along the edge of nearby moraine hills.

At the town square we can see the Gothic Church of St. Mary Magdalene founded in the mid-16th century by the Czarnkowski family, the owners of the town. Its Baroque furnishings include paintings supplied by artists' guilds and an image of The Guardian Angel, from ca. 1630 attributed to Herman Han, an artist from Gdańsk. The chapel holds tombs of the Czarnkowski family, including a Renaissance tomb of Maciej and Katarzyna Czarnkowski and the early Baroque, tin sarcophagus of the General Starost of Wielkopolska, Adam Sędziwój Czarnkowski (d. 1627); the latter structure is the work of Jakub Kanadaj. The town is known as the birth place of Janko of Czarnków, an Archdeacon of Gniezno and Deputy Chancellor of King Casimir the Great. Yet, he is best remembered for his chronicles depicting events from 1370-84. His small statue graces the square near the town hall. Of notice here are also numerous houses from the 19th/20th century, with interesting facades representing eclectic styles, and Art Nouveau; there is also an impressive neo-Gothic building from 1910 which today is home to the district authorities.

Boasting long traditions of inland navigation, the town once had a port and a shipyard. In 2011 a modern marina was built here, the finest along the waterways of the Great Loop of Wielkopolska.

RENTAL OF WATER SPORT EQUIPMENT:

– Marina Harbour, 64-700 Czarnków, ul. Rybaki 30, tel. 784 681 214, www.osirczarnkow.pl

– Wojciech Rybarczyk, tel. 662 728 361, rybarczykajaki@interia.pl

– "Kotwica" canoe and boat rental, Mariusz Michałek, Góra nad Notecią 85, 64-700 Czarnków, tel. 67 255 55 76, 507 229 905

EVENTS FOR BOATERS:

– opening of motor boating season in Czarnków (long weekend at the beginning of May)

– Festival of the Noteć and Sunrise Dance Party in Czarnków (last weekend of July)

TRZCIANKA Town along the small river Trzcianka flowing into the Noteć (approx 10 km). Originally a settlement of weavers and cloth makers, it was granted municipal rights in 1731 and at that time it was one of the largest centres of cloth making in Wielkopolska. In the middle of the town there is the neo-Baroque Church of St. John the Baptist from 1916. Inside we can see a Baroque main altar and two Rococo side altars brought here from a monastery in Gołańcz which was closed in 1827. In the nearby Pocztowny Square we can see a fountain with Roe Deer, an informal symbol of Trzcianka. A classicist manor house from the mid 19th century holds the Museum of the Noteć

Region. On the outskirts of the town, on the shore of Sarcz Lake there is a large sports and recreation centre with a hotel, stadium and a harbour.

105.8 km UJŚCIE The town's name, which means "river outlet" is a reference to the fact that the Gwda river flows to the Noteć here. A settlement which existed in this area as early as the 11th century was mentioned in the Chronicle of Gallus Anonymus. History remembers Ujście as the place where the Swedish Deluge started. In 1655 the military forces consisting of local nobility under the command of Voivode Krzysztof Opaliński, surrendered to the army of the Swedish king.

The town spreads in a narrow line along the Warta and the edge of moraine upland. A good view towards the town and the ancient valley can be seen from a tower with a viewing deck in the neighbourhood of Osiedle Górne. Notable features include the neo-Baroque Church of St. Nicholas, which was built in 1905-07 in a location which throughout the history held other chapels. Along the nearby escarpment of the valley we can also see Ujście Calvary. The original structure was destroyed by the Nazis, and new Stations of the Cross were built here in recent years. On top of a hill called Góra Zamkowa in an area once holding a castle (demolished in 1773), today we can see the Old Town Square with a half-timbered structure from the mid-19th century, formerly an Evangelical Church. The restored building now is home to a gallery. In front of it we can see a small fountain with a glass-maker.

