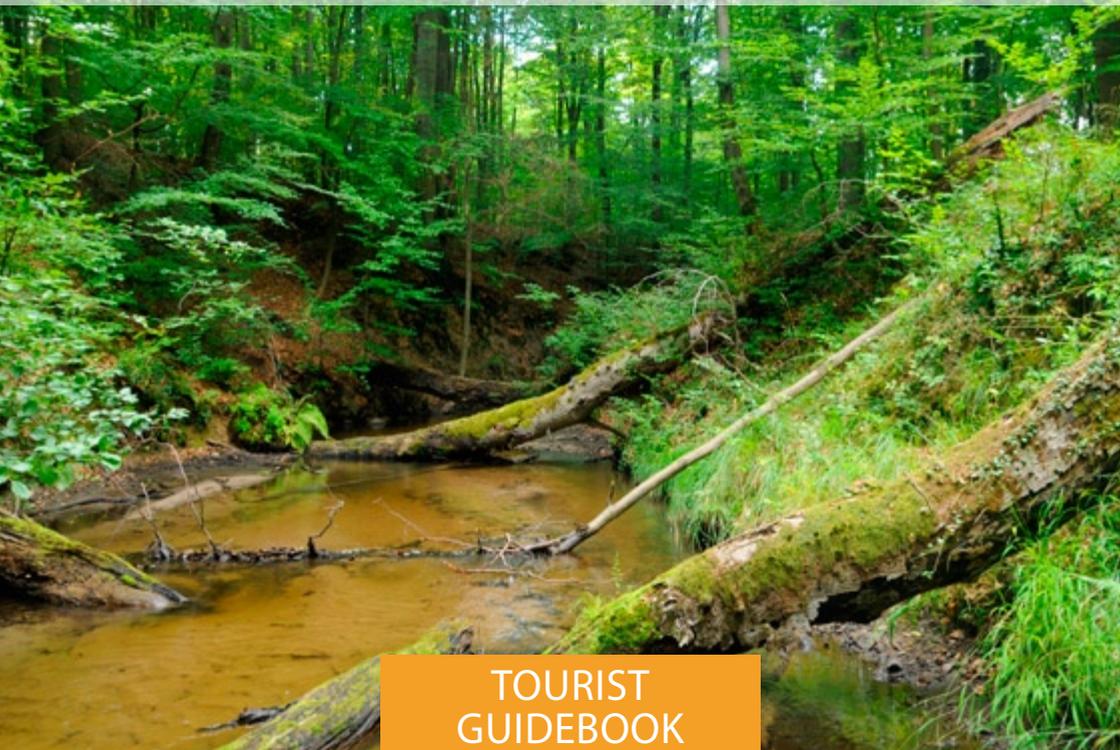


THE TOURIST TRAILS OF STRZELCE KRAJEŃSKIE COMMUNE



TOURIST
GUIDEBOOK



Program
Rozwoju
Obszarów
Wiejskich
na lata 2007-2013

Commissioned by **The Town Hall of Strzelce Krajeńskie**

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Strzelce Krajeńskie 2014

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Ladies and Gentlemen,

The Land of Strzelce Krajeńskie is a region extraordinarily endowed by nature and history, and its values will enchant even the most picky tourist or sightseeing fan. It is truly difficult to pick a place here which you can disregard in your travel as not interesting enough. All this considered, we are fully aware that the presented range is only our subjective proposal of what you can see here.

Taking this guide in your hands, you expect the information and contents to help your cycling and hiking tours in the territory of the commune of Strzelce Krajeńskie to become a safe yet fascinating adventure. To achieve this goal, you need to learn about the rules of identification of bicycle trails, Nordic walking and hiking, choosing the right bike, and choosing good tourist clothes.

The layout of this guide is based on three main elements:

- 1) General information
- 2) Trail description
- 3) Accommodation information

Because bike trails, hiking trails and Nordic walking trails will cross, a sightseeing description of the given town/village, area or object will be presented in this guide only once. If there is another trail running across the same location, you will be referred to the trail containing its description. The guide covers a total of over 170 km of bicycle trails and over 67 km hiking trails, including Nordic walking paths.

In the immediate territory of the commune, there are 127 km identified bicycle trails and 46 km hiking trails, including 29 km for Nordic walking. A 7.5 km water trail has been set out in addition.

A necessary addition to this guide is an updated tourist map of the commune, and a camera to capture everything that draws your attention and makes you want to save the memory.

It is our intention to effectively encourage you, with the texts and photos contained in this Guide, to leave your home even for a short time, to stay healthier and to let your body and mind rest, and in doing so - to get to know one of the most interesting regions in Poland, which is the Strzelce Krajeńskie Land.

Zbigniew Rudziński – author
Wiesław Sawicki – Mayor of Strzelce Krajeńskie



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GENERAL INFORMATION

Identification of tourist trails.

It is essential for tourists to know the rules of tourist trails identification, according to the Regulation of the Minister of Infrastructure and the Minister of Internal Affairs and Administration. The Regulations state the following:

- the basic graphic pictogram of a bicycle trail is 20 x 20 cm in size, with a simplified image of a bicycle against a white background, with a rectangle underneath in one of the following colours: red, blue, green, yellow or black,
- the basic graphic pictogram of a hiking trail is 9 x 15 cm in size, with a simple stripe (3 x 15 cm) against a white background, in one of the following colours: red, blue, green, yellow or black,
- the basic graphic pictogram of a Nordic walking trail is a simplified image of a walker with sticks, in one of the following colours: red, blue, green, yellow or black.

Directional arrows occur on the identification of every type of trail when the direction of travel changes. We should emphasize that the trail colour does not indicate the difficulty of the given trail! A popular belief of the black trails being the most difficult ones has no reasonable justification. Each description gives the length of the specific trail (in kilometres), to make it easier for you to determine your progress.

Choosing a bike and active tourism equipment.

When you consider buying a bicycle, you need to make sure that your bike is in good service condition, but also that you will be able to:

- cycle not only on bitumen (asphalt) roads but also on forest roads, dirt roads, or roads on embankments. 24"+, wide tires and wheels will be the best and necessary choice for that purpose,
- carry tourist sacks with food, repair kits, a raincoat, maps, guides, etc. Backpacks are not practical and they adversely affect your cycling comfort,
- for hiking and Nordic walking, it is important to have comfortable hard-soled shoes and an internal frame backpack, which will increase your walking pleasure,
- remember about a first aid kit; even if you do not have to use it yourself, you will be able to help another tourist in case of emergency.

A tour is not only an opportunity to enjoy your physical strength, but also to experience direct contact with nature, with interesting - often historical - architecture, and museum collections. It is also a great opportunity to perfect your geographic knowledge and to work for PTTK active tourism badges:

Rules of working for PTTK [The Polish Tourism & Sightseeing Society] active tourism badges

Regulations for working for a PTTK Hiking Badge <http://ktpzg.pttk.pl/otp/regotp.php>

Regulations for working for a PTTK Cycling Badge

http://www.pttk.pl/pttk/przepisy/index.php?co=ro_kot

Regulations for a PTTK Tourist - Nature Expert Badge

http://www.pttk.pl/pttk/przepisy/index.php?co=ro_tp

Regulations for a PTTK Sightseeing Badge

http://www.pttk.pl/pttk/przepisy/index.php?co=ro_kraj

VISITING STRZELCE KRAJEŃSKIE

You should definitely start your tourist adventure with seeing the extraordinary town of Strzelce Krajeńskie. To do this, visit the Tourist Information Spot in the Town Market (e-mail: punktit@strzelce.pl, telephone: 95/76 32 100) where you will quickly get a town map, sightseeing brochures and other promotional materials. You will also get answers to your questions about accommodation options and conditions, tourist attractions, the nearest leisure and cultural events, banks, chemists, or food service. Another advantage of visiting the Tourist Information Spot is that you can enjoy exhibitions by artists and authors living in Strzelce Krajeńskie and surroundings, and see a historical Marshal Blücher statue, which was found in 2011. The facilities in Strzelce Krajeńskie which are discussed in this guide constitute one of the two routes of the Town's Historical Trail. The first of these routes - "The Monuments of Strzelce" - covers the 19 existing objects. The other - "Lost in Strzelce" - covers 22 objects that no longer exist.

Strzelce Krajeńskie is a town whose history dates back to the 13th century. The oldest piece of information about the location itself was published in Wielkopolska Chronicle (1272), mentioning conquest and complete destruction of a "Strzelci" settlement with a hunter's castle by Przemysław, a prince of Greater Poland. The name probably originates from the fact that it was settled by local archers, part of the nearby Santok castle garrison. The German name "Friedeberg" appears after the settlement was conquered by Brandenburg Margraves in the second half of the 13th century; the meaning is "Peaceful Hill". Due to the strategic location of the castle, fortifications were built in the 13th and 14th century, most of which have survived until the present day. Strzelce most probably received its town status before 1286. After 1410, a treasure was hidden in the town centre - the 2773 coins were accidentally discovered in 1977 during erection of a block of flats. These were mainly *denarius* coins - Pomeranian, Jagiellonian, of Kamień Pomorski Bishopric - as well as 8 Prague groschen of Wenceslaus IV of Bohemia (1386-1419). The treasure was most probably hidden during the 1433 invasion of Czech Hussites supported by the Polish army during the Polish-Teutonic war. At that time, the town was conquered after a few days' siege through blowing up a part of the walls. In 1538 Margrave Jan Kostrzyński changed his religion to Lutheran, followed by the entire Neumark. Consequently, the Order of Saint Augustine cloister and parish church endowment were dissolved. The prince used the goods thus acquired to develop his duchy and to build a stronghold in Kostrzyn. The first likeness of the town (viewed from the south) by Mateusz Merian the Elder was published in "Topographia Electoratus Brandenburgici et Ducatus Pomeraniae" of 1652. This print does not represent the damages



The Prison Keep

suffered by the town during the 30-year war (1618-48); therefore, we should assume that this likeness precedes the war. The damages must have been very serious as Daniel Petzold's drawing produced in 1715, almost half a century later, clearly shows the ruin of part of fortifications and lack of certain facilities. The period of Strzelce's prosperity was undermined by the 7-year war and the Napoleon wars.

Another advantageous period for the town follows in the 19th century. The "golden era" of Strzelce Krajeńskie ends with the outbreak of World War I, the economic crisis and the damage caused by World War II. Today's Strzelce Krajeńskie is the product of post-war reconstruction of the now Polish town, and continuous development which is becoming more rapid with the European Union integration.

The Parish Church



THE MUNICIPAL HISTORICAL TRAIL

The Monuments of Strzelce Krajeńskie

Start your walk across the town with the Tourist Information Spot in the Town Market, from where you should follow across Bolesława Chrobrego Street towards the old parish church, dominating the architectural landscape.

This three-nave Gothic church was built in the 15th century of ceramic brick, to replace an earlier 13th century church which was burnt down during a Hussite invasion. It was rebuilt as a hall structure, to burn down again in a fire in 1687. It was rebuilt again until 1693 and damaged one more time forty years later. The church tower was affected by thunder strike, which also caused a fire on the roof. Rebuilt again (1736), the church with its proudly prominent flag with the town's coat of arms and an iron spire with gold-plated ball survived until the final year of World War II when it was almost completely damaged. Its reconstruction commenced only in the 1960s-1970s, including reconstruction of damaged vaults. When the works ended in 1973, bishop Wilhelm Pluta would donate a late Gothic altar to the parishioners of Strzelce; the work probably dates back to the 16th century and is attributed to a "Gościszowice master".

After visiting the church, walk Henryka Sienkiewicza Street to a prominent three-storey Prison Gate (produced as a result of reconstruction of one of the half-shell towers) where the villains condemned in the town were imprisoned. It is sometimes called the Gunpowder Gate (as it was used to store gunpowder since the end of the 18th century), or the Witch Gate (according to the legend, remnants of the body of a witch burnt at a stake were added to the lime mortar used to build the structure). During the same time, a wicket gate was knocked out in the adjacent wall, to facilitate transport in case of town fire. The medieval stone defensive wall have survived almost in their entirety (length: 1640 m, height up to 7 m, 36 observation hides - half-shell towers); therefore, the local fortifications are often referred to as "the Carcassonne of the Lubuskie Region".

Turn left along the inside of the walls into Forteczna Północna Street. After 300 metres, you can see an interesting half-timbered residential building on the right at the back (37 Północna Street), which dates back to the second half of the 18th century.

Continue for 200 metres to reach B. Chrobrego Street again (national road 22), walk across the street to an attractive, four-storey 14th century Mill Gate, from the direction of Drezdenko. Its name originates from a mill located on a defile between lakes. It is built of red brick, on solid stone strip footing, and looks



The Mill Gate with a portcullis

The Mill Gate

really impressive. Enter the sharp-arched passage, pay attention and try to find the locations of remaining guides for a former oak wood lattice (portcullis - after reconstruction) that used to close the passage clearance.

Inside the gate, on the upper floors, a regional museum was set up in 1919 and was open during the inter-war period. The adjacent pitched-roof building is currently used for cultural purposes, as the 1st Level State Music School.

There is a carefully renovated granary (built around 1764) in front of the Mill Gate. This one-storey, pitched-roof building was used as a warehouse. Out of its former equipment, only blacksmith-made door hinges remain. This building is currently the property of the Strzelce Cultural Centre.

