

Poznań County

Guidebook

Poznań 2015

Title: Poznań County Guidebook

Original title: Przewodnik po powiecie poznańskim

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www.powiat.poznan.pl

ISBN: 978-83-88993-13-8

Printing:

Zakład Poligraficzny Tomasz Kędziora,

Murowana Goślina 2015

POZNAŃ COUNTY GUIDEBOOK

Poznań County is one of the biggest counties in Poland. It includes seventeen communities around the city of Poznań, which does not make the County itself.

These 17 communities witnessed and still witness important and fascinating events depicted in the architecture or remnants presenting the living history of the region.

The area is rich in unique landscapes, forests and numerous lakes. Numerous hiking trails suit walking, biking or car trips.

They are good for short walks or weekend excursions, but also for big planned escapades and holidays.

Presenting the Guidebook, we invite all sportsmen, tourists, recreation enthusiasts to visit Poznań County!

Jan Grabkowski
POZNAŃ STAROSTE

Walking

Walking, roaming or gadabout. This is the kind of tourism we have known for years. All you need are good shoes and reasonable physical fitness. And of course, the strive to see interesting natural and tourist sites. These routes will let you do just that. Recently, the increasing popularity of walking with poles allows for combining recreation, or even sport, with tourism. Poznań County routes enable both ordinary and Nordic Walking.

Several well designed routes are set near the **Wielkopolski National Park** (WNP) ('Wielkopolski Park Narodowy'). The 75 km red route from Osowa Góra to Puszczykowo, Rogalin, Kórnik and Zaniemyśl, situated beyond the Poznań County, is the longest. It also runs across the Rogaliński Landscape Park (RLP) ('Rogaliński Park Krajobrazowy'). Another route, the blue route running across the WNP and RLP, is 40 km long and runs from Otusz, via Stęszew, along Tomickie, Witobelskie and Łódzkie Lakes, it goes through the central part of the Wielkopolski National Park, Mosina, the Rogaliński Landscape Park to Iłowiec.

The short, 10 km black route along the picturesque Dymaczewskie lake from Rosnówko to Dymaczewo Stare and the almost 12 km yellow route from Puszczykowo to Puszczykówko run across the following reserves: Puszczykowskie mountains ('Puszczykowskie Góry'), Świetlista Dąbrowa of the Upland ('Świetlista Dąbrowa na Wysoczyźnie') and Pojniki.



Photo 1. One of the WNP routes

WNP also offers the following walking routes:

- the red and blue routes, nearly 10 km route commemorated to Professor Adam Wodiczko, the loop from Osowa Góra, along Kociołek, Skrzynka and Góreckie Lakes, and back to Osowa Góra;
- the 8km long red and blue route 'Szlak Kosynierów', from Osowa Góra around Kociołek, Góreckie Lakes, Jeziory village to Puszczykowo;
- the 13 km long blue route, commemorated to Cyryl Ratajski, from Mosina to Stęszew;
- the 12 km route commemorated to Bernard Chrzanowski, from Puszczykowo to Puszczykówko.

The very short but interesting green route commemorated to Arkady Fiedler runs from Puszczykowo, along the Warta River, to Puszczykówko.

It runs near the Arkady Fiedler Museum, towards the historic Railway Station and follows to the City Center.

You can enjoy the 24 km red route, from Drużyna Poznańska, via Sowinki, Baranówko and Krajkowo Folwark to Brodniczka and Żabno, and the 9 km green route from Rogalinek to Wiórek, along the eastern Warta River bank in the **Rogaliński Landscape Park**.

A natural, educational ‘Bobrowy Szlak’ path for Nordic Walking is

located near Czmoniec. It offers three options, where the longest is over 4 km long, and runs across the swampy areas of the Warta basin, surrounding fields and forests. The route features also an observation tower, which offers a beautiful panorama of the area.

The area of the **Puszcza Zielonka Landscape Park** (‘Park Krajobrazowy Puszcza Zielonka’) is equally interesting for walking. The starting place for the planned tours is Dziewicza Góra (144.9 m a.s.l.), the highest elevation in the area, with a 40 m view tower at the top and a panoramic terrace surrounding the building.

Dziewicza Góra is the starting place of the 40 km blue route running to Głębocek and further to Sława Wielkopolska, most of which (30 km) runs along the Poznań County.

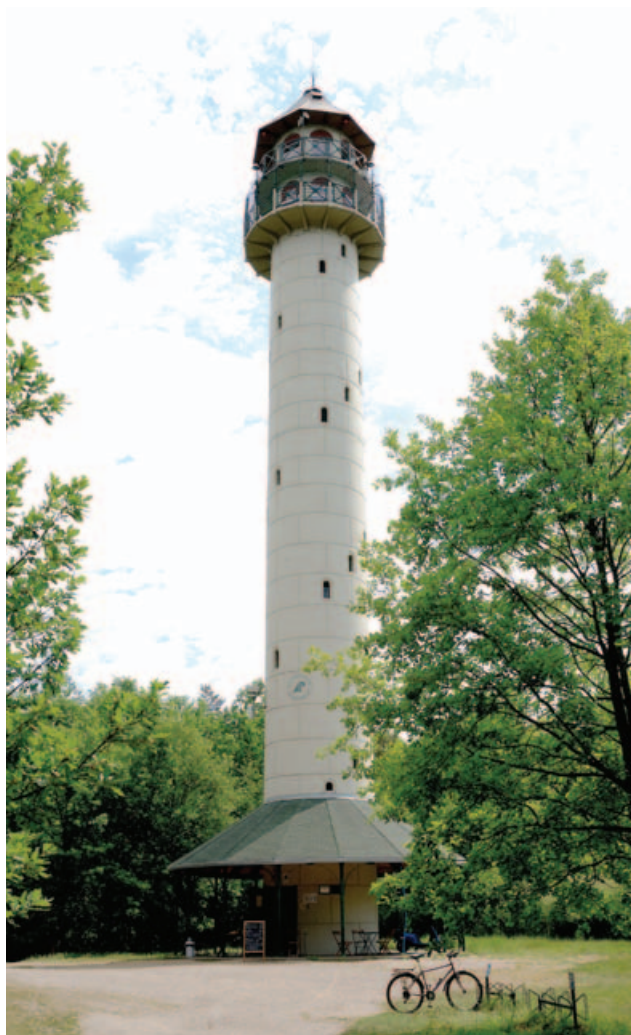


Photo 2. Panoramic Tower at Dziewicza Góra

It offers walking combined with the opportunity to admire the historical monuments. Near Annowo (Czerwonak Community), a forester's lodge from the mid-nineteenth century is really something to be seen. Farm buildings from the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries are preserved in Annowo.

NEXT STOP – OWIŃSKA

Cistercian monument: the Cistercian Sisters' monastery, St. John the Baptist Church and St. Nicolaus Church, the von Treskov Palace with 'Bartek' – a very old oak tree, cannot be missed. The area also houses the **Spatial Orientation Park** designed by Poznań County Authorities in the area of the Special Education Centre commemorated to the Sons of the Regiment.

The route follows across the Zielonka Forest ('Puszcza Zielonka') towards the lakes around Tuczno, and further to Zielonka village. Ludwikowo (Czerwonak Community), a small village with buildings from the late nineteenth and early twentieth century is located along the way.

Dziewicza Góra can also be accessed along the short 9 km yellow route from Kobylnica via Wierzenica and Kicin, where you can admire the historic wooden churches.

Dziewicza Góra is also a stopover on the long distance, 165 km red route (including 23 km within the Poznań County), from the nearby Czerwonak up to the Płotki Lake near Piła. The route runs across the Zielonka Forest Landscape Park and follows to Kamińsko, Zielonka and Niedźwiedziny (beyond the boundaries of the county), to Rejowiec and Skoki.

The 85 km green route from Pobiedziska via Promno (Promno Landscape Park) and across Zielonka Forest via Wronczyn near the Stęszewskie Lake, Tuczno, Okoniec, Głęboczek and Łopuchowo and Wojnowo beyond the Landscape Park, towards Długa Goślina, Starczanowo and the

Śnieżycowy Jar reserve where the route crosses the boundaries of Poznań County is a very interesting walking route. In early spring, the Śnieżycowy Jar features a sea of white flowers which usually announce the end of winter.

The Zielonka Forest also has shorter routes, such as the over 3 km long black route near Owińska. It leads from the railway station around the Cistercian Monastery, the Spatial Orientation Park and the Typhlological Museum near the blue route which runs near Dziewicza Góra to Sława Wielkopolska.

Bike routes

The Biking Ring around Poznań is the most important route for both ambitious and amateur bikers. Marked orange, the 173 km route is an element of the Wielkopolski Biking Routes System. The Biking Ring makes a closed loop around the capital of Wielkopolska and covers all the most interesting tourist places of Poznań County. Only the best, practically professional cyclists can cover the route within one day.

7 connecting routes were designed for the biking enthusiasts, with radiating outlets from Poznań City.

Each of them allows for a comfortable return to Poznań after covering any section of the Ring. The route goes along many interesting, historical, artistic and nature sites. One of such places is Kórnik with a Castle entered onto the list of historic monuments in Poland, the Kórnik Library of the Polish Academy of Sciences, containing the most precious volumes of Polish culture, including Part III of the 'Dziady' manuscript by Adam Mickiewicz.