PIŁA The town is located 12 km away from the Noteć River but is linked with it via the picturesque waterway of the Gwda River, which ends in Ujście. Once a royal town, its municipal rights were confirmed in 1513. During WWII it was transformed by the Nazis into a fortification and was part of the Pomeranian Line. As a result of heavy warfare the town was completely destroyed and then it had to be rebuilt practically from scratch. One of the surviving buildings is a small half-timbered house, the presumed birth place of Stanisław Staszic (1755), who was a remarkable statesman of the period of the Enlightenment, a writer and a scholar. The restored building today holds the Stanisław Staszic Museum. Other historical relics include elegant buildings formerly holding governmental institutions (today Staszica Square). Another highlight, the Church of St. Anthony of Padua was erected in 1929-30; its modernist structure was designed by Hans Herkommer, an architect representing the renowned Bauhaus school. Its main altar holds Europe's largest wooden crucifix; the 7 metre tall sculpture was made from a single piece of wood. The oldest preserved religious building is the neo-Gothic Church of St. Stanislaus Kostka erected in 1895-96, and located in the city centre. In its vicinity we can visit the District Museum, located in a building from the late 1800s. Its design makes a reference to Italian villa-type architecture. During 1930-1939 it held the Polish Consulate.



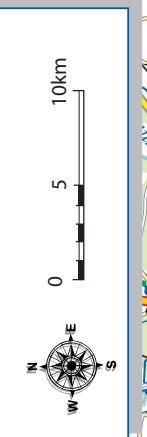
Stanisław Staszic Museum in Piła, archive of the Town Hall in Piła



BYDGOSZCZ

INOWROCŁAW

KRUSZWICA



BYDGOSZCZ

INOWROCŁAW

KRUSZWICA

BYDGOSZCZ

INOWROCŁAW

KRUSZWICA

BYDGOSZCZ

INOWROCŁAW

KRUSZWICA

The Great Waterway Loop of Wielkopolska

Piła is surrounded with numerous lakes and forests, and adjoins Kuźnik Reserve. In the vicinity of the town there are many biking routes, hiking trails, canoeing and horse riding routes. In Piła you can enjoy a rope course (Park Linowy na Płotkach), Nordic walking, parachuting as well as paragliding.

TOURIST INFORMATION

- Municipal Tourist and Cultural Information Centre*,
Regional Culture Centre, Plac Staszica 1, tel. 67 210 50 00,
sekretariat@rck.pila.pl

KACZORY A village with the headquarters of the local authorities, it is located 5 kilometres away from the Noteć, and separated from the river by a stretch of meadows and moraine hills, the so-called Morze-wskie Mountains (Czubatka 141 metres above sea level). The village with a number of new buildings looks like a small town. Its most notable landmark is the Church of St. Andrzej Bobola; it was built by both Protestants and Catholics in 1932. Near the village there is Kopcze Lake with Kaczory Peat Bog Nature Reserve.

CHODZIEŹ A green corner of Wielkopolska – this is the promotional slogan of the town. And a really truthful one. The town located near a few lakes is surrounded with moraine hills overgrown with various kinds of forests. It is not far to the valley of the Noteć (7 km). Chodzież received municipal rights in 1434. The town retains the medieval urban layout with a central square; we can also see the late Baroque Church of St. Florian from 1755, incorporating the Gothic walls of an earlier structure. In the 17th and 18th century a new town grew next to the old part, as a result of the rapid growth of cloth making workshops. Relics of that period include charming half-timbered weavers' houses facing the street with their gable ends. In the late 1800s a factory of porcelain and porcelite was built here (its construction incorporated the foundations of late-Gothic castle

walls from the 15th/16th century). At that time Chodzież became the largest producer of those materials in Poland. One of the highlights of the town is the neo-Baroque mansion from the early 1900s, once belonging to the owner of the factory, and today holding Straszny Dwór Hotel and Restaurant.

Within the town limits, on the slope of the highest hill called Góra Talerz (132 metres above sea level) there is a skiing area (approx. 600 metres long) with a ski lift. The nearby Miejskie Lake, with its harbours, is a popular place for water sports; visitors can also enjoy trips around the lake in Chodzieżanka boat.

