



A GUIDE TO INLAND WATERWAYS OF POLAND



Ministry of
Infrastructure

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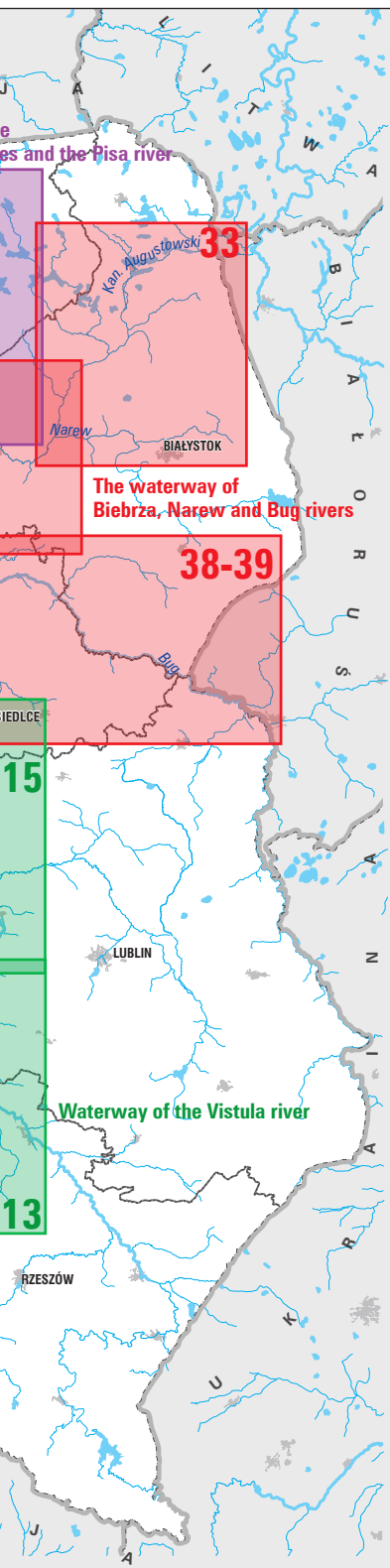
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Ministry of
Infrastructure

A GUIDE TO INLAND WATERWAYS OF POLAND





- Ramparts; museums; strongholds
- Fortifications; Memorial place; battlefields
- Health resorts; windmills; mills
- Tourist routes

Explanation of signs

Scale 1 : 500 000



◀ Rosko Locks

\\ Potaniec Weirs

■ Kały Ship lifts on Elbląg Canal

+²⁰ Distances on waterways in kilometers

Warta Waterways as rivers, canals and lakes

E30 Inland waterways under the AGN agreement

Pilica Non-waterways

Ports; ports of international importance

Havens

Stup Reservoirs with total capacity more than 10 mln cubic meters

Ferry crossings

Particularly dangerous (scree, sandbanks, shallow waters, shoals, debris)

Bridges with a clearance of less than 4 m

High-voltage lines, gas pipelines, water pipelines, heating pipelines, conveyor belts, telephone lines

Waterways classes

Free-flowing rivers

Canalized rivers

Canals

Vb			
Va			
IV			
III			
II			
Ib			
Ia	(a)	(a)	(a)

Unclassified (during classification)

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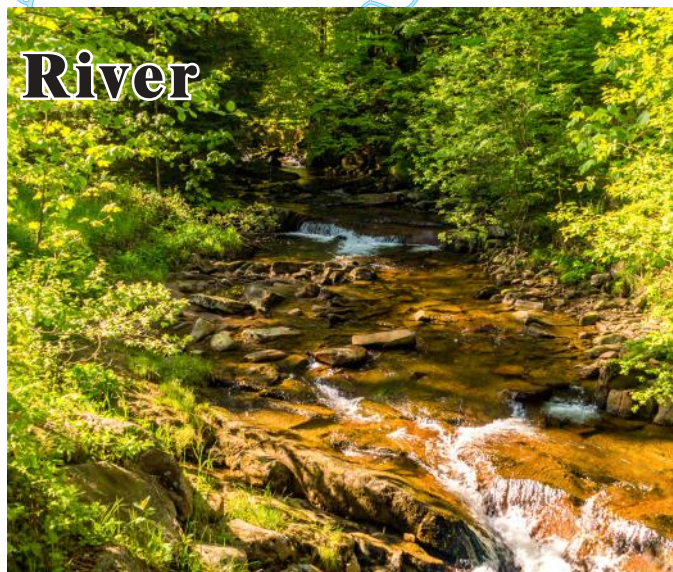
WATERWAY OF THE VISTULA RIVER

07

from the Przemsza River mouth to the Vistula river (km 0) — to the Vistula River mouth to the Gulf of Gdańsk (km 941)

The VISTULA River

The Vistula River flows through the S-shaped valley across the whole Poland from the south to the north and connects many geographical regions, from mountains to the sea, which makes it extremely interesting in terms of sightseeing. And along with the navigable canals connecting the Vistula River with other river systems, it creates a hydrographic node that allows for the transfer from one river system to another. The Vistula is a river which widely floods through the valley, surrounded by river banks overgrown with lush vegetation and with numerous sandy beaches, which all together creates perfect conditions for water tourism. The most picturesque landscapes are formed by three Vistula River gorges. The first one, where the river flows through the Kraków-Częstochowa Jurassic Highland, the second one — through the Lublin Upland, and the last one — through the moraine hills of the lake district.



Information about the Vistula River:

- ▶ **length:** 1 064 km (to the mouth of Świbne — 1 066 km, to the mouth in Nowy Port — 1 089 km)
- ▶ **the navigable route:** from the mouth of Przemsza to the marina on Motława in Gdańsk — 958 km, to the mouth near Świbne — 941.3 km
- ▶ **river sources:** at Barania Góra in the Silesian Beskids
- ▶ **river estuary:** the Gulf of Gdańsk (the Baltic Sea), conventionally, it is a digging between Świbno and Mikoszewo
- ▶ **place in the waterway system:** certain sections of the Vistula river belong to two international waterways — E40 (connecting the Baltic sea with the Black Sea — section from Warsaw to Gdańsk) and E70 (connecting the North Sea with the Baltic Sea — section from Brda mouth in Bydgoszcz to Malbork, then Nogat and the Vistula Lagoon to the Canal through the Vistula Spit)
- ▶ **the importance of the waterway:** international and regional importance; with sections of different navigable classes and ports of international importance (Warsaw, Bydgoszcz, Gdańsk and Elbląg)

Fun fact / the Vistula sources / good to know

Geographically, the Vistula river flows out of the Silesian Beskids with two source streams, Czarna Wisłoka (1 107 m above sea level) and Biała Wisłoka (1 080 m above sea level), flowing down from the slopes of Barania Góra. Its spring area is protected by the nature reserve. Whereas, from hydrologic point of view, the river has its source where the Malinka stream joins the Wisłoka stream, formed after the connection of Biała and Czarna Wisłoka streams flowing into the Lake Czernańskie. The upper section of the Vistula river (called "Little Vistula") up to the mouth of Przemsza is not navigable.



Along the trail of the Vistula River there are many old towns located on the river banks, with an unusual and unique wealth of historic buildings and monuments of national culture. Three Polish capital cities were founded at the Vistula river: Kraków, Warsaw, and Płock, which was the first historical capital of Poland between 1079–1138 with splendid castles and cathedrals erected on high river banks. In addition, the old towns of Sandomierz, Kazimierz Dolny, Toruń and Grudziądz attract tourists' attention. Malbork, located on the lower reaches of the river, was the capital of the Teutonic Order state and the largest European brick castle stands there to this day. On the other hand, where the Vistula river flows into the sea, the ancient Hanseatic port town Gdansk was founded.



Waterway of the Vistula river:

section from the Przemsza river mouth to the Vistula river (km 0) — to the connection to the Łączański Canal (including this canal) and further to Kraków (km 70–90)

cruising on the VISTULA river

The Vistula with the right water level is available for all rowing, sailing and motor units, however, during periods of low water level there may be shallows. The speed of moving depends on the type of the boat and the current water level — this may be from a dozen to several dozen kilometres, and you should also provide for an extra time in case of unforeseen situations, e.g. a break in the weather. Sailing against the wind or against the current does not pose a problem to motor boats, while kayaks and sailing boats can experience certain difficulties in such situations.

The entire Vistula river trail offers good camping conditions, there are many smooth and sandy beaches, but when the water is high greenery clumps and sandy islands in the riverbed may be flooded or wet. The river runs along coastal villages and towns where you can restock. By the riverside you will easily find accommodation and camping areas in local agritourism farms. It should be noted that the water from the Vistula river is not suitable for drinking and cooking purposes.

While exploring the Vistula River, especially on the section from the Przewóz barrage, you may encounter many obstacles in the form of fallen trees, rocky backwaters or other items sunken over the course of history which require extra caution when the water level is low. You should also pay attention to the strong wind which may generate high waves. The entire water trail of the river is well commuted — you may reach it either by your own transport or by means of public transportation. Inland passenger and freight water transport operate on the river.

**Did you know?**

The Vistula river trail includes nearly 150 objects intersecting with waterways, such as bridges, high-voltage lines or tethered ferries. Shallowing spots are shifting. The best navigation conditions are on Lake Włocławskie and Martwa Wisła. Among the approximately 55 infrastructure facilities (ports, quays and marinas) there are many unused transport facilities, some of which perform tourist functions.

**Interesting fact:**

The first referring to the Vistula river — written in Latin — comes from 7 - 5 BC, it is included, among others, in The Natural History of Pliny the Elder, who called it the Viscla River.

Information on the section to Kraków:

- ▶ **length of the section:** about 90 km
- ▶ **tributaries:** right — Salt, Skawa, Skawinka, Wilga; left — Pszczynka, Gostynia, Przemsza, Wiślicko
- ▶ **weirs:** Łączany (km 37.5; open 24 hours)
- ▶ **water locks:** Kanał Dwory – Dwory (km 2.85), Las (km 6.8), Pasternik (km 1); Kanał Łączański – Łączany (km 0.5), Kossowa (km 1.9; 2.7), Nowe Dwory (km 3.9), Brzeźnica (km 4.8; 5.5; 6.1), Jaśkowice (km 7.5), Wielkie Drogi (km 9.5; 10.2), Facimiech (km 11.2), Zelczyna (km 12.8), *
- ▶ **bridges:** Kanał Dwory – Dwory (km 2.85), Las (km 6.8), Pasternik (km 1); Kanał Łączański – Łączany (km 0.5), Kossowa (km 1.9; 2.7), Nowe Dwory (km 3.9), Brzeźnica (km 4.8; 5.5; 6.1), Jaśkowice (km 7.5), Wielkie Drogi (km 9.5; 10.2), Facimiech (km 11.2), Zelczyna (km 12.8), Borek Szlachecki (km 15.1), Kopanka (km 17), Wisła – Oklesna (km 30.1), Kraków (Zwierzyniecki km 74.7; Dębnicki km 76.5; Grunwaldzki km 77.2; Piłsudskiego km 78.3; footbridge km 78.5; Powstańców Śląskich km 79; railway bridge km 79.2; Kotlarski km 79.7; railway bridge km 80.3; Ofiar Dąbia km 80.8; Nowohucki km 82.9; Wandy km 87.9; Macharskiego km 89.4), Przylasek Rusiecki (km 98)
- ▶ **ferries:** Spytkowice (km 33), Czernichów (km 45.4), Kopanki (km 57.2)
- ▶ **ports, marines, quays:** Facimiech, Kraków
- ▶ **power plants:** Dwory, Smolice, Borek Szlachecki, Kościuszkó, Dąbie, Przewóz



A. Oświęcim (km 0,0)

In the city stands a castle with a defensive tower from the turn of the 13rd and 14th centuries, one of the first brick buildings in Małopolska, and its Gothic defensive walls, from which you can admire the panorama of the city and its surroundings. Nowadays, the castle hosts a museum. In the neighbourhood you will find the Chewra Lomdei Miszneyot Synagogue and the Jewish Museum. The market square is surrounded by churches and tenement houses and the town hall from the 19th century. Tourists also visit Auschwitz-Birkenau, a German Nazi concentration camp and a UNESCO World Heritage site, the largest camp for prisoners from all over Europe between 1940 and 1945.



B. The Łączański Canal (km 40–57)

During the years 1955–1958, a navigable canal connecting Łączany with Skawina was constructed. It supplies water to the power plant in Skawina and forms a part of the Upper Vistula Waterway.

Infrastructure: The water lock in Borek Szlachecki, length: 85 m, width: 12 m and the highest elevation difference in Poland: 12 m. Locking time – 45 minutes, the water dam in Łączany contains a portage.

C. Brama Tyniecka – the Vistula gorge Piekarach (km 70)

Brama Tyniecka, the river gorge between the village of Piekary and Tyniec, is the biggest narrowing in the entire Vistula valley, where the river flows between the Hills of Tyniec and Skalki Piekarskie (Piekarskie Rocks). The narrowest section is located at the foot of the Monastery Mountain (about 380 m), where the Benedictine Abbey in Tyniec was erected with the church of Saints Peter and Paul — one of the oldest monasteries in the country, founded in the 11th century.

Infrastructure: Nearby, on the bank of the Vistula River, there is a water tram stop.

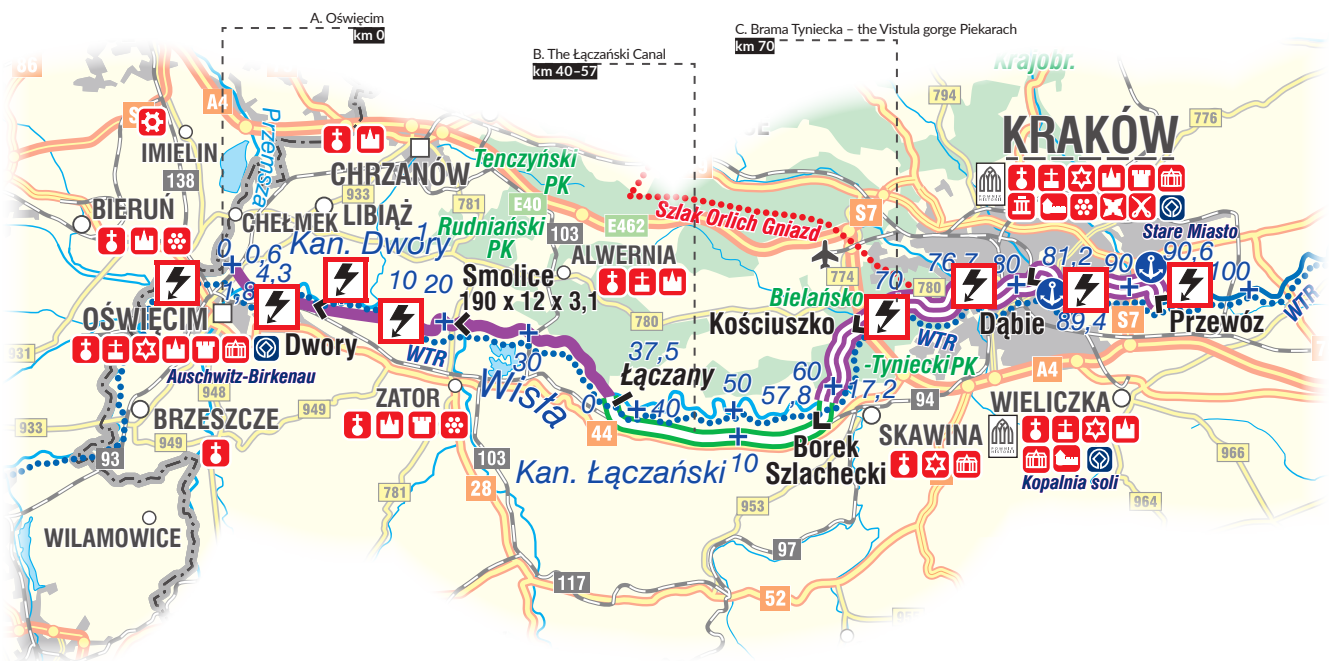


Did you know?

The Łączany water barrage contains a few technical objects which tourists may find attractive, such as a canal, lock and hydroelectric power plant. These objects facilitate water extraction for the power plant in Skawina, play an important role in flood protection mechanism and handling shipping. The plant is the source of energy and a biological water treatment plant.

Oświęcim

► Local Volunteer Water Rescue Service, ul. Partyzantów 1



Waterway of the Vistula river: from Kraków (90 km) to Szczucin (190 km)

A. Kraków (km 70–90)

Kraków is the former capital of the country, a city entered on the UNESCO World Heritage List. The Wawel Hill is dominated by the thirteenth-century Royal Castle erected rebuilt in the Jagiellonian times in the 16th century, with its Renaissance cloisters, a collection of Flemish Arrases and remains of the rotunda of St. Feliks and St. Adaukt from the 11st century. The interior of the Cathedral of Saints Wenceslas and Stanislaus, the place of coronation and rest of the Polish monarchs, contains the eye-catching Baroque confession of St. Stanislaus and the Renaissance Sigismund Chapel. From the Wawel Castle, a straight way leads to the Main Market Square, one of the largest medieval market squares of Europe, which is surrounded by historic tenement houses, palaces and churches (which are also situated along the adjacent side streets). The Gothic Mariacka Basilica Church is home to the altar of Wit Stwoszcz which dates back to the 15th century, the Gothic-Renaissance Clothing Hall (Sukiennice) hosts a commercial arcade and the Gallery of the 19th-century Polish Art, and the underground tourist route running below the surface of the Market Square. The Kraków Old Town also includes the oldest Polish university, i.e. the Jagiellonian University, founded in 1364, and the Princes Czartoryski Museum — with the Leonardo da Vinci's painting - Lady with an Ermine. Fragments of the defensive walls from the 14th to 15th centuries with Barbican and the Florian Gate are preserved, and the demolished parts of the walls have been replaced with Planty, a unique green belt that encircles the Old Town. The medieval Jewish district Kazimierz with historic synagogues and cemeteries was also preserved on the left bank of the Vistula River.

Infrastructure: Tourists may also stroll along the boulevards situated on the river banks or set off on a cruise by ships, gondolas or catamarans on the Vistula river and see the city from their deck. It is worth going on a cruise to Tyniec. River rafting activities are also offered.

B. Niepołomice (km 100)

The 14th-century Gothic hunting castle erected king Casimir the Great, who organised hunting in the neighbouring Niepołomice Forest. The original square-plan castle was further extended in the 16th century to a Renaissance residence modelled on the Wawel Castle. Its courtyard is surrounded by two storeys of arcade porches. The residence houses a museum with an exhibition of hunting trophies, the private office of Włodzimierz Puchalski and also a hotel.



Did you know?

The upper reaches of the Vistula river running from its sources to Zawichost include the initial mountain-like section (140 km). Afterwards, runs the low-lying upper Vistula course.



Interesting fact:

The Vistula Bicycle Route is a cycling route running along the Vistula river, connecting the Beskids mountains (Wisła, a town in Silesian Voivodeship) with the Baltic Sea (Sobieszewo in Gdańsk), about 1,200 km long. The following sections are already available: Silesian and Kuyavian-Pomeranian and also a part of the Lesser Poland and Pomeranian sections. The route runs mainly by roads road with no traffic of motor vehicles, including flood embankments on both sides of the Vistula.



Information on the section from Kraków to Szczucin:

- ▶ **length of the section:** about 100 km
- ▶ **main tributaries:** right — Drwinka, Raba, Uszwica, Kisielina, Dunajec; left — Szreniawa, Nidzica, Nida
- ▶ **bridges:** Niepołomice (km 102.4), Nowe Brzesko (km 121.2), Górka Sokołowie (km 145.2), Szczucin (km 193.8)
- ▶ **ports, marines, quays:** Niepołomice, Nowy Korczyn, Szczucin

The Kraków canoe, sailing and motorboat route Tyniec - Mogiła:

- ▶ **route:** Kraków Tyniec (Benedictine abbey) – Kraków Old Town (Wawel Royal Castle)
- ▶ **route:** easy, length: 22 km (one way)
- ▶ **obstacles:** Kościusko and Dąbie water barrages

C. Opatowiec (km 160)

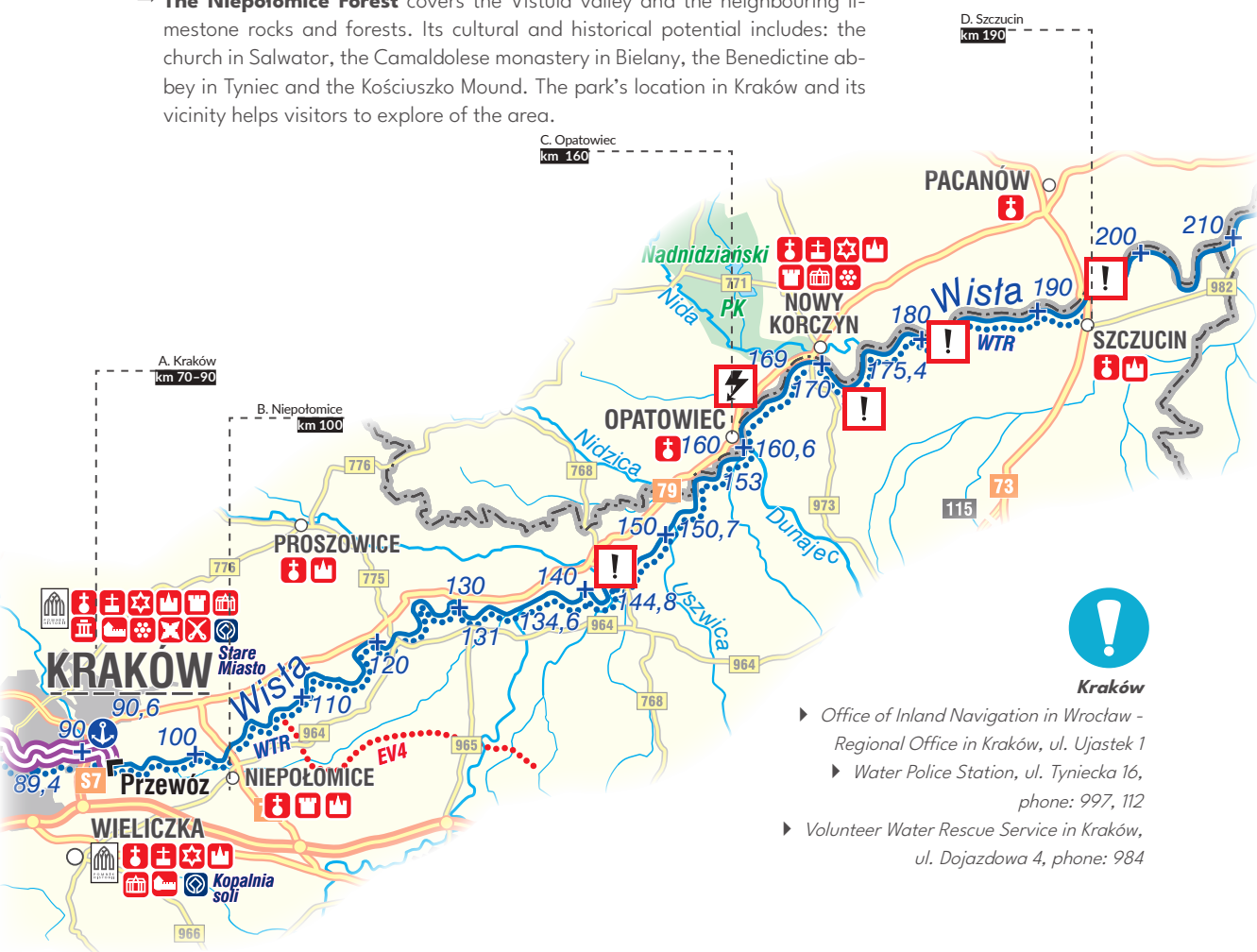
The after-Dominican Church of St. James dating back to the 15th century is situated in the city centre. In XVII century, the temple was reshaped into a baroque one. Its exterior walls are supported by buttresses. The interior is baroque and rococo.

D. Szczucin (km 190)

Szczucin is the seat of the Museum of Road Building - the only one in Poland. The facility includes an open-air museum and a collection of machines and monuments of road building from all over the country. Tourists can visit two exhibitions: exterior - there is an open-air museum of road machinery and equipment, and the museum's interior offers exhibits on the construction and maintenance of roads and bridges, as well as documents and presentations of roads and bridges motifs in art.

Nearby attractions:

- **The Bielańsko-Tyniecki Landscape Park** covers the Vistula valley and the neighbouring limestone rocks and forests. Its cultural and historical potential includes: the church in Salwator, the Camaldolese monastery in Bielany, the Benedictine abbey in Tyniec and the Kościusko Mound. The park's location in Kraków and its vicinity helps visitors to explore of the area.
- **The Niepołomice Forest** covers the Vistula valley and the neighbouring limestone rocks and forests. Its cultural and historical potential includes: the church in Salwator, the Camaldolese monastery in Bielany, the Benedictine abbey in Tyniec and the Kościusko Mound. The park's location in Kraków and its vicinity helps visitors to explore of the area.



Waterway of the Vistula river:

from Szczucin (190 km) to Józefów on the Vistula (km 318)

The Vistula River Gorge of Lesser Poland

The valley of the Vistula River Gorge occupying the area from Annopol to Puławy (approx. 80 km) is 1.5-10 km wide and cuts deep into the adjacent highlands. Steep limestone and loess slopes formed in the Cretaceous sediments, rising 60-90 m above the river level, are covered with xerothermic grasslands.

A. Połaniec (km 220)

The city is inextricably connected with the Commander-in-Chief Tadeusz Kościuszko, who in 1794, together with the army, was stationed near to Połaniec where he published an important document — Universal Połaniecki — freeing peasants from servitude and serfdom. That event is commemorated by the Kościuszko Mound and the revitalised square of the Połaniecki University. There is also the Memorial Chamber of Tadeusz Kościuszko and the Kościuszkowska Gallery with an exhibition of reproductions of the Raclawice Panorama and portraits of chiefs of the Kościuszko Uprising.

Infrastructure: Weir of the power plant in Połaniec (km 223.5) marked with boards, and during water damming with light and acoustic signalling. It is possible to carry or transport larger vessels - however, is must be reported three days in advance.



B. Baranów Sandomierski (km 242)

On the bank of the Vistula River there is a Renaissance castle, a beautiful aristocratic residence called Little Wawel. The castle erected in the 16th century and in the centuries to come it passed from hand to hand many times. The current shape of the castle was created by an Italian architect and sculptor Santi Gucci. It is a building with corner fortified towers, a tower and a courtyard with cloisters, surrounded by gardens.

C. Tarnobrzeg (km 250)

The city was the centre of sulphur mining and processing. The last sulphur mine of this was closed in the 1990s. The post-war history of Tarnobrzeg can be discovered during a stroll along the historical and natural path following the footsteps of mining and sulphur industry. It is worth visiting the Museum of Polish Industry Sulphur.



Interesting fact:

Before 1852 when first passenger cruises were launched between Warsaw and Zawichost, it was agreed point for counting the Vistula water level placed on the granary in Zawichost, the point for measuring the Vistula water level was placed on the granary in Zawichost. That point was referring to point zero located in Kronstadt on the Baltic Sea. When the granary was moved to the open-air museum, data placed on a patch set on its place. In 1924 a water gauge in the shape of a stone turret was placed, however, today the gauge is inoperative.



Information on the section from Szczucin to Józefów on the Vistula:

- ▶ **main tributaries:** right — Breń, Wisłoka, Babulówka, Łęg, San, Sanna; left — Koprzywianka, Opatówka
- ▶ **weirs:** Połaniec (km 223.5)
- ▶ **bridges:** Winnica (km 222.3), Zaduszniki (km 232.2), Chmielów (km 247.7), Sandomierz (km 269), Zalesie (km 273), Annopol (km 298.4)
- ▶ **ports, marines, quays:** Tursko Małe, Lipnik, Otoka Grabińska, Sandomierz, Zawichost

D. Sandomierz (km 270)

Sandomierz is a town overfilled with monuments, picturesquely situated on the Vistula River hills, called little Rome. The Old Town area includes many preserved monuments, like the church of St. James from the 13th century. In the heart of the market square there is a Renaissance town hall from the turn 14th and 15th century housing a museum. The Pepper Mountains form the edge of the Vistula valley, cut with ravines and 40–60 m high. They are built of Carboniferous shale which, as a result of weathering, by their colour and shape resemble peppercorns, hence their name.

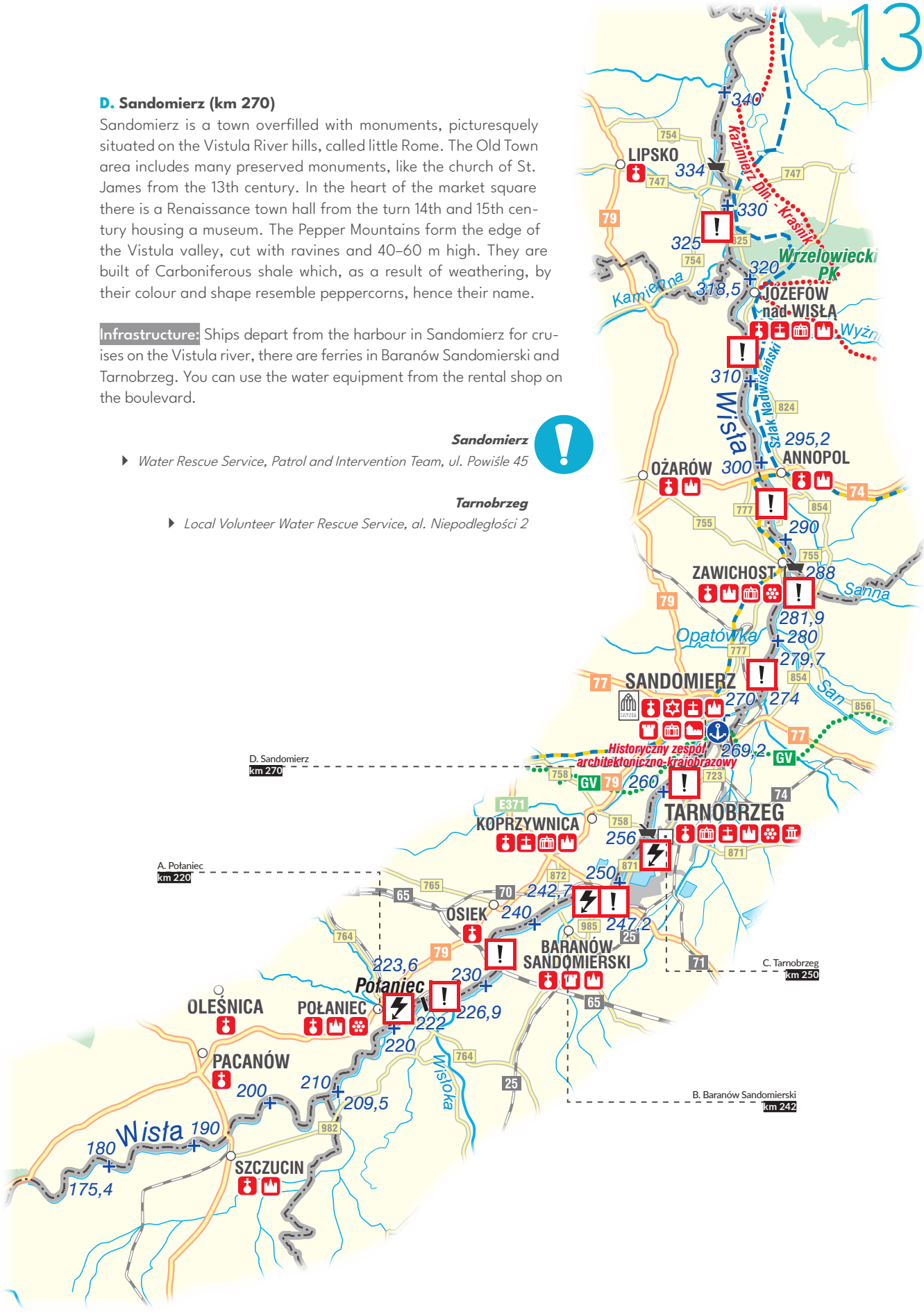
Infrastructure: Ships depart from the harbour in Sandomierz for cruises on the Vistula river, there are ferries in Baranów Sandomierski and Tarnobrzeg. You can use the water equipment from the rental shop on the boulevard.