You must see the eighteenth-century, beautifully restored Raczyński palace, along with the famous gallery of paintings and monumental cluster of oaks in Rogalin, and the fifteenth-century church in Stęszew. The route also runs across the Wielkopolski National Park and three landscape parks – Rogaliński, Promno and Zielonka Forest Park.



Photo 3. The County leads bikers

The marking of the Ring is: a black bike on an orange background with a pointer showing the direction.

CONNECTING ROUTES:

- The 'Nad jezioro Lusowskie' route – 23.3 km (green): the inlet at the corner of Bukowska and Bułgarska streets in Poznań, the outlet at the panoramic viewpoint in Lusówko (Tarnowo Podgórne Community).
- The 'Doliną Bogdanki' 13 km connecting route (black): inlet at the Nad Wierzbakiem street in Poznań, outlet – in Kiekrz.
- The 'Do rezerwatu Gogulec' 7 km connecting route (yellow): inlet – at the last stop of the Poznań Fast Tram (Jan III Sobieski Housing Estate), the outlet – Złotniki (Suchy Las Community). Further, the route runs outside the Ring up to Chludowo and Oborniki.
- The 'Doliną Cybiny do Parku Krajobrazowego Promno' 22.6 km (black) connecting route with the inlet at the starting positions of the Malta racing track with the outlet at Biskupice (Pobiedziska Community).
- The 'Darz Bór' connecting route to Tulce – 9 km (yellow), the inlet at Browarna street in Poznań, the outlet at Tulce (Kleszczewo Community).
- The 'Doliną Głuszyńki do Kórnik' connecting route – 18.7 km (blue), inlet: Poznań Starołęka Railway Station, outlet – in Kórnik.
- The 'Wzdłuż Warty do Wielkopolskiego Parku Narodowego' connecting route – 26.7 km (red route), inlet – Droga Dębińska and Królowej Jadwigi streets in Poznań, outlet – the road from Rogalin to Kórnik (431).

The biking routes of Poznań County make up individual systems, but are also included in the larger, **Wielkopolski Biking Routes System** ('Wielkopolski System Szlaków Rowerowych').

The Transwielkopolski Biking Course ('Transwielkopolski Trakt Rowerowy') runs from the East via Krzyżowniki and Tulce to Poznań and from the North-West, from Kiekrz via Żydowo towards Szamotuły.

The Warta Biking Course ('Nadwarciański Szlak Rowerowy') crosses the Poznań County from the South and Krajkowo Reserve side, runs via Baranowo, Sowiniec to Mosina, to join the connecting route of the Poznań Ring. The northern Poznań course leads via Biedrusko and Mściszewo towards the Starczanowo and Śnieżycowy Jar (Spring Snowflake Ravine).

The complete route was designed along the Warta River and complements the water tourism offer in form of canoeing stations. The course is equipped with information boards and wooden moorings sheds. On the route you can see: the surrounding fields, meadows, riparian willow stands and numerous oxbow lakes.

The Ziemiański Biking Course ('Ziemiański Szlak Rowerowy'): Leads South from Poznań. The route goes along the connecting routes of the Poznań Ring. From Mosina, it goes along the paved road running towards Pecna and Czempin.

The Piastowski Biking Course ('Piastowski Szlak Rowerowy'): It runs from Poznań, along the connecting route, via Kobylnica and Biskupice and follows from Promno via the Promno Landscape Park to Pobiedziska and towards the Lednica Lake.

Perfectly arranged and very attractive biking course system runs through the Zielonka Forest. It combines the two routes: the Large Zielonka Forest Biking Ring (DPR) and the Small Zielonka Forest Biking Ring (MPR) including 12 connecting routes. The area may be the destination of a full day excursion.

The 50 km **Large Zielonka Biking Ring** ('Duży Pierścień Rowerowy Puszczy Zielonki') starts in Czerwonak at the Railway Station. It runs to-

wards the foot of Dziewicza Góra and follows to Dąbrówka Kościelna. From Dąbrówka, keep towards Kiskowo and Niedźwiedziny, along the picturesque sites. Passing the sand pit on the way we come to Sławica. We come upon Brzeźno, surrounded by a forest, located near Góra Zamkowa, and from there we move on to the Długa Goślina Forestry Office. Thereafter this we take the Ring Path, which runs to Pacholewo and joins the Small Ring of the Zielonka Forest in Starczanowo.

The Small Biking Ring

(‘Mały Pierścień Rowerowy Puszczy Zielonki’) starts in Murowana Goślina and runs towards Kamińsko and Pławno. Next, the gravel road leads to Zielonka and turns towards Głębocek. Along the way, please note the old half-timbered house sometimes referred to as the ‘Old Forester’. The comfortable solid road runs from Głębocek to Łopuchowo. From there, we go towards Wojnowo and Długa Goślina. The beautiful wooden church, one of many similar on the Trail of Wooden Churches in Zielonka Forest is a must see. In Starczanowo, the path joins the Large Ring and follows to Mściszewo and up to Murowana Goślina.



Photo 4. Poznań County Race

Each of the 12 connecting paths makes a perfect excursion opportunity. They reach well beyond the Zielonka Forest and Promno Landscape Park from the south, up to the south-western boundaries of Poznań County.

Poznań County has two Trans-European biking paths in the **EuroVelo** system. These are EV2 and EV9 Paths (sometimes referred to as R-2 and R-9). The first one goes almost entirely along Piastowski Biking Path, the second, along both Piastowski and Ziemiański Biking Path.

The County also has local paths. One of them is the 60 km **Kórnik Biking Path** ('Kórnicki Pierścień Rowerowy'). The City centre can be accessed from four sides. This allows the entire path to be divided into 20 km sections. The path starts and finishes in Kórnik Square, near the Town Hall. Going clockwise from there, you can visit Trzebisławki and Koszuty with the Środa Wielkopolska Region Museum. Passing the S-11 road we come to the villages of Lorenka and Jaszkowo. Beyond Jaszkowo, the first intersection connects with the path. From there, the path runs to Jeziory Wielkie and Czmoń. In Radzewo, you have another opportunity to leave the loop. The path follows north via Mieczewo to Kamionki, leaving the Loop Exit on the way. It then leads to Robakowo, again crossing the S-11 road. We may return to Kórnik following the forests roads to Szczodrzykowo and Runowo.

Mosina Community has three biking paths. **The Swan Biking Path** ('Łabędzi Szlak Rowerowy') starts at the edge of forest, north of Rogalinek. The first section runs north along the Warta River, next it turns east, crossing the horse-riding path and the Poznań–Rogalinek Road. It follows to Głuszyna Leśna, Kubalin and Rogalin Podlesie, where the several kilometre loop starts towards Daszewice, turns to Mieczewo and returns to Rogalin Podlesie.

The Rogalin Biking Path ('Rogaliński Szlak Rowerowy') starts in Rogalinek near the Warta Bridge. The first section runs north, similar to the Swan Biking Path, and later turns east crossing Horse-Riding Path and Poznań–Rogalinek road. It follows to Głuszyna Leśna, Kubalin and Ro-

galin Podlesie. At this point it goes in a loop similar to the Swan Biking Path, returns to Rogalin Podlesie, and turns to Rogalin. The path finishes in the parking lot, in front of the Rogalin Palace-Park Compound. These are the most precious monuments of the Wielkopolska Province.

The Warta Biking Path ('Rowerowy Szlak Warty') includes two sections, expected to make a loop in the future, which depends on the construction of the Warta Ferry near Krajkowo.

The first section of the biking path begins in Rogalinek near the Warta Bridge. It follows near a wooden church and along gravel roads and goes towards Rogalin. In Rogalin, it passes the Palace-Park Compound and goes towards the Raczyński Mausoleum and next to Świątniki and Radzewice.

The second section starts at the intersection of the Mosina–Kórnik road with the Niwka–Puszczykowo road. From there, it goes south along the forest road south via Kanał Mosiński and follows towards Sowiniec. Next, it goes along the solid road towards Krajkowo, and along the forest road towards a river.

The Cistercian Biking Path ('Cysterski Szlak Rowerowy') runs across the Communities of the Zielonka Forest Communal Association (Czerwonak, Kiszkowo, Murowana Goślina, Skoki and Swarzędz), as well as Poznań City and Wągrowiec County Communities. The path follows along the solid roads and forest runs, which may be dry and sandy in summer. It was designed to follow along the most interesting remnants of the Cistercian Order. The path also runs across the Zielonka Forest Landscape Park and Nature Reserves. Going along the path you may learn many interesting things about the Cistercian Order and the region, enjoy active leisure and the surrounding natural landscape.

What a pleasure... an adventure with water

After walking and biking, it's time to enjoy the water! This time real boating instead of swimming. You can cross the County in many kinds of floating vessels. Poznań County may be far from the Augustów Lake District, but still offers good conditions for water sports.

Apart from many streams and creeks, the area has seven rivers and one canal. The most important is the Warta River, 64 km of which are within the County boundaries, flowing north between Czmoniec and Szymankowo.

The Warta right bank tributaries are: Głuszynka with its Kopla inlet, Cybina and Główna, including Tuczno creek. The left bank tributaries include Samica Stęszewska which connects to the Mosiński Canal, connecting the Warta with the Obra. This is referred to as the so-called Small Wielkopolska Loop. All of them may be easily accessed with a kayak, boat or motor boat, provided, however, that the water level is sufficiently high. Poznań County is in fact the area of the smallest rainfall in our country, with the greatest number of sunny days per year. This accounts for a generally low level of waters in summer in the region. Sometimes, the level of the minor rivers makes it difficult to access them, or simply impedes any activities at all. For the reason, many of these bodies of water are only accessible in early spring or late autumn, when the water levels are high.