TOURIST INFORMATION

- Municipal Public Library, 64-800 Chodzież, ul. Kościuszki 32,
tel. 67 381 81 38

EVENTS FOR BOATERS:

- Night of Summer Solstice at the Lock in Krostkowo (June)

MIASTEczKO KRAJEŃSKIE A village picturesquely located along low land dividing the moraine hills, of the Rządrowskie Mountains. The wide valley of the Noteć with a 2 kilometre wide strip of meadows separates the hills; the differences in elevation exceed 100 m. The village, whose name can be translated as "Krajeńskie Town", had municipal rights from the 1300s until 1973. Relics of that period include an elongated central square with buildings from the late 19th century. On a hill we can see the neo-Gothic Church of the Elevation of the Holy Cross, from 1899, with interior furnishings from the same period. At the nearby cemetery we can visit the grave of Michał Drzymała (d. 1937), a peasant from the area of Grodzisk Wielkopolski, and a folk hero from the period when the Prussians administered this part of Poland. In 1928, thanks to public donations, he received a 15 hectare farm in the nearby village of Grabówno, where he spent his final years.



Town Square in Chodzież, archive of the Town Hall in Chodzież

The Great Waterway Loop of Wielkopolska



Wyrzysk Narrow-Gauge Railway, archive of District Office in Piła

BIAŁOŚLIWIE A small village picturesquely located amidst hills, within the valley descending towards the Noteć river, which is 3 kilometres away. In the Middle Ages it was owned by the Pałuk family who had settled in the nearby areas. Its notable landmarks include the four-storey granary called Wacek – the half-timbered building dates from the 19th century. A notable tourist attraction here is the open-air exposition related to narrow-gauge railways. The historical relics which can be seen here include the train station, as well as the locomotive depot and carriage shed, technical facilities and workshops. The Wyrzysk District Railway launched in 1895, with approx. 150 kilometres of lines, was the longest narrow-gauge railway system in the part of Poland which was under Prussian authority. Train services along Poland's narrowest tracks with a gauge of 600 mm operated until 1994. Established in 2001, Wyrzysk District Railway Association organizes trips for tourists along the route Białośliwie – Niezychowo and rallies for enthusiasts of narrow-gauge railways.

SZAMOCIN A town on the edge of the Noteć valley, 5 km away from the river. In the 13th century there was a fishing village here. Szamocin became a town only in 1748 and rapidly grew into a well-known centre of cloth making. Its growth was hindered by the great fire of 1840. Highlights of the place include a two-storey half-timbered granary from 1845; this is the only relic of a large complex of granaries used for storing grain which was shipped down the Noteć. In the centre we can see the former Evangelical Church of Sts. Peter and Paul from 1827-35, which in 1913 was reconstructed in neo-Romanesque style. Another landmark, the neo-Baroque Church of Our Lady Help of Christians dates from 1905. The building of a defunct train station is home to a unique amateur theatre called Teatr Stacja Szamocin, which has been reconised at numerous festivals. Closer to the Noteć, on the outskirts of the village of Atanazyn we can see a natural monument, a large rock with a fanciful shape called „Zaczarowana Karoca” (enchanted carriage).

OSIEK NAD NOTECią The village of Osiek is located at the edge of uplands separated from the Noteć by a 2 kilometre wide stretch of meadows and marshes. This extremely interesting area along the edge of the Noteć valley is part of Krajna, a region along the border of Wielkopolska and Pomorze. The moraine hills here are of significant height, (e.g. Dębowa Góra 192 metres above sea level) and rise 140 m above the level of the Noteć. On the outskirts of the village, in the area of burial grounds from the Iron Age there is the Museum of Rural Culture, the second largest in Poland. The reconstruction on display shows a village with an oval layout, typical for the border areas between Wielkopolska and Pomorze, comprising the regions of Krajna, Pałuki and Notecka Forest. The open-air exposition includes 28 structures: cottages, and farming buildings dating from the 18th until the early 20th century, 3 windmills: post mill, paltrak, and Dutch mill, as well as a church, smith's shop, a firehouse, and a sawmill.