Sandomierz

- Water Rescue Service, Patrol and Intervention Team, ul. Powiśle 45

Tarnobrzeg

- Local Volunteer Water Rescue Service, al. Niepodległości 2



Waterway of the Vistula river:

from Józefów on the Vistula (km 318) to Warsaw (km 490)

The great river of Europe

The Vistula is a large European river. It may surprise enthusiasts of water sports with whirls, rapids, sandbanks, islands or shoals. Its mainstream not always runs along the middle of the river, it can meander from bank to bank. Just below the town of Kazimierz Dolny, the river is quite shallow and forms backwaters and forks. In the valley of 10 km width, the Vistula river flows in a 0.5–1 km wide riverbed, in its vicinity you can spot oxbow lakes, meadows and wicker thickets. There are sandy dunes on the upper terrace. The forests of the Mazowiecki Landscape Park spread along the right river bank.

**Interesting fact:**

The construction of the ducal castle in Czersk was initiated on the Vistula river bank. Before finishing the construction works in the 15th century, the Vistula River flowing at the foot of the castle, changed its course and moved away by a few kilometers. The castle with no access to the river, has lost its importance, which affected the history of Czersk.

A. Kazimierz Dolny (km 356)

This picturesque town popular among tourists and artists, enchanting with its loess ravines, monuments erected in the Lublin Renaissance style and its rich history. Among the local landmarks there are granaries from the 16th century, the Celejów tenement house dating back to the 17th century, and the 17th century Franciscans monastery, church from the 14th century, tower and the ruins of Kazimierz's castle from the 14th century. The town hosts many cultural events.

Infrastructure: During the summer season, ship cruises on the Vistula river are organized. Kazimierz and Janowiec are connected by a ferry crossing (Mon-Fri 8 am–8pm, Sat-Sun 8 am–9pm). The yacht port is open from April to October

**B. Puławy (km 372)**

From the second half of the 18th century, Puławy was a cultural centre. The palace and park complex consists of a baroque and rococo style Czartoryski palace from the turn of 17th and 18th centuries, later rebuilt into a classicist one. In the palace, the duchess Izabela Czartoryska gathered a valuable collection of art that gave rise to the first national museum in Poland.

Infrastructure: The marina in Puławy provides adequate areas for mooring, slipping and wintering of floating equipment, equipment rental and camping field.

**Piaseczno**

- *Local Volunteer Water Rescue Service, ul. Sikorskiego 20, phone: 997, 112*

C. Dęblin (km 392)

The city with centuries-old aviation traditions is the seat of the Polish Air Force Museum, presenting the history of Polish military, air force and anti-aircraft weapons. The facility includes monuments of aviation technology

**Information on the section from Józefów on the Vistula to Warsaw:**

- **section length:** approx. 170 km
- **main tributaries:** right – Kamienna, Krępianka, Itzanka, Zagożdżonka, Radomka, Pilica, Świder; left – Chodelka, Bystra, Kurówka, Wieprz, Orzejka, Promnik, Wilga
- **bridgs:** Puławy (km 371.5; 374.2), Dęblin (km 392.3), Góra Kalwaria (km 476.2; 477.6)
- **ferries:** Kazimierz Dolny (km 357), Bochońnica (km 363.2), Świerże Górne (km 425), Gassy (km 487.5)
- **ports, marines, quays:** Puławy, Gołq̄b, Dęblin, Wilczkowice Górne, Góra Kalwaria
- **power plants:** Kozienice (km 425.95)



and souvenirs related to Polish military aviation. Some additional attractions include the vicinity of the “Academy of Eaglets” and flights over the military machinery and equipment exhibition.

D. Kozienice (km 415)

The palace complex from the 18th century, once owned by King Stanisław August Poniatowski, houses a museum. Water barrage in Kozienice Power Plant is located on the left bank of the Vistula River, near the village of Świerże Górne.

Infrastructure: The water barrage of the power plant is not equipped with a lock, and the waterway is closed. Crossing the barrage by water vessels is possible by portaging or from the floating marina with a crane capable to move larger units.

E. Czersk (km 465)

Surrounded by orchards, the village located on a high slope of the Vistula river was the capital of the region, the seat of the Mazovian dukes and the property of kings. The oldest mention of the Czersk castle dates back to 1142. From the entire Gothic ducal castle from the turn of the 14th and 15th centuries only exterior walls and three towers from which you can admire the panorama of the area have been preserved until the present day.

F. Góra Kalwaria (km 477)

In this village the first Mazovian calvary was founded in the 17th century—the sanctuary of the Lord's Passion, inspired by the one



F. Góra Kalwaria
km 477

E. Czersk
km 465

D. Kozienice
km 415

C. Dęblin
km 392

A. Kazimierz Dolny
km 356

B. Puławy
km 372

in Jerusalem. In 1670, the town was named New Jerusalem and became the pilgrimage centre with more than 40 places related to the life of Jesus. Since the 19th century it has also been an important place for Jews. The urban layout of the 17th century with the Town Hall of Pilate (church), two synagogues, the mansion of tzadik Alter and a kirkut have been preserved.

Nearby attractions:

- **Janowiec Castle** is the ruins of late Gothic-Renaissance fortification castle from the 16th century situated on the Vistula embankment, later rebuilt in Renaissance-Mannerism style. It houses the Vistula Museum.
- **Otwock** is a town with wooden holiday development from the turn of the 19th and 20th centuries in the Świdermajer style, referring to Mazovian construction and the style of Alpine mountain shelters.

Waterway of the Vistula river: section from Warsaw (km 490) to Wyszogród (km 590)

Warsaw's VISTULA DISTRICT

The Vistula River banks is the place where nature meets entertainment, culture and cuisine and amazing architecture. Therefore, the river is in the city centre was informally called the 19th district of Warsaw. It is a leisure and recreation space and a place of sports and cultural events. Many tourists and city residents enjoy strolling along the river boulevards located on the left side of the river. This area is filled with numerous restaurants, clubs and bars, viewpoints, mini-beaches, shaded pergolas, playgrounds, sun loungers and cycling paths. It is also worth visiting the Copernicus Science Centre located in the neighbourhood of the Vistula River, the rooftop garden of the Library of the Warsaw University or the Museum of Modern art. A perfect option for an evening out is the Multimedia Fountain Park close to the river. In the summer time amazing shows taking place in the park combine sound, light and water. The right bank of the Vistula river is an area filled with greenery. On both sides of the river there are several spacious beaches where tourists can sunbathe, organize picnics, play with children or play a beach volleyball match. There is also a recreational path and the Vistula Cycling Route, open-air gyms, a pumptrack and a velodrome, visitors can also practice water sports. In high season, it is worth trying tourist cruises and ferries connecting the river banks. The shipping offer is diverse and includes the following types of cruises: vaporetto or boat (up to Modlin Fortress, from Podzamcze to Gruba Kaśka, along the Żerań Canal to the Zegrze Reservoir), ornithological, natural, historical, scenic, touristic, excursion and recreational, as well as interbank crossings.



Did you know?

In the Vistula riverbed (km 509) there is a circular well called the "Fat Kate" ("Gruba Kaśka"), from which water collected from the sands beneath the river, flows to waterworks. This method of water collection, today known as the "Warsaw intake", was invented by the engineer Włodzimierz Skoczewski. In order to guarantee the proper functioning of the well, there must be two ships moving around it, the so called "cultivators", eliminating impurities and loosening the sand above the underground drains.



Information on the section from Józefów on the Vistula to Warsaw:

- ▶ **section length:** approx. 100 km
- ▶ **main tributaries:** right Narew; left – Jeziorka
- ▶ **connection with Narew, Bug and the Zegrze Reservoir:** the Żerań Canal (see page 34) bridges: Warsaw (Queen Anna Jagiellonka Bridge (also called the South Bridge); km 500; pedestrian and bicycle bridge under construction Vistula Boulevards - Praga district; Siekierski bridge km 507.1; Łazienkowski bridge km 510.6; Poniatowski bridge km 511.9; Średnicowy bridge km 512.1; Świątokrzyński bridge km 512.5; Ślasko-Dąbrowski bridge km 513.9; Gdański bridge km 515.6; railway bridge km 515.7; Grota-Roweckiego bridge km 518.7; Maria Skłodowska-Curie Bridge km 522.5); Nowy Dwór Mazowiecki (km 549; 551.5)
- ▶ **ferries:** Warszawa (Cypel Czerniakowski, Poniatowski bridge, Podzamcze); Łomianki
- ▶ **ports, marines, quays:** Warszawa (marinas for cruise ships, catamarans and boats), Czerwień nad Wisłą, Wyszogród.



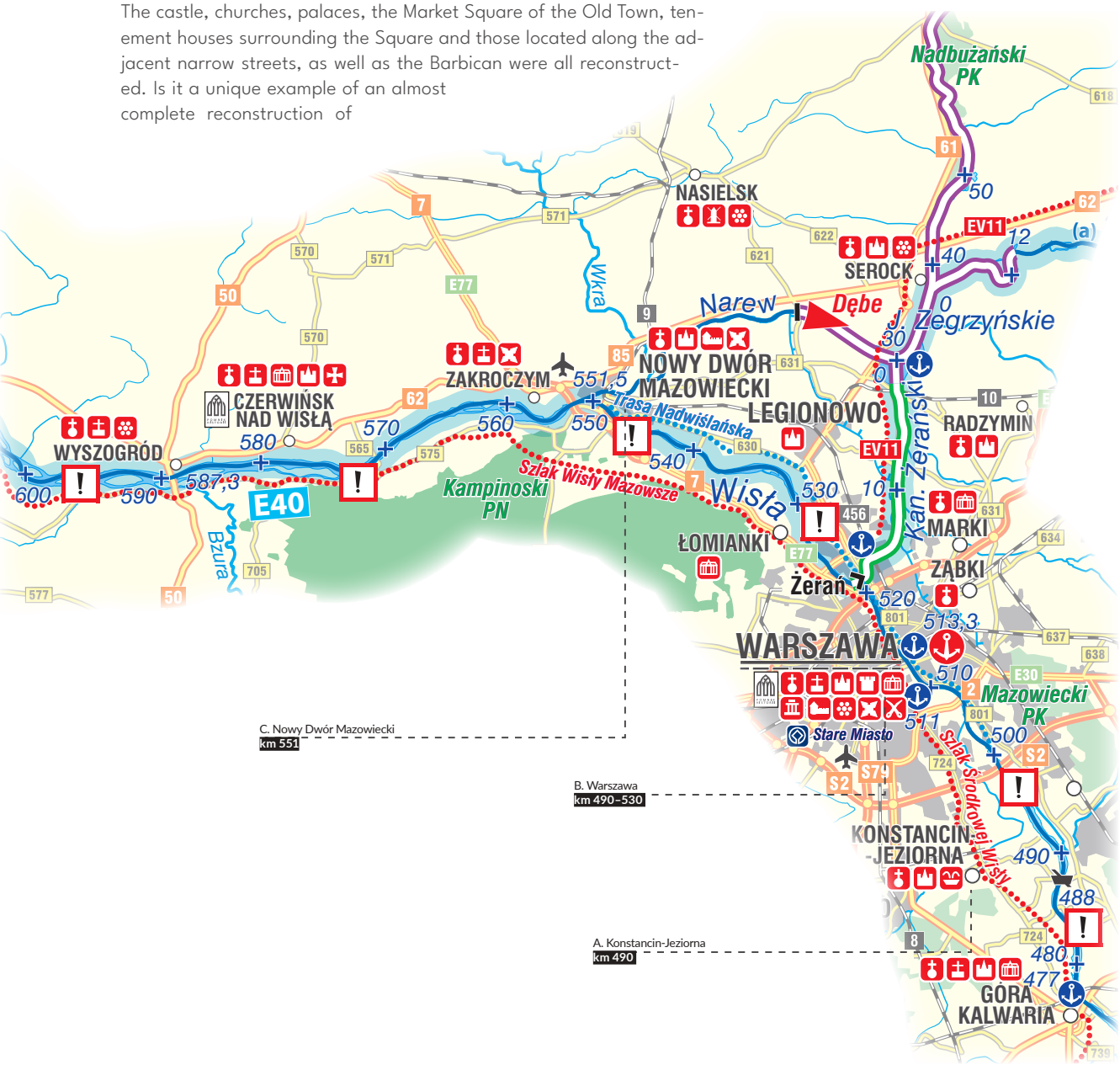
A. Konstancin-Jeziorna (km 490)

A health resort, adjacent to the capital city of Warsaw, offers good conditions ideal for the purpose of medical treatment: hospital and sanatorium infrastructure, microclimate, natural values, aesthetic landscapes and natural brines. In the centre of the resort there is a spa park with a graduation tower. The air around the graduation towers has a microclimate similar to that of the sea. The town also includes historical villas from the beginning of the XX century. A revitalized old paper mill hosts a modern shopping centre.



B. Warszawa (km 490–530)

Warsaw's Old Town, entered on the UNESCO List of World Heritage, during the Warsaw Uprising in 1944 was completely destroyed. After the World War II, the residents of the capital city rebuilt the Old Town in five years' time. The castle, churches, palaces, the Market Square of the Old Town, tenement houses surrounding the Square and those located along the adjacent narrow streets, as well as the Barbican were all reconstructed. Is it a unique example of an almost complete reconstruction of



monuments originating from the uninterrupted historical sequence of the 13th-20th centuries. The river overlooks a breathtaking panorama of the city, which after years turns towards the Vistula river again.

A view over the river from the Warsaw perspective also appears to be quite interesting since many important battles and other historic events of national importance took place in this area, like for example the Miracle on the Vistula - one of the most significant events in the world's history. The most spectacular views over the city of Warsaw seen from the right bank of the Vistula, were immortalized in Canaletto's paintings. Today, the most beautiful panorama of the Old Town can be seen from the Ślasko-Dąbrowski bridge, and the downtown panorama - from the Siekierski bridge. From the deck of the ship tourists can admire the "Glory to sappers" monument and the Mermaid Statue, as well as the Old Town with the Royal Castle and the cathedral towering on a high slope, and finally the Warsaw Citadel.

Infrastructure: From June to September at the city beaches visitors can rent sunbeds, sports equipment and books, find information about the regional attractions at information points located on the beaches (Saska, Poniatówka, Rusalka / zoo, Żoliborz), in the Kamień Educational Pavilion and on the Patton Boulevard. Children can choose from the offer of animation programmes, music shows, sport activities and art workshops. In the Czerniakowski Port visitors can rent a floating Finnish sauna, which is available for a whole year. Czerniakowski Port is the infrastructure base of tourist and recreational traffic on the Vistula river - it is possible to store here a watercraft, use the water equipment rental services, marina, harbour basin and decks. Barges dock at the boulevards (the area of the Multimedia Fountain Park, Museum of Modern Art, of the Mermaid Statue). Visitors may check the gastronomic offer proposed by the tourist barges, dock nearby and rent water equipment.

C. Nowy Dwór Mazowiecki (551 km)

To the northwest of Warsaw, at the junction of the Vistula, Narew and Wkra rivers, tourists can admire the Modlin Fortress, which consists of a huge citadel on the right bank of the River Narew, the fortified bridgeheads in Kazun and Nowy Dwór and two rings of forts. It is one of the largest and best-preserved fortresses in the country, repeatedly expanded, with elements of French,



Interesting fact:

On the Karski boulevard in Warsaw visitors can admire modern sculptures inspired by the Vistula (the Vistula Art Trail). It is also a home to a dwarf "the Traveller", a gift from Wrocław to Warsaw.



Interesting fact:

the Citadel in the Modlin Fortress is the longest in Europe and the second in the world free-standing building - has an impressive length over 2250 m.



Russian and Polish fortifications. An amazing building of a grain granary, erected in 1844, also served for defensive purposes. Today, the granary is significantly damaged, however, it looks great from the perspective of the Vistula River.

Nearby attractions:

- **The Warsaw Scarp** is a high Vistula embankment in Warsaw (from 6 m in Marymont to 25 m in the area of the Kazimierzowski Palace) and a characteristic natural element of the city's landscape. This is the edge of the Warsaw Plain and the western border of the Central Vistula Valley. The scarp was an important factor in determining the location of Warsaw, because it facilitated the defence and protected the city against floods. In the thirteenth century the first settlement which was later turned into a fortified city was built on it. Today, the Old Town and the Royal Castle towering on the escarpment are the main elements of the city skyline from the river's side. A fragment of the escarpment with meadows and peat bogs lying at its foot is under protection of the Skarpa Ursynowska nature reserve.
- **Kampinos National Park** is located on the north-western border of Warsaw. It covers the vast Kampinos Forest, situated in the Vistula valley. In the post-glacial period, the area was shaped by melting waters of the glacier flowing into the sea along the pre-Vistula riverbed, which is 18 km wide. Islands and shoals gave rise to dunes, and in the old riverbeds and oxbow swamps were created. This is how the dune belts arranged latitudinally and swamp belts situated between them formed. Moose is the symbol of the park.
- **Czerwińsk on the Vistula River** is known for the Romanesque Basilica of the Annunciation of the Blessed Virgin Mary and the historic monastery church of Canons Regular from the 12th century. In 1410, Władysław Jagiełło prayed here for the success of the expedition against the Teutonic Knights.

Warszawa

- ▶ Office of Inland Navigation in Bydgoszcz - Regional Office in Warsaw, ul. Modlińska 17
 - ▶ Volunteer Water Rescue Service, ul. Marymoncka 34
 - ▶ Local Volunteer Water Rescue Service, ul. Pyłtasińskiego 17
 - ▶ River Police Station, ul. Wybrzeże Szczecińskie 6, phone: 997, 112

Piaseczno

- ▶ Local Volunteer Water Rescue Service, ul. Sikorskiego 20

Nowy Dwór Mazowiecki

- ▶ Volunteer Fire Department, Water Rescue Service, ul. Gospodarcza 1
- ▶ Local Volunteer Water Rescue Service, ul. Sukienna 14



Did you know?

Rare birds in Europe can be seen while following the ornithological trail running among the riverside landscapes in Mokotów and in Wilanów. Terns' nesting grounds can be found on the Bird Island and on a sand shoal. In turn, Żoliborska footpath on the bank of the Vistula River leads through a riparian forest.



Interesting fact:

Regulation the natural, braided Vistula river in Warsaw began in 1885 year. First, near the mouth of the Wilanówka river, the current was narrowed and shifted, then for over 100 years the riverbed in the downtown was reshaped, on a section of about 20 km clumps of grass were liquidated, river banks were straightened and fixed with bands and groynes were built.

Waterway of the Vistula river:

section from Wyszogród (km 590) to Włocławek (km 680)

**artificial water reservoir -
WŁOCŁAWEK RESERVOIR**

This is a large artificial reservoir that was created in 1970 in the middle course of the Vistula river, from Włocławek to Płock, after damming the river waters with a dam in Włocławek. During the periods when Vistula water level is rising, the flow-through lake is used for retention and anti-flood purposes. The reservoir has great tourist values as it is surrounded by unique landscapes and beautiful nature, which favours relaxation by the water and allows for water sports, fishing, hiking and biking and relaxation in the fresh air. The shores of the lake have been developed with tourist centres with extensive infrastructure: Zarzecze-wo, Wistka Szlachecka, Soczewka and Murzynowo. A marina and an urban marina located on the Vistula River were built in Włocławek, and in Płock, the city harbour was remodelled and a pier was built.

Infrastructure: There are several ports, marinas and recreational areas by the Włocławek Reservoir- in Włocławek, Płock, Dobiegniew, Dobrzyń on the Vistula, Duninowie, Murzynowie, Nowe Duninowie and Wistka Szlachecka. Numerous motor yachts and cruise ships sail on the lake during the summer season.

A. Wyszogród (km 590)

The Museum of the Middle Vistula and the Wyszogród Land contain exhibitions related to the Vistula river and the history of the town built on the slope between Płock and Warsaw, at the intersection of trade routes,

Information on the section from Józefów on the Vistula to Warsaw:

- ▶ **section length:** approx. 90 km
- ▶ **main tributaries:** right Mottawa, Skrwa Prawa; left – Bzura, Skrwa Lewa
- ▶ **connection with Narew, Bug and the Zegrze Reservoir:** the Żerań Canal (see page 34)
- ▶ **bridges:** Wyszogród (km 589.1), Płock (km 629.3; 632.3), Włocławek (km 674.9; 679.3)
- ▶ **water lock:** Włocławek (km 674.5)
- ▶ **ports, marines, quays:** Płock, Duninów, Włocławek

Information on the Włocławek Reservoir:

- ▶ **section length:** approx. 90 km
- ▶ **parameters:** length: 48–57 km, surface 70,5 km², cubic capacity 408 mln m³, width up to 3 km, depth 15 m
- ▶ **bays:** right shore – Cierszewo, Cisz, Kuzki, Zarzecze-wo; left shore – Sochaczewska, Nowa Wieś, Wistka Szlachecka
- ▶ **sections covered with lateral dams:** Wistka Szlachecka – Włocławek i Płock – Soczewka

Information on the hydropower plant in Włocławek:

- ▶ **barrage:** water damming height 57.3 m above the sea level, decline 11.3 m
- ▶ **number of hydrosesets:** 6 (Kaplan turbines)
- ▶ **power:** 160.2 MW

**Interesting fact:**

Wyszogród was connected with the village of Kamion by a wooden bridge demolished in 1999. Its preserved double-span section from the Wyszogród side, which was demolished in 2013, served as a viewing platform.

**Interesting fact:**

On the waterway from Płock to Włocławek, the wide lazy Wisła river is similar to a sea lagoon, with cliffy edges on the right and flat on the left. Is it a difficult section with waves and winds.



including the waterway, where various goods were floated to Gdańsk. The part of the exhibition concerning the Vistula River presents models of historic boats, barges and ships.

B. Wiączemin Polski (km 615)

Interesting exhibitions and numerous events are organized in the Open Air Museum of the Vistula Settlement, which is dedicated to the culture of the Olęders, or the new Mennonites from Friesland, Flanders and Germany in the 17th – 19th centuries. It houses the Evangelical-Augsburg church and homesteads with traditional Olęder furnishings.



C. Płock (km 634)

A wonderful panorama of the Vistula River flowing at the foot slopes spreads from the Tumskie Hill in the former capital of Poland. Płock is famous for the largest collections of Art Nouveau works of art in the country (available in the Masovian Museum), the ruins of the old castle and the "Płock doors" from the cathedral located on the Tumskie Hill, the burial place of Polish kings and dukes of Mazovia. Płock is also a city with a long shipbuilding tradition dating back to the 1920s. It is also the place where the Płock River Shipyard once operated. It was one of the largest inland shipyards in Europe.

Infrastructure: In Płock there is the longest river pier in the country (358 m), and nearby there are sandy beaches, a bathing area and a marina.

D. Włocławek (km 680)

The largest flow-through power plant in the country operates on the dam in Włocławek. The facility is fitted with a fish ladder for fish migrating upstream. Fish migrations are monitored.



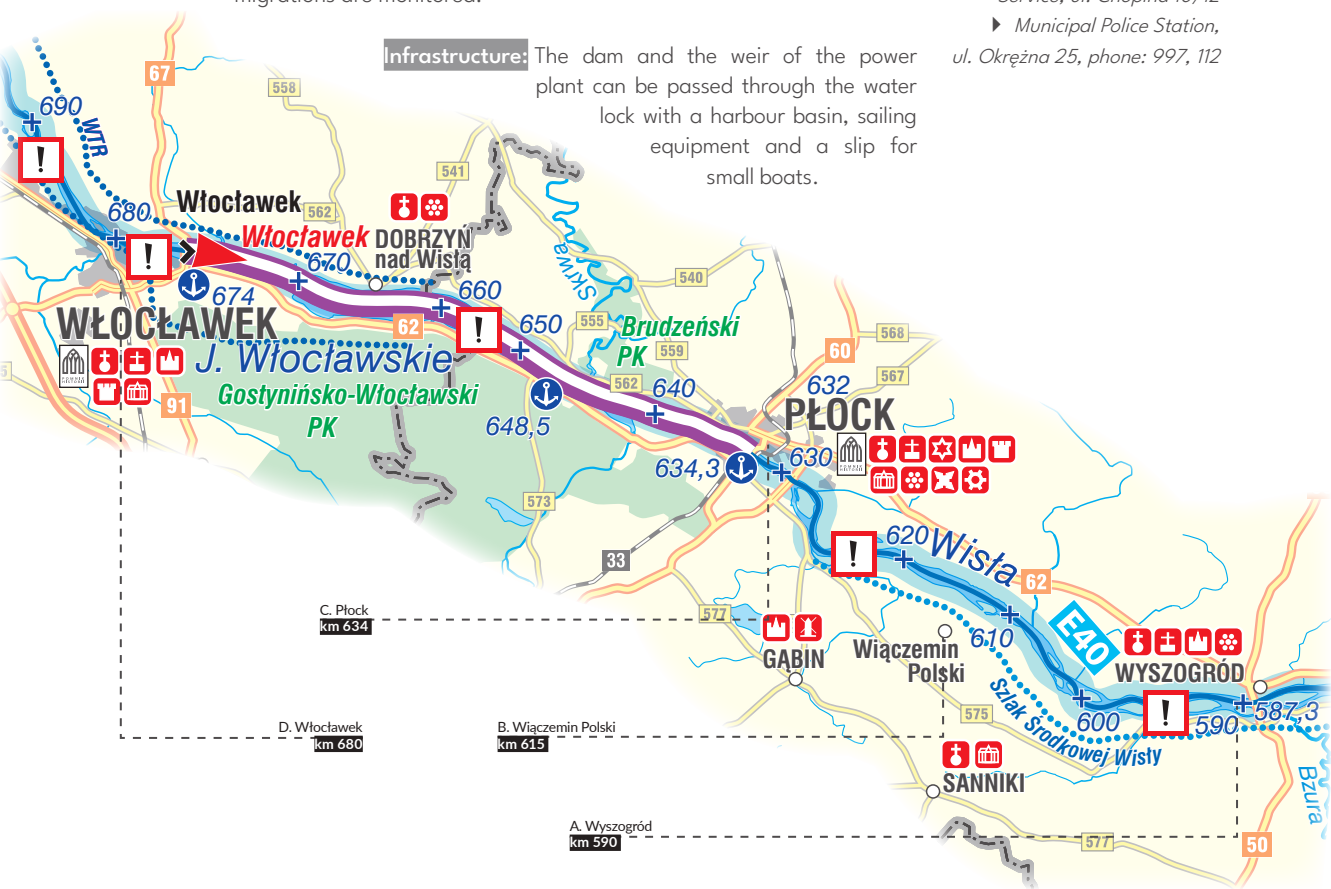
Płock

- Local Volunteer Water Rescue Service, ul. Wyszogrodzka 1a

Włocławek

- Local Volunteer Water Rescue Service, ul. Chopina 10/12
- Municipal Police Station, ul. Okrężna 25, phone: 997, 112

Infrastructure: The dam and the weir of the power plant can be passed through the water lock with a harbour basin, sailing equipment and a slip for small boats.



Waterway of the Vistula river:

section from Włocławek (km 680) to Grudziądz (km 834) with Bydgoszcz Canal (km 772)

the gorge VALLEY OF THE LOWER VISTULA

A wide valley situated between the Toruń-Eberswaldzka ice-marginal valley and the plain of Żuławy Wiślane crosses the lakeland hills. After a gradual withdrawal of the glacier face, the pra-Vistula changed its direction from the west to north and headed towards the Bay of Gdańsk. In such a way in the vicinity of Bydgoszcz, in Fordon, a gorge with a narrowing (3 km) was created. The widest part of the formation is located in the vicinity of Grudziądz (18 km).

The flat bottom of the valley has a natural character. The Vistula forms sandy shoals and islets, there are oxbow lakes, peat bogs, farmlands and pastures are present in the valley. The shores are overgrown with willow thickets and riparian forests, and broadleaved forests dominated steep slopes with a height of 50–70 m, cut with ravines and valleys. Heading north of Chełmno there is an area of inland dunes.

It is the Natura 2000 bird protection area "the Valley of the Lower Vistula" - with nesting grounds and a refuge for migratory and wintering birds.

A. Toruń (km 736)

The medieval town complex in Toruń is a site entered in the UNESCO List. The city owes its origins to the Teutonic Order, which built the castle in the 13th century. Later this Hanseatic the city played an important commercial role. Public use buildings (such as the town hall and the cathedral) and those private ones originating from the 14th – 15th centuries (the Copernicus House, merchant tenement houses, granaries) in the Old and New Town and the city external walls with gates have been preserved.

**B. Bydgoszcz (km 772 on the Vistula river, km 12 on the Brda River)**

You can take a stroll and relax on the developed banks of the Brda river, where some interesting events take place. In the city downtown swimming competitions and canoeing trips are organized. From the river side you can see the green Mill Island, boulevards, medieval granaries, glass granaries from the 20th century, the Polish Post Office and Opera Nova.

Infrastructure: There is a modern marina situated on the Mill Island. The city of Bydgoszcz can be admired during a vaporetto cruise or you can rent a floating unit and enjoy cruising on Brda in the city center. The most interesting section of the waterway, in terms of the landscape, is between the mouth of Brda and the Fordon.

**Interesting fact:**

In the years 1908-1915 on the Bydgoszcz Canal, a municipal lock of a dock construction (lifting at the level of 3.3 m) was built. Nearby, you can also see the trapezoidal lock from 1882-1884, of a unique trapezoidal design. Interestingly, barges before entering the lock were rotated and introduced by the stern.

**Did you know?**

Bydgoszcz Water Festival is the biggest feast of water sports enthusiasts in the region, it reunites sailors, artists and travellers. The River of Music festival is the unique series of concerts in Poland on the water with participation of international artists.

Information on the section from Włocławek to Grudziądz:

- ▶ **section length:** approx 160 km
- ▶ **main tributaries:** right Mień, Drwęca, Fryba; left – Brda, Wda
- ▶ **bridgs:** Toruń (km 725.3; 731.3; 733.8; 735.2), Bydgoszcz-Fordon (km 774.8), Chełmno (km 807.6), Rozgarty (km 827.8), Grudziądz (km 834)
- ▶ **ferries:** Nieszawa (km 703)
- ▶ **ports, marines, quays:** Toruń, Solec Kujawski, Bydgoszcz, Chełmno, Grudziądz



*The newly opened Vistula
Trade Museum Flis in Grudziadz*

C. Grudziądz (km 834)

Infrastructure: There is a modern marina located in the revitalized harbour.