In the Middle Ages, a small single-floor half-timbered building of St. Gertrude Hospital was located right next to this place, where homeless, sick and poor people were taken care of. During the thirty-year war (1618-48), Swedish army burnt this place down. It was



Medieval fortifications

rebuilt a hundred years after the incident; unfortunately, it has not survived until today.

You should now return to within the town walls, turn left into Brygady Saperów Street, pass the former Order of St. Augustine cloister site (next to today's kindergarten). The monks moved in as early as around 1290. The cloister built at that time was destroyed during the Czech/Polish invasion. It was rebuilt and became the property of the ruler during the Reformation period; it burnt down in 1637. Brewhouse and sheepfold buildings were erected on the site after a certain time. 2012 archaeological research proved the existence of a medieval building in this spot.

Continue walking, to see two historical tenements on the left (19 and 20 Saperów Street) before the crossroads - these are half-timbered houses dating back to the turn of the 18th/19th century. Get to Targowa Street, turn left and leave the town walls.

At the crossing with ks. J. Popiełuszki Street, pass the impressive 1889 building of a girls' school, currently accommodating a Public Primary School, and a 1929 St. Francis of Assisi parish church a little further on the left. The latter modest hall building features a wooden ceiling with interesting paintings, and a St. Francis painting.

Continue straight on to the crossing with Brzozowa Street, then turn right at the Poviát Police Headquarters, pass the historical residential villas and a unique, impressive building of the former Teacher Training College (Al. Wolności). This three-storey ceramic brick building, erected in 1905, remains without plastering and still attracts attention with its intensive red colour. Shapes of window openings are different on each floor. At the moment, the building is used by the Centre for Continuing and Practical Education School Complex.

Turn right, cross the street and head back to the town centre along road 156, passing the Poviát Labour Office building, formerly the Financial Office. Soon you will pass the Municipal Office building and reach the post office building. This is a former Savings Union, built in 1940, with ornamental clinker brick cladding.

On the other side of Gorzowska Street, you will see the most beautiful building in the town, namely the 1900 Art Nouveau villa, currently the District Prosecutor's Office. You cannot miss the beauty of the architectural arrangement in this two-storey, visionary red brick design, covered with a hipped roof and enriched with a four-sided turret in the corner.

Now it's time to return to the town centre; pass the roundabout, walk along for about 400 metres to get back to the Town Market. Turn right and you will be facing a neo-Renaissance (1870-72) town hall, today a Court building. The main facade has bow-shaped windows on the first and second floor. Reconstruction of a 1908 mast built by blacksmith Paul Wadephul, with a steel dragon silhouette, attracts attention. When you enter the building through a representative hall, you should have a look into the former town council meeting room (you need to get permission).

Now, after this "mandatory round", you should take an "extracurricular round".

Another highly recognizable building is the masonry water tower, built in 1926 (Wodociągowa Street). Water was pumped into it via a pipeline from a water intake 4 km away, in Sławno. The tower entrance, with a decorative ceramic portal, is a reference to neo-Renaissance style. At the moment, the water tower is not working its original function - it is the registered seat of "Lemko-Tower" Society of Lemko Culture Lovers. It is a group of both the descendants of the Lemkos, who were resettled by force during 1947-49 Operation Wisła from the territory of the Bieszczady Mountains and the Low Beskids, and sympathizers of this nation's culture.

You should also walk to the municipal cemetery (Cmentarna Street) to the part which is the former Evangelical Cemetery, and look for a tombstone dedicated to Ludwig Noster. This remarkable painter, born in 1859 in Strzelce, af-



The former Town Hall

iliated to the Kaiser's court, was famous mainly for his portraits and landscapes. The artist died in 1910, and a work by sculptor Hans Latt in white marble was created on his grave. The statue represents a woman supported on a plinth, with a medallion and the painter's image. Below are the dates of birth and death of Ludwig Noster and his wife Anna.

Another interesting historical object consists of former district gardening service buildings, located at the exit from the town towards Zwierzyn (road no. 156).

One more location worth visiting in Strzelce is the "Na Janówku" Farm Accommodation for Tourists, owned by Ms. Anna Szczepaniak, on the outskirts of the town. The hosts offer their guests horse-riding options and hippotherapy activities. There are aviaries for birds on the site, and every child can try many activities related to animal breeding. A room capable of accommodating 60 persons is available, as well as dining facilities.

The Water Tower



1.

BICYCLE TRAILS

Strzelce Krajeńskie – the Popie Lake – “Mszar Rosiczkowy koło Rokitna” [Sundew Highmoor near Rokitno] Nature Reserve - Długie.

RED TRAIL,
length: 11.6 km.



Our bike trail begins with the architectural symbol of Strzelce Krajeńskie, which is certainly the Mill Gate (0.0 km). Pass the former granary, at the crossroads next to the Culture Centre follow the red and yellow signs to Grodziska Street, right at an angle (0.2 km), then left right afterwards (0.3 km) into Poznańska Street. The asphalt road will soon end, and a dirt road called “Poznańska Droga” begins at the board with a tourist map (0.9 km), leading to Długie village. Continue across the fields, pass an orchard on the left (1.3-1.8 km), then (3.1 km) an isolated pear tree - you should stop here in September/October to try its delicious fruit. Cover 200 more metres; before the edge of a small forest, you part with the yellow trail identification which turns left (towards Licheń) and the road to the right leads to Sidłów. Your trail runs straight on, while the small forest accommodates the Popie Lake (3.5 km, on the right, called the “Angel’s Pond”), with a resting place. To reach the place, you should pull off the identified trail slightly. You will see many resting places for bikers of this kind across the commune of Strzelce, with roofed table and bench sets, information and educational boards about the fauna, flora, history and legends. It is a regular element of tourist facilities you will encounter at the trails and historical monuments.

Cycle on to reach the crossroads (4,0 km), turn left, continue straight on next to abundant hawthorn bushes (5.2 km), apple trees (5.7 km), to reach the edge of the forest (6.5 km). At this section, you can see and recognize many bird species (chaffinches, bullfinches, wrens), delving on the abundance of food.

Enter the forest area to find yourself in the “Drawa Wilderness” Protected Scenic Area and the “Drawa Wilderness Forests” Area of Special Protection of Birds.

Here, note that your trail will meander slightly along forest paths to bypass a sandy section, impassable for bicycles. The crossing of forest roads (8.2 km - junction of the red and green trail from Gardzko) with the resting place called “Bird Alarm”,



The White Wagtail

is a good opportunity to take a short rest and, if you have enough strength and interest, turn left into one of the forest paths to find the “Sundew Highmoor near Rokitno” nature reserve.

The “Sundew Highmoor near Rokitno” is a peatland reserve with the area of 3.4 hectares, situated in the Strzelce Krajeńskie Forest District. The purpose of protection is to maintain the marsh and peatland plant communities, particularly beak-sedge bog with unique species of white beak-sedge association and locally of brown beak-sedge, very rare in Poland, as well as highmoor peatland.

The reserve lies within the limits of Natura 2000 “Drawa Wilderness Forests” area, and within the “Drawa Wilderness Preserves” Special Habitats Protection area.

From the “Bird Alarm” - (this section is called a “Sheep Tract”), continue cycling on both trails until you see a fork (8.7 km) where the green trail turns left, and you should go right (a short sandy road section!). Continue straight on, pass a holiday resort site on the right (10.3 km) where hardened road begins, and follow a long gentle slope to Długie village. Yellow trail from Stary Kurów reaches your trail from the right (10.9 km), with an identified blue Nordic walking trail on the left, leading to the Hubert Jurczyszyn “Beak-Sedge Highmoor - Długie” (description - see trail 14). 200 metres after that, enter an asphalt road (11.1 km) - the Sports and Educational Summer Camp buildings in Długie can be seen nearby on both sides.

The Camp is run by the Brother Krystyn Neighbour Aid Society in Gorzów Wielkopolski. The Sports and Educational Summer Camp area comprises many facilities. There are residential cabins (260 beds), dayrooms for educational activities, a diner building with a cafe, a conference room with a fireplace, a complex of sports fields, a physical play and integration area, an amphitheatre with a stage and 1400-chair stands, a recreation area at a fireplace, with seats, a terraced tent village with sanitary facilities, 2 ha of a historical park with walking paths, a chapel. Sports and recreation equipment is also available for tourists (bicycles, canoes, etc.). The site has a car park and is guarded 365 days a year.

Continue for the next 500 metres to reach (11.6 km) the busy national road no. 22 (Gorzów Wlkp. – Wałcz) in the centre of Długie, a famous holiday village.

Długie is a village with medieval origin, which was already mentioned in mid-13th century, located between two lakes: Dołgie (24.6 ha) and Lipie (182 ha). It was completely damaged during the Polish-Lithuanian invasion in 1326. It was abandoned for over ten years. Throughout history, Długie used to be owned by Bornstedt, Wrech, Billerbeck, Bornstedt and Brand families.



The beach by Lake Lipie

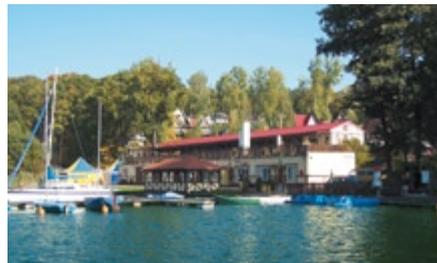
During the 30-year war, one of the Wreches was chased out of his own manor house and robbed. Today, what remains of the manor built almost 200 years ago is a crushed stone barn building with a pitched pediment roof. The existing manor house was burnt down at the end of World War II, the remnants were disassembled, and the only reminder of its existence is the 11-hectare park.

Today's village is a famous and really attractive location, with confirmed mineral water and therapeutic mud resources. There are more than 400 beds available for tourists in Długie (a hotel, holiday resorts and summer camps, summer houses for rent), as well as a campsite, rentals of water and camping equipment, food service points, sailing spots, and a diving centre. On the Lake Lipie shore, there is an organised bathing area with the largest sandy beach in Lubuskie Voivodeship.

The surroundings of Długie constitute one of the largest Protected Scenic Areas in Poland (over 42,000 hectares), covering the Drawa Wilderness. The village itself and the whole neighbourhood is within the "Drawa Wilderness" Protected Scenic Area, the "Drawa Wilderness Forests" Area of Special Protection of Birds, and the "Drawa Wilderness Preserves" Special Habitats Protection area.



The beach soccer pitch



Kadet Holiday Resort

2.

BICYCLE TRAILS

Zwierzyn - Gardzko – "Sundew Highmoor near Rokitno" Nature Reserve – the Rydzek Głęboki Lake – the Słowa Lake – the Ogardzka Odnoga Lake (Burnt Bridge).

BLACK AND GREEN TRAIL,
length: 17.9 km.



Our bike tour begins at the railway station in Zwierzyn (0.0 km).

Zwierzyn is a village set up during the Noteć river valley melioration action during 1765-66, upon the will of Frederick II the Great, King of Prussia. The oldest building in the village, which unfortunately did not survive until the present day, was an 18th-century church, originally in half-timbered design. It was reconstructed many times, to be finally rebuilt in brick, which changed its original appearance. There are many World War II shelter ruins in the village and in its neighbourhood.

After visiting the village, follow the black signs east to a crossroad (0.2 km), where you should turn left and continue to the end of the village on a paved road shoulder. Immediately after Zwierzyn (where you are travelling along the edge of the "Drawa Wilderness" Protected Scenic Area), you enter a forest that used to be called *the Gardzko Woods*. Continue through the forest, pass the first buildings in Gardzko, among fields and many ponds, to reach Gardzko. This area used to be called the *Strzelce Switzerland*. Just off the village (about 500 metres to the left) one may encounter an interesting place called *Ranczo Karolina*. Mr. Ryszard Kiona, the owner, offers its guests not only a campsite and fishing place (upon request) but also a motocross circuit. In a ravine before the buildings, there is a group of monumental common beeches with circumferences of 360-460 cm. In the centre of the village, next to the church, you will see the marking of the green bike trail (3.8 km).

Gardzko is a village with a confirmed existence of an early Lusatian burial site (ca. 1000 B.C.), of a medieval origin (first written notice: 1337), owned at that time by the Blomeke family of knights. Another interesting personality related to Gardzko was Franz Balthasar Brenckenhoff, its leaseholder (character description: see information about Licheń, trail no. 6). He died here on 21 May 1780.

After 1801, the heiress of Captain Heinrich G.L. von Holzendorf, another owner of the village, founded classical style tomb monuments for her donor and his prematurely deceased wife (née Steikeller). Both the historical tombstones are made of sandstone and they are standing in front of the church.

The church itself was built in neo-Roman style after 1860, on a cruciform plan similar to the Greek cross. Note a ceramic medallion representing the Christ's head at the entrance. Inside there is a stone baptismal font and interesting, unique stained-glass artworks in the chancel. Next, there is also a belfry with two bells.

A former "Pod Lipami" inn, near the church, currently a residential building. It was built in the early 20th century in a half-timbered, half-masonry structure, with a circular oriel.

Another building you should see is the former school at the main crossroads. It is covered with a mansard roof with an interesting half-timbered ornament located in the top.

In the former manor park, you can find common beeches 360-460 cm in circumference, sessile oaks 370-470 cm in circumference, and small-leaved lime, weeping cultivar, 580 cm in circumference.