However, the **Warta** is accessible all year round. The canoeing adventure starts in Czmoniec, at the County border, meandering further across the Wielkopolska National Park, Rogaliński Landscape Park, across fields and forests towards Poznań. At the level of the oldest part of Ostrów Tumski, we pass the Cybina tributary and Główna tributary, several kilometres later. Picturesque sites, untouched by industry, represent the buffer zone of the Military Compound in Biedrusko. The entire river section and its tributaries are rich in architecture and natural monuments. The section ends in Szymankowo (Poznań County). Here, the Warta passes the Śnieżycowy Jar, and enters Oborniki County.

Another tourist attraction – the remnants of Radzim Castle – waits ahead. It is known only to archaeologists, historians and those who spend their free time in the Warta River valley.

When planning the escapade along the Warta, you can start it from the marina in Śrem. The County has three such stopovers, in: Puszczykowo, Czerwonak and Mściszewo. Leaving the County, Oborniki is a comfortable place to finish the race.

CANOEING THE LAKES...

The 11.3 km long **Zielonka Forest Canoeing Path** ('Szlak kajakowy Puszcza Zielonka') runs across the southern part of Zielonka Forest. Due to the weak current, the path can be covered both ways with not much difference in rowing effort. It starts at Biezdruchowskie Lake from the Pobiedziska side. Later, it runs along the Główna River (downstream), and south of Nadrožno it turns into Struga Wierzenicka (upstream). Next, it follows across five lakes: Jerzyńskie, Wronczyńskie Małe and Wielkie, Stęszewskie and Kołatkowskie (the last two are sometimes considered one – Stęszewsko-Kołatkowskie). The path ends in Tuczno. Along the path, you can expect several short, foot bridges over the

narrow sluices and local roads. You will find the special harbours for launching kayaks at such points.



Photo 5. You will have to carry your kayak here

Admire the architecture monuments along the way, a wooden bell tower and nineteenth century distillery in Wronczyn, the Manor of Maximilian Jackowski and the Manor in Jerzyn.

Sailing – the noblest kind of water sport is also possible on the lake. This will be discussed further in the next chapter.

A healthy body reflects a healthy mind

To rest effectively, you must become physically tired. Like it or not, this rule applies to everyone. It is the high time to prove this in Poznań County.

Let's start with **horse riding**. Everyone, no matter of what level of performance, may find something interesting. You can learn the basics, advance your faculties, enter the numerous competitions or ride recreationally along the open and closed ducts of the horse riding spaces.

Horse riding across the Zielonka Forest starts e.g. from Raduszyn (Murowana Goślina Community). Those familiar with riding, may admire the views, which cannot be seen even in the wilderness, from their horse saddles. Perfect horse riding conditions can also be found around Łoskoń Stary. Here, you can enjoy a swim in the nearby lake after an exhaustive training session.

Boguszewo (Murowana Goślina Community), 15 km north of Poznań invites hippotherapy patients. Apart from the ordinary horse riding supervised by experienced instructors in Kamińsko-Pławno, pure-bred horses can also be admired.

Baranówko, near Mosina became famous thanks to the Bohdan Smoleń Foundation, which supports the rehabilitation of youth and children.

The Krajkowo Nature Reserve ('Rezerwat Przyrody Krajkowo') also offers horse-riding in the open air. During the bad weather, you can take a ride in the modern riding school adjacent to the stables.

More horse riding options are offered by: Szewce, Podkowa Gruszczyń or Buk.

Poznań County is also proud of the Iwno Stable, operating since 1945 and established in the nineteenth century at the local Manor. Half-bred horses are kept there. The horse centre offers both training and riding in the surrounding forests. The Abaria Iwno Horse Club boasts winning many international competitions.

The Abakus Kaczyna Club (Pobiedziska Community) is another stable. Both stables offer practice riding as well as opportunity to watch professional riders.

In Lusowo, all horse lovers may enjoy recreation and leisure at the Club Course around the charming Lusowskie Lake all year round.

The **Poznań AirClub**, with two air fields: in Kobylnica (Swarzędz Community) and in Bednary (Pobiedziska Community) offers tours of Poznań County from the air. Tourists may enjoy: ballooning, flying aircrafts, hang gliders, motor-gliders and para-gliders, or try their hand at tandem parachuting. Poznań County also boasts its private landing airfield in Żerniki in the Kórnik Community.

The Poznań Racecourse ('Tor Poznań') situated in Przeźmierowo, is the only facility of this type in Poland. The Wielkopolska Automobile Club welcomes not only professionals, but also amateur enthusiasts of motorcar and motorbike sports.

Poznań County also has perfect areas for **Nordic Walking**. Fans of Nordic Walking may take advantage of the available, well-marked tourist paths. Three dedicated paths running across the Landscape Parks of

Zielonka and Promno have been specially designed for Nordic walkers. All paths run in loops beginning and ending in places easily accessed by different kind of public transport.

The first path (Pobiedziska–Kapalica) starts from the Open Market in Pobiedziska and goes towards Drążynek Lake. Several options may be chosen, depending on the available time and intended distance to cover.



Photo 6. Where should I go for Nordic Walking?

The second path was arranged near the Brzostek Lake. It starts from the local car park. Depending on chosen option, you may go along the lake bank or delve into the Landscape Park to follow up to Drążynek Lake.

The last path starts at the Pobiedziska-Letnisko Leśne Railway Station and runs around the Dębiniec Lake Reserve.

WATER SPORTS

The **Warta River**, one of the largest rivers in Poland, flows across the middle of Poznań County. Several marinas have been erected along its banks. This is ideal for kayaks and motorboats. Kayaks often start in Śrem and finish in Oborniki. On the way, you will pass marinas in: Puszczykowo, Akwenmarina in Czerwonak and Binduga in Mściszewo, not far from Murowana Goślina. Akwamarina is the perfect place for a stopover and picnic. You can moor your kayak or boat and enjoy a barbecue. In the event of bad weather, you can use the roofed shed.

Numerous lakes are the real riches of Poznań County. Many have bathing areas and water equipment rental facilities. Lusowskie Lake with a guarded bathing place, Tropicana bathing place in Owińska, Ekoplaża in Stęszewko and Dymaczewskie Lake with the Mosiński Sailing Club, are the most interesting.

As far as sailing is concerned, Kiekrz, which cannot compare to Mazury in regards to area, but can pride itself on several marinas, splendid training results and Olympic successes is a place not to be missed. With a strong wind, you can go surfing in summer or sand yachting in winter.

The County also has wakeboard centres. Wakeboarding is also possible in Owińska and Pobiedziska, at Biezdruhowo Lake.

Many places in Poznań County have indoor swimming pools for sport and recreation. They are located in: Swarzędz, Suchy Las, Tarnowo Podgórne, Koziegłowy and Kórnik.

ROPE PARKS AND CLIMBING WALLS

Poznań County offers two rope parks.

Cascader Park in Kobylnica offers four rope courses, ranging from easy to difficult. Additionally, you can try the Tirol slides, where the longest is 300 m long.

Another rope park is located in Korzonkowo, Mosina Community. It includes three rope courses and a 60 m Tirol slide. Other attractions include carriage rides, horse riding or kayaking.

Let's go for Nature

There is no other way to get away of the metropolitan hubbub but to go for nature sites. If you enjoy the sight of two hundred year old oaks,

delicate flowers of the spring snowflake or a running squirrel, you have come to the right place. Walking along the crowded streets can easily be turned into a walk along designed paths, full of unexpected surprises.



Photo 7. Which way now?

WIELKOPOLSKA NATIONAL PARK

It's hard to believe, but there are still such people who are surprised that we have a national park in the region. The Tatra National Park, Bory Tucholskie or Bieszczady seem obvious, but Wielkopolska?

Nevertheless, the Wielkopolska Park exists and is among the most picturesque places in Poland. Its surface of 14,840 is relatively small, but full of surprises. The formation of the park areas is closely associated with glacial activities, mostly between 70-10 thousand years ago (i.e. Baltic Glaciation). The present forms of the landscape were created just then. You can find many elements typical of glacial terrain here: moraine uplands or gutters, with numerous lakes. If you see something that resembles a railway embankment, you are in the oval kame hills. Wandering through the park, you will also come across huge boulders. The largest one – Rangers' stone – is protected as a Natural Monument.

Glacial times are visible not only in the terrain, but the plant with a very intriguing name. Twinflower, *Linnaea borealis*. It used to be the favourite plant of Carl Linnaeus (the same man who invented the system of organisms classification). Twinflower was named by him. It is a remnant of the ice age in our currently protected area. *Maianthemum bifolium* is another common plant to be noticed. The diversity of flora accounts for 1,200 species of trees and shrubs. The park is dominated by a pine forest, but oaks and hornbeams are also very common. The area has about 150 species of bryophytes and lichens and as many as 500 species of fungi.

Vertebrates are among the noteworthy animals. Visitors can also see all the lowland species of amphibians, including a rare tree frog and natterjack toad. The numerous grass snakes and worm snakes that are also present in the area are worth mentioning. Interesting representatives of bird species include: the black woodpecker and kingfisher, the predatory common buzzard and marsh harrier. Lakes are rich in grebe and mallard ducks.