Museum of Rural Culture in Osiek nad Notecią, archive of the District Office in Piła

39.8 km NAKŁO NAD NOTECią The gord existing here in the 11th century was an important place along both the Noteć and the border with the region of Pomerania. It was granted municipal rights in 1299 by Prince Władysław Łokietek, and since medieval times was recognized as the capital of the region of Krajna. After the Bydgoszcz Canal was built in the 18th century, the town grew rapidly. Today we can still see many buildings whose architecture makes reference to historical styles. An interesting example is the neo-Renaissance Church of St. Lawrence from the first half of the 1800s. Of notice are also 5 old granaries, one of them is home to the Museum of Krajna Region. The Complex of Schools of Inland Navigation is one of only three schools of this kind in the country. Its facilities include a harbour with a modern marina and a passenger boat called Władysław Łokietek.

RENTAL OF WATER SPORT EQUIPMENT

– Władysław Łokietek cruise boat, Schools of Inland Navigation,
89-100 Nakło nad Notecią, ul. Poznańska 3, tel. 69 385 50 17,
fax 52 385 25 68, www.zegluganaklo.pl, sekretariat@zegluganaklo.pl

The Great Waterway Loop of Wielkopolska

Waterway – the Bydgoszcz Canal – the Warta

116 km ŁABISZYN A pretty town with navigable Lock No. 2 Łabiszyn in the centre. Next to the town square there is the Church of Annunciation of the Blessed Virgin Mary from the 1600s. Slightly further we can see Baroque Church of St. Nicholas, originally erected as a Calvinist House of Prayer in 1594, and from the 17th century used by Franciscans and reconstructed by Italian architect Pietro Fontana. In its vaults there is a crypt of the Skórzewski family from the nearby Lubostroń.

Their Classicist palace, which can be seen a little further on a hill along the right bank of the Noteć, was designed by Stanisław Zawadzki. Modelled after Italian structures the palace has impressive portico supporting a tympanum. Inside there is a large three-storey rotund-type hall embellished with bass-reliefs by Michał Ceptowski from 1806 commemorating historical events. The hall is covered with a dome with a bronze statue of Atlas sculpted by Władysław Marcinkowski. Ranking among the most beautiful Classicist palaces in Poland, today it houses a museum and is open to the public.

99.4 km BARCIN The legendary origins of Barcin go back to the 10th century when Bishop Adalbert, during his journey to Prussia stopped here, near the hill today known as Mount of St. Adalbert. The town consists of two parts - the old one established along the bank of the Noteć in 1541 and the new one which emerged in the late 19th century. Within the nicely restored old town, we can see the neo-Romanesque Church of St. James the Greater from 1903. The development of the new town was related to the nearby deposits of limestone and marlstone; the exploitation of the nearby quarries in Bielawy, Wapienna and Piechcin began in 1860. Today two quarries are still in operation, and in fact they rank among the largest in Europe. Each of them occupies an area of 100 ha, and they are over 110 metres deep. Near Barcin there is Kujawy Cement Plant, owned by Lafarge, a French company which ranks among Europe's largest manufacturers of construction materials. Within the modern cement plant there is a 165 metre tall tower with a viewing deck (143 m) – from there we can see a panorama reaching as far as Bydgoszcz, Inowrocław and even Licheń Stary. On the bank of the Noteć there is Neptun harbour for sailors, which was noted for its attractive services during 2013 Targi Wiatr i Woda (wind and water trade fairs).