There is an erratic boulder at the road to Strzelce Krajeńskie, 840 cm in circumference, 340 cm height), with a commemorative plaque reading as follows: "In March 1945, Headquarters of the 4th Engineering and Saper Brigade of the 2nd Polish Corps were stationed here, who fought for the former Piast dynasty land being returned to its mother country". Below the text, there is Poland's national emblem of the People's Republic of Poland period, i.e. an eagle without a crown.

Continue along the green trail to soon reach (4.0 km) the edge of a busy bitumen road, from Strzelce Krajeńskie to Stare Kurowo. Turn right, follow the blue bike trail and the red hiking trail across the village. At the end of the developed area (on the left), there is a house and workshop of Henryk Grudzień, a folk artist. His religious figures and devil figures are famous across the whole region.

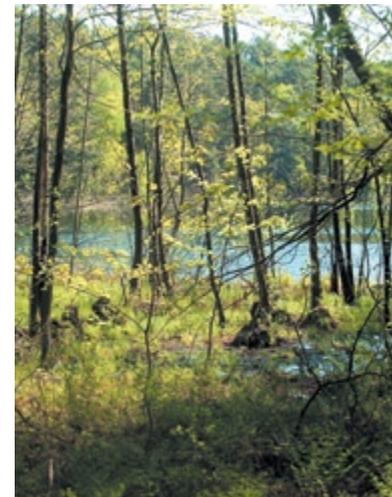
When you leave Gardzko (4.9 km), you will enter the "Drawa Wilderness Forests" Special Birds Protection Area, and after 700 metres (5.6 km) turn left off the asphalt road and take a forest road. Continue to the crossroads (6.5 km) where the blue bike trail and the red hiking trail lead right to Rokitno, while your green trail continues straight ahead. Short sections of sandy road. At a crossing of roads inside the forest (8.5 km) with a "Bird Alarm" resting place, you can take a rest and read about the habits of local birds, which are described on a notice board. The red bike trail leads to that spot from the left. The "Sundew Highmoor near Rokitno" Nature Reserve is nearby (description: see bike trail no. 1).



The route to Długie

Continue straight ahead, where at the next crossroads (9.0 km) the red trail will turn right and your green trail leads to the left. From that point, the section is called "Sumowski Trail". Follow the signs north to a fork (10.1 km), see the impressive "Teodor" oak tree (named after a forester in charge of the area for many years), cycle rapidly down a narrow path across steep hills to the banks of Rydzek Głębokki, a glacial lake (6.2 ha, max. depth 12 m), surrounded by 160 years old pine forest, which is a conservation forest used for obtaining valuable seeds to grow cuttings. Follow the edge of the forest, where you should stop at a viewing point (11.0 km) to look at this picturesque lake and outstanding tree stand in peace and quiet. Continue travelling to another water reservoir -the Rydzek Miałki Lake (11.7 km, 9.1 ha). Both these lakes as well as other smaller water reservoirs in the neighbourhood make a perfect angling spot and a breeding spot for water birds (such as cormorants, coots, grebes, common goldeneyes, kingfishers, great reed warblers). Cycle along the northern banks, then sharply upwards to national road no. 22 Gorzów Wlkp. – Gdańsk (12.5 km). Cross

Upon Lake Rydzek





The resting place upon Lake Słowa

the road with full caution, then cycle the meadows to another forest complex (13.8 km). You will reach a resting place behind the trail signs. The Forest District intends to establish a viewing point in that place, from where a beautiful view will stretch of the Słowa Lake, situated over 30 metres below. Here, you will also find a Nordic walking trail identification - the "Enchanted Maidens of Burgwall" trail. Follow that trail towards the Western side of the Słowa Lake (14.5 km). There is an interesting amphibian residing in that area - the European fire-bellied toad. Soon you will find marking of the yellow bicycle trail from Licheń on your way.

You will get an almost daily opportunity to watch gliding white-tailed eagles, common cranes, red kites, and cormorants. Also, you will often see traces of the European beaver preying, a common species in this spot at the moment.

Depending on sun rays, the colour of water in the Słowa Lake changes from turquoise to emerald, which is certainly an attraction for tourists. You will see "underwater meadows" in the crystal clear water, formed by water plants. According to a local legend, the Słowa Lake was formed in a spot where the devil was digging earth to build a causeway across the Osiek Lake, at the level of Chomętowo.

The Western Marsh-harrier



All the 3 trails run together now in a beech forest and beautiful ravines formed by a glacier. Pass a marshy area on the right (marsh tea) to reach a truly picturesque the Jeziorko Lake (16.3 km). Here, markings of the yellow trail detour to the left. You should go right towards a fork with a Nordic walking trail (16.8 km), see a small bridge above the "Arot tube" on a nameless channel connecting the Słowa Lake with the Osiek Lake. This place is called "Cursed".

They say there was an inn there once, where the host used to play cards with travellers passionately. He would beat them mercilessly and then continue to mock them. And then he was finally punished. One day, a richly-attired merchant sat down at the table with him. Before midnight, the innkeeper had nothing. He lost everything, even his soul, because this was a game with the Devil. Since that time, his purgatory soul will sometimes appear on the way to the "Burnt Bridge".

Follow the green signs left to join the yellow bicycle path again soon (17.8 km) and after 200 metres, the signs will lead you to a bridge (currently under construction) on Ogardzka Odnoga (description of the lake: see trail no. 20).

The bridge connects Chomętowo, near this place, with Licheń. It was burnt down and damaged in 1973, rebuilt in 2014. On the other side of the lake, there is a camping site and a viewing tower with a platform (under construction) from which you can admire the neighbourhood and the village of Chomętowo nearby - it is really worth visiting! (description - see bicycle trail no. 6).

The Burnt Bridge on Lake Ogardzka Odnoga



3.

BICYCLE TRAILS

“SIGHTS OF RESERVES” TRAIL.**Strzelce Krajeńskie – Sławno – Międzymoście****– “Zdroiskie Buki” [“Beeches of Zdroisko”]****Nature Reserve - the Wełmino Lake – “Rzeka Przyłęczek” [“Przyłęczek River”] Nature Reserve****– “Wilanów” Nature Reserve – Wilanów****– Wielisławice – Dolny Młyn – Danków.**YELLOW TRAIL,
length: 40.4 km.

Start your journey from Strzelce Krajeńskie (description of the town: see the introduction to the guide and the Historical Town Trail), standing outside the town walls from the Mill Gate (0.0 km), enter the town through the Gate and turn right along the inside of the town walls (Forteczna Północna Street), pass the Prison Tower (Witch Tower, 0.5 km). Get to a roundabout (0.9 km), head left towards road no. 156 to Zwierzyn, along with the red hiking trail marking. Only 200 metres further (behind the Municipal Office building), turn right into Aleja Piastów. When you get to the Power Company (1.8 km), exit the town and you can continue on a bicycle path to Sławno (5.0 km), passing a former orchard area on the right.

Sławno is a village of medieval origin, known from the records (1337) of Margrave Ludwig's land record, when it was considered uninhabited. The reason of this status was its being damaged in 1326 by a joint Polish-Lithuanian invasion. Its original name of “Schonenfelde” means “The Beautiful Field”. At the turn of the 15th and 16th century, it was transferred to the townspeople of Strzelce who in 1499 ordered Abraham Nicol to set up a manor farm there. In 1850 the manor farm, already grown into a landed estate, was purchased by Heinrich August von Langenn-Steinkler and his descendants continued to own the place until 1945. During that time, a two-storey plastered manor house with a pitched roof was built in the centre of the village. At the end of the 19th century, its northern wing was built, with an entrance in the rear elevation facing the garden and the relics of the former park. There is a building of the former land steward's office nearby, with a pitched roof and triangular fronton. A former arcade smithy can be seen at the crossroads.

*The Yellow Trail marking*

Follow straight ahead at the crossroads (there is a black bicycle trail to Sarbiewo on the left and a red hiking trail leading right to Brzoza). Leave the village on a dirt road to reach the edge of the forest (5.6), get to fish ponds nearby (6.4 km). The private owner of the site may offer you an opportunity of angling for a charge. You can see rare bird species here, such as the black stork, the lesser spotted eagle, the white-tailed eagle, and various species of water birds. You will also find beautiful yellow iris plants nearby, at the “Sarbina” stream flowing into the pond. Cycle across the forest to a resting place called “Roman's Mill” (8.8 km). Slightly further behind the resting place, nature lovers will certainly spot the Lily of the Valley, which is common in this area. Continue cycling until you get to cobble, which you should follow across the bridge (9.1 km) on the Polka river to the Międzymoście settlement buildings. Here, you can find the common sea-buckthorn, a rare shrub in this region with juicy orange fruits. You should also pay attention to the ruins of a now non-existent mill on the Polka river. Here, smithery traditions are still cultivated on one of the village establishments. Cross the Przyłęcz – Górki Noteckie asphalt road (9.5 km), then again take the road among the pine forest to reach a complicated crossing of 5 roads (12.1) - take the third road left! Follow the black bicycle trail signs (first left), you can get to Górki Noteckie nearby (1.1 km). At the same spot, you will enter the “Barlinek Sanctuary” Special Habitats Protection site, and the “Barlinek Wilderness” Special Birds Protection area. From that crossing, follow the blue trail marking and you will be passing sites and locations where you



The "Under the Escarpment" resting place

"The Beeches of Zdroisko" reserve

can easily discover traces of beaver presence; take this convenient and interesting road to reach the southern edge of the "Beeches of Zdroisko" Nature Reserve. Here, you should stop at another resting place called "Under the Escarpment" (13.5 km) to relax and listen to the whispering of the forest.

As soon as you have passed Sławno, you are in the eastern part of the "Barlinek Wilderness" Protected Scenic Area of 26,672 hectares, situated in the communes of Kłodawa, Lubiszyn, Santok, Strzelce Krajeńskie, Zwierzyn. It covers valuable areas in terms of a unique landscape with diverse ecosystems, bird protection zones, which is also valuable for satisfying tourism and recreation needs of the community.

"The Beeches of Zdroisko" (forest and scenic area reserve) This reserve, with the area of 75,57 ha, was established (in 1938 for the first time) to protect the natural mixed forest with predominant (73.7%) beeches that may reach the age of 200 years, with the addition of hornbeam and oak trees. The tree stand grows on deeply cut banks of the Santoczna river, with numerous meanders with unique terraces.



The Santoczna River

Santoczna is a 32 km long river with its source in the Okunino Lake, which drains a group of seven glacial lakes to flow into Pełcz near Górki Noteckie. A picturesque, rapid flowing river meandering among ravines. The area of the reserve constitutes a continuous zone on both sides of the river, with a total length of approx. 5 km, 50 to 400 metres wide.

Trees fallen under the height of age, lying across the meandering river, make a lasting impression. In the undergrowth, you will find common wood sorrel, wood anemone, wall lettuce, yellow archangel, violet, bugleweed, Lily of the Valley, *Vaccinium*, male fern, bracken, and the great horsetail which is also under protection. An observant tourist will easily find a historical boulder at the edge of the reserve (dated 1931) with an inscription dedicated to the forester who took care of this area of the forest. You will often see a slow worm here - it resembles a snake but it is in fact a legless lizard, completely harmless to people. If you wander alone, you might meet a preying wild boar, or fresh traces of these animals' rooting activity.

The Wood Sorrel





A sounder of wild boars

Your yellow bicycle trail (together with the blue trail) continues to run along the Santoczna river. Almost in the very centre of the reserve, the Strzelce Forest District intends to set up another resting place and viewing spot with a platform (15.2 km), allowing you to admire the beauty of the Santoczna river. Great horse-tail communities nearby.

Right behind the northern edge of the reserve (17.3 km) there is a training and holiday centre of the Gorzów Wielkopolski Power Company, situated in beautiful surroundings of old beeches. Turn left away from the centre, to see the first buildings of Zdroisko village soon (17.8 km).

Zdroisko. It is a large holiday village on the Santoczna river, among the Gorzów Wilderness forests. There used to be a mill here (a mill pond remains), then ironworks opened in 1770, manufacturing wire, nails, needles, steel bars and rods, steel sheets. Manufacture of case-shots commenced in 1783. In 1856, the ironworks were converted into a tools factory, and in 1870 into a water grain mill and a sawmill. There were northern highbush blueberry plantations in the village during the inter-war period. A very interesting historical chamber exists at the location, where old photos, coins, papers, household items and farming items of old Zdroisko are presented. There is a symbolic cemetery in the village, with a statue for German soldiers killed during World War I.

Trail markings turn right after 200 metres into a forest road - follow them straight ahead, across a small stream, to a holiday resort (19.3 km) on the Wełmino Lake (19.3 km). It offers a total of 40 beds in summer houses. You can get a full board here, rent sports equipment, use a multifunctional room, a campfire. You can cook your own meals, eat them in a dining room or go to a restaurant. There is an opportunity for successful mushrooming around.

***The Wełmino Duże** - a midforest lake with the area of 24 hectares, approx. 1000 m long and approx. 320 m wide. It is situated in a deep glacial trough, drained by the Santoczna river.*

Cross national road no. 22 at the holiday resort. Soon afterwards, on the other side of the road (19.7 km), turn right into a forest road. There will be a short sandy section and a crossing (21.5 km) where you should turn right. Covering the forest paths inside a pine forest, you will enter the Barlinek and Gorzów Scenic Area (description - see trail no. 12), get to Przyłęg – Wilanów asphalt road (22.7 km), turn left to see the blue bike trail signs.