The park is also home to 40 species of mammals. In addition to deer, wild boar and predatory marten, badgers and foxes, numerous species of bats, rodents and insectivorous mammals are also popular. If you see an animal with an elongated snout resembling both a little mole, mouse and

hedgehog, it will surely be a pygmy shrew. This is the smallest mammal living in our country!

The shrew is obviously protected. It is not the only one. The Wielkopolska National Park includes areas of strict protection. 18 protected areas are found on a space of 260 ha. Various forms of post-glacial landscape and the most natural communities of associated plants and animals are also protected.

What is the smallest lake in the Wielkopolska National Park? It is the Skrzynka Lake associated with an interesting legend. It has supposedly been hiding the treasures of the Pożegowski Family since the time of the Swedish Deluge. Maybe it will come up to the surface someday? For now, however, the shining splendour of the one of ten lakes, instead of the sparkling of the ancestral jewels is the more likely scenario. Many glacial waters of various types and sizes are located in the Park, the largest being Łódzko-Dymaczewskie Lake and the deepest being the Góreckie Lake.

The island with castle ruins is situated on the latter. It was built by Titus Działyński as a wedding gift for his sister – Klaudyna Potocka. The building was designed in a romantic style with beautiful views of the surrounding lake. During the Spring of Nations Period, the abandoned castle became the headquarters of the insurrection army. Today, its ruins can be admired only from the shore, because the island itself is a strict nature reserve.

Among the areas of strict protection, Grabina [hornbeam forest] commemorated to Prof. Adam Wodziczko (founder of WNP) is most noteworthy. The most natural part of the oak and hornbeam forest, which survived on the edge of the Góreckie Lake trough, is protected here. It is a relic forest, which once occupied a large part of today's Park, a model for the reconstruction of the local tree stands. Góreckie Lake is a reserve itself. Similar to other water bodies: Kociołek Lake, Skrzynka and Budzyńskie Lakes and the periodic Pojniki Lake. Sarnie Doły, consisting of three



Photo 8. Adam Wodiczko Stone

mid-forest ponds and two peat bogs and marshes, as well as Trzcielińskie Swamp – a breeding ground of many species of waterfowl also make interesting reserves.

How can you see all of this? The Wielkopolska National Park is only 15 km south of Poznań, within three Communities of Poznań County: Mosina, Stęszew and Luboń. They all have good roads, bus and railway connections with the capital of the region.

For private car tourists, parking spots and recreational spaces prepared allow for easy access to the most interesting parts of the park. They include: the parking lot in Jezioro and Osowa Góra near Szreniawa, and also a resting point by Jarosławieckie and Puszczykowo Lakes with picturesque views of the Warta River are all worth mentioning.

The Wielkopolska National Park can be reached from Poznań by bus and train. The hubs are located in: Puszczykowo and Mosina (along Poznań–Wrocław road), also Szreniawa or Stęszew (along Poznań–Wolsztyn road).

ZIELONKA FOREST LANDSCAPE PARK

Situated north-east of Poznań, within its direct vicinity, is a green belt behind which additional charming places can be found in the county. Pines, beeches, maples, sycamores, oaks and hornbeams are the natural scenery for excursions across the Zielonka Forest which occupies three-quarters of the land (pine and mixed forests). The most precious sections are located within five reserves. Three of them protect rare plants ('Żywiec Dziewięciolistny', 'Czarne Lake', 'Pławno Lake'), with the remaining two protecting forests ('monastic larches near Dąbrówka Kościelna', 'Łopuchówko mixed forest').

The forest turned out to be a friendly place, not only for people who want contact with nature, but also for ... bats. As many as 13 species are found here. We are particularly proud of one of them. They are called the lesser noctule, a very rare species. In order to provide it with blissful tranquillity, pictures and filming are forbidden. This is a species which requires exceptional respect. In addition, deer, elk and fallow deer, wild boars, foxes and hares, wild rabbits and squirrels, as well as badgers, martens, otters and beavers also live here.

Interesting wildlife and a large variety of terrain make the area of the Park and its buffer zones exceptionally perfect for hiking and biking. The dense network of marked trails: hiking – black, red, green, blue and yellow, and a network of bike paths with a total length of 224 km, make it easy. The available paths access the most interesting parts of Zielonka Forest Park and its buffer zone. Tourist value their diversity. Bikers enjoy 'ups and downs' on the way.

Numerous hills, valleys and lake channels are the result of the last glacial age. A moraine, which culminates in the form of Dziewicza Góra of 143 m a.s.l. is found in the southwestern edge of the park. It makes up the highest point in the Zielonka Forest. For the past 10 years, Dziewicza Góra is home to a fire tower, which also makes a view point for tourists.

This is why one of the paths is called 'Dziewicza Góra'. (Others include 'Plant Communities around Zielonka Lake' in the Zielonka Forest, 'Kiszkowo Wilderness' and 'Path commemorated to Maksymilian Jakowski' in Wronczyn). Major communication routes are situated outside the park. The Park area includes mostly gravel roads, connecting local villages, being part of the historic trade routes. These are the: Poznański, Annowski, Bednarski, Zielonkowski and Pławiński paths. They all intersect in Zielonka. While in the village, note the Forest Arboretum of the University of Life Sciences in Poznań, available for visits throughout the year.

The attractiveness of the Zielonka Forest is mostly due to the numerous lakes. They account for as many as 30 within the Park, with 19 of them over one hectare surface. The largest are: Stęszewsko-Kołatkowski, Worowskie Wielkie, Gackie and Dzwonowskie Lakes.

The following paths run across the Park:

- The Cistercian Biking Path (CBP) from Poznań to Wągrowiec, Tarnowo Pałuckie and Łekno, (142 km);
- The section of the historical pilgrim path – 'Wielkopolska Droga Św. Jakuba', along Gniezno–Poznań road (marked with St. James Shell);
- The Wolf Path ('Wilczy Szlak') – a horse path from Stęszewko (Park buffer zone) to Lubniewice in Lubuskie Region (250 km in length).

The wooden churches route also runs across the Zielonka Forest Park. On the way you can visit: Kiszkowo, Kicin, Łagiewniki Kościelne, Sławno, Skoki, Uzarzewo or Wierzenica churches.

How can you see all of this? All the forests can be accessed by Poznań Municipal Public Transport. Railway transport towards Murowana Goślina and further towards Wągrowiec and Gniezno is also available.

PROMNO LANDSCAPE PARK (‘PARK KRAJOBRAZOWY PROMNO’)

The Promno Landscape Park is situated, 20 km east of Poznań not far from the Zielonka Forest.

If it was to take its name from the species living here, it could be equally called the ‘butterfly’ park. So many butterflies live here. Similar insects, however minor in the area, are popular. Larger mammals include: deer, wild boar and foxes, as well as industrious beavers and feisty otters. Many



Photo 9. Deciduous forest in the Promno Landscape Park

species of birds, including: hawks, hobby, pond marsh and cranes, woodpeckers and black storks can also be found here.

Rare, protected species of fungi, plants and animals represent the value of 'Promno'. The glacial landscape is among the most valuable elements. The park includes small melt-out lakes, of which Dębiniec, Wójtostwo, Dobre and Brzostek are the largest. The Cybina River flows through the southern part of the outskirts and the largest reservoir in the area is Góra Lake. Two main watercourses flow across the park: Szkutelniak and Czachurski Canals, being the main hydro-networks.

The greater part of the park is covered by forests, mainly pine and deciduous forests with many hornbeams, beeches, oaks and ordinary maples, ash and birch. These forests are also characterized by abundant undergrowth, consisting of, among others, hawthorn, hazel and blackthorn.

Four Nature Reserves have been established here: Jezioro Dębiniec, Jezioro Drażynek, Promno and Okrągłak Deciduous Forest. Dozens natural monuments can also be found in the Park and its buffer zone. A special protection of habitats near Promno (Natura 2000) provides additional protection of these areas.

There are two walking trails, three Nordic Walking paths and a part of the Biking Ring around Poznań and Piast Bike Path running across the Park. From Poznań, the Park can be easily reached by train or car going towards Gniezno to Pobiedziska.

ROGALIN LANDSCAPE PARK ('ROGALIŃSKI PARK KRAJOBRAZOWY')

Lech, Czech and Rus – are the names of famous oaks in Wielkopolska. They have become a living symbol of the region. However, apart from those most popular, there are 2 thousand other oaks in the Rogalin Landscape Park. Majestic, with huge trunks, they are not only the targets of expeditions, but also make a beautiful, cinematic stage design. The

Rogaliński Landscape Park was established mostly for their sake. It is to protect the clusters of oaks and the unique terrain of Warta River valley backwaters.

The park is dominated by meadows and pine forests. The Warta backwaters are rich in abundant yellow water lilies and white lilies. The meadows are dominated by common ophioglossum and military orchid. The bushes have cowslip, lesser butterfly orchid and Siberian iris, in peats – insectivorous sundews, while the forests are rich in common polypody, Turk's cap lily, lily of the valley, Cheddar pink.

Forest animals encountered here include: deer, wild boars and foxes, as well as beavers and otters in flood plains with sand lizards and adders. The Park is also home to birds, including: cranes, jays, orioles, sparrow hawks, buzzards, kites, woodpeckers and nightingales.