Nearby attractions:

→ **Ciechocinek** is a health resort with three largest wooden graduation towers in Europe, originating from 1824–1859, almost 16 m high and with a total length of over 1741 m. Around the graduation towers there is a specific microclimate, similar to the one in an inhalatorium

Waterway of the Vistula river:

section from Grudziądz (km 834) to the Baltic Sea (km 941) including Martwa Wisła, Motława, Nogat, Szkarpawa, Tuga and Wisła Królewska

ŻUŁAWY WIŚLANE

Żuławy Wiślane covers the flat delta plain of the Vistula from the fork of the Vistula river to Leniwka and Nogat to the Vistula Spit. Their area is approx 1,700 km², 450 km² of which are depressions. Large depressive area, outside the area of Lake Druzno, is located near Nowy Dwór Gdański. Żuławy, with their fertile soils, are wetlands created by the accumulation of river material in the delta. Surface water is actually canals with minimal slope and adjustable level. The main river, the Vistula, along with the Nogat river, divides them into Żuławy: Gdańskie (basin of Martwa Wisła), Malborskie (the Szkarpawa basin and smaller watercourses) and Elbląskie (Nogat and Elbląg basins). The distinctive landscape of Żuławy and its architecture are a merit Mennonites who came to these agricultural lands from the Netherlands in the 16th century. The visitors dried polders, built windmills, dug canals, regulated watercourses, built embankments, created farmlands and pastures, and by the canals they built linear settlements, and on mounds they erected Dutch homesteads with arcaded houses.

**Interesting fact:**

The Vistula dyke (Przekop Wisły) (7.1 km) is an artificial riverbed of the Vistula River from Przegalina to of the Bay of Gdańsk created in 1891–1895. The estuary of the Leniwka River from the dyke to Gdańsk was called the “Dead Vistula” (“Martwa Wisła”).

A. Kwidzyn (km 867,2)

The castle of the Pomeranian chapter from the 14th century, attached to the cathedral from the turn of the 13th and 14th centuries is a unique example of Gothic architecture. An impressive view from the river side includes a huge Dansker, behind which the castle and cathedral complex rises.

B. Gniew (km 876,7)

The Teutonic castle on a square plan was built after 1290 and it was further expanded many times. Today it is a centre of culture, tourism and historical education, as well as a hotel. The castle courtyard serves as a concert, conference and banquet hall.

**Interesting fact:**

Along the river Motława, on the section between Tczew and Gdańsk, the Motławski Trail. The trail is marked red.

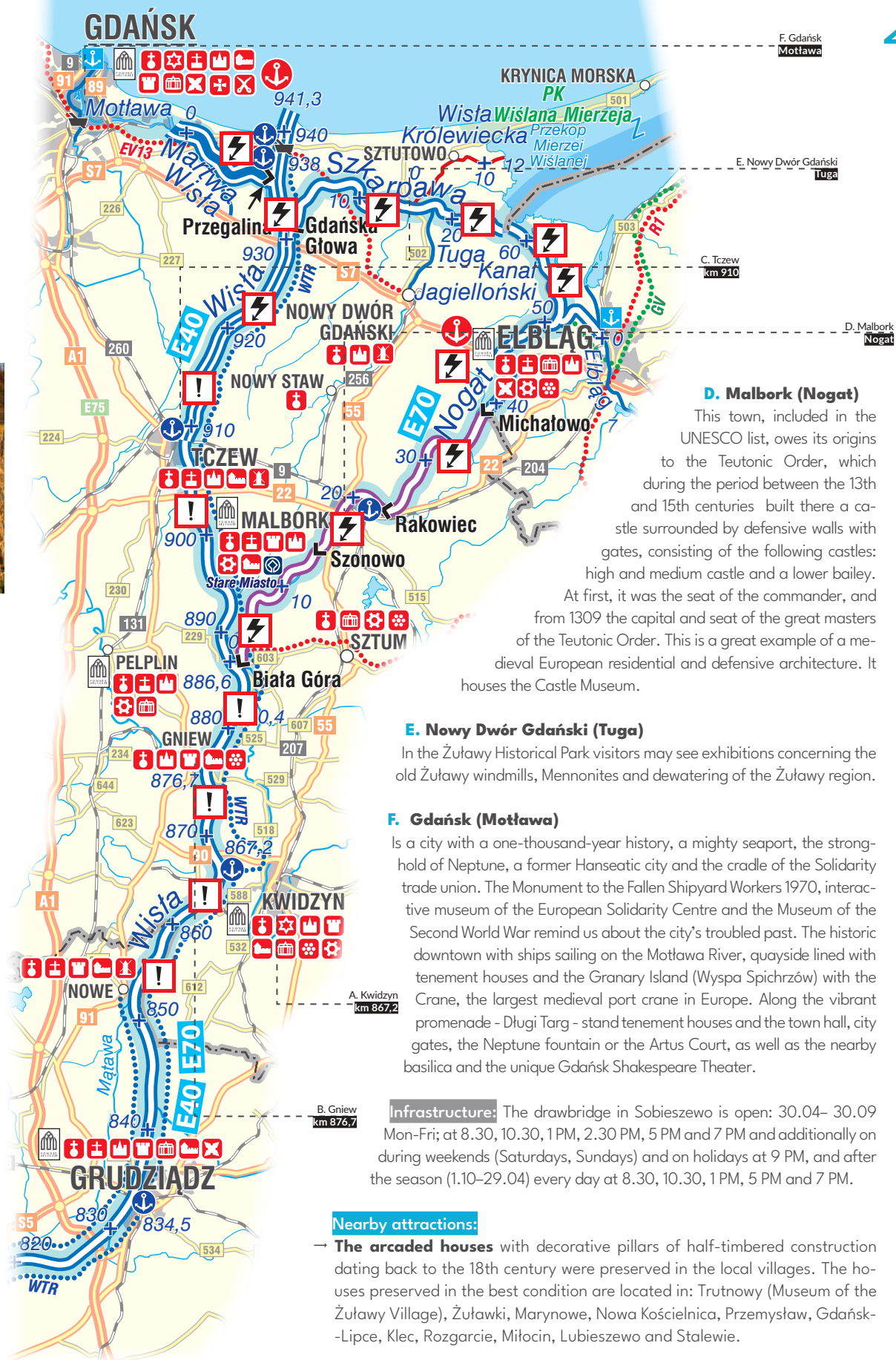
C. Tczew (km 910)

Tczew is the seat of the Vistula Museum which presents the history of the river sailing and Polish canoeing. Among the presented monuments, visitors can find tools, boats, ship models and mock-ups. Multimedia allows to learn the secrets of boatbuilding, river trade, construction of ports and shipyards. The best place to admire the old town in Tczew is the Vistula boulevard.

Information on the section from Włocławek to Grudziądz:

- ▶ **section length:** approx. 110 km
- ▶ **main tributaries:** right - Osa, Nogat, Szkarpawa; left - Mątwą, Wierzyca, Martwa Wisła
- ▶ **bridges:** Wisła – Kwidzyn (km 868.2), Knybawa (km 903.9), Tczew (km 908.6; 908.7), Kieźmark (km 930); Martwa Wisła – water lock Przegalina (km 0.5, drawbridge), Sobieszewo (km 9, drawbridge); Szkarpawa – Drewnica (km 2, drawbridge; km 2.85), Rybina (km 15; 15.5); Nogat – Biała Góra (km 0.4), Malbork (km 18.1; 19.2), Kadowo (km 19.6), Jazowa (km 45.8), Kępki (km 50.8)

- ▶ **water locks:** Szkarpawa – Gdańska Głowa (km 0.2); Martwa Wisła – Przegalina (km 0.6); Nogat Biała Góra (km 0.4), Szonowo (km 15.5), Rakowiec (km 24), Michałowo (km 38.6)
- ▶ **ferries:** Korzeniowo (km 866.9), Mikoszewo–Świbno (km 938.7)
- ▶ **ports, marines, quays:** Wisła – Korzeniowo, Kwidzyń, Mikoszewo, Świbno, Tczew, Kieźmark, Błotnik; Nogat – Biała Góra, Malbork; Szkarpawa – Żuławki- Szwedowo, Izbiska, Chorążówka, Rybina, Osłonka, Dublewo; Wisła Królewska – Sobieszewo; Martwa Wisła – Mokoszewo, Świbno, Błotnik, Sobieszewo; Kanał Jagielloński – Elbląg.



- **Wooden windmills**, the symbol of Żuławy, were replaced with pumping stations over time. The Mennonite Kozłak windmill in Drenica and the Ho-lender windmill in Palczewo have preserved until the present day. Some elements of the windmill from Ostaszewo can be seen in the Żuławy Museum
- **Sztum** was the summer residence of the Grand Master of the Teutonic Knights. Only the southern wing and the entrance and prison towers with defensive walls have preserved until today from the fourteenth-century castle. Today, the Sztum castle houses a branch of the Castle Museum in Malbork.

The Żuławy Loop Route (length: 303 km): part of the International Waterway (E70) connecting the waterways of Vistula, Martwa Wisła, Szkarpawa, Wisła Królewiecka, Nogat, Wisła Śmiała (estuary of the Vistula in Gdańsk), Wielka Świąta - Tuga, Motława, Jagiellonian Canal, the Elbląg and Pasłęka rivers with the waters of the Vistula Lagoon. The route includes piers, harbours, marinas, historical monuments and hydrotechnical structures (locks, weirs, pump stations, drawbridges and swing bridges).

Infrastructure: in good weather, it is an easy route, if you follow the waterline marks. Szkarpawa and Nogat are overgrown with vegetation. Drawbridges and swing bridges are opened every two hours during the season. The opening hours of the bridges on the Szkarpawa river (Drenica and Rybina) were adapted to the narrow-gauge railway. Szkarpawa and Wisła Królewiecka can be crossed with a standing mast. The bridge at the Gdańska Głowa water lock is opened on request. During the season, water locks are usually open from 9 AM - 5 PM (off-season until 3 PM) and opened on request. At high water levels on the Vistula river, the following water locks are closed: Gdańska Głowa, Przegalina and Biała Góra. The Great Sluice between the rivers of Nogat and Liwa - always open, the Kamienna Grodzka water lock on the Motława River in Gdańsk - closes automatically (it may cut off navigation towards Martwa Wisła and the Przegalina lock), the Bielnik security gate - open all the time.

- ▶ **Martwa Wisła (27 km long):** from the Vistula to the Bay of Gdańsk with an arm to Blotniki (in 1840 it was a section of the Leniwka river from the estuary to the village of Górki, after making the Vistula ditch, it is a section of the old Leniwka from Przegalina to the estuary at Westerplatte in Gdańsk)
- ▶ **Motława (2.5 km long):** the old riverbed (Stara Motława) in Gdańsk to the Bay of Gdańsk (seaport, Stara Motława flows next to the Stare Przedmieście and Główne Miasto, after flowing around the Granary Island, it joins the Nowa Motława River and flows into the Martwa Wisła)
- ▶ **Nogat (62 km long):** marked waterway from the water lock in Biała Góra to the Vistula Lagoon (eastern estuary arm of the Vistula River, separated by the water lock in Biała Góra, it flows into the Vistula Lagoon)
- ▶ **Szkarpawa (25 km long):** marked waterway from the water lock in Gdańska Głowa to the Bay of Gdańsk (with embankments, the shortest road from Gdańsk to the Vistula Lagoon)
- ▶ **Tuga (10 km long):** from Nowy Dwór Gdański to the estuary to the Szkarpawa river (weak current, overgrowing riverbed, accessible to smaller water units)
- ▶ **Wisła Królewiecka (12 km long):** from Szkarpawa to the Vistula Lagoon (the Szkarpawa's arm flowing into the Vistula Lagoon near Kobyla Kępa)
- ▶ **Jagiellonian Canal (5.7 km long):** connects the Elbląg River with the Nogat (the shortest waterway connecting Elbląg with Gdańsk)



Did you know?

You can take a walk along the Long Embankment of the Old Motława in Gdańsk, see the Green Gate, the Old Crane, the historic granaries and Soldek - ship turned into a museum. There is a water tram cruising on the Motława.



Did you know?

Shipping canal through the Vistula Spit between Przebrno and Skowronki (1.5 km long) is a ditch connecting the Vistula Lagoon with the Bay of Gdańsk, shortening by 100 km and simplifying the sea route to the Baltic Sea, bypassing the Pławska Strait in Russia. The canal was officially opened in 2022.



Gdańsk

- ▶ Office of Inland Navigation in Bydgoszcz - Regional Office in Gdańsk, ul. Na Stoku 50
- ▶ Volunteer Water Rescue Service of the Pomorskie Voivodeship, ul. Litewska 2
- ▶ Water Rescue Service in Gdańskie, ul. Traugutta 14
 - ▶ Water Police Station, ul. Długa Grobla 4, phone: 997, 112

Gdynia

- ▶ Volunteer Water Rescue Service in Pomorze, al. Jana Pawła II 9
- #### Sopot
- ▶ Volunteer Water Rescue Service in Sopot, ul. Hestii 3



THE WATERWAY OF THE ELBLĄG CANAL

27

Elbląg Canal (with lakes on the route and lakes: Druzno, Jeziorak, Mały Jeziorak, Szeląg Mały and Szeląg Wielki), the Bartnicki Canal with Lake Bartężek, the Dobrzycki Canal with Lake Ewingi, the Jagiellonian Canal from the connection with the Nogat to the Vistula Lagoon, the Elbląg River from Lake Druzno to the Vistula Lagoon

The Waterway of the ELBLĄG CANAL

Along this extremely attractive waterway, leading through canals and lakes, by the Żuławy Elbląskie and the Iława Lake District, astonishing nature and many unique hydrotechnical facilities with awaits tourists history await tourists. The waterway connects Iława and Ostróda with Elbląg. Along the way, the route passes magical water locks and five inclined ramps situated right before the Lake Druzno towards Elbląg. On the section from Iława the route passes the large, attractive lake - Jeziorak and flows over the only active aqueduct in the country running over the Karnickie Lake. The waterway forks in Miłomłyn: leads through several water locks to Ostróda, or leads to Elbląg along a much longer section with unique ramps. On the canal - apart from the water locks that make it possible to overcome differences in water levels - on the section of almost 10 km there are five



Information on the Elbląg Canal:

- ▶ **parameters:** total length 152 km with its branches, minimum width 7 m, waterway navigation depth less than 1 m, the difference of altitude between the levels on water locks and ramps 103 m
- ▶ **the length of the sections:** Ostróda - Elbląg 81 km, Ostróda - Iława 47 km, Ostróda - Staszkowo 31 km, Ostróda - Miłomłyn 15 km, Iława - Zalewo 36 km, Iława - Miłomłyn 32 km, Miłomłyn - the Buczyniec ramp 37 km, Miłomłyn - Staszkowo 33 km, Miłomłyn - Zalewo 31 km, Miłomłyn - Małdyty 23 km, the Buczyniec ramp - Lake Druzno 15 km
- ▶ **ports, marines, quays:** Ostróda, Iława, Elbląg, Węgle, Miłomłyn, Karczemka, Małdyty, Zalewo
- ▶ **ramps:** Całówny (km 45.8, difference between the levels 13.8), Jelenie (km 43.8, difference between the levels 22 m), Oleśnica (km 41.7, difference between the levels 24.5 m), Kąty (38.7 km, difference between the levels 18.9 m), Buczyniec (km 36.7, height difference 20.6 m) - width of a trolley on a ramp: the upper part - 3.6 m, the lower part - 2.6 m, maximum length of the unit - 27 m
- ▶ **water locks:** Miłomłyn (km 3.5; width 3.6 m, length 34 m, difference between the levels 3.5 m), Zielona (km 4.6; width 3.5 m, length 34 m, difference between the levels 2 m), Ostróda (15 km; width 3.3 m, length 29 m, height difference 2 m), Mała Ruś (km 19.1; width 3.2 m, length 29 m, height difference 1.6 m), Stare Jablonki tunnel
- ▶ **safety gate:** Miłomłyn (3.6 m wide), Buczyniec (3.6 m wide), Ligowo (4.4 m wide), Zagadka (4.4 m wide)
- ▶ **maximum watercraft dimensions:** width at the bottom up to 2.6 m, width at the top up to 3.35 m, length up to 26.8 m
- ▶ **position in the waterway system:** regional importance
- ▶ **importance of the waterway:** regional and tourist with sections of different navigability classes and a harbour in Elbląg of international importance

Fun fact/good to know / KARNICKIE LAKE

Through the Karnickie Lake runs the artificial embankment of the Iławski Canal (484 m long), a part of the Elbląg Canal waterway. It was built because the level of Karnickie Lake was lower than the level of Jeziorak by 3 m. In the middle of the embankment (6 m high and 50 m wide) runs the canal gutter filled with water (10 m wide and a depth of 1.5 m). Water surface of the canal is located 2 m above the level of the Karnickie Lake.

ramps on which vessels, including ships of the white fleet, are transported by land "on the grass" on special trolleys. Sections connecting lakes and canalised rivers were also constructed. During the years 2012-2015 sections of the canal, water locks and ramps were renovated and docking quays were built. However, the canal is a "living organism" which from time to time requires being cleaned of aquatic vegetation, removing shallowing and floating islands or tree limbs. It happens that the clearance of the canal is reduced by low-hanging tree branches. And still growing interest of tourists and water sports enthusiasts in the canal contributes to the expansion of the existing tourist infrastructure.

the Elbląg Canal waterway: STASZKOWO - the Szeląg Mały Lake, the Stare Jabłonki tunnel, **the Szeląski Canal**, the Szeląg Wielki Lake, the Ostróda Canal, the Mała Ruś water lock, the Pauzeńskie Lake, the Ostróda water lock, the Drwęckie Lake - OSTRÓDA - the Elbląg Canal: the Zielona water lock, the Liwskie Lake (or the Liwski Canal - MIŁOMŁYN), the Miłomłyn water lock (**connection with the waterway from IŁAWA**), safety gate in Miłomłyn, the Ińskie Lake (with the Jelonek Lake), the Sopelka Lake, the Copki Lake, the Rakówka Lake, the Ruda Woda lake (with the Bartężek Lake and the Ducki /Bartnicki Canal) - MAŁDYTY - the Samród Lake, the Piniewo Lake with the Budwity Lake, safety gate in Buczyniec, ramps (Buczyniec, Kąty, Oleśnica, Jeleniem, Całówny), the Druzno Lake, the Elbląg River - ELBLĄG - (connection of the Jagiellonian Canal with the Nogat - the Great Żuławy Loop) the Vistula Lagoon

the Iława waterway: the Jeziorak Mały Lake - IŁAWA - the Jeziorak Lake (with the Iławka River, the Płaskie Lake, the Ewigi Lake and the Dobrzycki Canal), the Dauby Lake, the Iława Canal with the Karnickie Lake, safety gate in Zagadka and Ligowo - connection with the Elbląg Canal beneath the Miłomłyn water lock.



a little bit OF HISTORY

Engineer Georg Jacob Steenke commissioned by Frederick William IV designed and built a navigable canal connecting East Prussia with the Baltic Sea. The technical problem was to overcome the 11 km section where the difference between the water level between the lakes was 99 m. The project has been worked on since 1837, and field work was carried out in the years 1844–1860. While hydrotechnical works, water levels in reservoirs were equalized, ramps and water locks were built. The first ship sailed the canal in 1860. In the 1870s, three new water locks and a section from Ostróda to Staszów were opened. The last ramp - Całuna - was completed in 1881.

Ramps powered by the energy coming from the water flowing between the different levels are truly remarkable monuments of technology. That flowing water sets the water wheel in motion which is connected with a mechanism that drives transport trolleys running on rails connecting the canal sections. There are two trolleys on each ramp on two parallel tracks going in opposite directions. Ship weighing up to 50 tons can be transported in one direction or two ships weighing up to 38 tons can be simultaneously transported in both directions.



Did you know?

In 2007 in the competition organized by the "Rzeczpospolita" newspaper, the Elbląg Canal has been recognized as one of the "seven wonders of Poland".



Interesting fact:

The Elbląg Canal is narrower than the other canals in the Mazury region (7-12 m wide, at the gates 3.6–4.4 m).

Infrastructure:

- Cruises on the canal by ships of the White Fleet are managed by the offices in Ostróda, Elbląg and Buczyniec. A few smaller shipowners offer charter cruises. Regular shipping services are performed on the Ostróda-Elbląg waterway, cruises are available on several sections of the canal and walking/sightseeing tours are provided on the Drwęckie Lake and the Elbląg River. Cruises are organized mainly in the IV – X season, every day or on selected days of the week. It is also possible to charter a water vessel. The ramps and water locks are open in the V-IV season daily from 7 AM – 7 PM.



A. Hawa

There is a diversified tourist base available in this town located on the Jeziorak Lake.

Infrastructure: You can rent or charter a watercraft.

B. The Jeziorak Lake

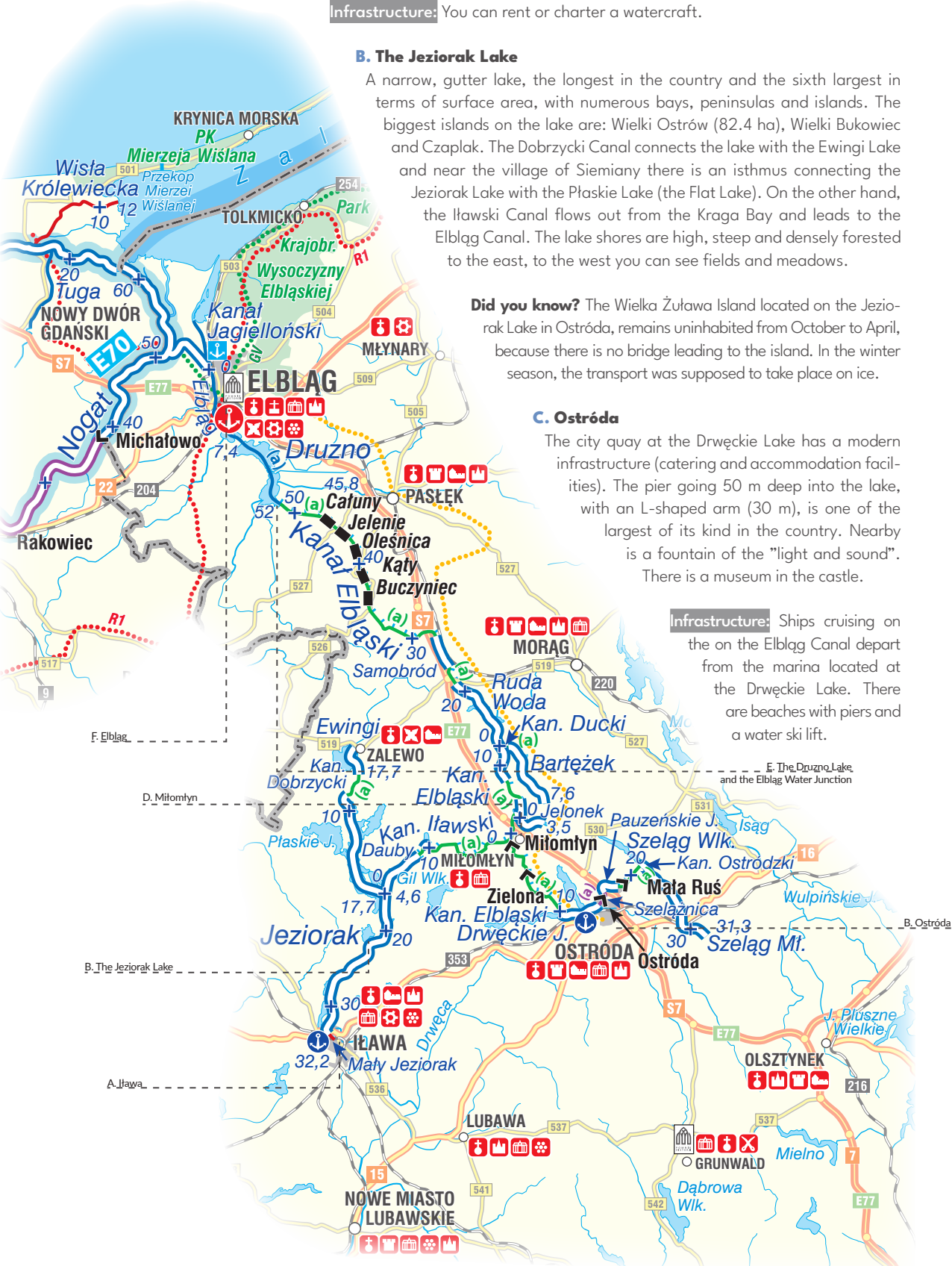
A narrow, gutter lake, the longest in the country and the sixth largest in terms of surface area, with numerous bays, peninsulas and islands. The biggest islands on the lake are: Wielki Ostrów (82.4 ha), Wielki Bukowiec and Czaplak. The Dobrzycki Canal connects the lake with the Ewinki Lake and near the village of Siemiany there is an isthmus connecting the Jeziorak Lake with the Plaskie Lake (the Flat Lake). On the other hand, the Ilawski Canal flows out from the Kraga Bay and leads to the Elbląg Canal. The lake shores are high, steep and densely forested to the east, to the west you can see fields and meadows.

Did you know? The Wielka Żuława Island located on the Jeziorak Lake in Ostróda, remains uninhabited from October to April, because there is no bridge leading to the island. In the winter season, the transport was supposed to take place on ice.

C. Ostróda

The city quay at the Drwęckie Lake has a modern infrastructure (catering and accommodation facilities). The pier going 50 m deep into the lake, with an L-shaped arm (30 m), is one of the largest of its kind in the country. Nearby is a fountain of the "light and sound". There is a museum in the castle.

Infrastructure: Ships cruising on the Elbląg Canal depart from the marina located at the Drwęckie Lake. There are beaches with piers and a water ski lift.

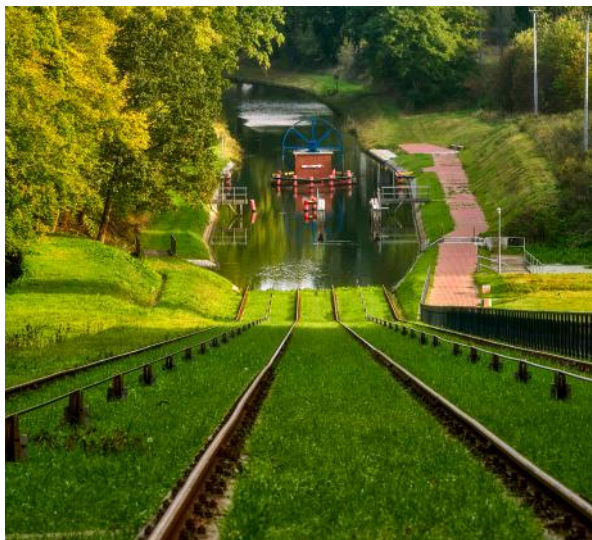


D. Miłomłyn

A gothic belfry from the 14th century towers over the town, connected by an arcaded link with the church of St. Bartholomew. Remains of the defensive walls from the 14th century have also been preserved.

E. The Druzno Lake and the Elbląg Water Junction

It is a shallow, large delta lake in Żuławy Wiślane, of the Vistula Lagoon, almost completely over-grown with aquatic vegetation and reeds. Water trail across the lake leads along a corridor among reeds, it is crossed by numerous branches, where you can stop. Rivers flowing into the lake create beautiful landscapes, mainly their left tributaries: Tina, Dzierżoń, Balewka and Fishewka. Rich and diversified flora and fauna deserves our admiration. Tina is flowing near the biggest depression in the country in Raczk Elbląskie. In the village of Jezioro there is a lovely drawbridge (currently out of service), whereas in Różany visitors can see a steam pumping station, in Dzierżoń and Balewka - traces of beavers and hydrotechnical monuments. In the Druzno Lake nature reserve, there are nesting sites of wetland birds.



Infrastructure: The Węgle fishing harbour operates on the lake.

F. Elbląg

In the city, along the Elbląg River, the port quays with marinas stretch along the entire length of the river. In the centre, it is worth stopping at the Zygmunt August boulevard located between drawbridges. It offers a beautiful view of the restored Old Town with a historic urban layout, castle boroughs, monastery and hospital complex, cathedral tower and tenement houses.

Infrastructure: There are large yacht ports with complex facilities, you can also stop at one of the several marinas.

Nearby attractions:

- **Truso** is a former Prussian commercial port and a craft and merchant settlement existing between the 8th-11th centuries on the southern coast of the Baltic Sea, as a part of the early medieval Viking trading system between Prussian and Slavic tribes, maintaining contacts with distant corners of Europe. The location of Truso was unknown for a long time, which was the result of topographic changes occurred in the Żuławy region. The settlement was located during the archaeological research conducted on the eastern shore of the Druzno Lake, south of Elbląg.
- **The history of the Elbląg Canal** presents the history of the Elbląg Canal, its revitalization and unique ramp drive system. Educational activities for children are organized and a documentary about the canal is shown.

**Interesting fact:**

The biggest depression spreads around the Druzno Lake, mainly on its west and northwest side. It has an area of 181 km² (22 km long and 13 km wide). It is located in Raczk Elbląskie, the lowest point of Poland, located 1.8 m below sea level.

Olsztyn

- ▶ *Volunteer Water Rescue Service of the Warmińsko-Mazurskie Voivodeship,*
ul. Polna 16
- ▶ *Municipal Police Station,*
ul. Partyzantów 23,
phone: 997, 112

Elbląg

- ▶ *Volunteer Water Rescue Service in Elbląg, ul. Robotnicza 68*

**Information on the lakes:**

- ▶ **the Druzno Lake:** area 1 147–1 790 ha, level of the water surface 0.1 m above sea level, maximum depth 2.5–3 m
- ▶ **the Jeziorak Lake:** area 3 152 ha, length 27.45 km, maximum width 2.4 km, maximum depth 13 m



THE WATERWAY OF BIEBRZA, NAREW AND BUG RIVERS

31

The Augustów Canal from the border with Belarus to the connection with Biebrza; Biebrza from the estuary of the Augustów Canal to the estuary to the Narew River; Narew from the estuary of the Biebrza River to the estuary to the Vistula River with the Zegrzyński Reservoir and the Żerań Canal; Bug from the estuary of the Muchawiec River to the estuary to the Narew River

The BIEBRZA River

Biebrza is a beautiful waterway, wild, of the unique diversity of the bird species inhabiting the area and rich vegetation. It's a paradise for nature lovers. It is a lowland river, easy and not burdensome, with a wide bed, considerable depth and a distinct but calm current, flowing through swamps, forests and reeds, passing a few villages and camping sites. There are sections where the river meanders pretty strongly, creates many oxbow lakes, branches, backwaters, bays and lagoons. A long section of Biebrza with the estuary to the Narew River is called the "Polish Amazon". The section strongly meanders among vast swamps. It runs through the Biebrza National Park, camping is prohibited and traffic restrictions apply.



The NAREW River

It is one of the longest rivers in the country, with its sources in Belarus in the Białowieża Primeval Forest. In Poland, it flows along the border through the Siemianowskie Lake and further up to the dam on the Zegrzyńskie Lake, where near Serock the river connects with the Bug. In Nowy Dwór Mazowiecki it flows into the Vistula River. It is a lowland river with a natural character almost along the entire length. From the estuary of the Biebrza River to the estuary of the Pisa River, it meanders through a vast valley among peat bogs and then it spreads among wetlands, branches off and flows through many river beds. Its swampy banks are overgrown with trees. Floating clumps overgrown with rushes and reeds are a refuge for water and marsh birds. There are fewer river branches from Łomża, and from Nowogród the river flows in a single canal, it spills rarely, there are only few sand bars and islands, and high river banks form sandy bluffs.



The BUG River

This left tributary of the Narew river has its source in Verkhobuzh in Ukraine, in the section from Brest it flows through Mazovia and flows into the Zegrzyński Reservoir. The Bug is a dynamic river, full of shallows, rocky reefs, narrow inlets between the islands. In its lower reaches, it is a wide river with sandy shores framed by forests, it spills out wide, forming backwaters and islands covered with vegetation. Its right bank is higher and there are many camping sites located there. Sandy banks and clean water create perfect conditions for swimming and sunbathing. Western part of the Bug valley includes the Nadbużański Landscape Park, and the eastern one - the Podlaski Przełom Bugu Landscape Park.