Both trails will lead you to the northern edge of another nature reserve, where you can rest at a resting place, well prepared for that purpose, called "Przyłęczek" (25.4 km). Here, you will also find the markings of the red hiking trail from Santoczno.

***"Przyłęczek River"** is a fauna reserve (35.08 ha), a unique place where spawning and growing sites of the European bullhead (10-20 cm) and the brown trout (25-35 cm, weighing up to 1 kg) are protected. The clean water, shaded by beech forest growing on the steep banks, over a hundred years old (beeches up to 138 years of age, pines - up to 163 years), and low temperature (not exceeding 21C) are the perfect conditions for spawning and breeding grounds of these salmonid fish. The scenic value of the river, meandering among the deciduous trees, is also essential and may be the subject of true works of art for painters.*

Cross a small bridge on the Przyłęczek river and at the next fork turn left, together with the blue bicycle trail (the red hiking trail turns right towards Brzoza), to reach the crossing (27.4 km) with a cobbled road where the blue trail runs left at an angle (to Przyłęczko), and you should turn right following the red bicycle trail (from Santoczno) on the cobbles, among the beautiful deciduous forest. You will pass another nature reserve on the right.

***Wilanów (nature reserve)** with the area of 67.16 ha, is a fragment of natural mixed forest (so-called West Pomeranian Carpinion betuli Forest) with a predominant proportion of oak and beech trees and an addition of pines and larches, with very rich undergrowth. Some single oak trees will exceed 300 years of age, pines - 170 years,*



The "Sobieski" oak tree

which meets the standard requirements for nature monuments. They are covered by a lot of lichens, with the easiest to find being the common orange lichen, with its intensive yellow colour. Recently, the existence of the Edible dormouse has been discovered within the area. These squirrel-like rodents of the Gliridae family have fluffy fur with pale-grey fields on their backs and light in the front. In the undergrowth, you can discover the Lily of the Valley, anemone, sweet woodruff, common wood sorrel, male fern, hepatica, and bracken. There is a small lake (called Urwicz or Złodziejskie) in the reserve, in a picturesque location among interesting landscape forms.

Soon you will get to the first buildings of the Wilanów village (28.5 km).

Wilanów is a midforest settlement founded as early as 1685 as the forest district manager's seat. A hundred years later, existence of a house and a barn for 2 settlers working on some 11 acres of land is confirmed. In the 19th century, there is a mention of a settlement of forest workers comprising around a dozen houses.

At the end of the village, right next to the trail, there is a group of monumental trees: an oak tree over 400 years old, 620 cm in circumference ("Sobieski"), a sycamore maple 350 years old (510 cm), and on a farm nearby there are three monumental western redcedars, 190-230 cm in circumference. The buildings in one of the village's establishments are uniquely decorated with wood and straw works. With the hosts' permission, you can have a closer look at them.

You are moving all the time within the "Barlinek Wilderness" Protected Scenic Area, the "Barlinek Sanctuary" Special Habitats Protection site, and the "Barlinek Wilderness" Special Birds Protection area.

Cross the village straight ahead, take the bridge on the Polka river (29.0 km), followed by a cobbled/asphalt road. You will discover interesting plants on both sides of the road, including the protected species of the common snowdrop, the Yellow Water-lily (an aquatic plant), and watercress. At the border of the "Wielisławice" ecological site (30.7 km) where you can see the European fire-bellied toad, turn left into a forest road, leaving the red trail behind, which runs straight ahead to the village of Wielisławice nearby (village description: see trail no. 4).

Ecological sites are worthy of protection remnants of ecosystems essential for maintaining biodiversity - natural water reservoirs, midfield and midforest ponds, tree and shrub clusters, marsh, peatland, natural habitats and stands of rare or protected species of plants, animals and fungi, their sanctuaries, reproduction and seasonal presence sites.

Cycle across the forest, passing more water reservoirs (Zajęcznik water course, the Podkówko Lake) where carps and trouts are grown. Humans are not the only species that delight in fish. This is also a common hunting ground for the osprey, the white-tailed eagle, the grey heron, and the Eurasian coot. There are also traces of feeding of the otter and of an exceptionally dangerous intruder - the American mink. The resting place adjacent to the pond fully deserves its name of "Rybakówka" ("Fisherman's House") (33.8 km).

The "Rybakówka" resting place





The ruins of a watermill

You are now at the edge of the Barlinek Wilderness. If you have time, you may take a small detour from the marked trail and cycle to the ruins of the former forest workers' buildings and the Sarnowo and Puszczykowo foresters' lodges. The relics of houses, situated on the Polka river, are surrounded by ample plants, including wonderful Lily of the Valley meadows. Another advantage of this forested wilderness is the opportunity to observe a white-tailed eagle or a black stork. Such encounters will certainly make a lasting impression on every true tourist and nature lover.

After taking a rest in Rybakówka, continue across an interesting pine and beech forest to meet a good hardened forest road; pass the "Birds" educational board and you can have a rest again at another resting place called "Dolny Młyn" (36.8 km). This place is exceptional due to the water mill that used to exist on the Polka river, and its remains are easily discernible until the present day. The surrounding alder and ash forests growing around the Lake Bucko Wielkie are the habitat of many bird and animal species, such as the beaver, otter, newt.

Continue riding, pass the meandering Polka river on the right, at which an experienced tourist's eye may see walking cranes. At the edge of the forest, you will see the first buildings of Danków (39.2); soon, you will get to the village through the fields and exit at the edge of Strzelce Krajeńskie - Barlinek asphalt road no. 156. If you turn right at that spot towards Strzelce Krajeńskie, you will soon reach the Ecological Forest Centre of the Strzelce Krajeńskie Forest District (LCE) on the

left. This is a place for meetings, workshops and lectures, with the use of audio-visual equipment. There is a roofing and a place for a bonfire (shelters up to 70 people) in the centre, and guests can use local toilets. Near the Ecological Forest Centre, there is a forest teaching path with educational boards, active leisure equipment, and a camping site on Dankowskie Lake (description: see trail no. 19). Near the camp site, there are ruins of the von Brand family mausoleum.

Your trail crosses the asphalt road to stop in front of the church in the centre of Danków (40.4 km), which is the end of the trail.

Danków is a village that originates from a small medieval town. This is where the Brandenburg Margraves issued a location privilege (in 1303) for Kalisz Pomorski, and an endowment (1345) of Deszczno for Gorzów. Shortly afterwards, Betkin von Osten, a Neumark alderman, is mentioned as the owner of the town, the castle and the surrounding forests. Another owner of Danków is Brune Goltsmet, a Frankfurt burgher, followed by knight Otto von Kittlitz, and by the Teutonic knights after they took control of the Neumark region in 1402. When Neumark was purchased by elector Frederick II, the town became a fiefdom of one of the vasals close to the elector, namely Borchardt von Papstein, whose descendants ruled the area until the end of the 18th century. This is when Danków ceased to grow and was demoted to the village status.

They were followed by the von Brand family. In mid-19th century, a Classical style palace and a Brand family mausoleum were built upon their initiative. The family's burial site is outside the estate and home farm buildings, in the Dankowskie Lake bay (accessible via a Nordic walking trail). Unfortunately, the site has been devastated since 1945 and at the moment it is only a romantic ruin.

Near the currently non-existent palace, a neo-classical two-storey orangery was built during the 1840s. It was rebuilt after World War II. Another floor was added to make it a two-storey building, and bedrooms for colonists' purposes were distinguished inside. The Brands built an outstanding manor farm in Danków at the end of the 19th century, with ceramic brick barn and stable with dovecote buildings.

The central point of the village is defined by the neo-Gothic 1870 church with a tower, built of red brick.

The last private owner of Danków was Wichard von Alvensleben. He was a member of the Order of Hospitallers, fought as a Wehrmacht officer during World War II on the fronts of Poland, France, Russia, Africa and Italy. A few days before the end of the war, he released the special prisoners (individuals judged as enemies of the Third Reich) held by the SS in Niederhof, Tirol. When the village was seized in 1945, Red Army soldiers destroyed the palace.

There is a monumental pendunculate oak, 580 cm in circumference, growing at the Dankowskie (Wielgie) Lake.

Archaeological research conducted in the village confirmed the existence of guard keeps, and among the minor exhibits found there, a ring was discovered with an inscription dedicated to the Magi: Caspar, Melchior, and Balthasar...

There is an enchanting prehistoric legend associated with Danków.

A long, long time ago there was a great battle between pagans and Knights Templar, Hospitallers, and other knights, particularly German ones. Many Slavic warriors died, whose bravery had to replace steel armours covering the bodies of the monastic knights. The winners seized outstanding spoils, cattle, and the defeated party's women and children. Knights Templar intended to spare the captives' lives, but the Hospitallers - afraid of future revenge - advised to slay them all. The dispute was resolved by a papal legate who said:

'You have to eliminate the women, as they shall become your rope and the gods will be their net.'

Thus, the knights went on unwillingly yet strongly, to slay the captives. But when they reached their destination, they were met by a beautiful Princess, daughter of the conquered Slavic leader, wearing her festive clothes.

'Dance with us', she asked the Master of the Order of the Templars, 'enough of these mutual wounds and death'

The Master of the Templars was just to consent, endeared by the Slavic woman's begging and by her beauty, but the stubborn legate called in agitation:

'There shall be no other dancing for the monastic knights than the dance of the sword. You will be damned unless you send this devil's daughter into the abyss as soon as you can!'

And a great lament followed, and the beautiful Princess's voice forced its way through it, saying:

*'Bow, and I shall be at will,
And wherever I stand still,
let the best of ye old men
drown forever and again!'*

And then the waves of the Wielgie Lake raised and claimed all the prisoners. Since then, whenever any of the best men in the village bends above the surface of the Lake, he will be lost forever.



Lake Dankowskie

In 2013, two stones with inscriptions were found in the village, commemorating the planting of oak trees on the occasion of Paul von Hindenburg, President of the German Reich, nominating Adolf Hitler Chancellor of the Reich, and his 44th birthday. Today, Danków is a holiday village where almost 100 persons can spend their vacation on farm accommodation at once. Facilitating your movements across the village is a map on the dayroom wall, allowing you to find the traces of medieval fortifications, namely guard keeps (one next to the church, the other at the exit left towards Barlinek) and embankments. You can eat your meals at a roadside bar, and relax playing minigolf.

4.

BICYCLE TRAILS

Strzelce Krajeńskie – Wielisławice – Wilanów – "Wilanów" Nature Reserve – Santoczno.

RED TRAIL,
length: 15.8 km.



Our sightseeing escapade will begin, as the last time, in front of the Mill Gate (0.0 km), following along the inside of the southern town walls (Forteczna Wschodnia and Forteczna Południowa Streets) to reach the roundabout (0.8 km) from Gorzów Wielkopolski. Turn right into a busy road no. 156 to Barlinek, to then turn left at an angle after 300 metres (Cmentarna Street) and continue in the direction of Piastowo along the Municipal Cemetery. You should stop at the cemetery and see Ludwig Noster's tomb monument there (description: see the Historical Town Trail). Pass the Town Stadium and "Łucznik" hotel on the right (1.8 km) and enter a short section of the road between Strzelce and Piastowo. Pass the buildings of Piastowo (2.3 km).

Piastowo is a village first established as a manor farm by Johann H. Bachmann, a Strzelce councillor (a master baker) at the turn of the 18th and 19th century. In 1892 his descendant Friedrich Bachmann erected the manor that still exists at this location, opposite the outside courtyard of the old farm. It is a simple, one-storey building, with a pitched roof and a symmetrical front elevation.

Leave the village on a hardened dirt road, delimited with an alley of 150-year-old lime trees, leading you to the buildings of the southern ends of Wielisławice (5.2 km). There are many ponds on both sides of the road, frequented by roe deers, wild boars and cranes.

Strolling cranes

Wielisławice is a village of medieval origin, reigned by von Sanitz knights in 1337. The village continued to be owned by members of that family until the end of the 17th century. The Dietrich family were the next owners of the village. In 1748 baron von der Goltz, the new owner participated in the costs of erecting the church and manor. Both these buildings were erected as half-timbered structures. The founder was buried in the church, together with his wife, in



1784. The building was disassembled due to its poor technical condition, and replaced by a masonry church with pitched roofs on the nave and the tower. The 18th-century half-timbered post-manor complex (the manor house and an outhouse) has not survived. The only trace of its existence is the relics of the old tiny scenic area.

However, later buildings were maintained, such as 19th-century distillery, smithy, 2 barns, which were used by Leszek Nowak, today's owner, in his development of an Open-Air Ethnographic Museum of Rural Technique. It presents mainly old farm equipment, particularly tractors, the collection of which (around 60 items) is definitely the largest in Poland. The old distillery premises will be adapted in the future as hotel and food service facilities for tourists. One of the village inhabitants is Mr. Mirosław Kozielec, a metalwork artist. Small metalwork pieces created by this talented local artist, with an attractive appearance yet highly functional are often unique interior arrangement items.