Photo 10. The most famous Rogalin oaks

Two Nature Reserves are located in the Park. Goździk Siny in Grzybno covers the south-west slope and dune grown with livid pink. This is the most frequent and the furthest north habitat of the plant.

The Krajkowo Reserve is one of the biggest Nature Reserves in Wielkopolska. It protects the riparian landscape of the Warta River with abundance of flora and fauna and most of all the clusters of centuries-old oaks.

The park is crossed by many Biking Paths, including the Ring around Poznań as well as four hiking and nature trails, including the 'Beaver Route' ('Bobrowy Szlak').

OTHER IMPORTANT RESERVES

The Śnieżycowy Jar Reserve is situated in the Murowana Goślina Community. It protects the spring snowflake, one of the few in Wielkopolska. This flower has taken so well to the land that it has expanded to 9.27 ha with an 8.84 ha buffer zone. Each year, people come to the reserve looking for the first signs of spring and watch the white flower carpet.

Most likely, flakes were planted in that area by local residents at the end of the nineteenth century. Approx. 20 species of trees and shrubs grow within the reserve, including: red oak, white poplar, maple field (pamaple), sycamore, elm. The youngest trees are 20 years old, the oldest – 120.

The snowflake grows massively in the undergrowth on the banks of a stream flowing in a steep ravine. The path, leading along the edge of the reserve, runs towards Starczanowo and Uchorowo (signposts). The Wolf Route is nearby.

The Gogulec Reserve ('Rezerwat Gogulec') is a peat bog nature reserve located in the Suchy Las Community. It is located on the outskirts of the Złotkowo village, near the border of the Biedrusko Military Compound. The yellow biking path runs along the reserve from Poznań to Chludowo and Oborniki. Its initial part connects with the Poznań Ring.



Photo 11. Spring starts here in the County...

The reserve was created to protect the transitional bogs with valuable flora and fauna. Six protected species are found within the reserve.

Bricked treasures of the County

Kórnik Castle belongs to the first league of the architectural treasures. It is a beautiful, rebuilt in the nineteenth century baronial mansion, which dates back to the Middle Ages, entered onto the list of historic monuments in Poland.

In its current form, it is one of the most interesting examples of Gothic Revival architecture in Poland. The picturesque building surrounded by a moat, has a cylindrical tower decorated with turrets, the crenellations crowning the walls and large Gothic windows.

Located in the beautiful, historic park, this venue is visited by 100 thousand tourists each year. Unique interiors with beautiful inlaid floors, carved door frames, stucco and Gothic vaults are really impressive.

You can see the picture depicting the White Lady – Teofila Szoldrska-Potulicka of the Działyński Family, who, as the story goes, descends from the image in the moonlight, holding her spectacular white dress, and walks through the park alley in the Arms Hall. Visitors can admire the art collection – family portraits from the seventeenth to the nineteenth century, Ethnographic Exhibits, furniture, militaria and historical memorabilia, without the fear of being possessed.

The original, defensive brick compound was founded in the 15th century. The castle was rebuilt several times by subsequent owners. Everything was done to impress guests such as: Henry Valois hosted by Stanisław

Górka, or Józef Piłsudski hosted by Władysław Zamoyski. The charm of the place used to be both the residence and splendour of the family. The castle belonged to the Górka (Łódź arms), Czarnkowski (Nałęcz arms), Grudziński (Grzymała coat of arms), Działyński (Ogończyk arms) and Zamoyski (Jelita arms) families.

The rebuilt castle (Karl Friedrich Schinkel participated in the design) became the headquarters of not only the museum, but also the Kórnik Library, one of the most extensive libraries in Poland created by Titus Działyński. Apart from the old books and manuscripts, the Kórnik Library includes works of Jan Kochanowski, Mikołaj Rej, Juliusz Słowacki and a manuscript of the third part of *Dziady* by Adam Mickiewicz.

Bnin, a town neighboring Kórnik, is linked with Wisława Szymborska, the Nobel Prize (Literature) winner, who was born in the castle's farm, in the so-called Prowenta. This sets Kórnik among the places of particular meaning for national culture and natural heritage.

The **Kórnik Arboretum** is located within 40 ha area south-east and south of the Castle. It is a 19th century landscape park in English style, created by Titus Działyński, in place of stylish gardens founded in the



Photo 12. Encountering the White Lady



Photo 13. The domain of magnolias

16th century. The Arboretum boasts the richest collection of species and varieties of trees and shrubs (c. 3000) brought from all over the world in the country. Birches, poplars, lilacs and coniferous trees and shrubs can be found here. Visitors enjoy shrubs during flowering – azaleas, rhododendrons, jasmine and magnolias.

The **Kórnik Path** ('Trasa Kórnicka') was neatly designed and arranged for motor-tourists. The path is marked along with EU standards, to allow for easy access to the most interesting places around. The path is about several dozen kilometres long. Its initial section starts at the intersection of Droga Dębińska and Królowej Jadwigi Streets in

Poznań. Later, the route follows along the Bolesław Krzywousty Street towards Kórnik via Bnin, Konarskie, Radzewice, Rogalin and Puszczykowo, to go back to Poznań. Brown boards with the route name are accompanied by blue boards with information concerning the most interesting places located along the route. The route goes towards the Kórnik Castle and the surrounding arboretum, the Palace and Art Gallery in Rogalin, the Museum of National Farming and Food Industry in Szreniawa and natural sites of the Wielkopolska National Park, including the Natural Museum in Jeziory and the Arkady Fiedler Museum in Puszczykowo.

The Palace-Park Compound in Rogalin (Mosina Community) is among the most impressive residences in the Wielkopolska Province. Since 1949, visitors may admire the Baroque interiors enriched with paintings, sculptures and decorative arts. The Compound forms a Palace, connected with two wing galleries, and is situated between the courtyard of honour, and a French garden trimmed in fancy fashion. Its construction was initiated by Kazimierz Raczyński in the second half of the 18th century. Dominik Merlini, Jan Fryderyk Knobel and Jan Chrystian Kamsetzer prepared the design based on the Classicist and Baroque style.



Photo 14. Rogalin Palace renewed

In the early twentieth century, the original structure was enriched with pavilion of large rooms, which is now a gallery of Polish and Western European paintings of the 19th and 20th centuries.

The Palace housed the National Museum in Poznań for the past 50 years. The Fund established in 1991 by Edward Bernard Raczyński, included all family's entire estate.

Edward and Atanazy Raczyński were once appointed protectors of the estate. Their passion for fine arts resulted in gathering exceptional works of painting and sculpture, which are now presented on the walls of the



Photo 15. A stroll along the alleys

Rogalin Gallery. Among them, you can see the historical visions of Jan Matejko, a world of fantastic creatures painted by Jacek Malczewski, or feel the atmosphere of the turn of the century decadence in the portraits of Olga Boznańska. The exhibition also includes paintings by: Wojciech Weiss, Alexander Gierymski, Paul Delaroche, Fritz Thaulow, Friedrich

Overbeck, Wilhelm Schadow and Arnold Bucklin. One of the palace interiors includes the reconstructed London office of the Count Edward Bernard Raczyński, the President of Polish Government in Exile from 1979 to 1986.

Now, after the long renovation, the main body of the palace regained its former glory and has been restored to the appearance of 1938. You can also visit the southern outhouse with a connector, and the carriage house with carts constructed in the 1920s. The Palace charms with beauty and splendour and draws a great interest of tourists.

During a walk in the 37 ha park, you can come across beautiful Chapel being neo-Classical copy of the ancient Roman Maison Carree temple in Nimes, located on the hill, hidden somewhat in bushes. The Chapel is a mausoleum of Edward Raczyński's ancestors.

Along the paths of Rogaliński Park you can see the 'Lech', 'Czech' and 'Rus' huge oaks which are two hundred years old, which belong to the greatest stand of old oaks in Europe. According to legend, in ancient times, three warriors met during the hunt in the nearby forest. Hunting a horned beast, they reached the clearing devoted to Światowid [Pagan god]. To honour the holy place they had mercy and set the animal free, thus winning their right to be remembered by the later generations. The oaks growing nearby were named after the noble warriors, and the entire village since the time has been called Rogalin [from the Polish word meaning 'Horn'].

Będlewo Palace (Stęszew Community) owns its romantic nature to the English Gothic forms, at the wishes of its owner – Count Bolesław Potocki. Erected in the 1860s, this building, with extended portico and front arcades, is located in the park famous for its variety of shrubs and flowers imported from abroad. At one time, it had the nearby ZOO with 150 fallow deer. Today, the authentic neo-Gothic building includes the Research and Conference Centre of the Mathematical Institute of the Polish Academy of Sciences, as well as a hotel and restaurant.

Walking along the park alleys we pass monumental specimens of chestnuts, limes, beeches and elms, and a neo-Gothic Chapel of the second half of the 19th century.

The Palace in Tulce (Kleszczewo Community) was erected in the Landscape Park. It was once the residence of a German family – the Sarrazins. It was erected by the family in the 1920s. At present, it houses the Plant Growing Station of Poznań.



Photo 16. Tulce Palace welcomes visitors

The 'Von Treskov' Castle in Strykowo (Stęszew Community) is the most beautifully restored residence of Poznań County. It is located on the south-eastern shore of Strykowskie Lake.

The palace, shaped into a neo-Gothic castle, was built in 1900 for Hans von Treskov. The central part of the building includes a four-storey tower crowned with battlements. The main body of the building is surrounded by various high turrets, wings and outbuildings, often decorated with battlements. The terrace was built on the lake side.