The waterway of the Biebrza River:

The Augustów Canal from the connection with the Biebrza River (km 0) to the state border (km 81.8) with lakes on the route, the Biebrza River (km 84.2) from the estuary of the Augustów Canal to the estuary to the Narew River (km 248.5)

The AUGUSTÓW Canal

The canal connects the Vistula tributaries with the Baltic Sea and is a part of the Batory Route and the European Route of Industrial Heritage, it is not commuted with other waterways in the country, but it is navigable and has a connection with the Niemen River. During the industrial revolution at the beginning of the 19th century, inland connections had great economic significance. The canal was designed and built between 1823 and 1839 by the future General Ignacy Prądzyński. During the Polish-Prussian customs war, it served as a transport route for the grain to Gdańsk, bypassing the Prussian customs chambers. Afterwards, the canal had local significance, as it was used to float wood and building materials. After World War II, the Polish section of the river was remodelled and modernized.



Interesting fact:

Next year, 2023, there will be the 200th anniversary of the Augustów Canal.

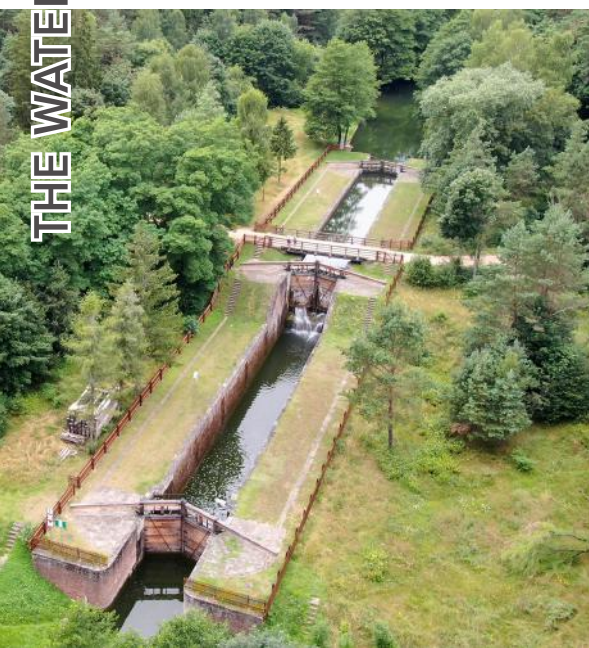
The Augustów Canal Trail: the estuary of the Biebrza River (km 0), the Netta River (the **Dębowo** lock km 0.3), the canal parallel to the Netta River (the **Sosnowo** lock, km 13.2; the **Borki** lock km 19.25; the **Białobrzegi** lock, 27.1 km; the **Augustów** lock 32.5 km), the Bystry canal and the Necko and Białe Augustowskie Lakes, the **Przewięź** lock (km 43.5), canals and the Studzieniczne Lake (km 43.5), the **Swoboda** lock (km 47.4), the Swoboda and Górczyckie ponds, the **Górczyca** lock (km 57), canals and the Orle and Paniewo lakes (km 57), the **Paniewo** lock (km 60.9), the **Perkuć** lock (km 63), the canal with the Mikaszewo Lake and Pond and the **Mikaszówka** lock (km 69.1), the **Sosnówek** lock (km 70.3), the estuary of the Czarna Hańcza (km 70.5), the **Tartak** lock (km 74.4), the **Kudrynki** lock (km 77.4), the Poland-Belarus border strip (km 80-83.4), the **Kurzyniec** lock (km 81.75) - the Polish-Belarusian border - section in Belarus (km 83.4-101.2: the Wołkuszek, Dąbrówka, Niemnowo locks)



Interesting fact:

The complex of the Augustów Canal is a historical monument. Since 2008, it was a joint Polish-Belarusian candidate for the UNESCO World Heritage Site list, but the proposal requires some improvements.

Infrastructure: Cruise ships departing from the marina in Augustów sail on the canal in the V-IX season.

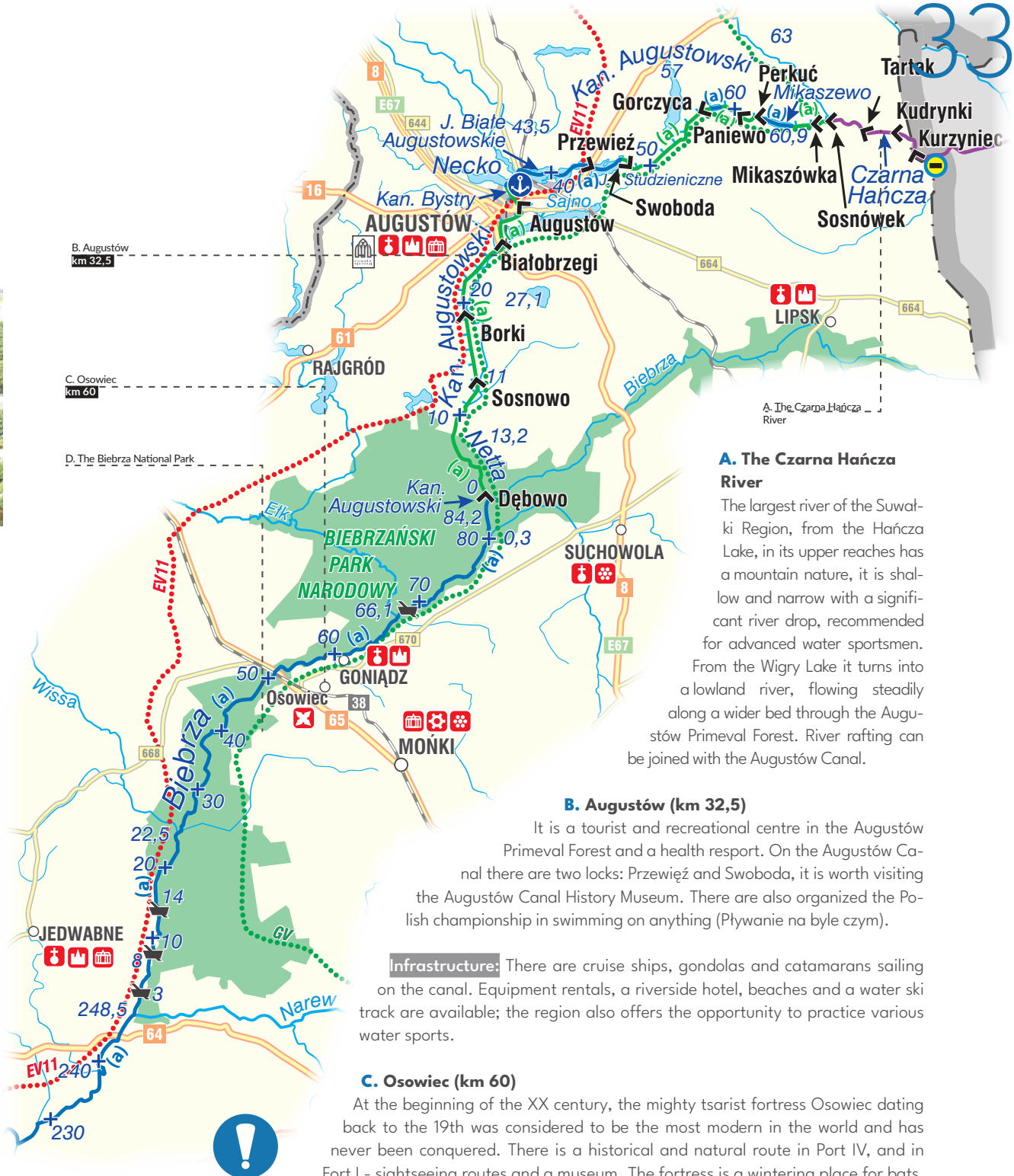


Information on the Augustów Canal:

- ▶ **parameters:** total length 101 km, 82 km in Poland; minimal depth 1.5 m
- ▶ **sections:** western - from the connection with the Biebrza River (km 0) to the Augustów lock (km 32.5); eastern - from the Augustów lock (km 32.50) to the Niemnowo lock in Belarus (km 101.2)
- ▶ **locks:** Dębno (km 0.3), Sosnowo (km 13.2), Borki (km 19.2), Białobrzegi (km 27.1), Augustów (km 32.5), Przewięź (km 43.5), Swoboda (km 47.4), Górczyca (km 57), Paniewo (km 60.9), Perkuć (km 63), Mikaszówka (km 69.1), Sosnówek (km 70.3), Sawmill (km 74.4), Kudrynki (km 77.4), Kurzyniec (km 81.8)
- ▶ **ports, marinas, quays:** Augustów

Information on the Biebrza River:

- ▶ **length:** total 165 km, waterway 84.2 km
- ▶ **tributaries:** right - Elk, Wissa
- ▶ **bridges:** Stare Dolistowo (km 76), Goniądz (km 58), Osowiec (km 58), Osowiec (km 51)
- ▶ **ferries:** Wierciszewo (km 3), Rutkowskie (km 10), Mocarz (km 14) and Wroceń (km 70)
- ▶ **position in the waterway system:** regional
- ▶ **importance of the waterway:** regional and tourist with sections of different navigability classes



A. The Czarna Hańcza River

The largest river of the Suwałki Region, from the Hańcza Lake, in its upper reaches has a mountain nature, it is shallow and narrow with a significant river drop, recommended for advanced water sportsmen. From the Wigry Lake it turns into a lowland river, flowing steadily along a wider bed through the Augustów Primeval Forest. River rafting can be joined with the Augustów Canal.

B. Augustów (km 32,5)

It is a tourist and recreational centre in the Augustów Primeval Forest and a health resort. On the Augustów Canal there are two locks: Przewież and Swoboda, it is worth visiting the Augustów Canal History Museum. There are also organized the Polish championship in swimming on anything (Pływanie na byle czym).

Infrastructure: There are cruise ships, gondolas and catamarans sailing on the canal. Equipment rentals, a riverside hotel, beaches and a water ski track are available; the region also offers the opportunity to practice various water sports.

C. Oświec (km 60)

At the beginning of the XX century, the mighty tsarist fortress Oświec dating back to the 19th was considered to be the most modern in the world and has never been conquered. There is a historical and natural route in Port IV, and in Fort I - sightseeing routes and a museum. The fortress is a wintering place for bats, and the moat surrounding the complex is inhabited by beavers.

D. The Biebrza National Park

The park includes a vast complex of swamps and peat bogs in a marshy valley with the meandering Biebrza river. The area has a primal nature, there are marshes, peat bogs and opulent forest vegetation, including rare and disappearing species of plants. The Biebrza Marshes are the mainstay of moose. The area is a refuge of many bird species, including rare breeding species. The Biebrza River is called the "Polish Amazon".

Suwałki

► Local Volunteer Water Rescue Service, ul. Wojska Polskiego 2

Augustów

► Local Volunteer Water Rescue Service, ul. Sucharskiego 15

Łomża

► District Volunteer Water Rescue Service, ul. Zjazd 18

The waterway of the Narew River:

The Narew River from the estuary of the Biebrza River (km 84.2) to the estuary to the Vistula River (km 0) with the Zegrzyński Reservoir and the Żerań Canal

The BUG River or the NAREW River

The Narew River, today's right tributary of the Vistula, until 1962 was considered to be the right tributary of the Bug River, which is longer than the Narew. Until 1963, the river flowing out of the Zegrzyński Reservoir and connecting the reservoir with the Vistula River, was called Bugonawia. But the fact that the Narew flows straight, and the Bug flows into it almost at a right angle and its waters mix with the dark Narew waters, resulted in recognizing the Narew River as a dominant one. Nowadays, the Narew flows into the Vistula, and the Bug is its left tributary.

**Did you know?**

The Narew is an anastomosing river, also called "braided", the only one in Europe and one of the few rivers in the world that simultaneously flows through numerous branching and reconnecting river beds.

The ŻERAŃ Canal

The canal connecting the Royal Castle in Warsaw with the Vasa hunting estate in Nieporęt was built at the request of King Zygmunt III. At the turn of the 1950s and 1960s, along its route, the Żerań Canal was created. It's unique hydrotechnical structure - the chambers of the double-sided canal lock are able work at different water levels, so water can flow in both directions. The canal connects the Zegrzyński Reservoir, the Bug and Narew Rivers with the Vistula River, it can be further navigated towards the Masurian lakes. The canal shaded by trees, resembles a Masurian river, has a calm, undetectable current and is perfect for water sports enthusiasts. Cruise ships and private boats sail on its surface.

**Did you know?**

The Dębe barrage with the Żerań Canal and the Żerań lock together create the Warsaw Water Junction

Information on the Narew River:

- ▶ **length:** total 484 km (in Poland and Belarus), in Poland 448 km, borderline 1 km
- ▶ **tributaries:** right - Biebrza, Pisa, Szkwa, Rozoga, Omulew, Orzyc, Pokrzywnica, Wkra; left - Ruż, Orz, Prut, Bug, Rządza
- ▶ **ferries:** Rakowo Czachy (223.5 km), Rybaki (old 169 km), Rybaki (new 169.5 km), Teodorowo (154 km), Nowe Łachy (97.5 km), Rowy (88 km), Convenience (82.5 km)
- ▶ **ports:** Wizna, Łomża, Ostrołęka, Pułtusk, Nieporęt
- ▶ **bridges:** Wizna (252.5 km), Bronowo (240 km), Łomża road no. 61 (207.5 km), Łomża - Piątnica road (204.5 km),

Nowogród (180 km), Ostrołęka road no. 61 (147 km), Różan road no. 60 (116 km), Pułtusk road and railway bridge (63 km), Wierzbica nad Zalewem Zegrzyńskim (43.5 km), Nowy Dwór Mazowiecki (2 km)

- ▶ **position** in the waterway system: a part of the river belongs to the international waterway - E40 (connecting the Baltic Sea with the Black Sea - section from the estuary of the Bug River to the estuary to the Vistula River)
- ▶ **importance of the waterway:** international and regional with sections of different navigability classes



The ŻEGRZYŃSKI Reservoir

In 1963 in the village of Dębe near Warsaw, a dam accumulating the Narew River waters at the junction with the Bug River creating the vast Żegrzyński Reservoir. A hydro-power plant was built on the dam. The damming caused the lifting of water level at the section of 41 km. Below the dam, in Nowy Dwór Mazowiecki, the Narew River flows into the Vistula River. The reservoir contributed to the irrigation of the surrounding meadows and fields and regulating the water management in the region. The reservoir is surrounded by pine forests. By the water live many bird species, including: terns, gulls, swans, grebes and ducks. Over the reservoir runs a bridge on the national road no. 61 (332 m long), which is a part of an older bridge built before the damming of the reservoir and dismantled in 2003 year, because it was too narrow and blocked the navigation. Parallel to the new bridge, the remains of the old one protrude from the water. Several times a year regattas are organized on the reservoir. In strong winds, waves are short and sharp, there are violent and strong squalls.

Infrastructure: Complex recreational infrastructure available by the reservoir allows visitors to practice water sports (sailing, canoeing, rowing, windsurfing, kitesurfing and motorboating sports). On developed shores of the reservoir there are beaches and bathing areas (Serock, Nieporęt, Wieliszew), sports centers, water equipment rentals and ports, marinas and quays. Nearby there are holiday resorts with accommodation and catering facilities as well as shopping and entertainment centres. The most popular places are: Nieporęt, Żegrze, Serock, Żegrzynek, Jadwisin, Jachranka, Białobrzegi, Wieliszew and Rynia. Visitors can get familiar with the surroundings by riding the bicycle paths and wandering along the trails. The reservoir is visited by water sports enthusiasts, fishermen and lovers of leisure activities and relax. Cruises on ships from Nieporęt and Serock are organized, there are also catamarans and ships sailing on the Żerań Canal from Warsaw to Serock.



Did you know?

The Żegrzyński Reservoir Monster, the Polish equivalent of Nessie, is an imaginary water monster invented in the 1980s by Polish Radio journalists from the radio show "Summer with the radio". A monster was supposedly spotted over the lake during several years, monster's portraits and interviews with eye witnesses were published over the years.



Ostrołęka

► Local Volunteer Water Rescue Service, ul. Padlewskiego 51c/28

Pułtusk

► Local Volunteer Water Rescue Service, ul. Stare Miasto 28

Żegrze południowe

► Volunteer Water Rescue Service in Legionowo, ul. Warszawska 39b

Information on the Żegrzyński Reservoir:

- **parameters:** surface 30 km², maximum depth 11 m, length 41 km (on the Narew River), maximum width 3.5 km
- **Dębe barrage:** height 7.3 m, maximum water damming 7 m, hydroelectric power 20 MW

- **ports:** Wierzbica, Białobrzegi, Serock, Żegrze, Żegrze South, Jadwisin, Nieporęt, Jachranka
- **bridges:** Żegrze

Information on the Żerań Canal:

- **parameters:** length 17.3 km, maximum depth 3 m, maximum width 41.4 m



A. Łomżyński Landscape Park of the Narew Valley

The park covers the valley of the Narew River with communities of water and rush vegetation, peat bog, meadow and riparian forests as well as the unique gorge of the Narew through moraine elevations. This watershed plain valley is 3–1.5 km wide. Winding and meandering Narew and numerous long oxbow lakes can be seen from the adjacent hills. In spring, the river creates huge backwaters in the valley, over which water birds flock. The local flora is exceptionally rich and there are also many species of animals.

**B. Łomża (204 km)**

This city located by the Narew River is surrounded by hills from which visitors can admire a valley with a river winding among meadows. The town square with the town hall is surrounded by arcaded tenement houses. The Gothic cathedral from the 16th century and the Capuchins monastery complex designed in the Tuscan baroque style originating from the 18th century are well worth seeing.

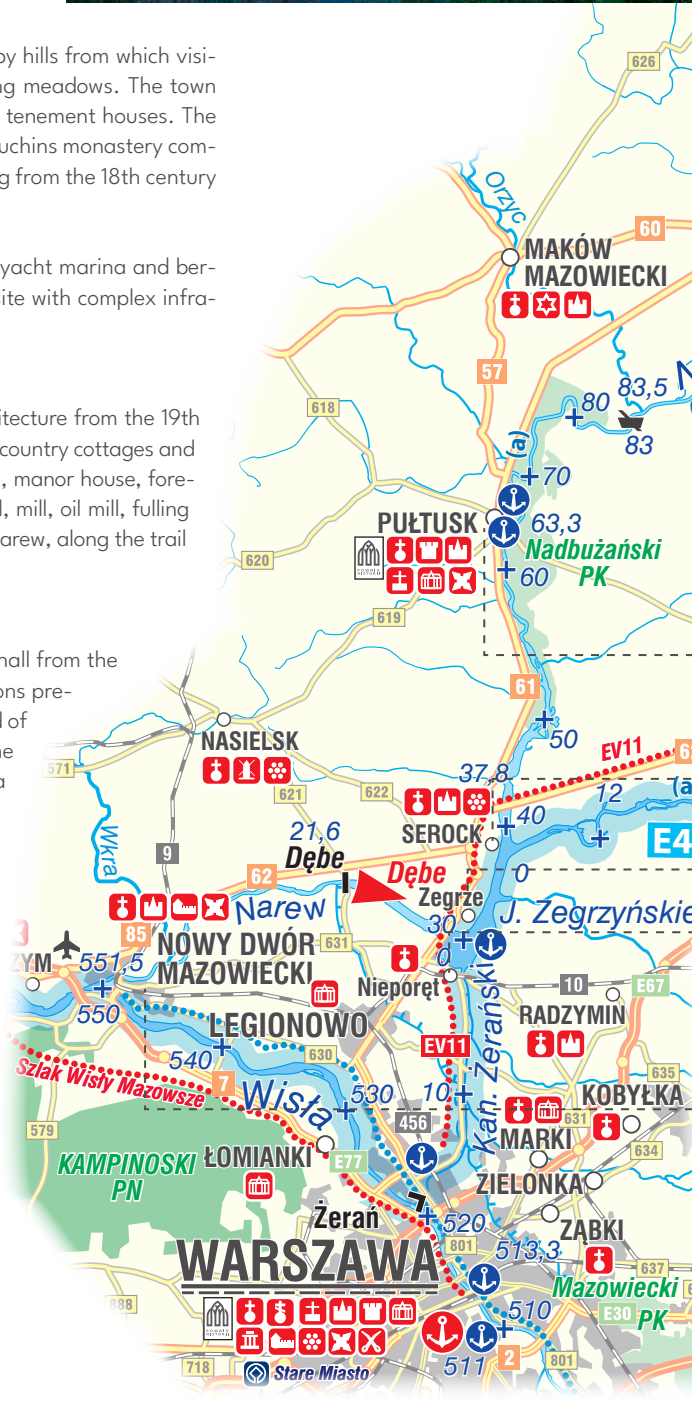
Infrastructure: Sports and recreation areas with a yacht marina and berths, as well as water equipment rental and a campsite with complex infrastructure are available at the local port.

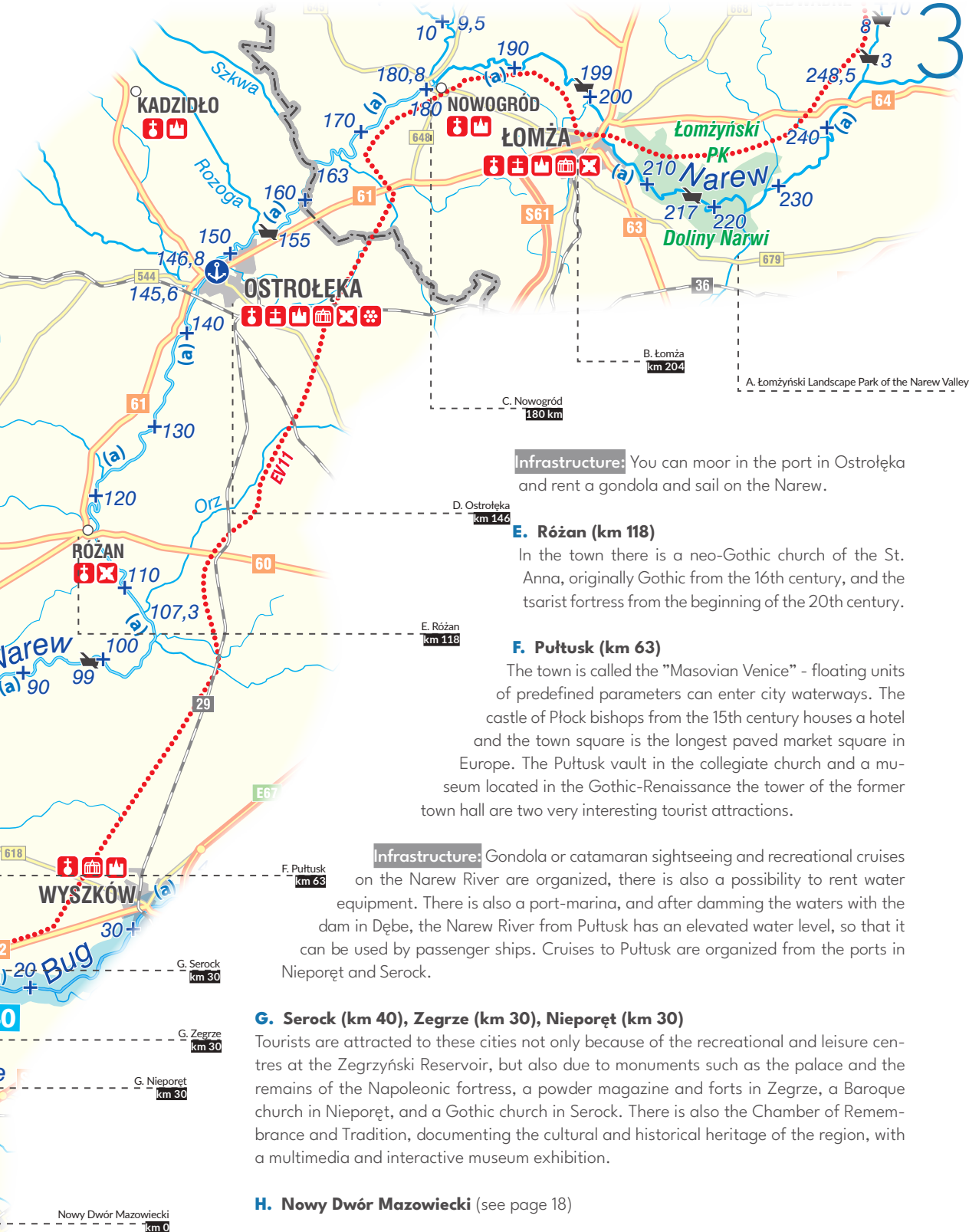
C. Nowogród (km 180)

The local open air museum presents the Kurpie architecture from the 19th century. Visitors can see historic buildings, including: country cottages and farm buildings (barn, granary, cowshed, Dutch barn), manor house, forester's lodge, tavern and industrial buildings (windmill, mill, oil mill, fulling mill, forge). In the city, the Pisa River flows into the Narew, along the trail to the Great Masurian Lakes.

D. Ostrołęka (km 146)

In the city, attention is drawn to the classicist town hall from the 1820s and the Kurpie Culture Museum with exhibitions presenting the history of the Ostrołęka region. The field of the greatest battle of the November Uprising with the Bem Forts - the Mausoleum of the Battle of Ostrołęka from 1831 is the memorial site.





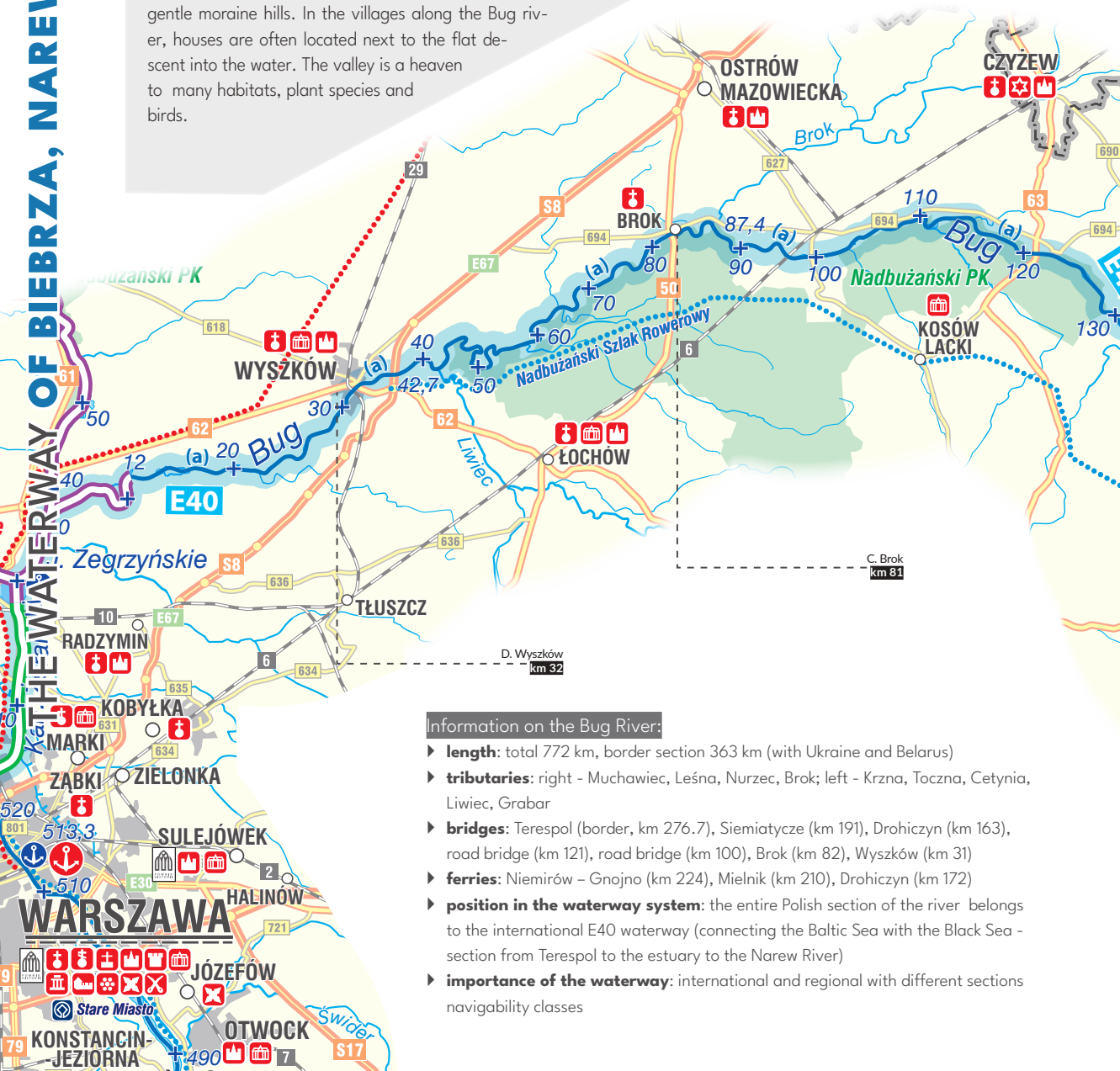
- **Kadzidło** a village where Kurpie traditions are cultivated, is the seat of many folk artists (cutouts, embroidery and lace, plaiting, pottery, weaving, carving). The village hosts exhibitions and folklore events (Competition for the Kurpiowska Palm, Kurpie Wedding). In Zagroda Kurpiowska visitors can see old cottages, farm buildings and a forge. Moreover, the village is associated with mining and amber processing.
- **Warszawa** (see page 17)

The waterway of the Bug River:

The Bug River from the estuary of the Muchawiec River (km 283.2) to the estuary to the Narew River (km 0)

The GORGE OF THE BUG RIVER in Podlasie

On its gorge section, the Bug meanders and flows on the bottom of a diversified valley, and numerous sandbanks and islands occur in its bed. The winding river washes away its banks on concave curves and accumulates the material on convex curves, where sandy beaches are formed. In broad sections of the valley there are oxbow lakes, wetlands and ponds, gently sloppy banks are either sandy or swampy. The narrowing valley cuts deep into the surrounding uplands and has high, steep edges. By the river there are trees cut down by beavers. The beautiful landscape is diversified by gentle moraine hills. In the villages along the Bug river, houses are often located next to the flat descent into the water. The valley is a heaven to many habitats, plant species and birds.



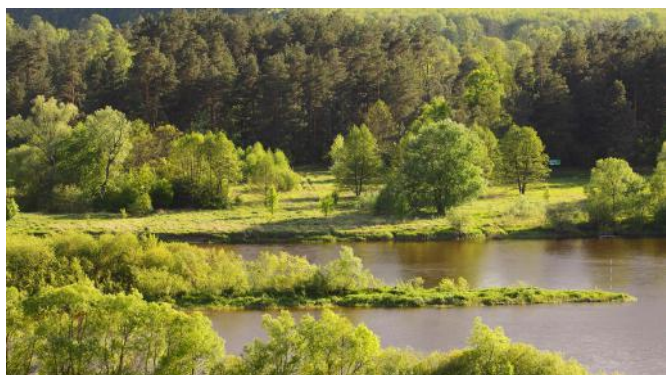
Information on the Bug River:

- **length:** total 772 km, border section 363 km (with Ukraine and Belarus)
- **tributaries:** right - Muchawiec, Leśna, Nurzec, Brok; left - Krzna, Toczna, Cetynia, Liwiec, Grabar
- **bridges:** Terespol (border, km 276.7), Siemiatycze (km 191), Drohiczyn (km 163), road bridge (km 121), road bridge (km 100), Brok (km 82), Wyszów (km 31)
- **ferries:** Niemirów - Gnojno (km 224), Mielnik (km 210), Drohiczyn (km 172)
- **position in the waterway system:** the entire Polish section of the river belongs to the international E40 waterway (connecting the Baltic Sea with the Black Sea - section from Terespol to the estuary to the Narew River)
- **importance of the waterway:** international and regional with different sections navigability classes

A. Terespol (km 283)

There is a classicist orthodox church from the eighteenth century, and next to the border with Lebedziew - tsarist fortifications. Opposite the town, in Belarusian Brest, there is the Brest Fortress - a complex of fortifications erected at the mouth of the Muchawiec River in 1833.