After visiting the village, head west on an asphalt/cobbled road, cross the bridge on the Pstrężna stream, and reach the edge of the forest through the fields. At that point, follow the yellow bicycle trail signs. Leaving Wielisławice, you will enter the "Barlinek Wilderness" Protected Scenic Area. At the edge of the forest on the right, there is the "Wielisławice" ecological site (description: see trail no. 3), which is located within the "Barlinek Sanctuary" Special Habitats Protection site, and the "Barlinek Wilderness" Special Birds Protection area. You

Old-timer tractors in Wielisławice



will discover interesting plants on both sides of the road, including the protected species of the common snowdrop, the Yellow Water-lily (an aquatic plant), and watercress. Cycle across the forest to Wilanów (8.3 km, description of the village: see trail no. 3). Exit the village along the edge of a cobbled road, passing the "Wilanów" Nature Reserve area on the left (description: see trail no. 3).

Pass the crossing of forest roads (9.8 km) to Przyłęsko and Przyłęg (blue and yellow bike trails), continue straight ahead, pass the bridge on the Przyłęzek river (10.8 km) through the forest, to reach the crossing of forest roads with Zdroisko-Santoczno asphalt road (14.3 km). Ride straight on to a roundabout in a village park near the church (15.8 km).



The Spring Snowflake

Santoczno is a village situated at the glacial trough of the Mrowinko Lake (22.5 ha) and the Santoczna river with its origin in the lake. A single-nave half-timbered church in the village originates from reconstruction of one of the warehouses of old 1767 steelworks and a tower added in 1819. A historical corner was set up inside, in one of the side rooms. Several pieces of the first German steam engine were built here in 1785. However, the primary production profile was the case-shots, particularly during the period of the Napoleon wars. In addition, there were sheet metal galvanising works and a grinding workshop. Interestingly, the steelworks had a dedicated surgeon as early as in the 18th century. To commemorate the steelworks, a boulder was set up in 2005 in the yard in front of the church with a cast plaque depicting the model of the first German steam engine.

Near the small bridge and "waterfall" on the Santoczna river, there is a small lapidarium built of tombstone plaques of the old German cemetery, and a classical 18th century building (former pastor's home), extended with a new wing in the 20th century, covered with a pediment roof. During World War II, the village was within the area of concentration of the 2nd Polish Corps.

The Yellow Water-lily



5.

BICYCLE TRAILS

Stare Kurowo – Kawki – the Dołgie Lake
– Długie.

YELLOW TRAIL,
length: 6.7 km.



Our tourist escapade begins in front of the railway station in Stare Kurowo (0.0) from where you should head north towards the centre of the village (0.2 km). But before you do that, you should read about the history of the Prussian East Railway and the village, which is described on the plaques in front of the railway station.

Stare Kurowo is a communal village on the hills of the Noteć river bank glacial valley, at the outskirts of the Drawa Wilderness. It was first mentioned in official records in 1239 with the name Kur, as part of the castellany of Driesen. In 1299, it became the property of the Brandenburg Margraves, to be then sold in 1407 by Ulrich von Osten to the Teutonic Knights. In the 18th century, Stare Kurowo was famous for growing vine, which continued here until the 20th century. Other plants that were cultivated here include hops, asparagus, and tobacco.

St. Peter and Paul the Apostles neo-Gothic church (1877), built of brick with a unique ceramic tower. Inside, a contemporary oak wood sculpture (1985) representing the Last Supper. During the period preceding World War II, many reinforced concrete fortifications were built in the village, part of the so-called Pomeranian Embankment.

For active leisure, you can choose a swimming pool, the Płociczno Lake or the Ciszewo Lake. Cross the road no. 156 (0.2 km) and head north (along the blue bicycle trail) on a hardened dirt road, get to a fork (1.0 km) and turn right (blue trail left to Rokitno). Continue for 700 metres and see the first buildings of a midforest settlement of Kawki.

Here, you can take the red hiking trail to climb a moraine hill with a pine forest, called Kawcze Góry (129 m a.s.l.) - the highest hill in the region.

When you follow the yellow trail, head left in Kawki (1.7 km) and continue on a road across the pine forest, among numerous gorges, to reach the southern edge of the Dołgie (Długie) Lake (5.1 km).



Lake Dołgie

The **Dołgie** Lake is a small (24,5 ha, 1250 m long, 330 m wide) trough lake, with picturesque mixed forests surrounding its banks, quiet - unlike the Lipie Lake nearby, which is really busy during the holiday season.

Follow the western bank to reach the junction of forest roads (6.0 km, you will see the red bike trail signs) at the southern end of Długie village. Turn right and continue straight ahead to the centre of the village (6.7 km, village description: see trail no. 1).



A gully on the route

6.

BICYCLE TRAILS

Strzelce Krajeńskie – Licheń – the Słowa Lake
– the Ogardzka Odnoga Lake (Burnt Bridge).YELLOW TRAIL,
length: 12.6 km.

Start in front of the Mill Gate again (0.0 km). Pass the former granary, at the crossroads next to the Culture Centre follow the yellow signs and the red hiking sign to the right at an angle (0.2 km) into Grodziska Street, and turn left immediately into Poznańska Street (0.3 km). Pass the petrol station on the left. The asphalt road will end after 600 metres, and a dirt road with a section called "Poznańska Droga" begins at the board with a tourist map. Continue across the fields, pass an orchard on the left (1.3-1.8 km), then (3.1 km) an isolated pear tree - you should stop here in September/October to try its delicious fruit. Cover 200 more metres; before the edge of a small forest (3.3 km), you part with the red trail identification which continues straight ahead, and the road to the right leads to Sidłów. Your trail is now to the left. Follow a dirt road in the farmland, pass a small orchard (4.2 km) to reach the Gardzko-Licheń dirt road (4.9 km). Turn left and get to national road no. 22 (Gorzów Wlkp. - Wałcz) on the edge of Licheń village (5.8 km) (caution! high traffic volume). Turn right, continue across the village, pass the church and go on to the next crossroads, next to a cross (6.3 km), get off the national road and head left towards the buildings. You should stop here to penetrate the location in more detail.

Licheń is a village of medieval origin, which is mentioned in Margrave Ludwig's land record in 1337. It was then owned by the knights family of Myscenses, then by Betekin von der Ost of Driesen, the Sanitz family, the Papsteins, and others. After the end of the seven-year war, Franz Balthasar von Brenckenhoff, a secret advisor to King Frederick II the Great, became the owner of the village in 1763. This talented organiser of major investment projects became famous as the builder of the Bydgoszcz Channel (1772) and manager of land improvement works on the Noteć and lower Warta rivers (1762). After his death, his estate (other than Licheń, Pławin) was confiscated for the King's treasury. He himself was buried in a currently non-existent church in Driesen. Then, Frederick William II, King of Prussia, donated the village (1787) to his official mistress, the beautiful Wilhelmine Enke, daughter of his chamber trumpeter. With the funds received from the King, the new mistress could finance erection of a new



The church in Licheń

church in 1794, to replace the old church. The tower lantern has a weather flag with an inscription and date: "Lichtenow / 1794". After the death of her royal lover (1796), the Gräfin was accused of high treason, her estate was seized, and she herself was imprisoned in the Glogau stronghold. She died in Berlin in 1820.

East of the church, there are manor farm buildings (brick and crushed stone) - a stable (early 19th century), distilleries and a barn (end of 19th century). Another architectural monument is the old fire station of the turn of the 19th and 20th century. During 1940-45, a forced labour camp for Poles existed in the village. Two of the prisoners (brothers Konrad and Marceli Kutzner) refused to sign the Volksliste and were sentenced to death by hanging. The judgment was executed (on 12 April 1942) in the village. This event is commemorated by a plaque unveiled on 12.09.1971. Next to that plaque, there is another plaque in memory of the Polish soldiers of Pomerania Army that stayed in a field hospital here during 1939-45. These were war prisoners of camp II C from Dobięgniew (Woldenberg).

When you visit the village, you should take a peek into a sculptor's workshop near the church. This is the workplace of Mr. Henryk Dąbrowski, a sculptor who is particularly keen on producing wooden chapels and other functional items.

From the crossroads at the cross (6.3 km) turn slightly right at an angle, to turn left after 200 metres, at the end of the village developments, and enter a dirt road which will guide you to the edge of a forest (7.0 km). You will find yourself in the "Drawa Wilderness" Protected Scenic Area and the "Drawa Wilderness Forests" Area of Special Protection of Birds. Continue cycling along a beautiful alley of old chestnut trees to the edge of the forest (7.7 km) where you can also meet a dangerous amphibian - the European fire-bellied toad. This protected animal is able to produce poisonous venom in its glands to defend itself. Continue deep into the pine forest on beautiful moraine ravine slopes, produced by a glacier, enjoying the forest shade and wind protection, to reach the junction with the green bike trail and the blue Nordic walking trail (9.7 km), all trails reaching the western bank of the Słowa Lake together.

Słowa is a lake (62 ha, max. depth 32) with a truly picturesque elliptical shape (max. length 1,300 m, max. width 850 m), surrounded by alder and ash forests. Its extremely clean, turquoise- and emerald-coloured waters allow the bottom to be inhabited by *Chara* algae that form underground meadows here. Its original name is *Slanwe-see*, meaning "The Saltyish Lake". From a prominent hill (52 m a.s.l.) above the southern edge (about 30 metres relative height above the water surface), there is a beautiful panoramic view on the lake. The Forest District intends to set up a viewing point here.

Perhaps the regular shape of the lake's edges gave rise to the legend of its origin being the digging of sand the Devil needed to build an incomplete overway on the narrows of the Osiek Lake near Chomętowo.

Then follow the yellow and green signs amidst beautiful beach forest to the picturesque the Jeziorko Lake (11.0 km) where you can observe waterlogged marsh tea area; your yellow trail, together with the Nordic walking trail, heads left. With many hills and rises, you can appreciate the beauty of nature and the outstanding landform features. After one more kilometre, right before the end of your journey, you will join the green trail identification (12.0 km) which will lead you to the overway (12.2 km) between the Lake Osiek and its western section called the Ogardzka Odnoga (named after the nearby settlement of the Ogardzki Młyn).

A bridge, which was burnt down and damaged, is being rebuilt in 2014. On the other side of the lake, there is a camping site and a viewing point with a platform (under construction) from which you can admire the neighbourhood and the village of Chomętowo nearby.



Lake Słowa

Chomętowo is a village in the commune of Dobięgniew on the Lake Osiek, with a neo-Gothic church (there is an erratic boulder next to the church, 450 cm in circumference) and a manor house surrounded by a 19th century park. What attracts sightseeing fans most to the village is the only Gothic defensive manor in Poland from the early 14th century, built on a peninsula that cuts down deep into the water of the lake. It was used by Teutonic knights in the 15th century. Earlier, the village was owned by knightly families of Kremz and der Ost.

According to the legend, the peninsula forming a part of the village is only the initial section of an overway which the Devil himself began to build.

One of the local peasants reportedly had a field on the other side of the lake, and the need to travel around the lake daily was a great nuisance for him. Therefore, he made a pact with the Devil, who was expected to build an overway to the other side over the night and the peasant was to give his soul away to his unique contractor in exchange. But the peasant sobered during the work and found out that the Devil would not wait long for his death, intending to kill his "investor" immediately after completing the work. Before the two banks joined, he crowed loudly like a cock, the Devil's power evaporated and he escaped the place, never to return again.

7.

BICYCLE TRAILS

The Ogardzka Odnoga Lake (Burnt Bridge)
 – Pielice – Ogardy – Tuczno – Bobrówko
 – Danków.

YELLOW TRAIL,
 length: 29.0 km.



Start your journey on a forest fork, 150 metres from the southern abutment of the bridge on Ogardzka Odnoga (0.0 km, description: see trail no. 20).

Head left (0.1 km) to the south west, come to the crossroads (1.1 km) and continue left. After another 100 metres turn right and constantly follow the forest roads west across the pine forest, full of mushrooms and wild animals, to reach the crossroads on the edge of the forest (2.4 km). Here you should go south (left) and reach an amazing rest spot prepared by the Forest District called On the edge. Our route, however, leads us to Pielice, a nearby village (3.9 km). If you are a patient tourist or an eager wildlife enthusiast, you may encounter amazing shows, which are the early autumn deer ruts. Herds of 50-80 specimen gather here.

The "On the edge" resting place



A small herd of deer

Pielice is a village of medieval Slavic origin, which was first mentioned in Margrave Ludwig's land record in 1337. The name probably refers to the Polish word "*pielesze*", meaning a comfortable and safe home. Throughout the ages, it was owned by the Bornstedt, Papstein, Vorhauer, Rehmann, Knobelsdorff families. The oldest building in the village is the half-timbered, late 18th century church. It is a single-nave building with a three-hipped roof and a belfry tower. There is a dial of a clock in the western facade finished with ceramic brick. A bell from the old church can be found in the sacristy area. It was made in 1619 by Otto Albrecht's bell-foundry of Gorzów. The Bornstedt family founded the bell.

Other objects in the village which are worth seeing include a half-timbered house with a masonry filling and an old 19th century distillery building with a tall chimney. A small, charming the Pielice Lake is situated directly behind the village. A bit further, there is the Ogardzka Odnoga Lake with a camping site at the shores, managed by the Strzelce Krajeńskie Forest District.

Exit Pielice on a convenient asphalt road and turn right at the fork (4.4 km). Continue on the asphalt road across the fields, with many ponds attracting flocks of majestic cranes, to Ogardy where the church location defines the central part of the village (7.2 km).