The palace is situated in the middle of a very tidy landscaped park, in the area of about 10 ha. The park was founded in the early 19th century, and includes oaks with circumferences of up to 490 cm, old linden, willow and *Metasequoia glyptostroboides*. The tennis courts and the beach are additional attractions, as today the castle is used as an exclusive hotel with a restaurant.

The Palace in Krzeńlice (Pobiedziska Community) of romantic and Gothic architecture, was built at the request of Zygmunt Radomski between 1877-1880.

The landscape park of the first half of the 19th century surrounds the Palace. Near the Palace, the classicist outbuilding and farm buildings of the same period are also well preserved. The beautifully restored Palace at present houses a hotel with a restaurant.

Krerowo Village (Kleszczewo Community) once was the property of Poznań Bishops, however its owners changed frequently in the past. By the time of Second World War, it was the property of Antoni Plewczyński. A palace designed by Roger Sławski was erected between 1905-1906 in the immediate vicinity of the 'old mansion' in Krerowo. The palace is in the form of a single-storey building with bunk projections. It has been restored in recent years. Visitors can be accommodated in the guest rooms. It is surrounded by a small but well-kept park, with lindens, maples and oaks.

The **Palace in Jeziorki** (Stęszew Community), was built in the late nineteenth century and then rebuilt around 1920. At present, it houses

a school and City Library. The simple, neo-Classical architecture is typical for the late 19th century. Nearby, the landscape park covering the area of over 12 hectares, was founded in the late 18th and early 19th century. You can see the preserved fragments of an Italian – French garden on the eastern side of the palace: stone stairs, terrace, pond and pergola are surrounded by a row of thuja. Strolling across the English landscape park, we find a mound with a statue of the Virgin Mary.

The Poznań National Park, charmingly located in **Jeziory Village** (Mosina Community) by Góreckie Lake is a great attraction of Poznań County. During the war, the Nazis built a residence for the Deputy of Warta Land – Arthur Greiser here. At present, the building houses the administration of Wielkopolska National Park.

The Palace in Konarzewo (Dopiewo Community) is distinguished by the architecture in a style of Italian Renaissance. It was erected in the late 17th century. Initially, it was the residence of Osiek Mayor – Andrzej Radomicki, which is confirmed by the Kotwicz arms visible at the entrance.

After the war, its interior was reconstructed, partially with new stucco in the hall and rooms of the first floor, and paintings dated to the turn of the 17th and 18th century. In 1806 Napoleon Bonaparte, who resided in the Konarzewo residence, had the opportunity to admire the charms of the French park with a regular design of patterns in falling terraces. When, in the 18th and 19th centuries, Konarzewo was returned to the Działyński family, the kind and arrangement of the park foliage was changed.

Today, there is a historic, 16th century church of St. Martin on the edge of the Natural Park. In the 17th century, its initial structure was enriched with a Baroque presbytery and a tower with a massive dome towering over the area today.

Long-time ruins are currently being restored by a private owner.

Biedrusko (Suchy Las Community) is presently associated with military activities held in the local, special military training grounds. However, it is worth to know that apart from the military aspects, the place is proud of the residence erected in the second half of the 19th century, the palace domiciled by Albert von Treskow. The building represents an eclectic, neo-Renaissance style.

Today, it is a private property – a hotel and restaurant. Invariably, it is surrounded by the greeneries of the landscaped park for many years.

Sky-high – Churches of wood and brick

Wooden churches represent a unique charm. They are intimate, have a beautiful shape, draw at least momentary attention of the spectators in cars speeding by. However they are worth longer attention, particularly, **the wooden church route around the Zielonka Forest**, which was arranged mostly for motor-tourism of local roads. It was created to represent the heritage of the wooden architecture. The route supports the maintenance services and natural shape of such architecture. The timber of the churches comes from the Zielonka Forest. Five out of twelve churches of this unique route, are located within the borders of Poznań County.

The St. Nicholas Church in Wierzenica (Swarzędz Community) built on the site of an older one in the 16th century, is made of wood and roofed with shingles. The oldest parts, the nave and presbytery date back to 1589, while the tower was erected between 1771 and 1778. The sacristy was added in 1635. In the 1930s, the nave was extended including the tower touchdowns. The western porch was added in 1978.

The main altar features a painting of Our Lady Wierzenicka, dating back to 1636. The early Baroque statue of the patron saint stands next to it.

The tomb chapel of Cieszkowski Family, built in Zakopane style, including the neo-Classical carved tombstone of August Cieszkowski,

a philosopher of the late 19th century adjoins on the northern aisle. The Cieszkowski's heirs founded the image of Our Lady wearing a veil, which is the 17th century copy of the famous work by Guido Reni.

The St. Michael the Archangel Church in Uzarszewo (Swarzędz Community) was probably built in the 12th century. Originally wooden, it was demolished in 1749. In the same year, the heir of the village, Felicjan Niepruszewski, built a new half-timbered temple. In 1869, the church was enriched with a new wooden tower. The sacristy chapel was added in 1900. The church has one nave of a hall-type, with a barrel ceiling. The main altar is Gothic, while the two side ones, are of

Baroque style. The image of Our Lady of the Snows and the statue of St. Teresa, both from the 17th century are housed in the church. The late-Classical rectory building from the mid-19th century is next to the church.

The St. Joseph wooden church of the 18th century stands in the centre of **Kicin** (Czerwonak Community). The history of its origin dates back much earlier, to 1405. Originally, it was dedicated to all the Saints,



Photo 17. The statue of St. Nicholas

which was amended at the time of the consecration of the new church in 1749, and since then, it is dedicated to St. Joseph – the husband of Holy Mary. The consecration also related to the four bells of which only three survived, those are dedicated to St. Joseph, St. John Nepomucene and St. Stanislaus. Their sound is heard from the church belfry even today.



Photo 18. Wooden church in Długa Goślina

The St. Mary Magdalene Church in Długa Goślina (Murowana Goślina Community) of 1600. Since 1621, it belonged to the Benedictine Order of Poznań, along with the Długa Goślina village. The tower, topped with a Baroque dome, and western porch were built at the beginning of the 18th century. Before 1778, the sacristy located on the north side of the chapel was demolished and the new one was built on the eastern side. In 1930, the new sacristy was built on the southern side of the presbytery. The church is built in an oriented structure, timbered on the outside. Its nave with narrow, straight presbytery is covered with a pitched roof covered with shingles.

The main altar features a 19th century painting depicting St. Mary Magdalene, and the

right altar features an 18th century sculpture of Christ the Sorrowful. The left altar is dedicated to St. Antony. The altar's predella includes a small image presenting the eremite life of St. Benedict and Romanus monk providing him with some food with the help of rope. There is a sculpture of St. Benedict, and St. Casimir the Prince on the left of St. Antony's image (19th/20th century).

The village of **Węglewo** (Pobiedziska Community) houses the **wooden Church of St. Catherine of Alexandria**, from the 17th century, being St. Mary's Sanctuary. The construction of the 1818 temple was marking stud partitions. The miraculous image of the Island Lady is made in Baroque style. Apart of the image, a Gothic crucifix on the rood beam, dated from the late 14th century and the paintings of St. Catherine of the 18th century, and St. Lawrence painting of the early 19th century are noteworthy.

Numerous antique wooden shrines scattered around the surrounding Communities can be found in addition to the wooden churches route in Zielonka Forest of Poznań County.

One of them is the 1712 **Rogalinek** (Mosina Community) Baroque Church shingled and topped with a turret. The most interesting of its historic features include the late-Gothic altar with a statue of the Madonna (sculpture was stolen), being an example of the folk art from the turn of the 17th / 18th century; the side altar, the 'Christ Scourged' painting is of similar origin along with three Baroque altars of 18th century.

The St. Jadwiga Church in Łódź (Stęszew Community) was made of wood in the second half of the 18th century and was renovated in 1784. By 1959, the roof was of thatch but for practical reasons it was later replaced with shingles. The temple is surrounded by a ring of old trees and the wall including the 18th century Baroque gate. It is a hall type of

church with no separate presbytery. The structure completes a brick octagonal sacristy built in 1936. It has a domed roof topped by a tin cupola with lanterns. The Potocki brick tomb chapel of Romanesque Revival style is from 1854. The roof of the temple has two turrets covered with tin and is supplemented with lanterns. Inside, the iridescent beam with a crucifix, dating from the early 16th century is well worth attention. The ceiling is decorated with facets. The main altar, decorated in Baroque style, dates from around 1670. The altar has a painting from 1866, which was created as a votive offered after the cholera epidemic. The Potocki family's chapel was arranged in neo-Baroque style. Inside, there are eight family members' epitaphs carved in a black marble. The bell tower is of a column-and-beam framework, covered with a gabled roof of 1863. It contains the bell cast in 1684 to celebrate the Vienna victory of Jan Sobieski the Third.

The Antique, **wooden Church of All Saints**, located in the eastern part of **Kleszczewo**, was built between 1760 and 1762. It consists of three clearly separated parts outside: the porch, the nave and presbytery. It is covered with shingles and topped with a turret. Among others, the three altars and Rococo pulpit from the 1760s are interesting. The wooden St. Mary's chapel and missionary cross stand nearby. A wooden bell tower from the 19th century is located next to the church.