Infrastructure: The Bug can also be navigated above Terespol, but behind the bridge on road no. 2 (border with Belarus) sailing is forbidden because the river flows through Belarus. It is necessary to transport the equipment and launch it on the Polish side.



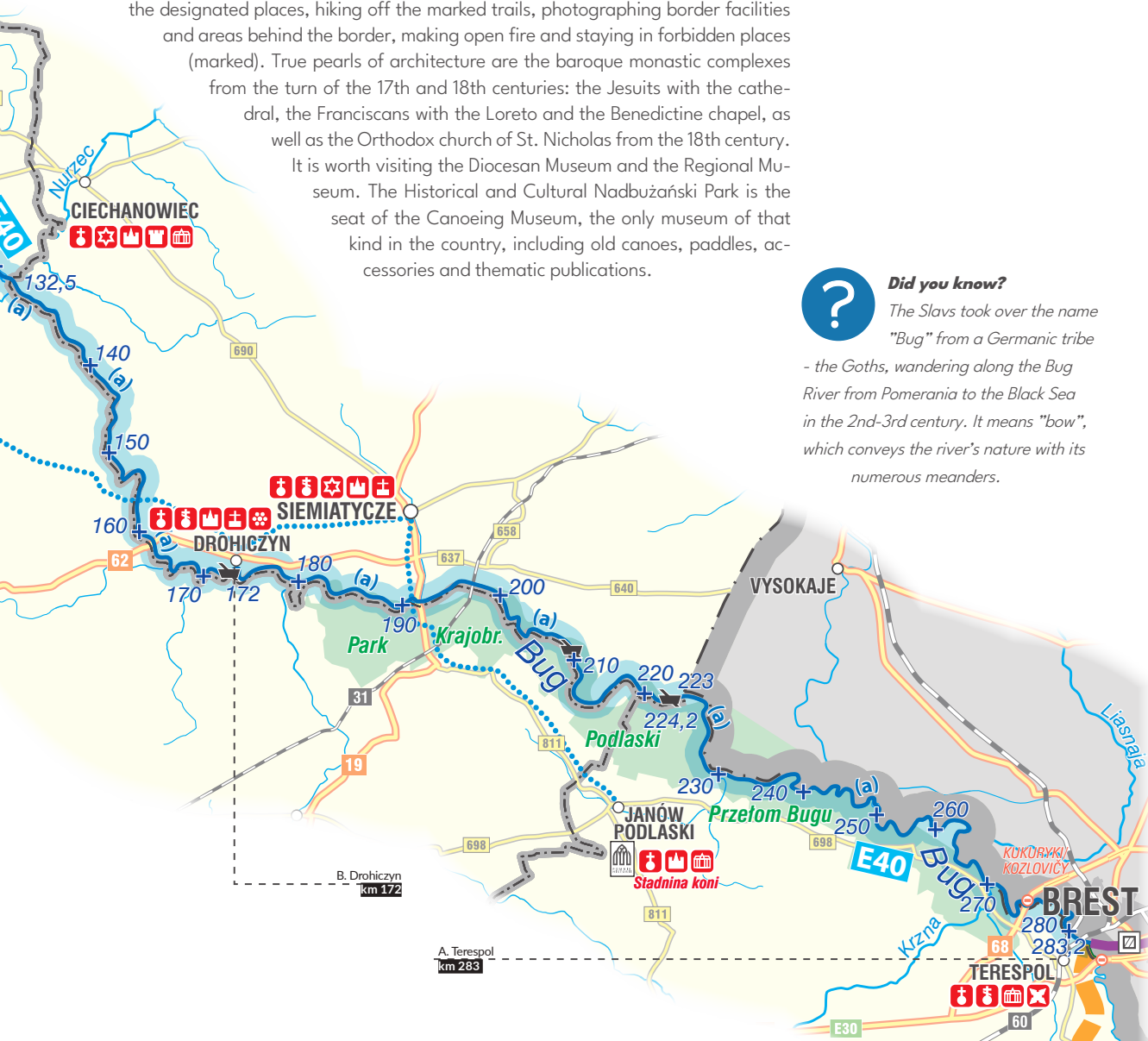
Sailing along the border section of the river: (km 283.2–223) and changes in its plan must be reported to the appropriate Border Guard station (at least 2 hours before the departure). You should only sail on the left side of the river during the day and do not cross the middle of the river. It is forbidden to swim in the river outside the designated places, hiking off the marked trails, photographing border facilities and areas behind the border, making open fire and staying in forbidden places (marked). True pearls of architecture are the baroque monastic complexes from the turn of the 17th and 18th centuries: the Jesuits with the cathedral, the Franciscans with the Loreto and the Benedictine chapel, as well as the Orthodox church of St. Nicholas from the 18th century. It is worth visiting the Diocesan Museum and the Regional Museum. The Historical and Cultural Nadbużański Park is the seat of the Canoeing Museum, the only museum of that kind in the country, including old canoes, paddles, accessories and thematic publications.



Did you know?

The Slavs took over the name "Bug" from a Germanic tribe

- the Goths, wandering along the Bug River from Pomerania to the Black Sea in the 2nd-3rd century. It means "bow", which conveys the river's nature with its numerous meanders.



B. Drohiczyn (km 172)

From a high river bank, the town offers a beautiful panorama with the Castle Hill and the cathedral. There are recreational areas along the river and a water equipment rental is also available.

C. Brok (km 81)

Picturesquely situated on the high bank of the Bug River among the pine forest, this town is a great place to rest. Rafting events are organized here, there is also a chance to practice water sports, rest on the beach or take a walk along the promenade by the river.

**D. Wyszków (km 32)**

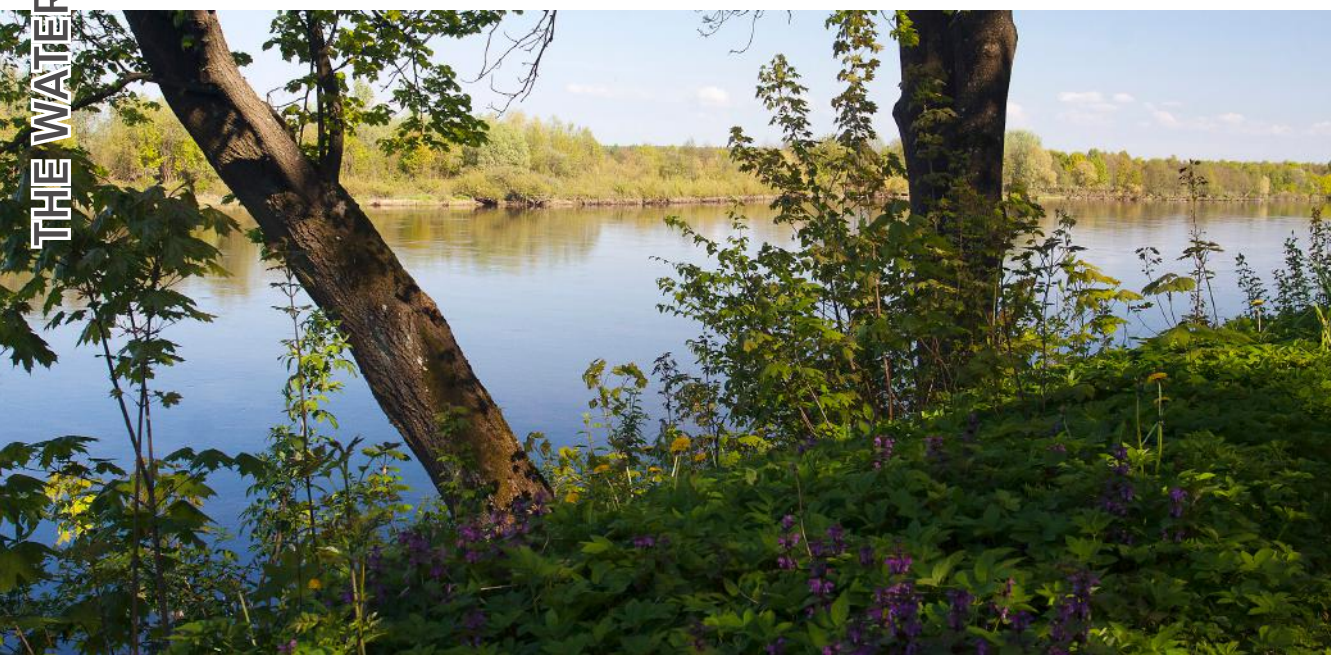
It is worth visiting the classicist church of St. Giles from 1793 and a Classicist palace in Rybienek Stary.

Nearby attractions:

- **Siemiatycze** is a town with interesting religious monuments: the Orthodox church, post-missionary monastery complex, church from the XV century (rebuilt in the eighteenth century) and the former synagogue, as well as the Talmudic house.
- **Janów Podlaski** is famous for the oldest state-owned Arabian horse stud farm, where Arabian and Anglo-Arabian horse auctions are held every year, attracting breeders and exhibitors from Poland and abroad. The seat of the stud farm is in Wygoda near Janów in the classicist complex of stables. The restored baroque bishop's castle from the 18th century currently houses a hotel.
- **Bug Landscape Park** is one of the largest landscape parks in the country and consists of several fragments with the left bank of the Lower Bug Valley and a fragment of the Lower Narew and Liwiec Valley. The park includes the meandering river and its valley with oxbow lakes, river arms, dunes and high slopes as well as forests and rich vegetation.

**Interesting fact:**

On the terrace in front of the Palace on the Isle in Warsaw's Łazienki Park there is a sculpture of the Bug river. This figure of a lying man holding the head of a bull whose twisted horns resemble the bends of a river.



THE WATERWAY OF THE GREAT MASURIAN LAKES AND THE PISA RIVER

41

the system of the Great Masurian Lakes: lakes, rivers and canals from Węgorzewo to Pisz with side branches to the villages of Ryn and Ruciane-Nida, as well as the Pisa River from the Roś Lake (km 80) to the estuary to the Narew River (km 0)

The Land of THE GREAT MASURIAN LAKES

The land called the Masurian Sea or the Land of a Thousand Lakes, or simply Masuria, covers the middle part of the Masurian Lake District with numerous lakes connected by canals. From the south the land borders with the Masurian Plain, from the east with the Elk Lakeland, from the north with the Land of Węgorzapa, and from the west with the Mrągowo Lake District and the Śepopolska Lowland. The area is mostly covered with forests and is dominated by the young-glacial landscape from the last phase of the glaciation of the Baltic Sea, about 10,000 years ago. Moraine hills form latitudinal, clay-gravel lines, there are erratic boulders, kettle depressions and deep lake gutters. This is a unique area, extremely rich in nature, with



Information on the lakes:

- ▶ **Śniardwy:** surface 11 340 ha, maximum depth 23 m
- ▶ **Mamry:** surface 10 282 ha, maximum depth 44 m
- ▶ **Dargin:** surface 3030 ha, maximum depth 38 m
- ▶ **Niegocin:** surface 2604 ha, maximum depth 40 m
- ▶ **Kisajno:** surface 1896 ha, maximum depth 25 m
- ▶ **Roś:** surface 1888 ha, maximum depth 32 m
- ▶ **Nidzkie:** surface 1830 ha, maximum depth 24 m
- ▶ **Święcajty:** surface 869 ha, maximum depth 28 m

It is a large park with a picturesque, glacial landscape. On its territory there is the largest lake in the country, the Śniardwy Lake, and a part of the Piska Forest with the Krutynia River. A unique waterway of the Great Masurian Lakes runs through the park. It is forbidden to use motor boats and other motor equipment on the water reservoirs (the prohibition does not apply to: the Śniardwy Lake, with the exception of the Kaczerajno Lake and the Łuknańska Bay and the Beldany Lake with the exception of Iznocka and Wygryńska Bays).

habitats of many species of birds and animals, with many monuments worth to be seen, suitable for water sports enthusiasts, fishermen and holidaymakers. It is also a diversified and popular shipping route in north-eastern Poland, a chain of lakes creating a system of waterways perfect for practicing of all types of water tourism. The trail (150 km) is popular among cruise ships and other water vessels.



the system of **the Great Masurian Lakes: WĘGORZEWO** - Węgorapa, the Węgorzewski Canal, Węgorapa, Lake Mamry, Lake Świącayty, Lake Kirsajty, Lake Dargin, Lake Łapab, Lake Dobskie, Lake Kisajno, (**branch:** the Piękna Góra Canal, Lake Tajty, the Niegociński Canal, the Łuczański Canal - **GIŻYCKO** - Lake Niegocin, Lake Boczne, Lake Jagodne, Lake Szymoneckie, Szymoński Canal, Lake Szymon, the Mioduński Canal, Lake Kotek, the Grunwaldzki Canal, Lake Tałtowisko, the Tałteński Canal, Lake Tałty (**branch:** Lake Ryński - RYN) - **MIKOŁAJKI** - Lake Mikołajskie (**branch:** Lake Bełdany, locks Guzianka I and II, lake Guzianka Mała, lake Guzianka Wielka, the Nidzki Canal - **RUCIANE-NIDA** - Lake Nidzkie), Lake Śniardwy, Lake Seksty, Jegliński Canal, lock Karwik, Lake Roś - **PISZ** - the Pisa River to the estuary to the Narew River - **NOWOGRÓD**

Infrastructure: The trail is difficult, but burdensome, with heavy traffic. It takes about 10 days to travel the entire route. There are many convenient camping spots on the shores.

sailing on the ŚNIARDWY LAKE

Sailing on the Śniardwy Lake is a challenge - the reservoir is vast and can be a surprise. Sailing should be done only along navigable routes: Przeczka - the Seksteńska Gate and the Spider Island - Okartowo to the entrance to Tyrkło. On the left side of the route, from buoy No. 17, there is an access to the Masurian Rescue Service point. A weather breakdown on the lake may be problematic for water sportsmen, therefore, a proper research should be done before setting sails. A weather hazard warning system operates on the Trail of the Great Masurian Lakes - when there is a risk of strong wind and storm, it is better to give up sailing and change plans. But with a continuous observation of water and sky, a sudden storm should not surprise anyone, and sailing will give a great deal of satisfaction. When storm clouds appear, it is advisable to seek shelter in a port or in a sheltered bay and the whole crew should always be in life jackets. Underwater stones, shallows with boulders and power lines should always be taken into consideration.



The Pisa River

It is a calm, lowland river, strongly meandering through the forests of the Piska Forest, among meadows and sandy plains. The waterway begins on the Roś Lake and ends in Nowogród, where the Pisa flows into the Narew. Occasionally, on the river you can meet large vessels going both ways. Along the river, the tourist infrastructure for water enthusiasts isn't extensive, but you can spend the night in some convenient places located along the upper and the lower section of the river. In the middle course of the river, the banks are swampy and wet.

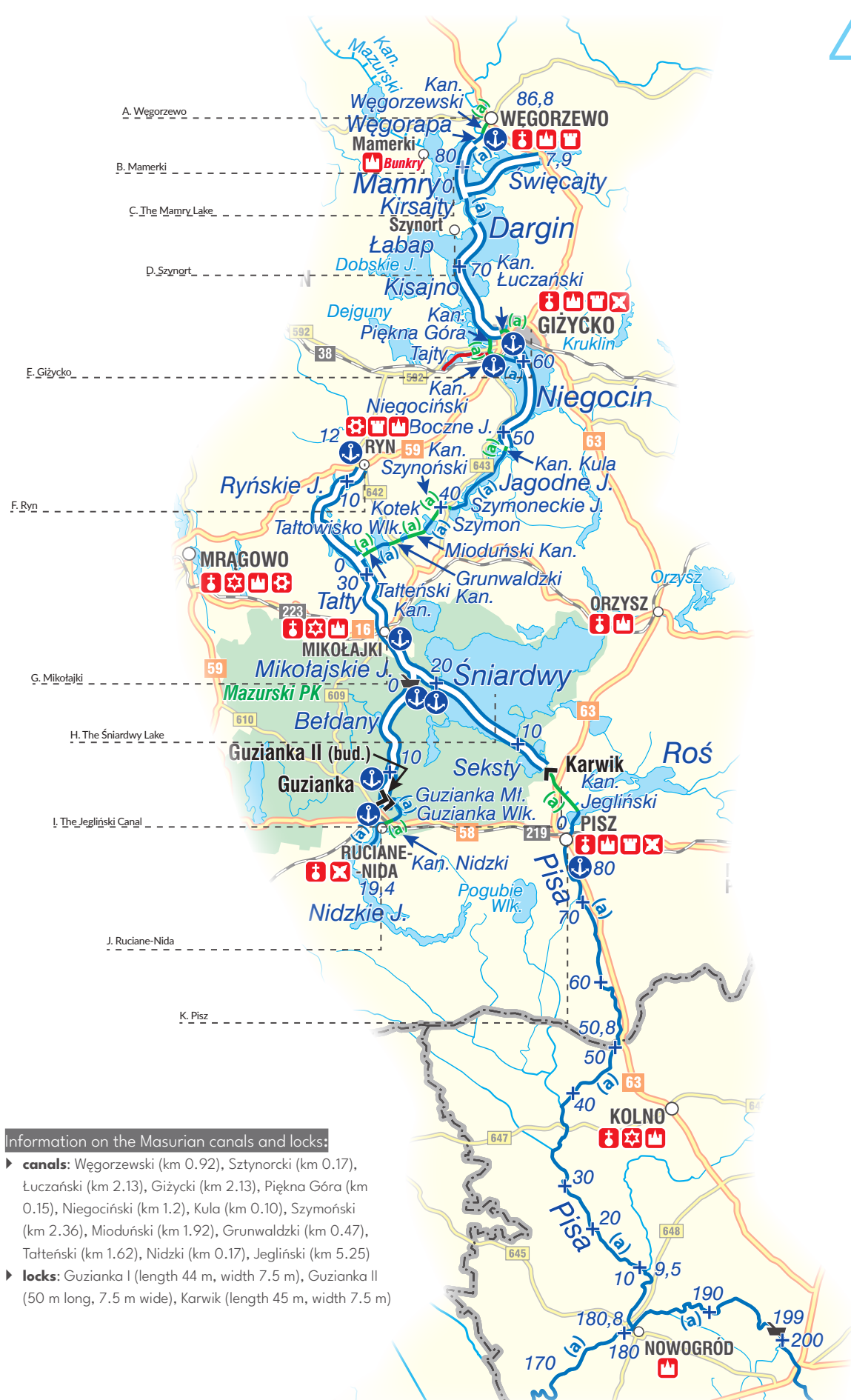
A. Węgorzewo

The teutonic castle from the fourteenth century, repeatedly changed owners until 1525, and after the secularization of the Teutonic Knights, the castle became the seat of the Dukes. In 1656 it was rebuilt after its destruction, transforming it into a baroque residence. In the 18th century there was a court and a prison, and in the 19th century a hospital for soldiers of the Napoleonic campaign. After a fire in 1835, the castle was rebuilt. In 1945 the castle's interior was burned to the ground. In the 1980s the castle, after being renovated, housed a library and municipal offices. It is currently privately owned.

Infrastructure: Węgorzewo can be entered through the Węgorapa and the Węgorzewski Canal. There is an eco-marina, a port and several other marinas, beaches and bathing areas, accommodation and catering facilities. There is a possibility to charter a water vessel and rent water equipment or go on a cruise (a loop on the Mamry Lake or a cruise to Giżycko).

Information on the Pisa river:

- ▶ **parameters:** length 80 km, average depth 2 m
- ▶ **tributaries:** right - Barłoga, Rybnica, Turośl; left - Szparka, Piszta Woda, Wincenta, Skroda
- ▶ **bridges:** Pisz - railway bridge (km 79), road bridge (km 78.7), footbridge (km 78.4), road bridge (km 78.1); Dziadowo (km 60); Jeże (km 54.3); Wincenta (km 50); Koziół (km 45.05); Ptaki (km 37.7); Cieciorzy (km 25.95); Dobry Las (km 12.4); Morgowniki (km 0.83)
- ▶ **position in the waterway system:** regional
- ▶ **importance of the waterway:** regional and tourist with different sections of navigability classes



a little bit of history of THE GREAT MASURIAN LAKES TRAIL

At the end of the 17th century, there was a project to connect the Śniardwy and the Mamry lakes in the Masurian water system. During the years 1765–1772 canals between the following lakes were dug: Mamry, Niegocin, Tałty, Beldany and Nidzkie. Grain, salt and building materials were floated along the trail (mainly wood). Small rivers connecting the Śniardwy Lake with the Roś Lake were used to make a connection with the Pisz River. In the nineteenth century, the silted canals ceased to function. In years 1845–1849 they were deepened and the Jegliński Canal, connecting Lake Śniardwy with Lake Roś and opening the trail to the Pisa River, was dug. The differences in levels were regulated by the locks from the 18th century, which were subsequently replaced by the lock in Karwik in 1849 and the locks in Guzianka in 1899. It used to be a communication route, today it is mainly a tourist attraction.



B. Mamerki

The bunkers of the German army headquarters are the best preserved fortifications from the Second World War. 250 structures were built here, including the reinforced concrete shelters. Descents to the canals and the underground tunnel connecting bunkers numberin "City of Brigid" have survived. The Germans did not manage to blow up the shelters, they were abandoned in 1945. There is also a museum which contains 30 huge bunkers with interiors and corridors, communication and command centre, exhibitions, models of Kursk and Stalingrad battles and replicas of the submarine boat and the Amber Rooms. From the observation tower (38 m) visitors can admire Lake Mamry.

C. The Mamry Lake

The second largest lake in the Land of the Great Masurian Lakes. The islands on the Mamry Lake are protected as a natural reserve.

Infrastructure: Tourists can travel by bicycle routes running around the lake. In Węgorzewo and at the Świątajty Lake visitors will find beaches and bathing areas. The main shipping route Węgorzewo-Pisz runs through the Mamry Lake. Ports and harbours are available in Węgorzewo, Trygort, Kiełtice and at the Świątajty Lake in two villages: Kal and Ogonki.

D. Sztynort

Sztynort is a sailing town where shanty concerts take place in the summer. The palace of the von Lehndorff family surrounded by a large park is definitely worth visiting. The port area is a great place for taking strolls.

Infrastructure: The marina in Sztynort is the largest port in Masuria. It houses 450 yachts and provides full scope of services, including essential



Interesting fact:

In the years 2016–2017 in Mamerki there was a search for the Amber Room dating back to the 18th century. Here the visitors may see the replica of the chamber which was supposed to be located in the Charlottenburg Palace near Berlin. In 1716, Frederick William gave it to Tsar Peter I. First, the chamber went to St. Petersburg and in 1941 it was transported to Königsberg. The chamber was lost in 1945 when the Red Army conquered the local fortress.



Did you know?

The Masurian Canal, which was supposed to connect Mamry with Pregola, has never been completed. The construction of the canal was interrupted by the First and the Second World War, it was never resumed. Perhaps the huge bunkers in Mamerki served as halls designed for the production of German U-boats that were about to set off to the sea through the lock in Leśniewo (chamber depth 21 m, width 7.5 m, length 46 m), but there was no canal for ships with a displacement of 240 tons.

repairs. There is a tenting and a camping site with complex infrastructure in the port, visitors can also rent recreational and water equipment.

E. Giżycko

A swing bridge from the 19th century on the Łuczański Canal is the only active bridge of this type in Europe. Today, the castle of the Teutonic Order from the 14th century serves as a hotel. The Boyen Fortress, built in 1844–1856, was a link in the chain of the Prussian fortifications.

Infrastructure: The pier with a promenade is one of the largest objects of this type in the Masuria region (407 m), the town includes a port and an eco-marina, and a swing bridge open to sailors or pedestrians and cars.

Swing bridge opening hours for water traffic:

IV–VI i IX–X (upon prior arrangement) from 10:35 AM – 11:05 AM, 12:05 PM – 12:55 PM, 1:35 – 2:25 PM, 4:35 – 5:55 PM;
VII–VIII from 8:05 AM – 8:25 AM, 10:35 AM – 11:05 AM, 12:05 PM – 12:55 PM, 1:35 – 2:25 PM, 4:35 PM – 5:55 PM, 6:35 PM – 6:55 PM;
XI–III closed

F. Ryn

The castle from the 14th century is the second largest Teutonic Knights castle in the country. It houses a congress and holiday resort and a hotel. Numerous events are held in the covered courtyard, the restaurant is located in the refectory. The Ołów Lake, very popular among scuba divers, can be circumvented in two ways, by taking a walk along a tourist path or by car.

Infrastructure: By the Ryn Lake there is an eco-marina.

G. Mikołajki

A town with a modern port, known as the sailing capital of Poland. Concerts and sailing events take place here. From the tower in Folwark Łuknajno guests can admire the surroundings.

Infrastructure: The sailing village with a well-equipped port, with 200 berths for yachts, with an extensive tourist infrastructure and sailing facilities, there are also restaurants on the waterfront. Cruise ships depart from the port. There are many wild and developed beaches with jetties in the area. There are also several bathing areas in Mikołajki and neighboring villages: Stare Sady, Tałty, Żelwogi, Górkło.

H. The Śniardwy Lake

Poland's largest moraine lake with islands, in many places shallow, with a bottom full of erratic boulders shallowly hidden under the water. Its low, the marshy, hard to reach shores are overgrown with rushes and calamus (area up to 200 m wide). Among the numerous bays, the southern ones are called lakes Warnołty i Seksty.



Interesting fact:

The sailing village of Mikołajki is a popular port in Masuria with an extensive tourist infrastructure and sailing facilities.



I. The Jegliński Canal

It is the longest Masurian canal on the Great Masurian Lakes Trail (5,250 m), built in 1845-1849, connecting Lake Roś with Lake Seksty. There is a lock at the Karwik weir allowing the movement of larger vessels.

Infrastructure: The lock is open daily: July – August: 8 AM – 8 PM; June: 8 AM – 7 PM; September: 8 AM – 5 PM; May and October: 8 AM – 4 PM. Locking outside of working hours is not possible.

J. Ruciane-Nida

A historic seed extraction plant built in 1890-1892 has been preserved. Along the lake shore you can reach the Museum of Konstanty Ildefons Gałczyński in Pranie, where, during the summer season, concerts, performances and shows take place.

Infrastructure: There is a marina and a sailing and recreational complex in Ruciane-Nida. Two Guzianki locks are open daily: July - August: 8 AM – 9 PM; June: 8 AM – 8 PM; May and September: 8 AM – 7 PM; October: 8 AM – 4 PM. Locking out of office hours is not possible

K. Pisz

The Regional Museum of the Pisz Region is located in the town hall. Kamienna Baba - a pagan idol is one of the most interesting pieces. This is the place from where the “Around the Śniardwy Lake” cycling route starts.

Infrastructure: Cruise ships dock in the local port and depart on cruises to the ports and marinas in Węgorzewo, Giżycko, Mikołajki and Ruciane-Nida.

Nearby attractions:

- **Mrągowo** is a town with interesting stone sculptures placed in the downtown. Numerous festivals, including the most famous Picnic Country, are held in the local amphitheatre. The town also includes the Military Equipment Museum, the place called Mrongoville offers entertainment in the Wild West style. There is a city beach, an eco-marina and a wakepark available at the Czos Lake. From the observation tower visitors can admire the surroundings.
- **The “Lake of the Seven Islands”** nature reserve is unique in the European scale. It includes the Oświn Lake and peat bogs, reed beds, swamps, forests and meadows. This is a nesting site of rare species of wetland birds and a place of rest for migrating birds. Otters, mud crayfish and emyds also live here. A herd of Polish ponies living free in the wild grazes in the local meadows.
- **The “Łuknajno Lake” Nature Reserve** is a shallow, overgrown lake connected with the Śniardwy Lake by a canal. Its boggy bottom is covered with Charales. The shores are flat and surrounded by rushes. There are peatlands all around the area. One of the largest mute swan colonies in Europe lives here.
- **The Wolf’s Lair was in Gierłoż** in the years 1941-1944 it was the headquarters of Adolf Hitler, on which an unsuccessful attempt was carried out on July 20, 1944. The facility was blown up by Germans in 1945.



Interesting fact:

The Masuria region is commonly called the Land of a Thousand Lakes. However, the lakes in the area were carefully counted and it turned out that there are almost three times as much, about 2600.



Giżycko

► Office of Inland Navigation in Bydgoszcz - Regional Office in Giżycko, ul. Łuczańska 5

► The Masurian Volunteer Ambulance Rescue Service, ul. Nadbrzeżna 15

Orzysz

► The Masurian Rescue Service, Okartowo

► Podwodnik Rescue School of Water and Defense Sports, Strzelniki 17

THE WATERWAY OF THE WARTA AND NOTEĆ RIVERS

47

The Great Loop of Wielkopolska: the **Warta River** from the Ślesięński Canal to the estuary to the Odra, the **Ślesięński Canal** including the lakes and the **Gopło Lake**, the **Noteć River** from the Gopło Lake to the connection with the **Górnonotecki Canal** (including the canal and the lakes) and from the connection with the Bydgoszcz Canal to the estuary to the Warta River, the **Bydgoszcz Canal** and the Brda River (from the connection with the Bydgoszcz Canal) to the estuary to the Vistula River

The WARTA River

It is the right tributary of the Odra River and the third longest river in the country (808.2 km), with springs in the Kraków–Częstochowa Upland, in Zawiercie. It is a regulated river with sections flowing freely. Leaving the upland areas behind, the Warta River goes north, turns in Koło to the west and along the Warciańsko-Odrzańska ice-marginal valley, the river enters Konin. From the town of Śrem, it creates the Poznań Warta Gorge and flows through Poznań. In the vicinity of Obornik the river flows into the South Pomeranian Lake District and in the Toruń – Eberswaldzka ice-marginal valley, the Warta changes its direction to the west. In the town of Santok, the river unites with its biggest tributary, the Noteć River. Having passed Gorzów Wielkopolski, the river flows through the Warta Mouth National Park and in Kostrzyn nad Odrą flows into the Odra River.



The NOTEĆ River

It is the largest tributary of the Warta (391 km). The Upper Noteć (204 km) flows out of the Kujawskie Lakeland, flows west, and then to the north. It flows through the Gopło Lake and ends in the Nakło Lake. It flows through the little Pałuckie lakes and the Toruń – Eberswaldzka ice-marginal valley, where it flows among the vast meadows and swamps. In the Nakło Lake, it joins the Bydgoszcz Canal and until its estuary, the river constitutes an element of the Vistula-Odra waterway. The river is regulated from Nakło to Krzyż. It flows a little bit slower to Gwda, further the current accelerates. It is navigable throughout the entire length.