Ogardy is a village mentioned in the Middle Ages (1337) in Margrave Ludwig's land record. Its name is probably associated with the Polish word for hounds ("ogary") used by old villagers for hunting. It was owned by knightly families of Osten, Bornstedt, Papstein, and other. A late Roman granite church (12 x 24 m) was built in the centre of the village in late 13th century, made of carefully finished stone quarters. Two offset Roman portals survived in its facade. The church is covered with a pitched roof, with a 19th century tower dominating above. Inside, there is an interesting epitaph plaque in memory of Wolf von Bornstedt.

In the north-eastern part of the village, a manor house and farm complex was built in the 2nd half of the 19th century, comprising several buildings. An eclectic palace surrounded by a park (including a monumental pendunculate oak tree, 620 cm in circumference, a group of small-leaved limes with the circumferences of 360-450 cm), a single-storey manor house, a granary, and living quarters for labourers. The manor (18th/19th century) is a building with a pitched roof and a wooden porch leading to the entrance. The granary and the living quarters were built of crushed stone. An architectural and engineering curiosity is the remnant of a wheat transport crane in the granary roof design. On the top of the labourers' building, there is a star with one of the owners' initials (GB - perhaps of Georg Blankensee) and date: 1866.

If you have enough time and you are not too tired, try to cycle to a midforest settlement called **Ogardzki Młyn**, 2.5 km away, and you can admire a monumental sycamore maple, 505 cm in circumference!) on your way.

It is a midforest settlement known since the Middle Ages (1337) from Margrave Ludwig's land record. At present, there are 18th century half-timbered buildings in this place: a miller's building and a home, currently inhabited. There is a resting place at the banks of the Ogardna stream flowing into the Ogardzka Odnoga (a good spot for observing the damming up of water) and a camping site managed by the Strzelce Krajeńskie Forest District.

After visiting the village of Ogardy, head north-west on an asphalt road to Gilowo. Next to an old cemetery (11.4 km) turn left. Pass a small palace of mid-19th century (rebuilt) and a scenic park behind it (3 hectares) with a pond, surrounded by a wall with a romantic viewing tower, associated with a well known Gargamel's tower from The Smurfs.

Leaving Gilów behind, after 1.4 km we can turn left and following a path right, we reach a unique place which is the "Skulin" Farm. Its owner, Mr Roman Pytlos breeds pheasants, partridges and koniks (Polish primitive horses). Tourist may also take advantage of the accommodation and fish in local ponds. Following the route, we soon see the park and palace in Tuczno (16.0 km).



The tower in Gilów

Tuczno is a medieval village which was first mentioned in 1304 when an agreement was signed between the Cistercians of Bernstein and Ulrich Bilsbecke. The agreement was about endowment of the local church's incomes in exchange for accepting his 3 old aunts to the order. The next owners included the Schoening and the Wedemeyer families. In 1899, Max von Wedemeyer erected a neo-classical palace surrounded by a park with an extensive tree stand, including a pendunculate oak tree with a circumference of 414 cm, a maple tree with a circumference of 276 cm, sycamore trees with circumferences of 257-402 cm, European hornbeam trees with circumferences of 200 and 280 cm, European ash trees with circumferences of 260-490 cm, small- and broad-leaved lime trees with circumferences of 315-425 cm, western redcedar trees with circumferences of 220-240 cm, and Wych elm trees with circumferences of 254 and 480 cm. The stunning character of the site is particularly emphasized by its official entrance, crowned by a portico with the initials of the estate owner and the date of erection. Franz Just Wedemeyer, the last host of the palace, was shot by Red Army soldiers in 1945. After the war, the building accommodated a cultural centre, and State Agricultural Establishments - PGR offices. At the moment it is private property. You can stay in the historical palace overnight, after a prior notice. A monumental specimen of small-leaved lime tree, 285 cm in circumference, grows at the crossroads next to a shop.

When you visit Tuczno, you should see Mr. Stefan Szymoniak's home and gallery. This sculptor is famous for his low reliefs, altars (in the churches in Tuczno and Buszów), and enormous statues for Nativity plays.

After visiting the village, continue on the asphalt road to nearby Bobrówko (20.4 km). A very dangerous plant grows along the shoulders of a long section of this road, called Sosnowsky's Hogweed. Juice of its young specimens causes very painful burns on the skin.

Bobrówko is a village of medieval origin (1337), known from Margrave Ludwig Wittelsbach's land record. Throughout history, it was owned by the Sanitz family and by Betekin von der Ost, among others. The German name of this village (*Breitenstein* - lying elephant) most probably derives from an erratic boulder that lies at the road to Machary. A neo-Roman red brick church stands in the centre of the village. Its character is determined by its soaring stone and brick tower with a pyramid-shaped cupola. An interesting 1627 Mannerist altar inside. A palace, built in the late 18th century, is the architecturally dominant building of the village. Initially, it was a modest manor house of von der Osten family, with a pitched roof. A hundred years later, the manor house was rebuilt through a new architectural installation of window openings. A scenic park from the south and east, with an interesting tree stand.

"The Lying Elephant" glacial erratic



Today, few will notice that the village used to be connected with a single-track railway line, built in 1902 (30.2 km) from Strzelce Krajeńskie through Bobrówko, Żabicko, Będargowo to Lubiana Pырzycka. The line was so successful that a railway station building was even erected in the village, which survived until the present day.

During World War II (5.09.1944), J. Jofulton, a Canadian war prisoner employed in the farming industry, was shot here. In 1945 (15-20 March), Headquarters of the 7th Infantry Division of the 2nd Polish Corps was stationed here. There was a prison for women in this place after 1950, until 1964.

When in Bobrówko, you cannot miss a gallery of Urszula Szadyko, whose intricately crafted Easter eggs, Christmas tree ornaments, icons and other decorative items are popular among buyers in Poland and abroad.

After exiting the village, turn right (20.8 km) and continue across the edge of an asphalt road towards Machary, surrounded by an alley of deciduous trees, so that you will notice the largest erratic boulder in Lubuskie Voivodeship in the field on your right, 300 metres ahead.

"The Lying Elephant" is a gneiss giant, 7.9 m long, up to 3.9 m wide, and 1.2 m tall. Archaeological research confirmed traces of human activity from the Mesolithic era (7th-5th millennium B.C.), as well as Lusatian culture (700-500 B.C.), namely almost 30 ceramic pieces. Also, a humus layer was discovered as a trace of a wooden structure which used to exist there.

A similar item - "Czarci Głaz" ["Devil's Boulder"], an erratic boulder being a nature monument, 4.4 m long, 3.4 m wide and 2.2 m tall, is located about 2 km north of Żabicko, and only 2.5 km away from Bobrówko.

Leaving the field, continue to the junction of dirt roads (23.4 km).

If you decide to turn left to the nearby village of **Machary** (350 m), you will be able to see a single-storey classical style manor house at the edge of a landscape park (4.7 hectares), originating from the 1st half of the 19th century, with a portico supported on 2 columns.

After visiting Machary, you should come back (not to get lost in the labyrinth of village roads) to your original trail. Follow the trail to turn left at forest crossroads (24.1 km) and head towards a settlement of Śródlesie, where you should turn right at a fork (24.5 km), pass arable land on the right, continue across the forest to pass the visible Dankowskie Lake on the right (26.9 km). Soon you will get to an asphalt road (27.7 km) no. 156 from Strzelce to Barlinek. After you pass the Ecological Forest Centre site on your right (description: see trail no. 3), you will get to the Danków village centre (29.0 km, village description: see trail no. 3).

8.

BICYCLE TRAILS

Strzelce Krajeńskie – Gardzko – Rokitno
– Stare Kurowo.

BLUE TRAIL,
length: 11.6 km.



Start your escapade in front of the Mill Gate (0.0 km), first follow the marking of the red and blue bicycle trail to the crossroads (0.2 km) where you should turn right into Grodziska Street. Exit the town (0.8 km) and follow the blue bike trail together with the red hiking trail to reach Sidłów via a safe bicycle path (2.3 km).

Sidłów is a village established at the turn of the 18th and 19th centuries; initially a manor farm, part of nearby Strzelce Krajeńskie. This is illustrated by a courtyard that survived until the present day, surrounded with farm buildings, a park with a pond and native trees (limes, oaks) as well as exotic trees (the American tulip tree, chestnut trees, the eastern white pine and the silver berry). Among the buildings, the eight-sided, two-storey dovecote located in the centre attracts attention, roofed with ceramic tiles and finished with a weathercock with the date 1909.

Follow the bicycle path to get to Gardzko (4.5 km, description of the village; see trail no. 2). Here, marking of the green bicycle trail joins your trail at the crossroads from the right. Follow the road across the village, behind identification of the three trails, to the edge of the Drawa Wilderness (5.5 km). When you leave Gardzko, you will find yourself in the "Drawa Wilderness" Protected Scenic Area and the "Drawa Wilderness Forests" Area of Special Protection of Birds.

The Drawa Wilderness used to be among the largest forest complexes in Europe. Even today, its area exceeds 1000 square kilometres. Its name (Polish: Puszcza Drawska) originates from the river Drawa that flows through the forest.

Leave the asphalt road and change the direction of your movement to the left (6.2 km); take the convenient forest road to reach Rokitno, a picturesquely set midforest village (8.0 km).



The church in Gardzko

Rokitno is a small midforest settlement, whose original name of "Rothegrund" means the "red soil". It was established in 1730 and found to be a difficult place to live, as "the soil was very boggy here". Its name stems from areas of hardpan soil called "rudawiec".

You can take a rest at a resting place established especially for tourists in the village.

When you continue wandering, you will see the buildings of Złotawa forester's lodge, extremely carefully groomed. After leaving the buildings of Rokitno, you may meet an interesting yet dangerous amphibian, the European fire-bellied toad. Go ahead, pass small natural and artificial ponds on the right to reach the isolated buildings of Stare Kurowo, where you should turn right to the centre (11.6 km) of this communal village (description: see trail no. 5).



The dovecote in Sidłów

9.

BICYCLE TRAILS

Górki Noteckie – Przyłęg – Przyłęsko.

BLUE BICYCLE TRAIL,
length: 15.1 km.



Start your escapade at the railway station (0.0 km) where you should read a plaque about the history of the Prussian Eastern Railway, attraction of the village surroundings. Set out in front of the railway station and head east towards an asphalt road - right (0.3 km) across the railway track, you will reach Górki Noteckie.

Górki Noteckie is a village on the Polka river on the south-eastern edge of the Gorzów Wilderness. During the excavation works on the site, traces of colonisation from the Bronze Age and the Iron Age were discovered (2500-1800 B.C.), as well as an early Medieval burial site. The village population was originally Polish; even in 1684, Hieronim Rostkowius, the local pastor, complained about having to deliver his sermons in Polish because otherwise nobody would understand him. Throughout the years, fishing was the only source of income for the local people. W.A. Heinze, a professor and philosopher who travelled across the Noteć valley in 1786, mentions that the King's master of the hunt lived in the village.

There is a neo-Gothic 1818 church in the village. Legends have it that during the pagan times, there was a church of an evil "Zernebog" ("Black God") in the fields of the village. A monumental beech specimen, 34 m tall and 415 cm in circumference, grows in the village.

The markings of your trail go north to the left. When you leave Górki, you will find yourself in the "Drawa Wilderness" Protected Scenic Area, where you will stay until the end of this trail. Continue on the convenient asphalt road, passing fish ponds on the right (1.5 km), cross the forest, your path will cross the yellow bicycle trail (3.1 km) from Międzymoście. After another 600 metres cross a small bridge on the Polka river (3.7 km) to soon reach the centre of the Przyłęg village (5.9 km).

Przyłęg is an old Slavic village established at the mouth of the Sarbina river flowing into the Polka river, which was mentioned in official documents as early as 1337. The church was built of crushed granite in 1803, on a rise which was

probably built artificially. Today, the church has no plastering, which was removed together with the facade details. There is a small park next to the church, with an oak tree 440 cm in circumference.

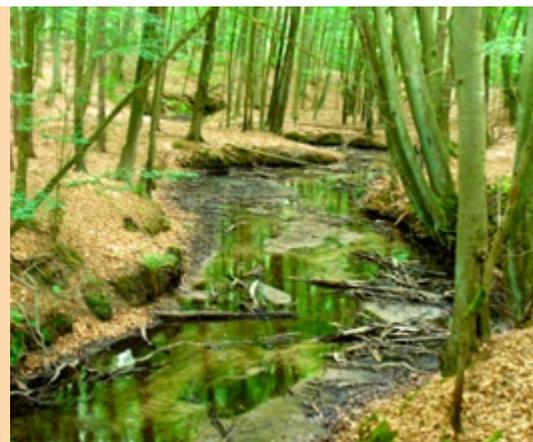
A tired tourist can stay in Przyłęg overnight, at a farm accommodation.

Your trail continues left along a very busy national road no. 22. After 700 metres, turn right off that road (6.6 km) towards Wilanów.

If you decide to continue straight ahead 1200 metres further along road 22, you will reach the buildings of the former forest labourers' settlement in the village of Welmin. Today, you will find a bed and a traditional Polish meal at the "Wika" Inn.