The 1737-1738 **wooden church in Gułtowy** (Kostrzyn Wlkp. Community) is situated on the hill in the village centre. It looks quite picturesque against the background of the old trees. The Baroque and Rococo decor is worth noting. Since the 18th century, the Gułtowy village belonged to Bniński family, so the family's doyen – Franciszka Bniński (Środa Wlkp. Governor) rests there. Her Classicist gravestone is under the church pulpit. The paintings adorning the vault and the nave walls also date back to the mid-18th century.

The antique **wooden church of the Holy Cross in Buk** of 1760 was built in the cross shape, replacing the 18th century temple. The original murals depicting the life of St. Adalbert, have been preserved. The temple equipment are the crucifix and a stone stoup dated at the turn of the 15th and 16th centuries are among the most valuable items. There is a wooden bell tower from the 18th century and the Ecce Homo figure of 1762 next to the church.

In addition to the sacred structures of wood, **brick churches**, like the church dedicated to **St. Stanislaus – the Bishop of Buk**, can also be found in the Poznań County. It is a classic shrine of 1838-1846. It was burned in 1945. However, it was rebuilt between 1946 and 1951, and the completely destroyed interior was equipped with the late Baroque furnishings brought from a church in Woźniki. In 1992, after returning the old equipment to Woźniki, the church was furnished with the new one.

The ruins of the St. John the Baptist Church in Chojnica (Suchy Las Community) show the times of the late Gothic. The trunk of the church has mostly been preserved. Although now abandoned and gradually decaying, once it certainly enjoyed the attention and affection of the devotees, as evidenced by the history of changes and reconstructions of the building interiors.

The construction of the **St. Nicolas parish Church in Owińska** started in the first quarter of 15th century and finished in 1574, with minor reconstructions at the turn of the 17th and 18th century, (the works began in 1686). The eastern Baroque top is of the period. In 1835, the church was no longer a parish church. Its final look is Renaissance, partially Baroque. It was bricked in Polish style, with a plastered nave and porch. The church has one nave, a narrow presbytery and a separate rainbow pointed arch. A double span sacristy is on the northern side, with the

vestibule on the south. The Presbytery has a new ceiling which replaced the old Renaissance, pseudo-coffer. Three primary shaped beams, decorated with painted rosettes, survived in the nave. The church has not been used and was left to decay since 1939, despite the 1996 efforts to restore the gable roof.

The **St. John the Baptist Church in Owińska** erected between 1720 and 1728. It is an outstanding church due to its Baroque interior. The main altar with spiral columns is modelled after the style of the Vatican Basilica. Baroque stalls with inlaid, carved Rococo confessionals and paintings by Adam Swach and Walenty Żebrowski, are exceptional.

The parish Church dedicated to The Holy Virgin in Sobota (Rokietnica Community) is the oldest sacral monument in the Community. The monument was founded in 1367. The original church was wooden. The present brick, single nave, late Gothic one is of 1510/1517. The collapsing church was rebuilt in 1780. The entire interior comes from the late 19th and early 20th century and is decorated in neo-Gothic style. The altar features the 1794 Virgin Mary image famous for numerous miracles. The nave has a wooden ceiling, with the star ceiling in the presbytery. The Sobota Family's plaques of the 16th century are placed on the walls of the presbytery. Antique, iron doors of the 18th century make the entrance to the porch. The Gothic monstrance from 1450, Gothic organ, Renaissance cup, and a Memory Board commemorating the 200th anniversary of the Vienna Battle are also noteworthy. The register of monuments also includes the bell tower and a stone wall surrounding the church.

The Church of St. Michael the Archangel in Pobiedziska is among the oldest Gothic churches in the Wielkopolska Province. It was erected at the turn of the 13th and 14th century. Despite many damages and modifications, it has been preserved in its original shape. The Classical main altar from the early 19th century features a painting of St. Michael

Archangel of 1621. Also, the statue of Our Lady the Sorrowful from the second half of the 15th century, is a very valuable relic. The outside walls of the church have 1,000 intriguing dents from the 14th to the 16th century, evidently resultant from using the so-called Fire Drills for striking the ritual fire during the Holy Saturday rites popular in the late Middle Ages. A wooden bell tower built in the 19th century is nearby.

The history of **St. James in Murowana Goślina Church**, most probably, goes back to the Romanesque style times. Its current state is the result of many reconstructions and restorations of the original trunk, carried out over the centuries. They were mostly carried out during the first decades of the 17th century. A tombstone of Ursula Lviv Potulicka of the Ostroróg family, the wife of Peter Potulicki the then owner of Murowana Goślina and the governor of the Kalisz Province, is worth attention among the other relics of the church. The church is an extremely interesting monument in artistic terms – as an example of Protestant art of the 16th century in Poland when Goślina temple was used by the Czech Brothers. At the turn of 16th and 17th centuries, the church was overtaken by Catholics and stopped to play a congregation role. As a result, Ursula Potulicka's coffin was buried in the nearby churchyard. It was recovered in the 19th century and placed in the sacral space of the church.

The Gothic parish Church in Stęszew was erected in 1468 in place of the original wooden church (related to in 1298 and 1315). It was located east of the city square. The present shape resulted from the reconstruction after the fire of the 18th century. The Renaissance altars have been preserved.

Vases, totems and hives, or souvenirs of the past

Poznań County has a dozen museums. Some of them (not all) are strictly connected to the relics of their locations. The most important are the Kórnik Castle and Rogalin Palace.

Also, **the National Museum of Agriculture and Food Industry** ('Muzeum Narodowe Rolnictwa i Przemysłu Rolno-Spożywczego') **in Szreniawa** is worth attention. It is situated near road number 5, running from Poznań to Wrocław. The fragment of the former manor park and farm grange of historic farm buildings from the mid-19th century, can still be seen. Outdoor exhibitions located in the huge area of 10 hectares, include: the beekeeping museum, the machinery and equipment related to the sugar industry, treadmills and a set of devices associated with the water supply for the rural and agriculture areas. Particular attention of visitors deserves the largest collection of steam locomobiles.

The exhibition halls with a total area of over 5,000 square meters, include: the historical monuments of the Polish countryside, as well as farm machinery, farming and animal husbandry devices, beekeeping, plant breeding and horticulture, hop and wicker, rural transport, communication and rural craft exhibits.

The collections of rural transport are particularly valuable. The bike from 1890 made by a village craftsman, and also the farm wagons and sledges from various regions of Poland are particularly noteworthy.

The Museum also includes a 22 meter high observation tower, being the mausoleum of the Bierbaum Family, the first owners of the property in Szreniawa.

The museum has two special departments – the Open Air Museum of Apiculture ('Skansen Pszczelarstwa') in Swarzędz and the Museum of Natural History ('Muzeum Przyrodnicze') in Uzarzewo.

The collection of the **Open Air Museum and the Museum of Apiculture ('Skansen i Muzeum Pszczelarstwa') in Swarzędz** relate to the bee-keeping and silk industries and activities related to keeping bees and bumble bees. The museum has a vast collection

of hives presented outdoors. These include: trunk hives, including the fifteenth century beehive, the straw hives, architectural and figural ones. The manor building houses the exhibition of useful insects. The main attraction is the sample hive showing the life of bees.

The Natural History Museum of Hunting ('Muzeum Przyrodniczo-Łowieckie') in Uzarzewo is situated near the Piastowski Path, 15 km from Poznań. It is housed in the 19th century palace located in the six hectare landscaped park of a different kind of terrain. The stable-coach house, with the exhibition of Nature, is another historic building.



Photo 19. Unique locomobile – Museum in Szreniawa

The palace rooms house the exhibition devoted to the history of hunting dated from the beginning of a very distant past reconstructed on the basis of excavations, until the 20th century.

The Museum of Arkady Fiedler's Work Room ('Muzeum – Pracownia Literacka Arkadego Fiedlera') is located in the old building and the

garden of the Fiedler's Family, in Puszczykowo.

Numerous original exhibits from North and South America, Africa and Asia, gathered by the Fiedler's family, can be seen in the museum. The sculptures and ritual masks (including the famous mask with a chain, endowed with the magical power of an extraordinary impact on people) and tom-toms are particularly interesting. The arsenal of bows, spears and hunting blowguns, as well as trophies of human heads prepared by Jibaro Indians is also impressive. There are also many exhibits presenting the fauna of distant continents, beautiful tropical butterflies, giant tarantulas, scorpions, crocodiles and caimans.

The garden presents the unique in Europe collection of the exotic monuments, true 1:1



Photo 20. Traces of old cultures – Museum in Puszczykowo

copies of the monuments of ancient cultures. For example, the 6.5 meter high statue from Easter Island, the legendary Sun Gate from Titicaca Lake in Bolivia, and a giant statue of a Toltec warrior.

Also, a Sitting Bull monument, one of the greatest leaders of the 19th century Prairie Indians, draws much attention. The big attraction is also a 1:1 replica of Santa Maria, the old sailing ship of Christopher Columbus and Hawker Hurricane MK I fighter, who took part in the Battle for Britain during World War II.

The Martyrs' Museum in Żabikowo ('Muzeum Martyrologiczne') takes spectators deep into the old times. It is located in a building preserved as the only one after the liquidation of the existing German (Security Police) Prison in 1944. The collected photographs and documents show the drama of people imprisoned in the Nazi concentration camps. The number of victims lost in such places has not been properly estimated up to the present day. It is estimated however, that about 40,000 prisoners were imprisoned in the camp. A large part of them were re-transported to the concentration camps in: Auschwitz, Ravensbruck and Sachsenhausen. The permanent exhibition of the museum presents the history of the labour camps established in the Wielkopolska Province for people of Jewish origin. Many exhibits are the mementos donated by former prisoners and their families.