81.5 km PAKOŚĆ A small town known for the so-called Pakość Calvary. Walls of an older castle in the 18th century were incorporated into the newly erected Church of St. Bonaventure and a Franciscan monastery. The church with a Renaissance facade has Rococo style interior furnishings; inside we can also see a painting by Bartłomiej Strobel from 1648 depicting Adoration of Madonna. The origins of the Calvary go back to 1628 and most of its 25 Baroque shrines date from the 17th to the 19th century. This is the only Calvary in Poland retaining its original structure.

56.9 km KRUSZWICA The legendary capital of the progenitors of the Piast dynasty. According to an old tale, and the Chronicles by Gallus Anonymus, it was here that Popiel, an evil ruler was eaten alive by mice. The town's greatest attraction, the Mouse Tower is a relic of a castle which in the mid-14th century was built by King Casimir the Great on the isle of Ostrów Rzępowski (today it is connected

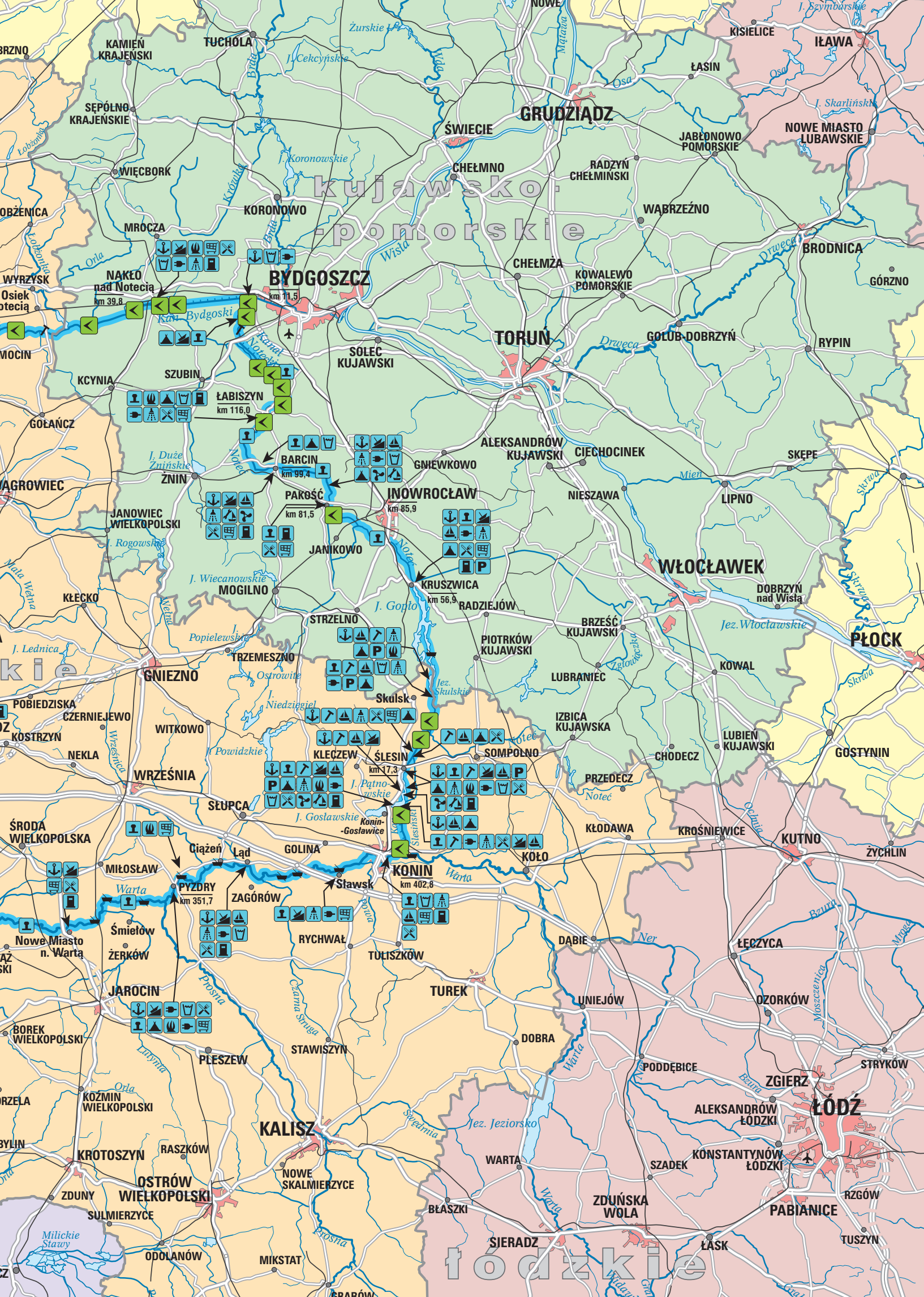
to the land). The isle was inhabited even in the neolithic period, and during the 8th-9th century it was the capital of the tribal state of Goplans. The gord lost its importance in the late 9th century after it was incorporated into the state of Polans from Gniezno. At the foot of the Mouse Tower there is a mooring station of Rusałka cruise boat, and harbours for sailboats and canoes. The most notable landmark in the town is the Collegiate Church of Sts. Peter and Paul dating from 1120-40. After subsequent modifications have been removed the church is a nearly perfect example of pure Romanesque style. Built of hewn stone, sandstone and granite it has a three-nave basilica type structure with a transept. Its outer walls retain three decorative Romanesque portals.