The BYDGOSZCZ CANAL

This waterway connects the Vistula and Odra rivers through the Brda, Noteć and Warta rivers. It is the oldest active inland water canal in the country, built in 1773–1774. It is a unique in the European scale example of technical thought from the 18th century and the technical development from the nineteenth to the early twentieth century. The canal was led through a valley of about 2 km wide, surrounded by the steep edges of the Krajeński Lake District and the terrace of the Toruńska Basin, with 25–40-m-high slopes cut by ravines and valleys. The canal starts in Bydgoszcz and ends in Nakło nad Notecią. It is a part of the Vistula – Odra water way, and the valley through which the river flows, is a fragment of an ecological corridor connecting the Vistula valley with the Odra valley.



waterway between the Warta River and the Bydgoszcz Canal (km 164.53 km): KONIN - the Ślesięński Canal (km 0–32: locks in Morzysław and Pątnów, lakes: Pątnowskie, Wąsoskie, Mikorzyńskie, Ślesięńskie and Czarne, locks in Gawrony and Koszewo, the Gopło Lake), the **Upper Noteć** (km 59.5–121.6: locks in Pakość and Łabiszyn), the Górnonotecki Canal (km 121.6–146.6: locks in Antoniewo, Frydrychowo, Dębinek (southern and northern), Łochowo, Lisi Ogon), the Bydgoszcz Canal (km 20.97–38.9: locks in Osowa Góra, Józefinki and Nakło Wschodnie) - **NAKŁO NAD NOTECią** (connection with the Wisła route - the Bydgoszcz Canal, km 20.97–0: locks in Osowa Góra and Prądy, the Old Bydgoszcz Canal, locks in Osowa Góra, Prądy, Czyżkówko and Okole - **BYDGOSZCZ** - Brda - locks in Czersko Opolskie and Bydgoszcz - **Wisła**)

A. Konin (see page 52)

B. the Gopło Lake and the Gopło Landscape Park (km 32–59,5)

The Noteć River flows through the gutter glacial lake of the Gniezno Lakeland, where Kruszwica lies. Shores of the lake are flat and marshy, surrounded by a wide belt of rushes, reeds and wet meadows, there are many bays and peninsulas here and islands. The neighbourhood is dominated by fields and meadows. Forests are rare, in the north there are fragments of riparian forests, and in the south, where the terrain is more diversified, forests are covered with dunes. The local waters are home to the European catfish - the largest freshwater fish in Europe - and there are many species of wetland birds. The lake and surrounding areas include the Gopło Landscape Park with a nature reserve. The name of the lake comes from the Slavic Goplans tribe and the legend of King Popiel and Goplana. In the area associated with the beginnings of the Polish state, relics and monuments from the times of the Goplans tribe and Romanesque period have survived until the present day. The seat of the Gopło Landscape Park in Kruszwica houses a natural and historical exhibition "At the sources of Polishness".



Did you know?

The section of the Great Loop of Wielkopolska from Konin to Kruszwica is called the Water Gate of Wielkopolska.

Infrastructure: There are rafting trips organized on the lake and the Ślesięński Canal. There are natural, historical and ecological paths along the lake.

Information on the Brda River:

- ▶ **to the estuary of the Vistula River:** length 14.4 km
- ▶ **locks:** Czersko Polskie (km 1.43), Bydgoszcz (km 12.44)
- ▶ **bridges:** Bydgoszcz - 1.4 km; Portowy 3.1 km; Coal Trunk-Line km 4.3; Żegluga Bydgoskiej km 5.4; Kazimierza Wielkiego 7.9 km; Pomeranian 9.3 km; footbridge 10 km; Uniwersytecki 10.6 km; Bernardyński km 11.3; Kaminskiego km 11.7; footbridge 11.9 km; Focha km 12.3; Solidarności km 12.2; footbridge 12.4 km; Jagiełły km 12.6; Królowej Jadwigi km 12.8; Dworcowy km 13.5
- ▶ **ports, harbours, quays:** Bydgoszcz

km 16; footbridge km 18.3; dual carriageway 19.9 km; km 20.8; km 20.9; km 22.9; Ślesin (km 31.5); Nakło nad Notecią (km 37.2),

Information on the Ślesięński Canal:

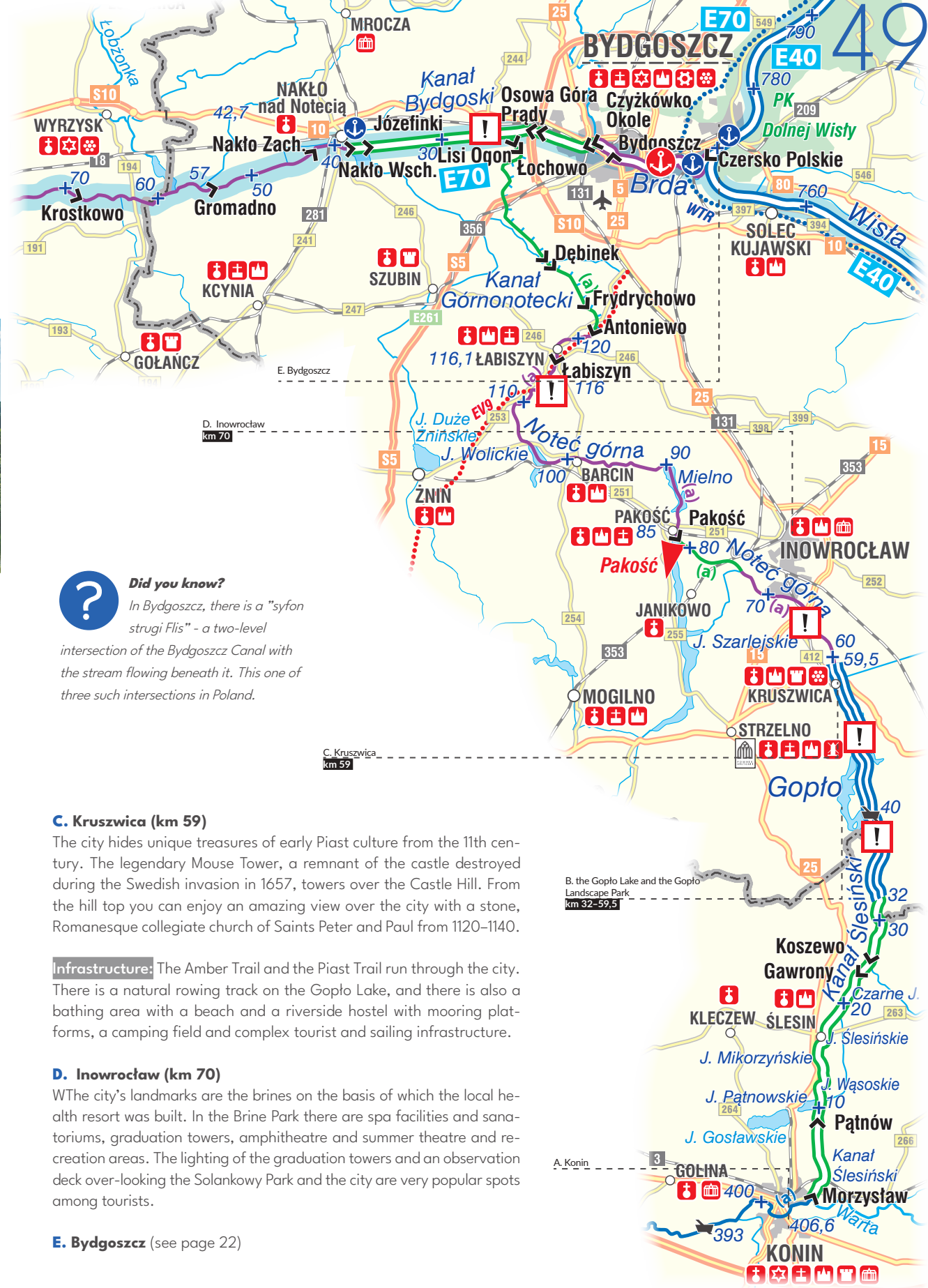
- ▶ **parameters:** length 32 km
- ▶ **locks:** Morzysław (km 0.43), Pątnów (km 7.95), Gawrony (km 24.24), Koszewo (km 25.85)
- ▶ **bridges:** km 1; km 2.3; Rudzice (km 3.6), Anielew (km 5.6), Pątnów (km 8.4), Łężyń (km 11), Ślesin (km 17.1), Żółwiniec (km 22.7), Koszewo (km 26.2), Przewóz (km 31.6)
- ▶ **ports, harbours, quays:** Ślesin, Wąsosz, Gosławice, Mikoszyń

Information on the Bydgoszcz Canal:

- ▶ **parameters:** length 24.1 km, minimum depth 1.6 m, minimum width 28 m, difference between the levels 22.5 m
- ▶ **ports, harbours, quays:** Bydgoszcz, Łącko
- ▶ **locks:** Bydgoszcz (about km 14.8), Czyżkówko km 15.97), Prądy km 20), Osowa Góra km 20.97), Nakło nad Notecią (Józefinki, km 37.2; Nakło Wschód (km 38.9)
- ▶ **bridges:** Bydgoszcz - 14.6 km; footbridge 14.8 km; Grunwaldzki km 15; km 15.1; km 15.7; km 15.75; footbridge

Information on the Gopło Lake:

- ▶ **parameters:** length 27.5 km (km 32–59.5), surface 2,121–2,154 ha, maximum depth 16.6 m
- ▶ **bridges:** Kruszwica (km 57.2)
- ▶ **ferry:** Złotowo – Ostrówek
- ▶ **ports, harbours, quays:** Kruszwica, Mielnica Duży



The Noteć trail (187,2 km):

NAKŁO NAD NOTECIĄ (km 38,9 - Nakło East lock), the Lower Noteć - locks (Nakło West lock, Gromadno, Korostkowo, Nowe, Walkowice, Romanowo, Lipica, Pianówka, Mikołajewo, Rosko, Wrzeszczyna, Wieleń, Drawski Młyn, Krzyż), estuary to the Warta River (km 226,1) – **SANTOK**

A. Czarnków (km 131)

The town has an old and Gothic urban layout with a church from the 16th century.

Infrastructure: The marina located in the former port of Czarnków is the one of the most modern facilities of this type in the whole Great Loop area. There is a campsite and a tourist and sailing infrastructure, there is a possibility to rent water equipment.

B. Wieleń (km 160)

It is an old stronghold on the Noteć River which was granted a town charter in 1348. The Noteć River flows along the town square. It is worth visiting the Church of St. Michael the Archangel from the 17th century and the Baroque Sapieha Palace from the 18th century. The cultural centre has its seat in the Bismarck tower - the building of the shooting range of the of the Brotherhood of the Rooster from 1850.

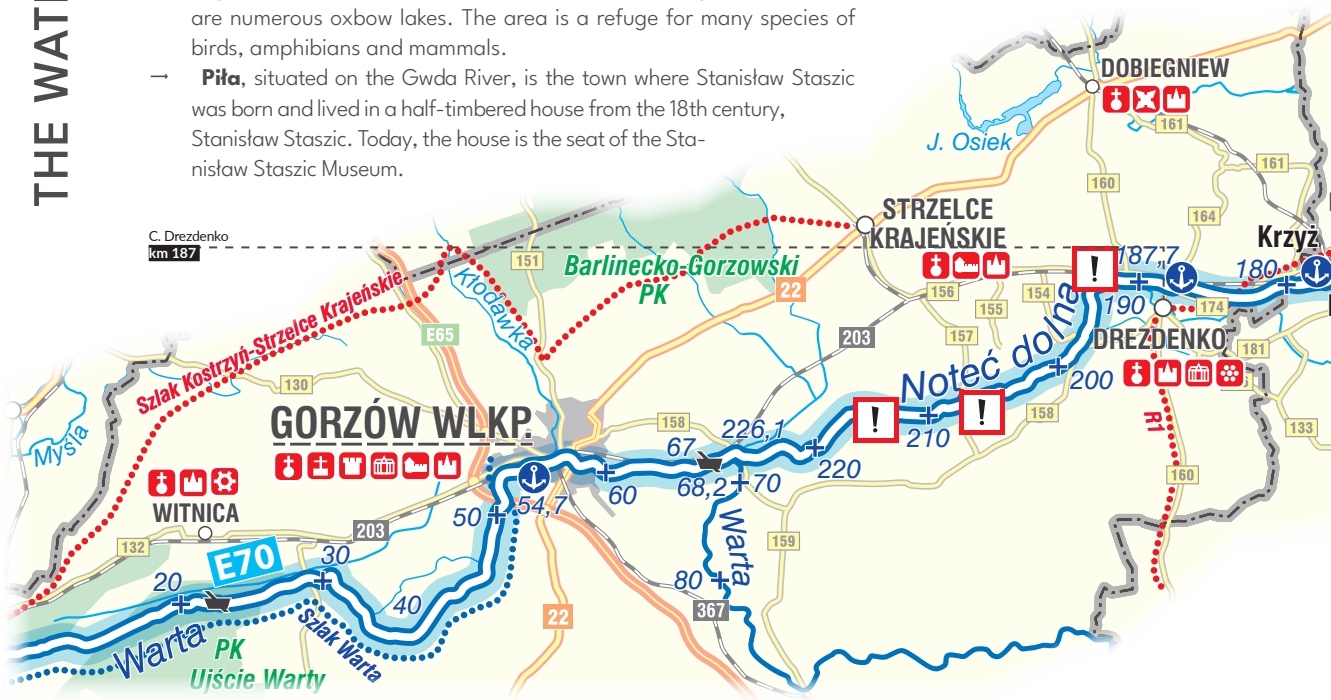
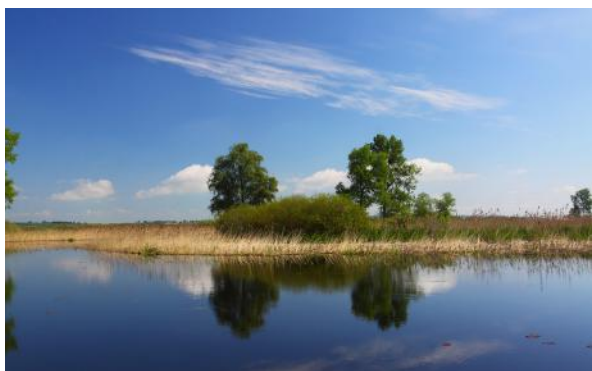
C. Drezdenko (km 187)

The half-timbered granary from 1640, which houses the Museum of the Drawa and Notecka Primeval Forests, is worthy of comment. It is one of the oldest preserved buildings in the town.

Infrastructure: There is a large harbour basin in the town.

Nearby attractions:

- **"Natura 2000 areas:** "The Valley of the Middle Noteć River and Bydgoszcz Canal", "The Valley of the Noteć River" The Valley of the Lower Noteć", "Nadnoteckie Łęgi" and "The Noteć Forest". These areas include the ice-marginal valley of variable width with an abundance of vegetation. The area is crossed by canals and drainage ditches, there are numerous oxbow lakes. The area is a refuge for many species of birds, amphibians and mammals.
- **Piła,** situated on the Gwda River, is the town where Stanisław Staszic was born and lived in a half-timbered house from the 18th century, Stanisław Staszic. Today, the house is the seat of the Stanisław Staszic Museum.



Information on the Noteć River:

- ▶ **parameters:** the Upper Noteć (km 59.5–121.6) length 62.1 km; the Lower Noteć canalised (km 38.9–176.2) length 137.3 km; the Lower Noteć, non-canalised (km 176.2–226.1) length 49.9 km
- ▶ **tributaries:** right - Łobżonka, Gwda, Drawa; left - Mała Noteć, Gąsawka, Kcynka, Gulczanka **ports, harbors, quays:** **the Lower Noteć** - Nakło nad Notecią, Ujście, Czarnków, Wrzeszczyna, Drawsko, Krzyż, Drezdenko, Łącko, Łabiszyn, Bydgoszcz, Barcin; **the Upper Noteć** - Kostrzyn nad Odrą, Gorzów, Trzebiszewo, Międzychód
- ▶ **ferries:** Ciszkowo (km 140), Walkowice (km 119.6)
- ▶ **locks:** **the Upper Noteć** - Pakość (km 80.94), Łabiszyn (km 116.08); **the Lower Noteć** - Nakło West (km 42.7), Gromadno (km 53.4), Korostkowo (km 68.2), Nowe (km 11.86), Walkowice (km 117.73), Romanowo (km 122.6), Lipica (km 128.33), Pianówka (km 136.24), Mikołajewo (km 143.14), Rosko (km 148.84), Wrzeszczyna (km 155.53), Wieleń (km 161.5), Drawski Młyn (km 170.97), Krzyż (km 176.2)
- ▶ **bridges:** **the Lower Noteć** - Nakło nad Notecią (km 39.9; 40.9), Samostrzel (km 53.4), Osiek (km 62.1), Białosiłwa (km 76), Milicz (km 94.8), Dziembowo (km 97.6), Ujście (km 105.8; 106.6), Czarnków (km 132), Wieleń (km 162.2), Drawski Młyn (km 170.4), Drawsko (km 174.5), Stare Bielice (km 182.6),

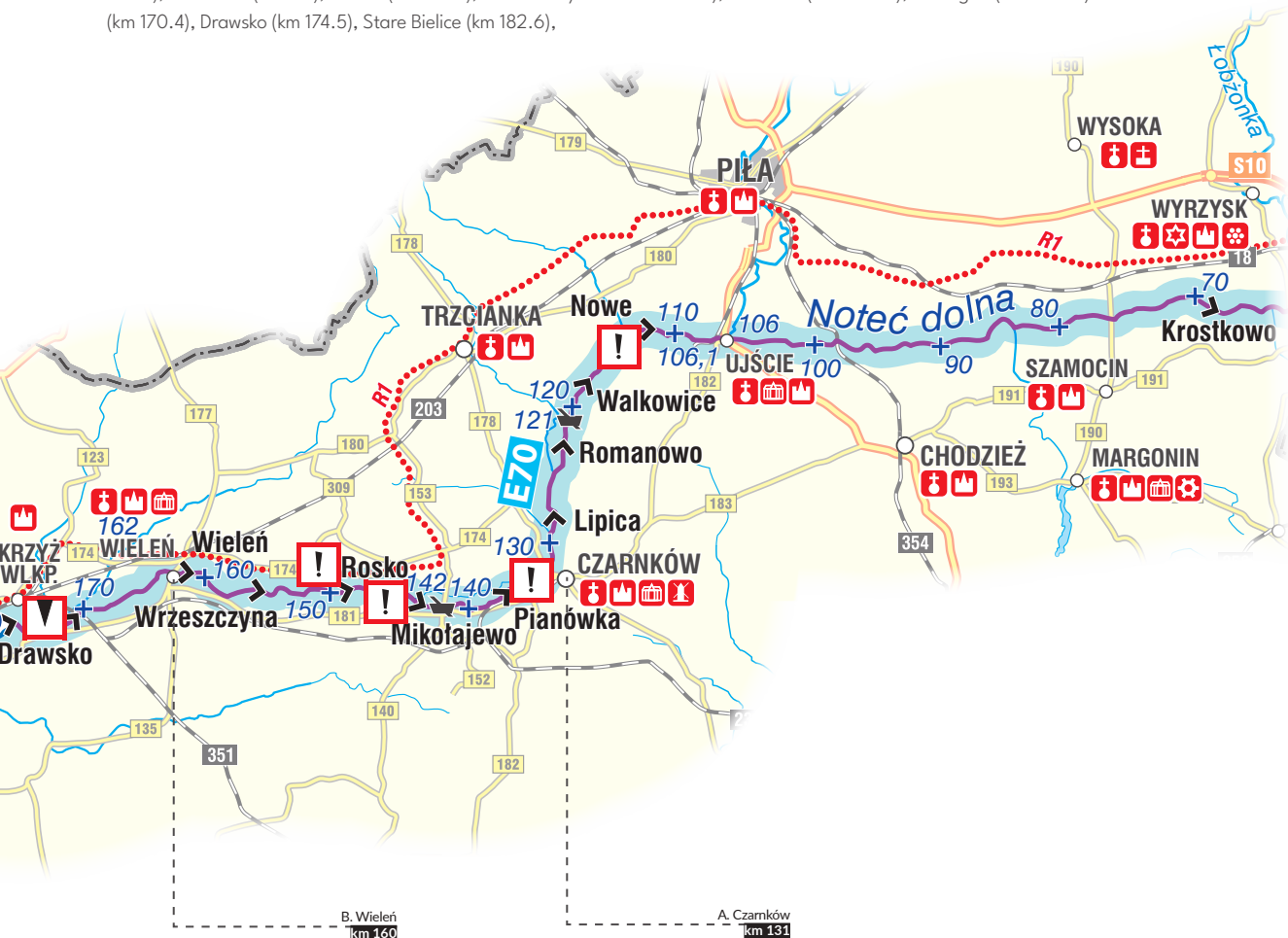
Kosin (km 184), Drezdenko (km 188.1), Trzebicze (km 197.6), Gościmiec (km 207.2), Santok (km 225.6); **the Upper Noteć** - Kobylniki (km 59.6; 64.6), Mątwy (km 67.4; 67.5); Lesczyny (km 74.1), Kościelec (km 74.8; 75.5), Gorzany (km 77.2), Lechowo (km 78.9), Pakość (km 80.9; 91.1; 91.9), Wojdał (km 90.2), Barcin (km 98.8; 99.4; 104.5), Lubostroń (km 109.8; 116; 116.7; 117), Pakość (km 118.8)

- ▶ **position in the waterway system:** part of the Noteć River belongs to the international waterway E70 (connecting the North Sea with the Baltic Sea - section from the connection with the Bydgoszcz Canal to the estuary to the Warta, including the Bydgoszcz Canal and a fragment of the Brda River from the canal to the estuary to the Vistula River)

- ▶ **importance of the waterway:** international and regional with sections of different navigability classes and a port in Bydgoszcz of international importance

Information on the Górnonotecki Canal:

- ▶ **parameters:** length 25 km
- ▶ **bridges:** km 122.7; km 130.8; Kruszyn (km 136.3; 137.5), Łochów (km 142.3; m 144.4; 145)
- ▶ **locks:** Antoniewo (km 121.78), Frydrychowo (km 125.09), Dębinek Północny (km 130.18), Dębinek Południowy (km 130.79), Łochowo (km 144.98), Lisi Ogon (km 145.35)



The Upper Warta Trail (154.6 km):**KONIN** (km 406,6) – the Warta River – **POZNAŃ** (km 252)**A. Konin (km 406,6)**

The city was founded around the castle from the 12th century. On the market square, there is a classicist town hall from the turn of the 18th and 19th centuries. The Gothic church of Saint Bartholomew comes from the 14th century, and the monastery complex with a baroque church - both from the 18th century. Koniński Słup, founded in 1151, one of the oldest road signs in Europe, originally indicated half roads from Kalisz to Kruszwica.

Infrastructure: There are several marinas in the area.

B. Łąd (km 370)

The Cistercians were brought to Łąd after 1193 by the Prince Mieszko III the Old. The Baroque monastery complex was built at the turn of the 17th and 18th centuries. The monastery includes the Gothic cloisters and the oratory from 1370 with a Gothic polychrome and a chapter house supported by a central pillar.

Infrastructure: A marina with a harbour basin and a quay offers berths for mooring at the piers in the V-IX season.

C. Ciążeń (km 367)

There is a Rococo palace from the 18th century on the Warta River with a branch of the Poznański University Library. The books include the largest collection of Masonic prints in Poland. The palace is surrounded by a landscape park with a nice panorama over the Warta valley.

D. Rogalin (km 270)

Around the courtyard of the 18th-century Baroque palace of the Raczyński family there are: stables, a riding school, a coach house and servants' quarters, and a neoclassical chapel with the Raczyński family mausoleum. There is a gallery of the Polish and European Painting. The palace is surrounded by a Baroque garden passing into a landscape park. In the meadows of the Warta River, there is a unique, largest concentration of over 960 pedunculate oaks in Poland.

Infrastructure: In Rogalinek, there is a marina with a pier.

**Did you know?**

In Poznań, near the Old Town and the Warta River, there is the Malta Lake, over which the knights of the Order of Hospitallers (Order Maltese) had a church and a hospice, hence the name. On the Lake, there is a regatta course and along the shore there is a narrow gauge railway route leading to the zoo.

E. Poznań
km 240–250 km

D. Rogalin
km 270



E. Poznań (km 240–250)

The Poznań Town Hall from the turn of the 13th and 14th centuries is a pearl of the Renaissance era and one of the most beautiful buildings in Poland. There is a clock on its turret, over which two tin billy goats appear every day at noon. The merchants' houses (domki budnicze), adjacent to the town hall, are relics of old buildings commercial. The basilica from the 10th century is one of the oldest Polish churches, the burial place of the first Polish rulers. The Gothic cathedral was erected in the fourteenth and fifteenth centuries. The local Palm House is one of the largest in Europe.

Infrastructure: In the Old Port, in the centre of Poznań, there is a marina with piers and infrastructure. There is also a water tram cruising on the Warta River during the V–VIII season which departs from the city harbour. There are also beaches, open-air cinema screenings and concerts, you can rent floating equipment, catering outlets and camping zones available by the river.

Nearby attractions:

- **Puszczykowo** is the town of Arkady Fiedler. Currently, the writer's villa with a literary studio houses a museum with an exhibition of books and souvenirs related to Arkady Fiedler and his expeditions to different parts of the world. There is also a replica of the Christopher Columbus Santa Maria ship and a British fighter plane from the Second World War, as well as many other attractions.
- **Kórnik** is famous for its medieval castle, extended in the sixteenth century and transformed into a baroque palace in the eighteenth century. Today, the castle has a neo-Gothic shape and corresponds to defensive structures. It houses a museum.
- **Wielkopolska National Park** includes various forms of postglacial landscape and natural plant and animal communities. Several hiking, cycling and horse riding trails run through the park. There are numerous monuments located in the surroundings.
- **Nadwarciański Landscape Park** is a valley of the central Warta, a mosaic of water and meadow habitats, a local haven for water birds and traces of settlement on dune clumps and edges of ice-marginal valleys. The nature of this wetland area can be experienced by following a walking trail or educational paths. From the edge of the ice-marginal valley visitors can admire some beautiful views.



Did you know?

Spring backwaters and meadows and riparian forests seen from the water perspective and viewpoints in Świątniki, Trzykolne Młyny and the bridge in Rogalinek provide a breathtaking experience. It is also worth taking a walk between majestic oaks and oxbow lakes.



The Lower Warta Trail (183,8 km):

POZAŃ (km 252) – GORZÓW WIELKOPOLSKI – estuary to the Odra River – KOSTRZYŃ NAD ODRA (km 0)

A. Oborniki (km 205)

Next to the market square, there is the Gothic Church of St. Mary Virgin of the Assumption from the turn of the 15th and 16th centuries, currently in the form from 1814. The half-timbered church from 1766 is also a valuable monument. The tower of a neo-Gothic church from 1900 towers over the town.

Infrastructure: There is a camping site in the small marina, organized there are also rafting.

B. Międzychód (km 130)

In this town the visitors can experience the charm of picturesque narrow streets with houses, creating a delightful space. In the oldest part of the town includes the classicist church of the Holy John the Baptist, originally in the Gothic style, from 1591.

Infrastructure: In the revitalized old port there is a riverside hostel. The harbour basin is adapted to handle large yachts and houseboats. The tourist and sailing infrastructure is extensive, there is a possibility to rent water equipment.

**Interesting fact:**

Along the entire length of the boulevard in Gorzów Wielkopolski goes the longest railway flyover in Poland (2.2 km) - over a century-old, beautifully situated, technical monument. During the summer season numerous restaurants and cafes with outdoor seating attract many holiday-makers underneath the flyover.



Information on the Warta River:

- ▶ **length:** 406.6 km waterway
- ▶ **tributaries:** right - Moskawa, Kopel, Cybina, Główna, Trojanka, Welna, Noteć, Kłodawka, Witna; left - Proсна, Lutynia, Samica Stęszewska, Wirynka, Strumień Junikowski, Bogdanka, Samica Obornicka, Sama, Oszczynica, Obra, Postomia
- ▶ **ports, harbours, quays:** Czerwonak, Łąd, Obrzycko, Sieraków, Luboń, Niewka, Śrem, Goglewo, Nowe Miasto nad Wartą, Poznań, Pyzdry, Santok Międzychód, Chorzępowo, Kowale, Rogalinek, Jaszkowo, Gorzów Wielkopolski, Kostrzyn nad Odrą
- ▶ **ferries:** Kłopotowo (km 22.3), Santok (km 67.7), Zatom Nowy (km 135.4), Chojno (km 157.5), Wartosław (km 163.2), Dębno (km 330.6), Czeszewo (km 336.3), Nowa Wieś Podgórna (km 342.5), Ciężka (km 365.4), Sługocin (km 382), Sławsk (km 392.2), Rumin (km 396.3), Chorzew (Konin district, km 399.5)
- ▶ **bridges:** Kostrzyn nad Odrą (km 1.8; 2.2; 2.4), Świerkocin (km 28.5), Gorzów Wielkopolski (km 50.2; 55.7; Staromiejski km 56.3; Lubuski km 57.3), Trzebiszewo (km 90.8; 92.2), Międzychód (km 127.2), Sieraków (km 145), Wronki (km 170.2; 171.4), Obrzycko (km 182.2), Oborniki (km 206.6; 206.3), Promnice (km 224.9); Poznań (km 237.4; Lecha km 239.6; km 241.8; Chrobry km 242.6; Rocha km 243.6; Królowej Jadwigi km 244.2; Przemysła I km 246; km 247.6; km 249.5); Rogalinek (km 264.9), Śrem (km 292; 294.3) (km 318), Nowe Miasto (324; 331.4), Pyzdry (352.3), Łąd (km 370.5; 385.2), Konin (km 401; 403.4; 403.3)
- ▶ **position in the waterway system:** part of the Warta River belongs to the international E70 waterway (connecting the North Sea with the Baltic Sea - a section of the river from the Noteć estuary to the Warta estuary to the Odra)
- ▶ **importance of the waterway:** international and regional with sections of different navigability classes and the port in Kostrzyn nad Odrą of international importance.



C. Skwierzyna (km 90)

In Skwierzyna, the Obra River, which is popular among water sports enthusiasts, flows into the Warta River. The Gothic church of St. Nicholas was built in the fifteenth century, and subsequently rebuilt in the nineteenth century. The Road Remembrance Chamber is an interesting museum.

Infrastructure: There is a marina with a hotel.

D. Gorzów Wielkopolski (km 54)

One of the oldest monuments in the city is the cathedral from the 13th century, currently, the church of the Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary. The second oldest monument are the defensive walls dating back to the 15th century. On the bank of the Warta River there is a half-timbered grain warehouse from the 18th century, today's seat of the Lubuskie Museum. On the edge of the Warta boulevard, tourists can spot Paweł Zacharek, the legendary boatman, sitting in the boat carrying people to the other side of the river.

Infrastructure: There is a small river port.

E. Kostrzyn nad Odrą (km 1)

The Kostrzyn fortress was built in the years 1537–1568, and rebuilt in the 19th century. There is a museum hall in the Berlin Gate. You can cross the bridge over the moat and go down to the casemates of the museum through the Chyżańska Gate. The strong-hold offers a picturesque view over the Odra River. It is worth taking a walk along the promenade, along the Brandenburg bastion, to see the ruins of a castle from the 16th century and the church from the 14th century. The surrounding forests, the Odra and Warta rivers and their backwaters are considered to be the green lungs of the area and a paradise for tourists.

Infrastructure: Passenger ships depart from the local marina, there is also a large river port.

Nearby attractions:

- **"Warta estuary"** these are four different forms of nature protection with partially overlapping areas: national park, landscape park, habitat and bird areas of the Natura 2000 network. There are unique wetlands, vast meadows and pastures, riparian forests, valuable communities of plant from river valleys and also a refuge for many species of water birds. This is the place of rest for migrating flocks of geese composed of thousands of birds. There is also the largest wintering area in the country for whooper swans and white-tailed eagles. In the vicinity of Kostrzyn there is a couple of viewpoints.
- **The Noteć Forest** is an area with huge dune embankments forming a labyrinth of valleys and hills. The average height of the dunes is 20 m, and the largest - Wielka Sowa - reaches 42 m. There are many gutter lakes in the vicinity of the Warta and Noteć Rivers. The area is dominated by almost 70-year-old pine forests.