You should continue north, following the blue bike trail markings, on an asphalt road with little traffic. You will meet the markings of the yellow bicycle trail (9.8 km) from the left, and of the red hiking trail from Santoczno (11.1 km); follow them to reach a resting place at the northern edge of the "Przyłęczek River" Nature Reserve (11.3 km, description: see trail no. 3). At the next fork, the red hiking trail turns right towards Brzoza. Follow the yellow and blue bicycle trail markings towards the crossing (13.0 km) with the Wilanów - Santoczno road (cobble; red bicycle trail). Here, the yellow trail turns right to Wilanów. Go straight ahead, which is left along a cobble road among a truly picturesque beech and pine forest, to arrive at a former forester's lodge buildings (15.1 km), which is now the "Przyłęczko" hotel. This is one of the most extraordinary accommodation sites in the region. High standard of rooms, a tennis court, a swimming pool, identified walking paths - these are only some of the attractions of this place.

The Przyłęczek River



The "Przyłęczek" resting place



10.

BICYCLE TRAILS

Zdroisko – “The Beeches of Zdroisko” Nature Reserve – Górkі Noteckie.

BLUE TRAIL,
length: 7.8 km.



The easiest way to begin your cycling adventure is to start in the centre of the village, near the coach stop and a symbolic boulder (0.0 km) with information about the steelworking traditions of the village (description: see trail no. 3).

Follow the blue bike trail identification to the south-east. Pass a symbolic cemetery with a field altar, of German soldiers killed during World War I. Soon you will see the markings of a yellow bicycle trail (0.7 km), which turn left towards a holiday resort on the Wełmino Lake. Follow the markings of both trails straight ahead into the forest and you will soon reach (1.7 km) the buildings of the Training and Holiday Centre of the Gorzów Wielkopolski Power Company. Immediately behind the holiday resort, there is the border of the “Beeches of Zdroisko” Nature Reserve (description of the reserve and the trail - see trail no. 3). In the central part of the Reserve, the Strzelce Forest District has set up a viewing spot with a platform (3.8 km), where you can admire the beauty of the Santoczna river. The great horsetail, a species under protection, occurs in the surroundings.

At the southern edge of the nature reserve (5.6) there is a resting place called “Under the Escarpment”, situated under the picturesquely meandering Santoczna river. Continue for slightly more than one kilometre ahead to arrive at forest crossroads (6.8) where you will have to decide about where to go next. Railway station in Górkі Noteckie (1.0 km – black bicycle trail - end of your trail -7.8 km), Santok (8.6 km – blue bicycle trail to the right), Sławno (7.1 km, yellow bicycle trail to the left).



The Santoczna River

11.

BICYCLE TRAILS

Sarbiewo – Sławno.

BLACK TRAIL,
length: 3.3 km.



Start your cycling journey at the railway station (0.0 km) from where you should go to the centre of the village (0.7 km) and continue left.

Sarbiewo is a village in the commune of Zwierzyn. In 1667, the manor farm of Sarbiewo was attacked by a crowd of townspeople of Strzelce. In mid-19th century (1842), a single-storey classical manor house was built in the village, with the front facade featuring a porch with columns and a small park, with currently monumental elm trees. Thirteen years later (1865), a brickyard was established here. In 1936, Dr Oswald Schreiber, the founder and retired director of the Bacteriology and Serology Institute in Gorzów Wielkopolski, settled here.

Get to the end of the village (1.1 km) and continue north on an asphalt road across a beautiful pine forest, full of mushrooms. If you have enough time, you can make a detour from the asphalt road (2.3 km) and continue for several hundred metres to the left - you will reach training paths in the forest, used by the athletes of Strzelce. An occasional boulder commemorating coach M. Ksokowski was set up here. The Strzelce Forest District intends to set up a resting place here. Continue on the asphalt road to the centre of the village of Sławno (3.3 km, description of the village - see trail no. 3) where the black trail ends and gets you to the yellow bicycle trail (Strzelce Krajeńskie - Danków, description: see trail no. 3) and the red hiking trail (Brzoza - Strzelce Krajeńskie, description - see trail no. 12).



*The forest in the area
of Sławno*

12.

HIKING TRAILS

Santoczno – “Przyłęzek River” Nature Reserve – Brzoza – Sławno – Strzelce Krajeńskie.

RED TRAIL,
length: 18.9 km.



Begin your hike at the park in the centre of Santoczno (description - see trail no. 4) from where you should head east, along with the bicycle trail, turn right at the edge of the Barlinek-Gorzów Wilderness, and soon cross the Rybakowo - Zdroisko asphalt road (0.8 km). You are now in the Barlinek-Gorzów Scenic Area.

The Barlinek-Gorzów Scenic Area, situated within the Gorzów Wilderness, covers almost 24,000 hectares, or 55,000 hectares together with the protection zone, including 87% of forests. These are mainly mixed forests and woods with oak, beech and pine tree stands. The numerous rivers, streams and lakes, often surrounded by ancient forest, constitute a particularly important and valuable element of the landscape. Local animals include beavers, otters, kingfishers, slow worms, lizards, or even adders.

Take a convenient midforest road and walk east, at a crossing of forest roads turn left (2.8 km) to soon get to an asphalt road (Welmin-Wilanów, 4.1 km) where you will meet the yellow and blue bicycle trails. Follow them to get to the plaques with information about the “Przyłęzek River” Nature Reserve (description: see trail no. 3) and resting places (4.4 km). Continue to the spot where the trail exits (4.7) the wide road to the right, and continue on a forest track among beautiful old beeches to a small bridge on the Polka river (6.5 km). Get to the edge of the forest (7.7 km) and walk across the fields to the visible buildings of the Brzoza village, with the church in the centre (10.5 km). Entering the village, you will leave the “Barlinek Wilderness” Protected Scenic Area.

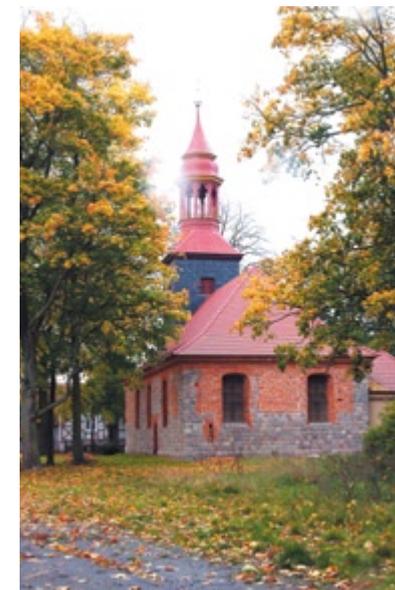
Brzoza is an old village established at the edge of the Gorzów Wilderness forests. A single-nave, late Roman church of mid-13th century, built as a masonry stone structure and surviving until the present day, extended in the 18th century with a tower with a cupola and a lantern. As a consequence of the village being settled by Orthodox population, the church was converted into an Orthodox church. There are interesting remains of a manor farm in the village, with a brickwork (1717) granary, labourers’ dwellings, and manager’s office building. There is also a historical, 19th century landscape park, a remnant of a former residential establishment. The palace was destroyed and demolished during 1950-1951.



The alley of Platanus trees in Brzoza

The park was originally set up in an English style, covering the area of 21 hectares, of which 10 hectares are occupied by the waters of a glacial lake called Brzoza. The group of 260 trees comprises 42 different tree species, such as: oak, beech, douglas, sycamore, plane, ash and lime trees (aged 80-150 years or more).

After visiting the village, turn right to the south at the main crossroads and continue to national road no. 22 Gorzów Wlkp. – Gdańsk (11.4 km), with a very heavy traffic. You need to cross the road and continue along a safe cobbled road; pass an enclosed orchard of the old orchard establishment on the left, go straight ahead to Sławno (14.1 km, village description - see trail no. 3). Turn left at the crossroad and take the bicycle path, along with the yellow bike trail, to get to the roundabout (18.2 km) in Strzelce Krajeńskie (description of the town in the introduction to this guide and the Historical Town Trail). Take the main road of the town right from the roundabout (Bolesława Chrobrego Street) and head towards the Mill Gate where your hike ends (18.9 km).



The Eastern Orthodox church in Brzoza

13.

HIKING TRAILS

Strzelce Krajeńskie – Gardzko – Rokitno – Kawki – Kawcze Góry.

RED TRAIL,
length: 12.6 km.



This escapade is a continuation of the previous hike, and therefore you start in front of the Mill Gate (0.0 km), first follow the marking of the red and blue bicycle trail to the crossroads at the Culture Centre (0.3 km). Turn right into Grodziska Street and follow the blue bike trail (a safe cycling and pedestrian path) via Sidłów (2.3 km, description - see trail no. 8) to Gardzko (4.5 km, village description - see trail no. 2). There is a monumental erratic boulder before the village (description: see trail no. 2). At the crossroads (4.6 km), the green bicycle trail joins your trail. You should follow straight ahead. At the end of the village (5.5 km), you enter the forest area to find yourself in the "Drawa Wilderness" Protected Scenic Area and the "Drawa Wilderness Forests" Area of Special Protection of Birds. You are now at the edge of the Drawa Wilderness.

The Drawa Wilderness used to be among the largest forest complexes in Europe. Even today, its area exceeds 1000 km². Its name (Polish: Puszcza Drawska) originates from the river Drawa that flows through the forest.

Leave the side of the asphalt road and change the direction of your hike to the left (6.2 km); take the convenient forest road to reach Rokitno, a picturesque set midforest village (8.0 km). The Strzelce Forest District has set up a resting place for tired tourists here. When you continue wandering, you will see the buildings of Złotawa forester's lodge, extremely carefully groomed (8.9 km), and when you leave Rokitno, but before you reach the isolated buildings of Stare Kurowo (village description: see trail no. 5), you can meet interesting specimens of a beautiful yet dangerous amphibian, the European fire-bellied toad. Further on, you will meet the yellow bike trail markings (10.8 km). Here, the blue trail signs turn right and you should go left. Get to the midforest settlement of Kawki where the yellow trail signs turn left (11.6 km) and your red hiking trails continues straight ahead to then (watch the signs!) turn right (11.9 km) into a subordinated forest road. Begin "climbing" to soon reach the "top" of Kawcze Góry (129 m a.s.l.), which is the highest hill in the region (12.6 km) with a relevant plaque and the national flag. A viewing tower is planned to be set up in this place.

14.

NORDIC WALKING TRAILS

"Hubert's" Trail.

BLUE TRAIL,
length: 4.5 km.



Nordic walking trails are hiking trails and therefore, some fragments are difficult for tourists on bikes. The trails were set up through the Commune's cooperation with the Strzelce Krajeńskie Forest District and the Regional Tourist Organisation of the Lubuskie Region which implemented the project.

Trails in the neighbourhood of Długie village.

These trails run within the "Drawa Wilderness" Protected Scenic Area, the "Drawa Wilderness Forests" Area of Special Protection of Birds, and the "Drawa Wilderness Preserves" Special Habitats Protection area.

The trail begins in Długie (description: see trail no. 1), at a car park next to the chapel (0.0 km) of the Brother Krystyn Society (description: see trail no. 1). From a wide hardened road (Kurowska Street), turn right behind the playing fields (0.3 km) into a forest path which turns right after 700 metres (1.0 km). The signs will lead you to a small lake (1.2 km) and follow across its eastern shores, then around the "Mszar przygiełkowy Długie" ["Długie Beak-Sedge Bog"] Nature Reserve (the road may be a bit difficult at some places), to get you again to the fork at the lake (3.3 km).



*A fen-meadow
of white-beaksedge*

The “Długie Beak-Sedge Bog” is a peatland reserve with the area of 7.75 hectares, named after Hubert Jurczyszyn. The patron used to be the forest district manager of the Strzelce Krajeńskie Forest District, and a member of the Regional Nature Protection Board. It is a peatland reserve. The purpose of protection is to maintain the communities of marsh and peatland plants, particularly the beak-sedge bog and the highmoor bog. The reserve lies within the limits of Natura 2000 “Drawa Wilderness Forests” area.

When you return to the point where you started your hike (the fork at the lake, 3.3 km), turn right and meet the road you should take to return to the Summer Camp’s chapel (4.5 km).

15. “The Enchanted Maidens of Burgwall” Trail.

BLUE TRAIL,
length: 12.5 km.



It starts in Długie and runs around Lipie, Słowa, Kokno lakes. You would typically start your journey from a hotel, then follow a forest road at the lake, along the steep shores of the Lipie Lake.

The Lipie Lake. This is the most popular (182 hectares, 2700 m long, 1600 m wide) lake in The Dobięgniew Lake District, with an interesting “Y” shape and maximum depth reaching 42 metres. A picturesque shoreline with mixed forests, and the extraordinary transparency of emerald-coloured water will commonly attract tourists’ attention.

You will soon get to the place where the trail signs lead you to a peninsula, dividing the waters of the Słowa and Lipie Lakes. A fortified settlement (Burgwall, 2.0 km) was established at the northern edge of the peninsula in early Middle Ages. When this area was conquered by the knightly family of von Bornsted in the 13th century, they built a defensive court, the existence of which was confirmed by archaeological research carried out in 2011. Then, remnants of a masonry building, perhaps with a shingled roof, were discovered. The end of this manor house and the fortified town with the settlements outside the town walls was probably marked by a Polish-Lithuanian war expedition of Władysław I the Elbow-high. Many legends are associated with the settlement and the knights’ court. One of them tells the following story.