RENTAL OF WATER SPORT EQUIPMENT

– „Popiel” Sailing Club, LOK Kruszwica, 88-150 Kruszwica, ul. Żeglarska 1, tel. 52 351 55 74, 601 423 230, www.kzpopiel-kruszwica.org, andrzejkornaszewski@wp.pl



Kruszwica, photo: Z. Szmidt






















The Great Waterway Loop of Wielkopolska











fot. Z. Szmidt

KEY TO SYMBOLS

	State border	POZNAŃ	Capital of Voivodship
	Built-up area	KONIN	Capital of District
	Forest	<u>Śrem</u>	Capital of Commune
	Motorway		The route of the Great Loop of Wielkopolska
	National road with dual carriageway		The specific section of the Great Loop of Wielkopolska
	National road		Cycling route
	Regional road		Hiking trail
	Local road		National park boundary
	Dirt road		Landscape reserve boundary
	Junctions; customer service, fee collection point		Nature reserve
	Number of road: motorway; expressway; international road; national road, regional road		Natura 2000 area boundary: - special habitat protection areas
	Regular gauge railway, train station, train stop	Biedrusko	- special bird protection areas
	Narrow-gauge railways	Ostoja Rogalińska	
	Airport terminal, airport		Palace, castle, mansion
	Elevation points, scenic overlooks		Sanctuary; historic church
	River, canal; bog		Open air museum; museum
	Lake; artificial lake with dam		Wooden architecture; other attraction



Key to symbols

-  Museum
-  Open air museum
-  Church
-  Palace, Castle, Mansion
-  Sanctuary
-  Wooden architecture
-  Landscape park
-  Other attractions

województwo zachodnio-pomorskie

województwo pomorskie

województwo kujawsko-pomorskie

INOWROCLAW

WLOCLAWEK

SZCZECIN BERLIN

BERLIN

ZIELONA GÓRA

województwo lubuskie

GŁOGÓW

GŁOGÓW

LUBIN

LEGNICA

WROCLAW

województwo dolnośląskie

WROCLAW

KOSZALIN

SZCZECIN

PIŁA

BYDGOSZCZ

BYDGOSZCZ

BYDGOSZCZ

BYDGOSZCZ

POZNAN

KONIN

WARSZAWA

WARSZAWA

ŁÓDŹ

LESZNO

KALISZ

ŁÓDŹ

Sieradz

województwo łódzkie

województwo opolskie

KATOWICE

Kluczbork

Oleśnica

Wieluń



wielkopolska

www.wielkopolska.travel
www.wielka-petla.pl/en



THE GREAT WATERWAY LOOP
of WIELKOPOLSKA