The Open Air Museum of Miniatures in Pobiedziska ('Skansen Miniatur') is located by the Poznań–Gniezno road. The churches along the Piast Route, numerous town halls, mansions, palaces and restored palaces and the Old Poznań Market buildings are among the one hundred 1:20 scale mock-ups of the most characteristic Wielkopolska buildings. The primary function of the museum is to show the spatial structure of the Piastowski Route in its present and partly historical form and the development process of the settlement, and the Polish state development.

The Pobiedziska Fortress ('Gród Pobiedziska') is located by the Poznań–Gniezno road, near the Open Air Museum of Miniatures in Pobiedziska. It is a wooden fortress made to resemble the style of the early Middle Ages. The siege machineries of natural scale can be seen in the fortress. They can not only be admired – some can still be used.

The Missionary-Ethnographic Museum of the Divine Word Missionaries ('Muzeum Misyjno-Etnograficzne Werbistów') in Chludowo presents the ethnographic items and souvenirs obtained on the occasion of the missionary work carried out by the Polish Divine Word Missionaries, in almost every corner of the world. Visitors have the opportunity to see authentic hunting weapons, shamanic insignia, as well as costumes specific to the relevant cultures.

The Missionary SVD House of the Divine Word Missionaries includes the Hall of Remembrance, dedicated to father Marian Żelazko SVD, a missionary and Nobel Peace Prize nominee. Father Żelazko devoted his life to the missionary work among the population of India. The Hall of Remembrance includes the ethnographic exhibits collected along his missionary travels across the five continents of the Earth.

The Regional Museum in Stęszew ('Muzeum Regionalne') is located in the arcade building, the last such building around. You can see the historical and ethnographic exhibits related to the city, costumes, folk boxes and furniture of peasant crafts.

The PTTK [Polish Association of Tourism] Museum of the Buk Region ('Izba Muzealna PTTK Ziemi Bukowskiej') presents the exhibits showing the past of Buk. It includes the organisation and association flags of pre-war Poland, as well as the memorabilia associated with the Wielkopolska Uprising and the Nazi occupation.

Goślina Region Chamber ('Izba Regionalna Ziemi Goślińskiej') is located in the old Town Hall, also housing the Public Library of Murowana Goślina. It houses the museum and a research body dedicated to the investigations of the Goślina Region. It presents the memorabilia of the region, where the oldest ones date back to the 18th century.

The Mill Museum in Rogierówko ('Muzeum Młynarstwa') at Kierskie Lake, located in the old wind mill of Dutch type, dated to 1905, made on an octagon layout. It is the only windmill of its kind in the Wielkopolska Province, using mostly automatic processes. The operating miller's job was feeding the grain and collecting the ready-made flour. Its upper part, the cape, was used to adjust to the wind direction with the help of a smaller propeller behind. The propellers with blinds were another technical improvement increasing the speed of the mill and helping the miller. At present we can see the old milling machinery: the steam engine used to provide power during the windless weather, a special line of camel's hair and hemp inside the historic Dutch windmill. You can touch an exotic wood which needed no lubrication in those times.

The Nature Museum in the Wielkopolska National Park of Jezioro ('Muzeum Przyrodnicze Wielkopolskiego Parku Narodowego') continues the activities of the old Nature Museum in Puszczykowo. The old Museum includes 530 exhibits of mammals, birds, reptiles and amphibians and a library with an extensive collection of books. The exhibits are arranged in four rooms. The first one presents basic information about the Wielkopolska National Park, monuments of nature, ecosystems and forest communities of the WNP. The second room is divided into several thematic sections, with the most important being the fish of the National Park lakes. The third room is entirely dedicated to birds, while the fourth is dedicated to insects.

The Wielkopolska Uprising Museum dedicated to General Józef Dowbor-Muśnicki, ('Muzeum Powstańców Wielkopolskich im. Gen. Józefa Dowbora-Muśnickiego') in Lusowo (Tarnowo Podgórne Community) is located in the Ogrodowa Street building since 2008. The available exhibits commemorate the victorious uprising of 1918-1919. The exhibitions of the museum also relate to contemporary Polish history.

The Panoramic Tower at Dziewicza Góra

Fire Tower was erected at Dziewicza Góra in 2005. This was soon used as a panoramic vantage point. The tower has 172 steps and is popular among tourists who can admire the panorama of the Czerwonak Community, nearby Poznań, including the trees and hills of the Zielonka Forest. The tower is 40 m high. The panoramic platform is at 30 m. There is well equipped observatory used by rangers above the platform.

The Panoramic tower in WNP in Mosina

The wooden tower in Mosina (Pożegowo) is 16.97 m high. It is located at 140.5 m a.s.l. in the Glinianki, included in the NATURA 2000 Protection Area and in the Wielkopolska National Park.

The tower is available to tourists seven days a week. Tourists may also use the camping grounds, benches, bike racks and viewing platforms that promote relaxation in the fresh air. Among others, the tower offers a panoramic view of the city of Poznań, Wielkopolska National Park and Mosina.

The **Spatial Orientation Park**, the first in Europe in respect of the scale, was designed for blind children and those of poor vision, educated in the Special Purpose School and Education Centre for Vision-Impaired Children in Owińska. The facility is used to promote individual movements of children within the spaces available for sighted people. The Park is also called the garden of senses, because it enables one to move through



Photo 21. Owińska – the place to learn spatial orientation

the surrounding environment using the available senses. The diversified surface of the individual tracks going in mazes, fragrant gardens and various types and shapes of sandpits and fountains, stimulate the sense of touch, smell and hearing. Children and youth find many attractions there. The Park makes an unusual place for learning, playing and integration.

Services and guards

Here is some information on services and guards looking after our safety.

FIRE BRIGADE

The County has two Fire Brigade squads (firefighters and rescuers), which are part of the Poznań Municipal Headquarters. The JRG 8 is located in Bolechowo, and the JRG 9 in Mosina.

Additionally, each Community has their own Voluntary Fire Brigade Squads. In total, they account for 63 squads within the County.

POLICE

Police forces account for **14 Stations** (in Buk, Czerwonak, Komorniki, Kostrzyn, Kórnik, Luboń, Murowana Goślina, Mosina, Pobiedziska, Puszczykowo, Stęszew, Suchy Las, Swarzędz and Tarnowo Podgórne). They all are part of the Municipal Headquarters of Poznań.

HOSPITAL IN PUSZCZYKOWO

It operates as a joint stock company established on 31 December 2014, under the name: the Professor S.T. Dąbrowski Hospital in Puszczykowo

Inc., with 100% of the share capital held by Poznań County. Apart from a modern Emergency Department, its patients may use 17 specialized wards and renovated Surgery Ward with five operating theatres, which perform surgeries including: general surgery, neurosurgery, neurology, orthopaedics and traumatology, ophthalmology, ENT and gynaecology. The ward is equipped with: arthroscopy, endoscopy, instruments for complex surgical, urological, neurosurgical and orthopaedic procedures. The hospital also has a diagnostics laboratory and imaging laboratories. It is engaged in a research, teaching and international cooperation.

Administration of Poznań County

Poznań County operates seven secondary schools (Bolechowo and Murowana Goślina, Kórnik, Puszczykowo, Rokietnica, Mosina, and two in Swarzędz). Puszczykowo, Mosina and Rokietnica are boarding schools. They offer both general knowledge and special skills, useful in the labour market. The most interesting proposals include: military classes in Mosina high school, sport-and-defence classes in Bolechowo high school, classes under the patronage of SOLARIS Bus & Coach SA, in a vocational school in Murowana Goślina, and police classes in High School No. 2 Education Centre (EC) in Swarzędz, classes under the patronage of Volkswagen Poznań and SKF Poland in No. 1 EC in Swarzędz. The Puszczykowo Education Centre also includes a high school which has classes with extended sports and PE.

Poznań County also runs two special education schools in Mosina and Owińska. The Education Centre in Mosina includes a special primary school, special gymnasium, special vocational school and a three year special vocational training school. The Owińska Centre educates blind and poor sighted students. The Centre includes: a special primary school, special gymnasium, special vocational school, special high school and the vocational training school.

Poznań County also operates three Psychological & Pedagogical Counselling Centres. The one in Luboń, with Tarnowo Podgórne, Buk,

Suchy Las and Stęszew branches, operates in the western part of the County, including Dopiewo and Rokietnica Communities. The Puszczykowo Counselling Centre, with a branch in Kórnik, operates in the southern part of the County, also those in Mosina and Komorniki, while the Swarzędz Centre, with branches in Murowana Goślina, Kostrzyn Wielkopolski, Pobiedziska and Czerwonak, operates in eastern part of the County, including Kleszczewo Community.

Several Family Help Units also operate in Poznań County. They include: the District Family Assistance Centre and Orphanage in Kórnik-Bnin, the Family House in Swarzędz and the Family Support and Crisis Intervention Centre in Kobylnica. The County also supports the Social Help Centre in Lisówki.

The County also controls the District Road Management Office, which manages the county's roads, the Geodesy and Cartography Documentation Center in Poznań and the District Labour Office, serving both the county and the city of Poznań.

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