**Did you know?**

A "mountain river" called *Welna* joins the Warta River in Oborniki. The "Ślony" nature reserve, protecting the spawning grounds of salmon and sea trout fish, was created on the *Welna* River. This is one of the two ichthyological reserves in Poland. The river is a popular and demanding water trails.

**Poznań**

- Volunteer Water Rescue Service of the Wielkopolskie Voivodeship, ul. Słowiańska 78
- Water Rescue, ul. Wierzbicę 49/8a
- Water Rescue, ul. Dolina 5b/19
- Water Police Station, ul. Wioślarskiej 70, phone: 997, 112

Mogilno

- Emergency Service, ul. Rynek 7/2

Kruszwica

- Gopło Volunteer Water Rescue Service, ul. Popieła 2

Żnin

- Pałuck Volunteer Water Rescue Service, ul. Szkolna 12

THE WATERWAY OF THE ODRA RIVER

57

The Gliwice Canal with the Kędzierzyński Canal, **the Odra River** from Racibórz (with Krapkowice and Oława locks and Wrocław water system - the Old Odra, Municipal and Shipping and Navigation Canals; tributary of the **Nysa Łużycka River** from Gubin to the estuary to the Odra River) to the connection with the Eastern Odra (with the river and branches), Regalica from the Klucz-Ustowo Przekop (with a river and side branches - Odyńca and Cegielińska Canals, Dąbska Struga, Dąbski Nurt, the Święta River, Czapina) to the estuary to the Dąbie Lake; **Western Odra** from the weir in Widuchowa to the inland maritime waters (with branches - Marwice-Gartz, Kurowski and Zielony Canals) and the Klucz-Ustowo Ditch connecting the **Eastern Odra** with the Western Odra, **the Parnica River** and **the Parnicki Ditch** from **the Western Odra** to inland maritime waters, the Dąbie Lake to the inland maritime waters

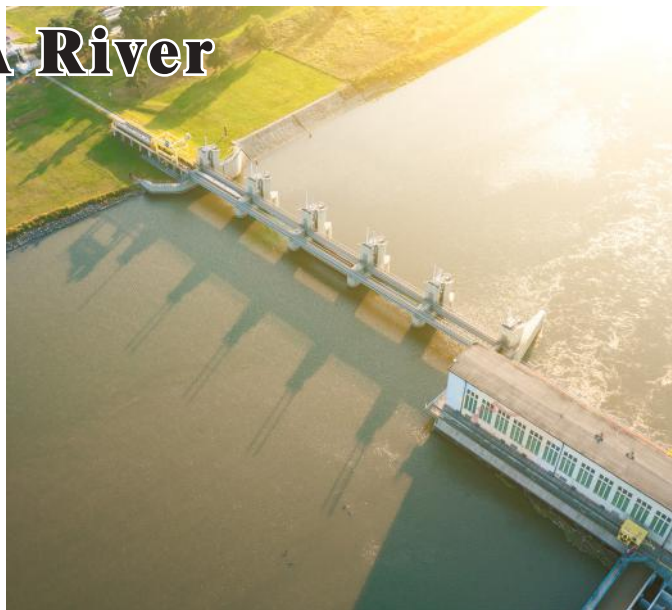
the Odra River

The river has the best signage and regulation system in Poland, it is called the "princess of the Polish rivers". In terms of length it is the second longest river in the country after the Vistula River. Between Bogumin and the estuary of the Olza River, is a Polish-Czech border river. From the estuary of the Nysa Łużycka River, it runs along the Polish-German border. Through the Warta, Noteć, Bydgoszcz Canal and Brda, the Odra connects with the Vistula. The Odra River, from the earliest times, was the main communication route for the people living on its shores. Unregulated, flowing among vast wetlands and impassable forests, it was easy to travel only in a few places where strongholds were built, such as Opole, Brzeg, Wrocław or Głogów, with monuments originating from the times of the Piast dynasty and other medieval buildings.

The Odra Waterway is 886 km long, with the navigability parameters exceeding Class III only along a section of approx. 96 km between Szczecin – Berlin (class Vb). Class III parameters are preserved on the section between the Warta estuary and the village Ognica (connection to the Schwedt canal) and between the Malczyce lock and the lock in Kędzierzyn-Koźle together with the Gliwice Canal. In turn, on the section between the Malczyce lock and the estuary of the Warta River, the waterway parameters are even lower - they correspond to class II navigability. Sailing southwards - upstream (between the lock in Koźle and the Polish-Czech border) - due to the applicable navigable parameters, i.e. class IA, is currently not possible. The Odra Waterway through German canals, Odra-Hawela and Odra-Sprea, offers a navigable connection with the Western European network of waterways.

Information on the Odra River:

- ▶ **length:** total 854.3 km, 742 km within Poland, Polish-German border section 161.7 km
- ▶ **river source:** the slope of the Fidlów mound in the Oder Mountains (Sudetes, Czech Republic, 634 m above sea level)
- ▶ **estuary:** Róztoka Odrzańska (bay of the Szczecin Lagoon)
- ▶ **tributaries to the river branch on the Eastern and Western Odra in Widuchowa:** right - Rurzyca, Ślubia,



Myśla, Warta, Ilanka, Pliszka, Barycz, Widawa, Stobrawa, Mała Panew; left - Nysa Łużycka, Bóbr, Kaczawa, Cicha Woda, Bystrzyca, Ślęza, Oława, Nysa Kłodzka, Osobłoga

- ▶ **sections:** upper section - from the river source to Kędzierzyn-Koźle (before the estuary of the Gliwice Canal); channeled section - from Kędzierzyn-Koźle to Malczyce; middle section - from Malczyce to Kostrzyn (the estuary of the Warta River); lower section - from the estuary of the Warta River to the estuary to the Szczecin Lagoon
- ▶ **canals connected with the Odra river:** Gliwice (Kędzierzyn-Koźle), Odra-Sprewa (Eisenhüttenstadt), Finow (Hohensaaten), Odra- Havel (Hohensaaten), Hohensaaten-Friedrichsthal (Western Odra, Hohensaaten)
- ▶ **position in the waterway system:** the river forms a part of two international waterways - E30 (connecting the Baltic Sea with the Black Sea - along its entire length from the border with the Czech Republic, along the Gliwice Canal, to Szczecin and further to the Baltic Sea) and E70 (connecting the North Sea with the Baltic Sea - a short section from the Warta estuary in Kostrzyn nad Odrą to the Oder-Havel Canal in Germany)
- ▶ **importance of the waterway:** international and regional importance with sections of different navigability classes and ports of international importance (Kędzierzyn-Koźle, Gliwice, Wrocław, Kostrzyn nad Odrą, Szczecin, Świnoujście)

Waterway of the Odra river:

from the Gliwice Canal (km 39.3-0) to Wrocław (km 245)

The GLIWICE Canal

It is a waterway in the Upper Silesian Industrial District connecting the Odra River with Gliwice, built between 1935 and 1939 in place of the old Kłodnica Canal, partially in a trench, partially on an embankment. The canal was launched in 1941. The differences in the water level is managed by 6 locks. The canal starts in Kędzierzyn-Koźle, at km 98 of the Odra River and ends in the port basin of the Gliwice Port. It is mainly supplied by the Kłodnica River and the Dzierżno Duże and Dzierżno Małe lakes. The canal is used for transporting coal barges for the Wrocław Heat and Power Plant. The sailing season lasts for about 270 days, from March 15 to December 15. The Kędzierzyński Canal (5.6 km long) connects the Gliwice Canal with the Nitrogen Works (Zakłady Azotowe) in Kędzierzyn-Koźle.

**A. Kędzierzyn-Koźle (km 98)**

The castle in Koźle was built at the beginning of the 13th century, and in the mid-16th century, it was remodelled in the Renaissance style. The city features the following monuments: fragments of the defensive walls from the 14th-16th centuries and the remains of the Koźle fortress from the 18th century, partially transformed into a belt of greenery, Fryderyk Wilhelm's forts and a barbican and a tower. It is also worth visiting the palace with a park complex in Sławęcice from the 18th – 19th centuries – a large park with a baroque garden pavilion and a classicist gardener's house.

Infrastructure: One of the largest river ports in the country is located here.

B. Krapkowice (km 123)

In the city there is a castle mentioned in 1532, rebuilt in later centuries, rebuilt after World War II. They kept there are fragments of defensive walls from the 14th – 16th centuries.

Infrastructure: In the marina you can rent water equipment or launch your own. There are organized excursions on sightseeing boats and speedboats. Szkwł County Harbour (km 95) offers a possibility of launching equipment and social facilities. Marina Lasoki sports club (km 100): in the marina you can rent water equipment or launch your own, social facilities are also available.

**Did you know?**

The siphon culvert of the Kłodnica River is located in Kędzierzyn-Koźle, around 2 km below the lock in Nowa Wieś. Is it a two-level crossing of the Gliwice Canal the Kłodnica River flowing beneath it. In Poland, there is a second siphon culvert of the Flis stream under the Bydgoszcz Canal in Bydgoszcz, and the third one - the aqueduct in Fojutowo at the intersection of Czerska Struga and the Great Brda Canal.

**Did you know?**

Since 1998, from Racibórz starts the annual rafting competition with the finish line in the Szkwł District Harbor. Apart from Opole, Racibórz is one of the historical capitals of the Upper Silesia, where the Dukes of Opole and Racibórz resided. Many valuable monuments have survived until this day, e.g. the castle chapel of St. Thomas of Cantuaries, known as a pearl of the Silesian Gothic.



C. Opole (km 150)

The graves of the Silesian Piasts are located in the undergrounds of two churches - in the Gothic cathedral from the 15th century and the Church of the Holy Trinity from the 14th century. The remains of the demolished Piast castle is the Piast Tower from 1300. By the river stands the Millennium Amphitheatre, today's National Centre of Polish Song, and since 1963 the seat of the National Festival of Polish Song, thanks to which the city was called "the Capital of Polish song". The city's green lungs are the Bolko Island and the Nadodrzański park, a perfect place for relaxation and outdoor activities. And the most romantic place is the Opole Venice - with the old tenement houses located right by the water, stretching from the boulevards by the Castle Bridge (1 300 m), descends to the water and a viewing platform.



Infrastructure: In summer, a cruise ship is moored by the Odra boulevards, there is also a chance to rent a water vessel. The marina of the Opole Canoe Society (km 151) where equipment can be launched and social and catering facilities are available.

Interesting fact: The Opole Venice on the Młynówka Canal is located in the city centre on the old riverbed of the Odra River, separating the Pasieka island. Until the great flood in 1600, Młynówka was the main riverbed of the Odra River. Town and castle mills operated here. There are pedestrian and bicycle footbridges across the river and the following road bridges: Cathedral, Castle (Yellow), Groszowy (Green) in the Art Nouveau style (at Korfantego street), railway bridge and a footbridge by the lock.

D. Brzeg (km 198)

The rich past of this town is proved by the Silesian Piast castle known as the "Silesian Wawel" castle, housing the collection of the Museum of the Silesian Piasts, and a Gothic St. Nicholas Church, the Post-Jesuit Church of the Exaltation of the Holy Cross. The Renaissance town hall delights with its beautiful interiors, and Gothic, Renaissance and Baroque tenement houses also get everyone's attention.

Infrastructure: In the Brzeg marina you can launch your own floating equipment. Cruises in sightseeing boats and speedboats are frequently organized.



Interesting fact: In Opole, the Relief Canal branches off from the Odra River (5 km

long), flowing around from the west the island of Bolko. Every year fishing competitions are held there.

Behind the estuary of the Nysa Kłodzka River, an old and meandering riverbed and a new, straight water flow surround the island with the village Speedocin.

In Brzeg, the Odra River is divided into two branches and flows around the city island. In Olawa, the island is surrounded by the Odra River and the Canal to the Lock canal (Kanal do Śluzy). Before entering Wrocław, where the village of Gajków is located, the Odra River is divided into subsequent branches and further, in Wrocław, these branches and canals form the Wrocław Water Junction.

Information on the Gliwice Canal:

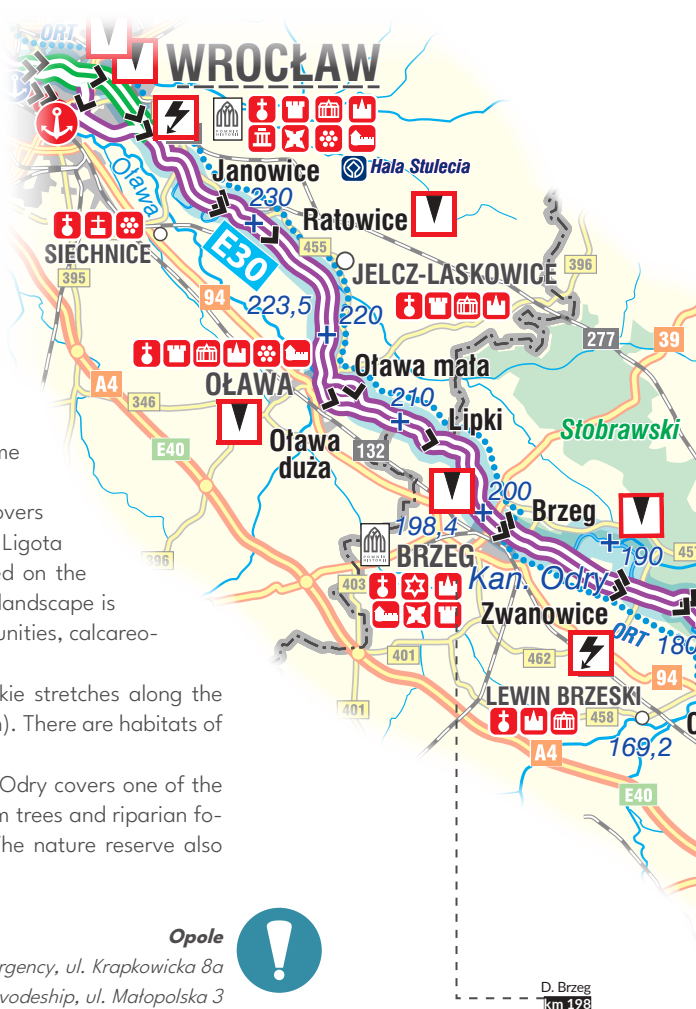
- ▶ **parameters:** length 40.6 km, actual depth 2.5 m, width 38-41 m, level difference 43.6 m
- ▶ **locks:** Łabędy (km 38), Dzierżno (km 31), Rudziniec (km 21), Sławięcice (km 15), Nowa Wieś (km 8), Kłodnica (km 4)
- ▶ **ports, marinas, quays:** Gliwice, Blachownia, Sławięcice, Ujazd, Łabędy, Kędzierzyn-Koźle
- ▶ **bridges:** Gliwice-Łabędy (km 38.5; 37.5), Czerwionka (km 33.6), Dzierżno (km 32.6; 29.7), Pławniowice (km 28.8; 28.2; 25.9; 24.6), Rudziniec (km 20.7), Ujazd (km 16), Sławięcice (km 14.6; 14), Kędzierzyn-Koźle (km 11.5; 9.7; 7.8; 5.4; 3.6; 1.7)

Information on the section from Kędzierzyn-Koźle to Wrocław:

- ▶ **section length** : approx. 210 km
- ▶ **ports, harbours, quays:** Kędzierzyn-Koźle, Krapkowice, Chorula, Opole, Brzeg
- ▶ **ferries:** Zdzeszowice
- ▶ **bridges:** Krapkowice (km 123; 124.6; 126), Rogów (km 131), A4 motorway (km 130), Opole (km 150.6; 151.2; 152.1; 152.4), Wróblin (km 156), Chróścice (km 168.3), Mikolin (km 176.3), Zwanowice (km 185.1), road bridge (km 189.13), road bridge (km 195.15), road bridge (km 199.1), Lipki (km 206.9), Olawa (km 213.1; 213.3; 216.4), Ratowice (km 227.8), railway bridge (km 230.7), Janowice (km 232.4), Gajków (km 235), Kamieniec Wrocławski (km 239), Łany (km 240.8)
- ▶ **locks:** Koźle (km 95.4), Januszkowice (km 105.6), Krępa (km 113.2), Krapkowice (km 122.9), Rogów (km 129.5), Kąty (km 137.3), Groszowice (km 144.5), Opole (km 150.4), Wróblin (km 157.5), Dobrzeń (km 164), Chróścice (km 168.3), Zawada (km 174.8), the estuary of the Nysa River (km 180.5), Zwanowice (km 185.1), Brzeg (km 198.4), Lipki (km 206.8), Olawa (km 213.3), Ratowice (km 227.4), Janowice (km 232.4)
- ▶ **power plants:** Kędzierzyn-Koźle, Januszkowice, Krępa, Krapkowice, Rogów Opolski, Opole-Groszowice, Dobrzeń, Zawada, Kopin, Brzeg, Olawa, Jeszkowice

Nearby attractions:

- **The Nature 2000 reserve** - Łęgi Odrzańskie is a part of the Odra valley (101 km) from Brzeg Dolny to Głogów, within the territory of the former floodplain. A large part of the nature reserve is frequently flooded by a river. There are riverside habitats, alder and riparian forests, wet meadows and peat bogs. The reserve also features an old-growth forest with monumental trees. The area is a home to many animal species, including birds.
- **The St. Anne Mountain Landscape Park** covers the Chełm ridge with exposed limestones in the Ligota Dolna steppe reserve and in the quarry located on the Ligocka Góra and the St. Anne Mountain. The landscape is mainly composed of beech forests, shrub communities, calcareous grasslands, meadows and pastures.
- **The Nature 2000 reserve** - Grądy Odrzańskie stretches along the Odra valley between Narok and Wrocław (70 km). There are habitats of birds associated with river valleys.
- **The Nature 2000 reserve** - Grądy w Dolinie Odry covers one of the largest complexes in the valley of oak-hornbeam trees and riparian forests, located between Wrocław and Oława. The nature reserve also includes fragments of the river valley.

**Opole**

- ▶ Odra Specialized Medical Emergency, ul. Krapkowicka 8a
- ▶ Volunteer Water Rescue Service of the Opolskie Voivodeship, ul. Małopolska 3
- ▶ Volunteer Fire Department Water Rescue Department, ul. Budowlanych 1

Kędzierzyn-Koźle

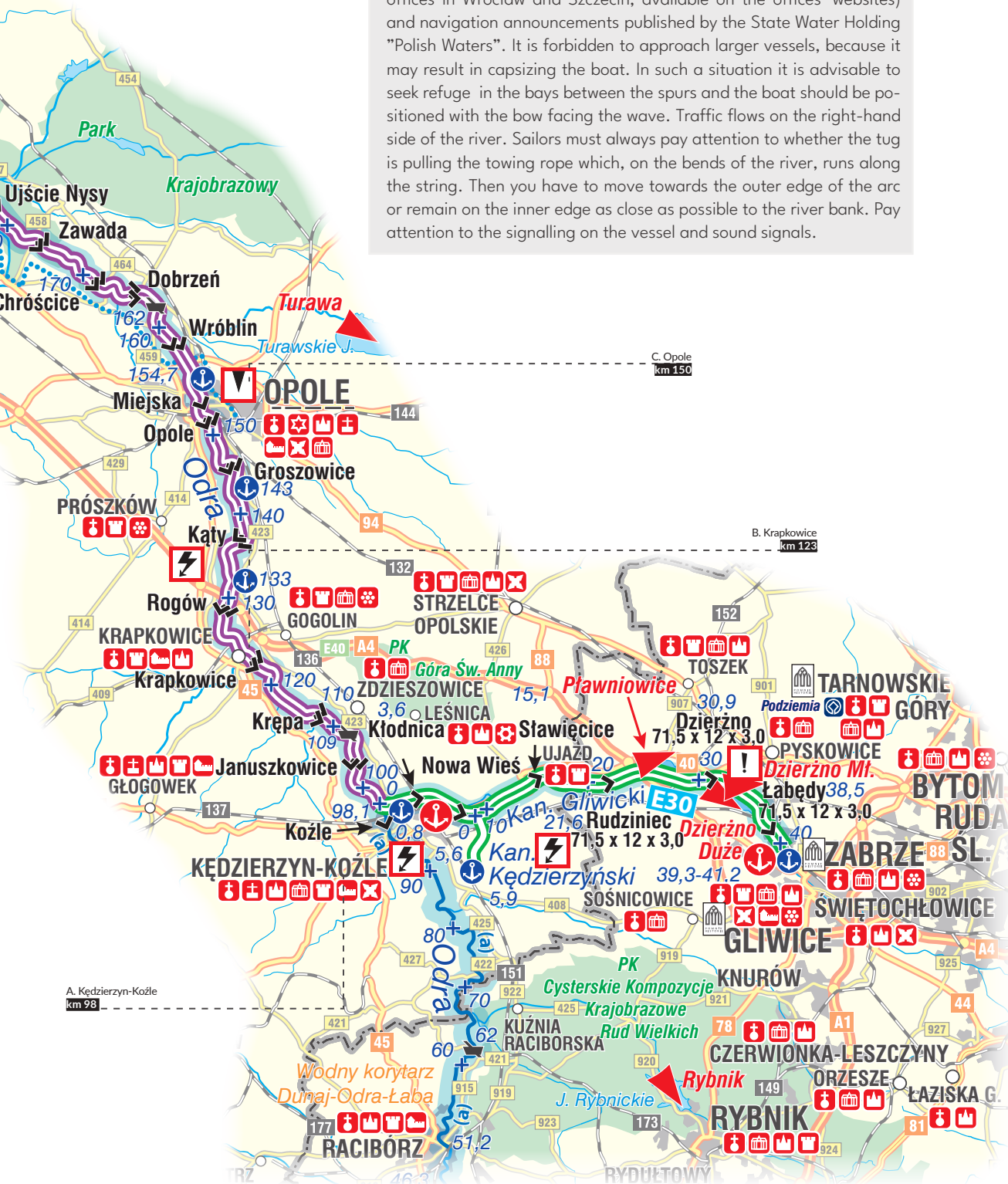
- ▶ Office of Inland Navigation in Wrocław - Regional Office Kędzierzyn-Koźle, ul. Szkolna 15
- ▶ Volunteer Fire Department Water Rescue Department, ul. Wyspa 22c

Katowice

- ▶ Silesian Volunteer Water Rescue Service, ul. Cicha 10

**Did you know?**

Along the Odra Waterway there are 47 navigable locks and almost 180 objects crossing this waterway, such as bridges, high voltage lines and ferries. The best navigation conditions are on the canalised section of the Oder River and its lower section. Among almost 140 infrastructure objects (ports, quays and marinas) there are many unexploited transport facilities.



Waterway of the Odra river:

from Wrocław (km 245) to Cigacic (km 471,5)

Wrocław WATER JUNCTION

It includes the Odra River in Wrocław, its tributaries, water canals and hydrotechnical structures and devices. It is the greatest system of waterways and hydrotechnical structures in the country in the area of the urban agglomeration. The old town lies in the valley Odra River forming numerous branches flowing around the islands. Four tributaries flow into the river: Oława, Ślęza, Bystrzyca and Widawa. The layout of the riverbeds changed as a result of floods and human activities and was completely shaped at the beginning of the 20th century. The Northern (from/to Mosty Mieszkańskie) and the Southern Odra Wroclawska is navigable.

**A. Wrocław (km 245–260)**

The most beautiful monuments located in Ostrów Tumski and the Old Town, related to the founding of the City of Wrocław and its history, can be admired from the river level if you choose to sail around the city centre. This is the oldest and most interesting section of the Wrocław Water Junction. By the river there is a quay of the Piastowski Brewery, a marina and the local Zoological Garden, which was established in 1865 – the oldest and the most modern in the country. It is adjacent to the Centennial Hall (a UNESCO site) and a park Szczepiński with a Japanese garden. The Osobowice barge wintering area and the former municipal port (currently a marina) are also worth visiting. Attention is also drawn to the most beautiful bridge in Wrocław, i.e. Grunwaldzki, and the largest one – Rędziański.

Infrastructure: Historic and tourist-recreation routes run along the city waterways. The city features a marina and a kayak and gondola marina. Cruise ships mooring in several harbours and frequently sailing on short and long distances can be seen on the Odra River. There are also several yacht clubs. The Xawery Dunikowski Boulevard invites tourists and local residents for a walk. The boulevard, located on the Odra river bank – in the downtown section from the Piaskowy bridge to the Bridge of Peace, is generally available for mooring small vessels. From the boulevard, there is a great view of Ostrów Tumski. Walking and cycling routes run along the

**Interesting fact:**

Construction the Malczyce water barrage (300 km), improving the navigability of the Odra River, was initiated after the Flood of the Millennium. The lock was launched in 2018 year. Locking of vessels is managed through Malczyce, and the water barrage extended the waterway by 17.5 km. Equipping of the water power plant has also been completed.

Information on the Wrocław Water Junction:

- ▶ **The Main Wrocław Trail:** the Odra River (km 244.2) = km 0 of the Shipping (Navigation) Canal – the Bartoszowice lock (km 0.6 of the Shipping Canal) – the Shipping (Navigation) Canal – the Zacisze lock (km 5.1 of the Shipping Canal) – Shipping (Navigation) Canal, the Old Odra River – the Różanka lock (km 9.02 of the Shipping Canal) – the Rędzin lock (km 260.7 of the Odra River)
- ▶ **A byway of the Odra River:** the Odra River (km 243.7) – the Opatowice (km 245.04 of the Odra River) – the Upper Odra Wroclawska – the Old Odra River – the Szczepiński lock (km 0.6 of the Old Odra) – the Old Odra Wroclawska – City Canal – the city lock (km 6.3 of the City Canal) – connection with the main trail (km 255.6 of the Odra River)
- ▶ **the Upper Odra Wroclawska:** the Odra River (km 250.00) the entrance to the upper outer part of the Szczepiński lock – to Śródmieście Water Junction (km 251.55 of the Odra River – the Piaskowy Bridge / the Tumski Bridge)
- ▶ **the Śródmieście Water Junction:** the Odra River km 251.55 (the Piaskowy Bridge / the Tumski Bridge) – the North and South Odra Wroclawska – the Mieszkańska lock (km 252.30) – connection with the North and South Odra Wroclawska (km 254)
- ▶ **the Lower Odra Wroclawska:** connection with the North and South Odra Wroclawska (km 254) – connection with the main trail (km 255.6)

river embankment. In the Gondola Bay (between the Ceglarski Bastion and the National Museum) there is a heavy passenger ship traffic. In the village of Uraz outside Wrocław, there is a small port town with the new Marina Uraz port, marina and water equipment rental. Also, tourist cruises on the Odra River are frequently organised.

B. Brzeg Dolny (km 282)

A half-timbered church from the 18th century and a palace and grange complex from the 17th-18th century with a mausoleum, outbuildings, coach house, tower and other objects have been preserved in this town.

Infrastructure: You can moor at the quay of the resort in Wały.



C. Lubiąż (km 310)

The Cistercian Abbey, a pearl of Silesian Baroque, is one of the greatest monuments of this class in Europe - the largest Cistercian abbey in the world and the second largest sacral building in the world (after the Spanish Escorial palace and monastery complex). The monastery has the longest Baroque façade (223 m) in Europe. The complex consists of a basilica from the 14th century, a monastery and a palace of the abbots, a church and farm buildings. In the crypt of the Gothic basilica, there is a mausoleum of the Silesian Piasts and Cistercian abbots and monks - many of them have been mummified. You can visit the Baroque Prince's hall, which occupies two floors of the building.

Infrastructure: There is a marina near the port in Malczyce. In Ścinawa (km 332), there is a marina for small motor boats and a port, which is currently inoperative. In the charming town of Chobienia, on the left bank of the Odra River (km 349.3), in the port bay, there is a new marina with a complex infrastructure (water, electricity, toilets).

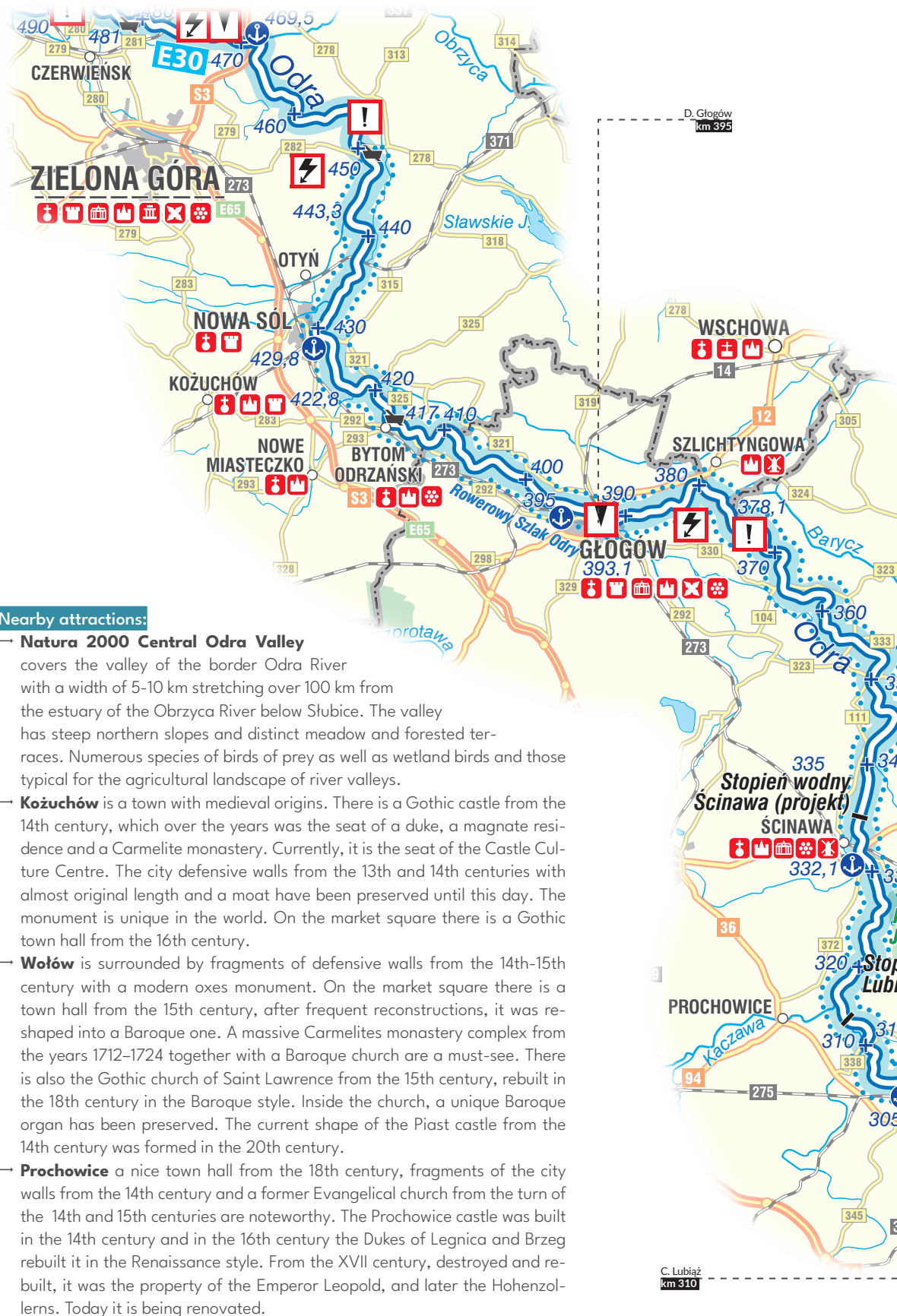


D. Głogów (395 km)

Głogów is one of the oldest Polish cities, a Piast stronghold built on an island surrounded by the Odra River and its tributary - Barycz. During the World War II the city was almost completely destroyed. The Castle of the Dukes of Głogów with the Museum of the Głogów Region were rebuilt. Modern tenement houses built on the plan of old streets combine the ancient story of the city with modernity.

Infrastructure: Vessels can be moored in the port. On the right shore, there is a new marina with a complex infrastructure (km 393.4, entrance to the Cathedral port) in close proximity to the Tolerance Bridge. In the former commercial port (km 395.2), there is a marina for small commercial vessels.





Nearby attractions:

- **Natura 2000 Central Odra Valley** covers the valley of the border Odra River with a width of 5-10 km stretching over 100 km from the estuary of the Obrzyca River below Słubice. The valley has steep northern slopes and distinct meadow and forested terraces. Numerous species of birds of prey as well as wetland birds and those typical for the agricultural landscape of river valleys.
- **Koźuchów** is a town with medieval origins. There is a Gothic castle from the 14th century, which over the years was the seat of a duke, a magnate residence and a Carmelite monastery. Currently, it is the seat of the Castle Culture Centre. The city defensive walls from the 13th and 14th centuries with almost original length and a moat have been preserved until this day. The monument is unique in the world. On the market square there is a Gothic town hall from the 16th century.
- **Wołów** is surrounded by fragments of defensive walls from the 14th-15th century with a modern oxes monument. On the market square there is a town hall from the 15th century, after frequent reconstructions, it was reshaped into a Baroque one. A massive Carmelites monastery complex from the years 1712-1724 together with a Baroque church are a must-see. There is also the Gothic church of Saint Lawrence from the 15th century, rebuilt in the 18th century in the Baroque style. Inside the church, a unique Baroque organ has been preserved. The current shape of the Piast castle from the 14th century was formed in the 20th century.
- **Prochowice** a nice town hall from the 18th century, fragments of the city walls from the 14th century and a former Evangelical church from the turn of the 14th and 15th centuries are noteworthy. The Prochowice castle was built in the 14th century and in the 16th century the Dukes of Legnica and Brzeg rebuilt it in the Renaissance style. From the XVII century, destroyed and rebuilt, it was the property of the Emperor Leopold, and later the Hohenzollerns. Today it is being renovated.

Routes of the Wrocław Water Junction:

- ▶ **Bajkalska:** 10.5 km, the Wrocław ZOO - Bajkał
- ▶ **Malczycka:** 40 km, the Rędzin lock - Uraz - Brzeg Dolny - the Malczyce lock
- ▶ **Municipal:** 10.5 km, the Wyspiański Coast - the Szczytniki and Miejska locks - Osobowice II
- ▶ **Mieszcząńska:** 5.5 km, Osobowice I - the Mieszcząńska lock
- ▶ **Municipal motorboat:** 12 km, Dunikowski Coast - the Mieszcząńska, Miejska and Szczytniki locks - the Lower Silesian Voivodeship Office
- ▶ **Downtown motorboat:** 2 km, the Dunikowski Coast - Downtown Water Junction - the Lower Silesian Voivodeship Office
- ▶ **Oławska:** 4 km, the Gondola Bay - the Rakowiecki bridge
- ▶ **Opatowicka:** 4.4 km, the Wyspiański Coast - the Opatowice lock
- ▶ **Southern:** 33 km, the Opatowice lock - Ścinawa Polska
- ▶ **Rędzińska:** 5 km, lock Rędzin - Przystań Pegaz Wrocław
- ▶ **the Great Wrocław Loop:** 23 km, the Wyspiański Coast - Opatowice, Bartoszewice, Zacisze, Różanka, Urban and Szczytniki locks - the Wyspiański Coast

Information on the section from Wrocław to Zielona Góra:

- ▶ **section length:** about 215 km
- ▶ **ports, harbours, quays:** Ścinawa, Wrocław, Uraz, Wały Śląskie, Brzeg Dolny, Pogalewo Duże, Malczyce, Chobienie, Głogów, Bytom Odrzański, Nowa Sól
- ▶ **ferries:** Miłsko-Przewóz (km 450.3), Pomorsko-Wysokie (km 481), Brody-Nikorzyn (km 484.9), Polecko-Chlebowo (km 531)
- ▶ **bridges:** Wrocław - Odra (km 240,8-261: Generała Nila, Zwierzyniecka footbridge, Grunwaldzki, Pokoju, Muzealna footbridge, Piaskowy, Poznański - railway bridge, Milenijny, Milenijny-Osobowice I, Rędziński), South Odra (km 251,8-253,35: Macieja, two Southern University bridges, Sikorskiego, Dmowskiego), Northern Odra (km 1,28-0,2: Mieszcząński, Uniwersytecki Północny, Słodowa footbridge, Bielarska-Żabia footbridge, Piaskowa footbridge, Słodowy, st. Klara, Młyński Północny, Młyński Południowy, Tumski), Old Odra (km 0,9-1,6: Zwierzyniecki, Szczytnicki), the Municipal Canal (km 3,8-6: Warszawski, Trzebnicki, Osobowicki), the Navigation Canal: (km 0,6-9: Bartoszewicka footbridge, Chrobrego, Jagielloński, Warszawski, Trzebnicki, Osobowicki); Brzeg Dolny (km 283,2; 286,7), road bridge (km 310), Ścinawa (km 331,6; 331,9), Radoszyce (km 355,5), Głogów (km 393; 393,3), Nowa Sól (km 428,8), railway bridge (km 437,7)
- ▶ **locks:** Wrocław - Opatowice (km 245), Bartoszewice (km 245), Zacisze (km 248), Różanka (km 253), Szczytniki (km 0,6), Piaskowa (km 251,7), Mieszcząńska (km 252,3), Municipal (km 6,3), Rędzin (km 260,7), Brzeg Dolny (km 281,6), Malczyce (km 300)
- ▶ **power plants:** Wrocław, Wały Śląskie

Wrocław

- ▶ Office of Inland Navigation in Wrocław ul. Podwale 62
- ▶ The Lower Silesia Volunteer Water Rescue Service, ul. Na Grobli 40-44
- ▶ Recreation and Sports Association Delphinus Sport Promotion, ul. Macedońska 7/9
- ▶ Water Rescue Service Foundation, ul. Kleczkowska 50
- ▶ Water Police Station, ul. Wybrzeże Wyspiańskiego 39b, phone: 997, 112



Waterway of the Odra river:

from Zielona Góra (km 460) to Kostrzyn nad Odrą (km 617.6)

THE GORGE OF THE ODRA RIVER in the Lubuskie Voivodeship

This is the far western part of the Lubuskie Lake District, with the section of the Oder River with a length of 25 km connecting the Warciańsko-Odrzańska and the Toruń-Eberswaldzka ice-marginal valleys. The river flows through a gorge at the foot of the western slope of the valley and on the Polish side it creates a wide floodplain terrace on which the city of Słubice is located. Sailing on this section is easy and you can start it and end it in any place. The Odra River flows peacefully along forests and fields, islets and sandy beaches or high slopes (even reaching the height of 30 m). The Porzece Landscape-Nature protected complex includes very picturesque and the highest dunes in the Odra valley (up to 18 m) and oxbow lakes.



A. Cigacice (km 471)

In the village located on the Odra embankment, there is a neo-gothic church of the st. Michael the Archangel. The only visible fragment of fortifications from the II World War I is the observation dome of a German bunker.

Infrastructure: The port in Cigacice performs transshipment functions and connects the Odra River with the canal system in Germany. On the right bank of the Odra River there is a marina dedicated to small motor boats (km 471.2), and a bit further there is a port and a marina (km 471.8).

B. Krosno Odrzańskie (km 513)

Henry the Bearded and his wife, the Princess Jadwiga, stayed in the local Piast castle from the 13th century. The parish church and the church of St. Andrew, tenement houses in the Old Town and a fragment of defensive walls have been preserved. The city is full of greenery, and the promenade in the Millennium Park overlooks the Odra valley and the city. Rybobranie - the biggest celebration in the city associated with the river, takes place on the port boulevard.

Infrastructure: There is a marina in the river port.

C. Słubice (km 582)

The promenade by the bridge over the Odra River is surrounded by tenement houses from the beginning of the 20th century. In this city located on the Polish-German border, on the building of a former restaurant called Odra, there is a plaque commemorating the meeting of the Prime Minister Tadeusz Mazowiecki with the German Chancellor Helmut Kohl in 1990.



Did you know?

The Nysa Łużycka River is navigable on the section of 15 km from Gubin to its estuary to the Odra River.



Interesting fact:

The road border crossing on Słubice-Frankfurt bridge during the existence of the GDR was open around the clock. In 2007 under the Schengen Agreement the border crossing has been closed.



Information on the section from Zielona Góra to Kostrzyn nad Odrą:

- ▶ **section length:** about 244 km
- ▶ **ports, harbours, quays:** Cigacice, Pomorsko, Nietków, Gostchorze, Krosno Odrzańskie, Urad, Rybocice, Słubice, Kostrzyn nad Odrą
- ▶ **ferries:** Połęcko, Pomorsko, Czerwieńsk-Brody
- ▶ **bridges:** Cigacice (km 469.8; 470), road bridge (km 477), Nietków (km 490), Krosno Odrzańskie (km 514), Świecko (km 580.7; 580), Słubice (km 584), Kostrzyn nad Odrą (km 615.1; 614.9)
- ▶ **locks:** Zwillingsgschachtschleuse (km 553, mouth of the Oder-Sprewa canal to the Odra River, Germany)

D. Kostrzyn nad Odrą (see page 56)

Nearby attractions:

- **The estuary of the Warta River** (see page 56)
- **Sulechów** delights with classicist tenement houses and eclectic-art nouveau villas. There is a Calvinist chapel inside the classicist castle, and in its vicinity, there is a Baroque Calvinist church from the 18th century. In the frequently rebuilt town hall, today in the shape of the 19th century, cellars from the 17th century have been preserved. The only preserved city gate is the Krośnieńska Baroque Gate from the beginning of the 18th century. There are also large fragments of defensive walls from the 14th–16th centuries. Wine-growing traditions are very much alive in the town's surroundings and there are several vineyards.

Zielona Góra

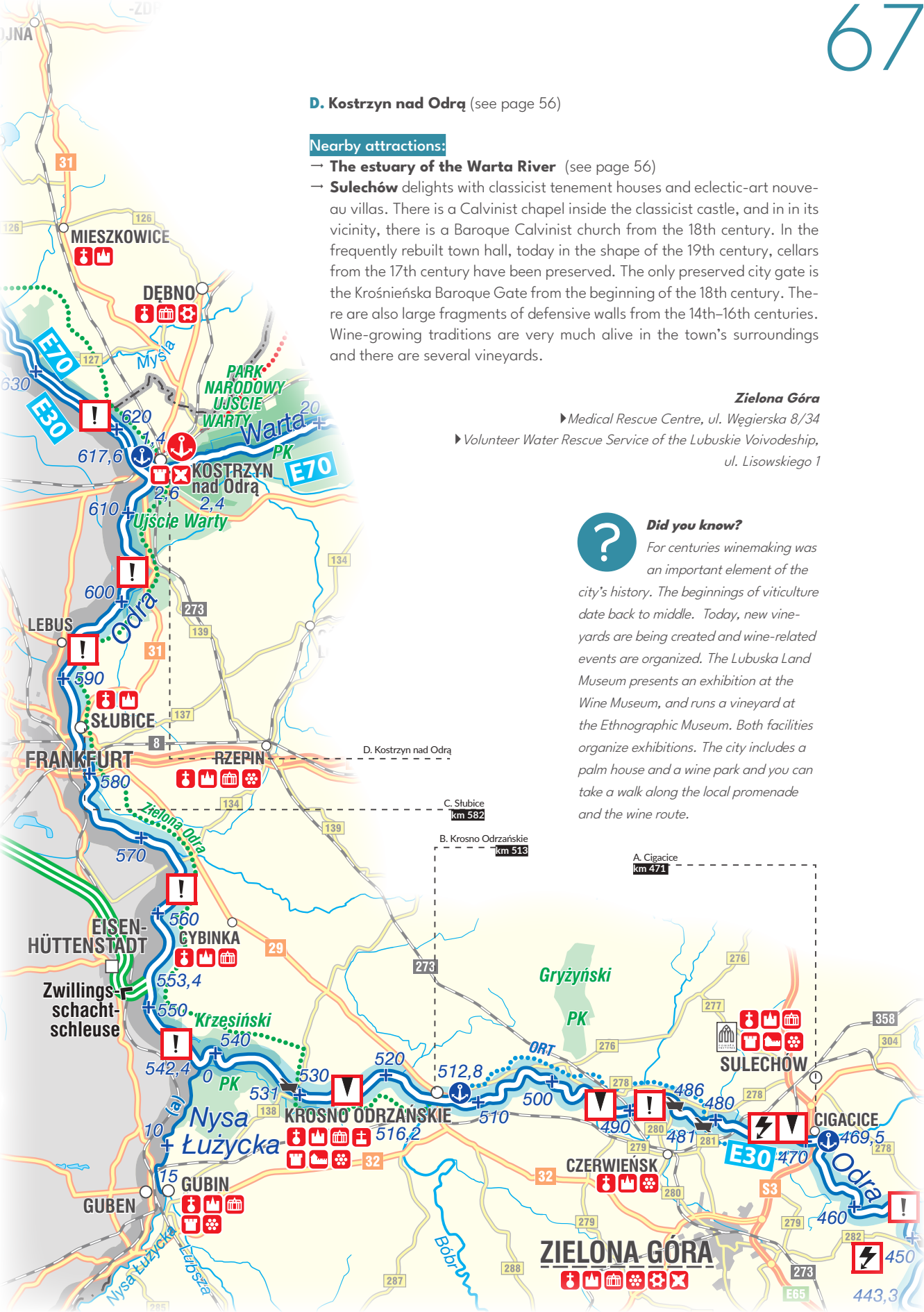
► Medical Rescue Centre, ul. Węgierska 8/34

► Volunteer Water Rescue Service of the Lubuskie Voivodeship, ul. Lisowskiego 1



Did you know?

For centuries winemaking was an important element of the city's history. The beginnings of viticulture date back to middle. Today, new vineyards are being created and wine-related events are organized. The Lubuska Land Museum presents an exhibition at the Wine Museum, and runs a vineyard at the Ethnographic Museum. Both facilities organize exhibitions. The city includes a palm house and a wine park and you can take a walk along the local promenade and the wine route.



Waterway of the Odra river:

from Kostrzyn nad Odrą (km 460) to the Szczecin Bay (km 755)

the DĄBIE lake

Formerly, it was a bay of the Szczecin Lagoon, which was cut off by the delta of the Ina River. Today, it is a delta lake of post-glacial origin, located within Szczecin's boundaries, in the Lower Odra Valley. It is divided into northern Dąbie Wielkie and southern Dąbie Małe also has a well-developed coastline. Canals connecting the Odra River with the lake, outlined over a dozen islands on the latter - the main ones are: Dębina, Czarnołęka, Mewia Wyspa, Radolin and Ostrów Grabowski. A fairway runs through the lake from the port of Schwedt to the Pomeranian Bay - this is the only lake in Poland available for sea-going vessels. By the lake there are marinas and sailing and tourist harbours. The area is the home to many species of water and marsh birds.

**two rivers –
EASTERN and WESTERN Odra**

Above Gryfina, the Odra River divides into the East and the West Odra. The former branches off into Regalica and Skośnica, which connects with the West Odra and forms the main stream of the Odra River. The Odra flows through the centre of Szczecin, connects with Przekop Mieleński and bypasses the Dąbie Lake from the west. Flowing to the Szczecin Lagoon, it bypasses several islands (Dębina, Żurawi Ostrów, Długi Ostrów, Wielki Karw) and divides into branches and canals (port canals of Duńczyca, Parnica and Święta and Skolwiński, Iński Nurt, Wietlina, Domiżna, Wąski Nurt – the Policki Canal, Szeroki Nurt).

**Did you know?**

*The Inland Navigation Office
in Szczecin is the seat of the*

*RIS (River Information Services) Centre,
where experts manage the system
improving the safety of navigation and
improve water transport on inland roads.*

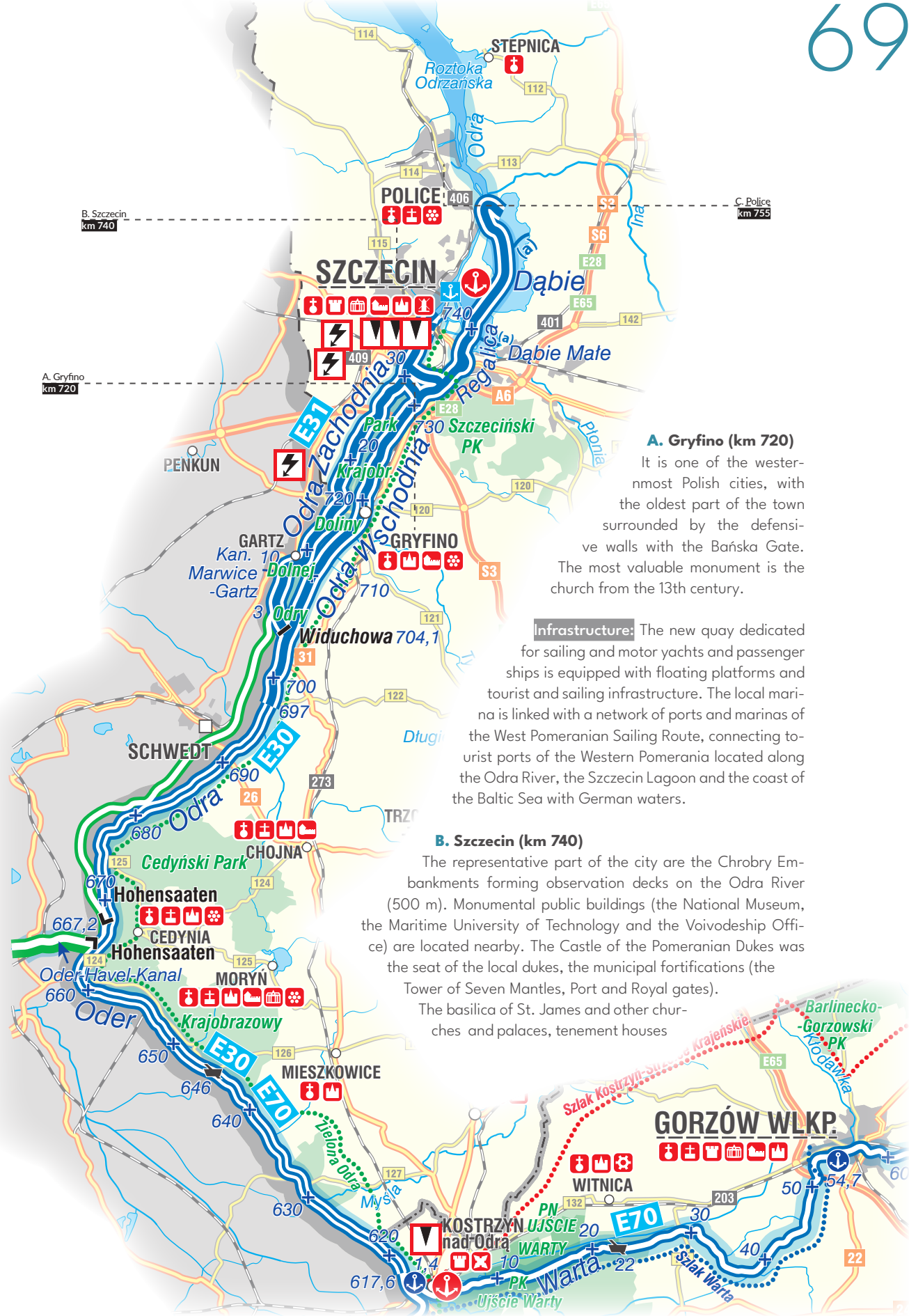
Information on the Dąbie Lake:

- ▶ **parameters:** surface 54.08 km², depth 10 m, length 15 km
- ▶ **fairway:** length 14.5 km, width 150 m, depth 10 m
- ▶ **islands:** total surface of 1,389 ha, the largest - Dębina 516 ha, Czarnołęka 270 ha
- ▶ **tributaries:** Regalica, Duńczyca Zachodnia and Duńczyca Wschodnia, Święta, Płonia, Chelszczaczka, Komorowski Canal, Łąka Canal
- ▶ **ports, harbours, quays:** Szczecin, Police, Lubczyn

Information on the section from Kostrzyn nad Odrą to the Szczecin Bay:

- ▶ **section length:** about 295 km
- ▶ **ports, harbours, quays:** Kaleńsko, Chlewice, Gozdowice, Osinów Dolny, Ognica, Widuchowa, Gryfino, Lubnica, Szczecin
- ▶ **ferries:** Neulewin – Gozdowice

- ▶ **bridges:** Odra - Siekierki (km 653.9), European railway bridge (km 654), Osinów Dolny (km 662.3), Krajnik Dolny (km 690.5); East Odra – Gryfino (km 718), Radziszewo (A6 motorway, km 727.9), Szczecin (km 733.7–737.6: Clowy, Pionierów Miasto Szczecin, railway drawbridge); West Odra – Gryfino (km 14.6), Kołbaskowo (A6 motorway, km 25.4), Szczecin (km 31.2–36.6: Wyspa Jaskółcza, Wyspa Wenecja footbridge, Szczecin Castle Route, Długi drawbridge, rotating railway bridge); Odyniec Canal – Szczecin (footbridge); Parnica – Szczecin (km 4–4.45: rotating rail-road bridge, two bridges on the Castle Route, Portowy); the Green Canal – Szczecin (road bridge)
- ▶ **locks:** Hohensaaten Ost (km 667, the estuary of the Odra-Hawela, Germany), Hohensaaten West (km 670, the estuary of Hohensaaten-Friedrichsthaler-Wasserstrasse, Germany), Widuchowa (km 704)



A. Gryfino (km 720)

It is one of the westernmost Polish cities, with the oldest part of the town surrounded by the defensive walls with the Bańska Gate. The most valuable monument is the church from the 13th century.

Infrastructure: The new quay dedicated for sailing and motor yachts and passenger ships is equipped with floating platforms and tourist and sailing infrastructure. The local marina is linked with a network of ports and marinas of the West Pomeranian Sailing Route, connecting tourist ports of the Western Pomerania located along the Odra River, the Szczecin Lagoon and the coast of the Baltic Sea with German waters.

B. Szczecin (km 740)

The representative part of the city are the Chrobry Embankments forming observation decks on the Odra River (500 m). Monumental public buildings (the National Museum, the Maritime University of Technology and the Voivodeship Office) are located nearby. The Castle of the Pomeranian Dukes was the seat of the local dukes, the municipal fortifications (the Tower of Seven Mantles, Port and Royal gates).

The basilica of St. James and other churches and palaces, tenement houses

GORZÓW WLKP.

and the Old Town Hall (Szczecin History Museum) also present a great historical value. Today, the former port island of Łasztownia located in the city centre is one of the favourite places of city residents and tourists. Renovated buildings, historic cranes, new boulevards, cafes, restaurants, yacht harbour, the Euroregion Cultural Centre of Stara Rzeźnia - there are still more attractions. When walking along the quays after dark, you can admire the illumination of historic cranes, the panorama of the Old Town with the Chrobry Embankments and the castle.

Infrastructure: Cruise ships sailing on the Odra River and the waters of the Szczecin port depart from the quay at the Chrobrego Embankment. The Berlin-Szczecin-Baltic Sea waterway is popular among hotel river cruisers. In the city there are several shipowners with many watercraft for rent. There is also a new yacht port in Łasztownia. Szczecin is also the seat of two large maritime enterprises: Zarząd Morskich Portów Szczecin i Świnoujście SA. The Szczecin Sea Port is also operates as a river port.

C. Police (km 755)

An unusual place is the area of the former synthetic petrol factory, in which liquid fuel from coal was produced according to a technological process from the 1920s. The fuel was produced for the needs of the German army, for the Luftwaffe airport, U-boats and Kriegsmarine ships as well as tanks and Wehrmacht vehicles. Today, the remains of the factory have been adapted for sightseeing as part of the Skarb (the Treasure) Historical Museum tour. A tourist and didactic path was also designated. The area is a habitat for bats.

Infrastructure: In Police, by the Świnoujście-Szczecin fairway, there is a sea and river port.

Nearby attractions:

- **In Cedyńia**, located near the Odra River, there is a nice market square and a renovated Cistercian monastery from the 13th century, currently housing a hotel with a restaurant and an art collection. The observation tower from 1895 offers a lovely view of the city.
- **Natura 2000 Ostoja Cedyńska** and the Cedyński Landscape Park occupy an area of flattened bottom of a river valley, limited by steep slopes of the valley. The picturesque landscape is created by moraine hills, gorges and ravines carved in the edges of the valley, as well as numerous springs and ponds. The area is dominated by pine and oak forests. However, agricultural lands, wetlands and seasonal backwaters also occur. These diversified environments are a refuge for water and predatory birds. In autumn, this is the place where cranes gather and whooper swans hibernate. There are many hiking trails running through the area.
- **Natura 2000 and the Lower Odra Valley Landscape Park**, in the area of Międzyodrze, is an area covered with a network of over 100 kilometres of natural and artificial ditches, canals and oxbow lakes, located between the Eastern and Western Odra at the border with Germany. Water expeditions, during which tourists can admire a peculiar world of plants and animals, are the most popular attraction. A complex of hydrotechnical facilities hidden among the vegetation - inoperative locks, bridges and crossings are a local curiosity.



Did you know?

The Odra River from the northern bridge of the Zamkowa Route in Szczecin belongs to the Polish internal sea waters. The river section from the bridge forms a part of the Szczecin seaport, and going further north, it is the property of the Police sea port.



Szczecin

- Office of Inland Navigation in Szczecin, pl. Batorego 4
- Volunteer Water Rescue Service in Szczecin, ul. Heyki
- Volunteer Water Rescue Service of the West Pomeranian Voivodeship, ul. Sowińskiego 68
- Provincial Police Headquarters, ul. Wernyhora 5, phone: 997, 112

Remember: water is a potentially dangerous and treacherous element.

ON THE YACHT

- before starting the cruise, get acquainted with the current navigational announcements and local laws,
- if you rent a boat that does not require a license, you should be trained by the shipowner,
- the lack of the requirement to hold a qualification document to operate a yacht does not release you from the obligation to comply with applicable waterway regulations,
- remember to observe fire safety rules. Store fuel in a fire-proof manner and in certified containers. Use gas appliances with valid legalization documents and certificates. In case of yachts with a petrol stationary engine, remember about proper ventilation of the chamber (exhaust fan should be turned on before starting the petrol engine for a period of not less than 4 minutes),
- be extra careful when crossing the navigable route, choose the shortest possible route and follow the priority rules,
- remember that in case you encounter ships whose manoeuvring properties do not allow for immediate stop, before changing your course, make sure that the manoeuvre will not cause the risk of colliding with another vessel,
- in the absence of relevant provisions in the shipping regulations or other applicable regulations, the captain/the head of the vessel should take all measures resulting from the principles of good sailing practice in order to avoid danger,
- a ship sailing downstream has limited manoeuvrability, keep a safe distance,
- unless otherwise provided, small vessels should keep out of the way of other vessels, except for high-speed vessels speed, leaving them enough room to hold their course and to manoeuvre,
- ONLY one person is in command of the vessel, follow the instructions of the captain/helmsman; such person is responsible for the safety of the crew and the vessel,
- before the cruise, check the unit's equipment and overall preparation, technical condition, life-saving measures, safety and fire-fighting equipment, documents of the vessel, get acquainted with the projected route and the applicable regulations,
- get yourself accident insurance (NWW), CASCO of the yacht (damage, sinking, burglary, theft), against third party liability (damage made to the other vessel, bodily injury), read the terms and conditions of the contract and limitations of the insurer's liability,
- sail with an experienced helmsman, if you are one, determine the qualifications and experience of the crew, the ability to provide first aid, conduct training and assign particular tasks (behaviour and staying on the yacht, handling devices e.g. sails), show where the lifebuoy, vests and a first aid kit are stored,
- after every mooring, check the technical condition of the boat,
- use life jackets or buoyancy aid. Personal life-saving equipment should be permanently worn by non-swimmers and children, as well as be used on small keels (significant risk of capsizing), at night and in difficult weather conditions. Please note that they are not allowed below deck,
- charge the phone and protect it from getting wet, the emergency number over water is: **601 100 100** or **112**, install **APLIKACJA RATUNEK** (emergency mobile application) on your mobile phone (**www.ratunek.eu**),
- check the current weather forecast, do not leave the port in unfavourable conditions,
- in the event of a storm, go to the nearest shore, do not stay below deck, wear a life jacket,
- avoid dangerous places (shallows, stones, do not approach hydrotechnical devices such as weirs, follow the signs, observe other vessels, weather conditions, dangling wires and obstacles (bridges, weirs), avoid any danger to the crew, shipwreck or capsizing,
- keep a safe distance from other units,
- after the boat capsizes, do not swim to the shore alone, stay by the hull, call for help,
- do not exceed the allowed number of people, keep order and do not swim after drinking alcohol.

ON THE KAYAK

- you are responsible for your own safety and health,
- the lack of the requirement to hold a qualification document for water tourism by kayak does not release you from the obligation to comply with applicable waterway regulations,
- be extra careful when crossing the navigable route, choose the shortest possible route and follow the priority rules,
- remember that in case you encounter ships whose manoeuvring properties do not allow for immediate stop, before

changing your course, make sure that the manoeuvre will not cause the risk of colliding with another vessel,

- familiarize yourself with the rafting route, adapt it to the skills and abilities of the weakest participant,
- choose the right equipment, adapt clothes to weather conditions, check the weather forecast,
- swim in a life jacket,
- practice: getting on and off and mooring with the bow against the current, rowing and steering techniques, avoiding obstacles, behaviour after capsizing, first aid,
- match crews by combining non-swimmers and inexperienced people with experienced ones, children under 15 with adults who can swim,
- remember about storing the throw line and first aid kit in the last kayak,
- sail in formation at intervals adapted to the nature of the rafting trip, behind the leading experienced canoeist, belaying each other, don't swim alone,
- do not overestimate your strength and skills, bravado and recklessness may result in an accident,
- in a kayak it is not allowed to: crouch, stand, sit on the sides, rock sideways, push other kayaks with paddles, jump into the water,
- do not swim: after drinking alcohol, at night, when the water level is high,
- when swimming on the lake, stick to the shore,
- observe the weather and water level, do not set off in bad conditions (wind, storm),
- set the kayak with the bow facing the wave,
- pay attention to large vessels (ships, sailing and motor boats), keep your distance,
- when capsizing: do not turn the kayak over in deep water, pull it to the shore, save the crew,
- watch the surface of the water, avoid ripples above underwater obstacles and dangerous places (logs, pegs, roots, stones, whirlpools, mills, weirs and other water structures, barrages and thresholds), carry the canoe by land,
- swim under obstacles (bridges, tree branches) leaning forward, hold the oars along the sides of the kayak,
- take care of the environment, camp on campsites, do not litter, keep order, behave politely and quietly, swim and have bonfires in designated places,
- keep your phone in a waterproof case, with a charged battery, save the number to the trip organizer and the rental's owner and know the emergency number,
- take luggage adapted to the length of the trip, season and weather changes,
- be polite to other kayakers, help if necessary, watch out for swimmers and anglers.

Current navigation updates can be found on the website of the State Water Holding Polish Waters in the „Komunikaty Nawigacyjne / Navigation Updates” tab at: <https://www.wody.gov.pl/komunikaty-nawigacyjne>

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