There was a time when a knight lived in the castle, who broke the knightly rules and burnt villages down, robbed and killed people. There were pretty maidens living with him at the court, who sinned together with him in a treacherous way, or even in a different way, too, as they were punished with a curse. They would then appear around midnight near the town and scared accidental passers-by. However, one of them did not fear the apparitions and, attracted by the promised reward for salvation of souls, he declared to enter the town site at midnight. Still, he made his waiting more pleasant, revelling with a full mug at a nearby inn. Before he came to his senses and went on to lift the curse off the maidens, it was already too late, and his unsteady legs did not help him go faster. He would only hear wind instrument music from a distance, and a cry of despair and a lament of the cursed maidens he disappointed through his drunkenness, right at midnight. Since then, the maidens have continued to wait for another daredevil. The inn is long gone, so perhaps they will find their saviour who will keep his word and... drink less.

Information boards have been set up at the fortified settlement location.

When you return from the fortified settlement (2.5 km), follow the signs along the shoreline of the Słowa Lake (description: see trail no. 6), walk down to the lower area at the western edge and take the opportunity to admire the work of beaver families that leave multiple traces here. Heading slightly upwards, you will reach a crossing of forest roads (3.2 km) before a resting place (3.3 km). Here you will meet the markings of a green bicycle trail from Gardzko. From that point, situated over 30 metres above the water surface of the Słowa Lake, you will have an extraordinary view on the turquoise-coloured lake and the adjacent forest.

The remains of the fortified settlement-Burgwall



The Forest District intends to set up a viewing point here. After you rest and learn the “secrets of the forest” described on the information boards, go down the road along the lake shores. After 700 metres, the yellow bicycle trail from Licheń (4.0 km) will join your route. Continue walking together with the two bike trails across a beautiful beech forest with numerous hills and ravines formed by a glacier, to arrive at the crossroads at the Jeziorko Lake (5.3 km). Here the trail comes to a fork. The left branch heads toward the reconstructed bridge on the Ogardzka Odnoga (6.5 km). The right branch continues its way around to the east. After another 500-metre section, the green bike trail goes left (5.8 km) and you should continue straight ahead to see a small bridge above the “Arot tube” on a nameless channel connecting the Słowa Lake with the Osiek Lake (5.9 km). From there, follow the signs straight on. At a fork, you will see the eastern bay of the Lipie Lake on your right and soon you will get to national road no. 22 Gorzów Wlkp. – Gdańsk (8.7 km). Cross the road and continue straight ahead through the forest, to arrive at the eastern shores of the Kokno Lake, until you come to a fork (10.0 km).

The Kokno is a small midforest lake with a regular shoreline, often visited by hunting white-tailed eagles.

Here, the direction of your hike changes towards the west; continue along the shores of the lake to reach another crossing of forest roads (11.0 km) to then enter the village of Długie again (12.5 km) through the so-called “Sheep Hills” (11.9 km).

16. “Cloister” Trail.

YELLOW TRAIL,
length: 5.5 km.



Trail around the lakes of the Strzelce region.

It is recommended to start on this roundabout trail from a small parking lot at the junction of Strzelecka and Wojska Polskiego Streets (0.0 km) where you can have a good view on the outside of the Strzelce Krajeńskie city walls (description of the town in the introduction to this guide and the Historical Town Trail). Take a convenient sett path and follow the signs, passing the waters of the Klasztorne Górne Lake on your right.

The Klasztorne Górne Lake (area: 19.0 ha, max. length: 1320 m, max. width: 220 m, max. depth: 7.2 m). The lake is situated in the drainage area of the Polka river,

crossed by Człapia (Młynówka) stream, exceeding 7.0 km in length within the limits of the commune. Rushes growing along the shoreline, muddy bottom. At the moment, regeneration and restoration of the lake's recreational and tourist functions are pending.

Get to the parking lot, walk towards a volleyball court and the western edge of a pedestrian bridge (0.3 km) across the lake. There is a beach behind the court. Continue on a convenient sett path, pass a hill on your left (0.6 km) with a Public Lower Secondary School, formerly a medieval fortified settlement. See an information board here. Follow the signs towards the north-western edge of the lake, on a walking path built recently out of natural material. Pass the areas on the right, with reed, *Carex* species, sweet flag and alder grove, to get to a flow next to private fish ponds (on the left, 2.0 km) You can angle there for a charge. Cross the Człapia (Młynówka) stream, head to the right through an alley of hawthorn bushes and birch trees, to reach a resting place with a roofed table and benches (3.1 km). From this point, you will get a beautiful view on the Klasztorne Górne Lake and on the town of Strzelce Krajeńskie above. Continue along the convenient hardened road to reach the eastern edge of the bridge (3.5 km), from where you can return to town or continue walking along a birch alley to national road no. 22 (3.9 km). When you get to the Culture Centre, cross the national road and go right into Lipowa Street. Among residential buildings, then along the eastern shore of the Dolne Lake, you will get to Orzechowa Street (4.4 km).

The view of the Mill Gate from Lake Klasztorne Górne



The Dolne Lake is a small lake (7 hectares, length: 450 m, width: 180 m) on the eastern outskirts of the town, part of the course of the Człapia (Młynówka) stream, supplied with water from the Klasztorne Górne Lake. Fishing enthusiasts will have an opportunity to catch outstanding specimens of carp, silver carp, grass carp.

Turn right, walk along the shoulder of an asphalt road to PCK Street, cross the small bridge on the Człapia (Młynówka) stream again (4.7 km). After another 200 metres, turn right into Jeziorna Street (4.9 km). This narrow, picturesque street will lead you to Podwale Street (5.2 km), which runs along the city walls and the western shore of the Dolne Lake to the end of the trail, at the granary (5.5 km). There is the Mill Gate nearby, and national road no. 22 straight ahead, with the parking lot behind it where you started your hike.

17. "Old Captain's" Trail.

GREEN TRAIL,
length: 4.2 km.



Trails in the neighbourhood of Danków village.

These trails are set within the "Barlinek Wilderness" Protected Scenic Area, the "Barlinek Sanctuary" Special Habitats Protection site, and the "Barlinek Wilderness" Special Birds Protection area. They are located at the edge of the Barlinek-Gorzów Scenic Area.

A loop trail, beginning and ending at a small forest parking lot at the Kinołęka Lake (21 hectares, length: 900 m, width: 290 m), right behind Danków (village description: see trail no. 3) in the direction of Barlinek (0.0 km). Before you set off, you must climb a nearby hill, which used to be called Góra Wałowa (0.1 km), which you can reach on a wooden footbridge and stairs built in the hill. In the Middle Ages, there was a guard keep in this place, defending entry into this medieval town, which was confirmed by archaeological research of 2009 and 2010. The site description is presented on an information board. Return to a dirt road and start walking towards the Danków forester's lodge buildings (0.2 km), then to the resting place set up by the Strzelce Forest District, at the "secret stones" (0.8 km). Apart from resting, you can also take a small detour right towards the west (250 m) to the "Danków Marsh" ecological site with the area of 10.72 hectares.

Continue walking a good forest path, among the beautiful pine forest, in the south-western direction, until you reach a fork with a cobbled road (1.5 km) where

you should turn left. Marching across the forests of the Barlinek-Gorzów Scenic Area (description: see trail no. 12), you can meet the popular animals (foxes, roe deer, wild boards) and birds here, singing to make your walk more pleasant. Follow the cobbled road along the eastern shores of the Kinołęka Lake to an asphalt road (2.8 km, Danków - Santoczno). Turn left and follow the shoulder of the road to arrive at the first buildings in Danków (3.3 km); turn left again at a fork and get (3.5 km) to provincial road no. 156 (Strzelce - Barlinek). If you have enough time and you are not too tired, you can go to the other side of the road and visit this interesting location (a medieval town). This task will be easier with a set trail called "The Loop of the Dankowskie Lake Princess" (description - see trail no. 19), and a village map with description, displayed on the community dayroom building. Go left on the pavement and pass an old cemetery with the following legend associated with it:

The von Brand family was one of the families that owned Danków. The old captain Brand, the patriarch of the family, strongly cultivated the old customs and traditions. Before he died, he made a wish to be buried at the local cemetery. The sons, however, did not meet their father's will and buried his body in a magnificent family tomb built at the lake (description: see trail no. 3). Even on the first night after the funeral, the sad old captain could be seen, mounted on a horse and wandering across the fields and the neighbourhood. The leader of the village of Osiek who saw all this told the whole story to the captain's son, a Berlin canon, asking him to move the coffin to the cemetery, or otherwise the deceased will not find his peace. Still, this request

The ruins of the von Brands mausoleum



was not fulfilled, and since then, at full moon, you can meet an apparition of the old captain riding a horse at midnight at the local field and forest roads.

They say the captain's son, the Berlin canon who was buried in the family tomb, cannot find his peace, either, and he asks the passers-by every night, wandering across the park, to wind up his watch, offering 400 thalers for help.

Get to "Dwie Kozy" roadside bar (4.0 km) where you can have a delicious homemade meal and enjoy some active leisure, playing mini-golf. Continue for 200 more metres to reach the end of your hike, near *Góra Wałowa* where you set off (4.2 km).

18. "The Treasures of Danków" Trail.

GREEN TRAIL,
length: 6.0 km.



The route of this trail partially coincides with the "Old Captain's" Trail, but is longer and can be an interesting option for more tireless walkers.

Begin your hike in the centre of the village, at the fork of the provincial road 156 from Strzelce to Barlinek (0.0 km) on the left.

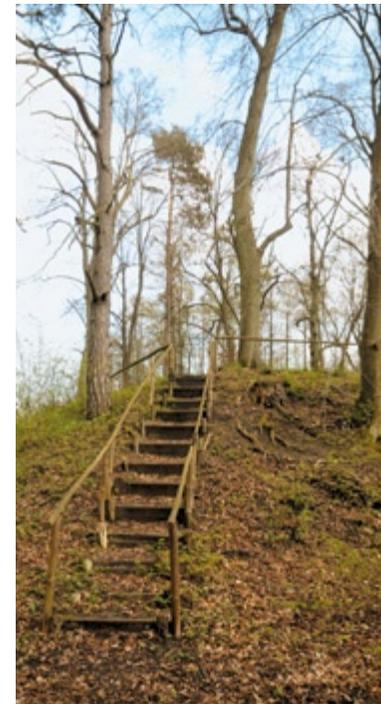
Head south along the shoulder of an asphalt road to the end of Danków's developments (0.2 km). Get to the forest, passing the eastern shores of the *Kinołęka Lake* (21 hectares, length: 900 m, width: 290 m) on your right. Continue for 500 metres to arrive at a fork with a cobbled road (0.7 km), which is the route of the "Old Captain's" Trail. You should continue straight ahead on the asphalt road to enter the *Barlinek-Gorzów Scenic Area* (description - see trail no. 12) set within the *Gorzów Wilderness*. At a fork with a forest road (1.9 km), turn right and walk among the luxuriant plants of the park. At the 3.2 kilometre of your hike, you will get to a crossing of forest roads where you should turn right. Continue for 400 metres to get to a crossing with a cobbled road (3.7 km), which is the route of the "Old Captain's" Trail. Follow the signs straight on to get to a resting place (4.3 km) and the "secret stones", with the "*Danków Marsh*" ecological site nearby. Continue along the markings to a small parking lot at the *Kinołęka Lake*, at road 156 (Strzelce - Danków). Now you have the option to get to a hill, formerly known as *Góra Wałowa* (5.3 km, description - see trail no. 17).

A beautiful legend is associated with *Góra Wałowa*, which gave rise to the name of our trail.

Namely: "People say that a treasure has long been hidden in the depths of *Góra Wałowa* by the knights family of *von Papstein*. It is very hard to get it out because a headless knight mounted on a grey horse will appear there at midnight, which is the only time you can go looking for the treasure, and continues riding around the mountain. Furthermore, the treasure is protected by enormous flames. Legends say that '... this treasure can only be lifted by the arm of a *Papstein* child, and he must have a birthmark on his head.'

However, there is supposedly a way to find and discover this treasure, but the adventurer must continue walking to the house and the hall in complete silence, without talking, and he cannot turn around because the devil following in his footsteps could kill him.

Return to the trail and turn right on the pavement at the provincial road 156 (5.3 km) to get to the centre of the village, passing "Dwie Kozy" roadside bar (5.4 km) where you can have a delicious homemade meal and enjoy some active leisure, playing mini-golf. Continue walking for 400 metres (5.8 km, passing a coach stop on your left), then turn right and reach the end of your journey (6.0 km).



The embankment hill

The "Treasures of Danków" resting place



19. "The Loop of the Dankowskie Lake Princess".

GREEN TRAIL,
length: 3.0 km.



The name of this trail refers to a legend of Danków (description of the village: see trail no. 3).

This is the most difficult Nordic walking trail in terms of space orientation. It begins about 300 metres east of the village centre, at road no. 156. A forest road heading north towards the Dankowskie (Wielgie) Lake that begins here will get you to a parking lot (0.3 km) and mausoleum ruins (description: see trail no. 3). Then the signs will get you across a camping site (0.4 km, forest education boards, a bonfire site, roofed tables and benches) and from there to a peninsula with luxurious, beautiful plants (careful in spring and autumn, the area may be waterlogged) - there, the trail takes a loop and gets you back to the camping site on the shores of the lake.

The Dankowskie Lake (90 hectares, length: 2800 m, width: 900 m, max. depth: 7.7 m) lies in the Barlinek-Gorzów Scenic Area. Forests grow along almost the entire shoreline of the lake (7700 m). Adjacent to the southern shore of the lake are the buildings of the Danków village. The lake has three water courses flowing into it, and one flowing off.

Continue walking next to the Forest Education Centre, which is set up in a roofed enclosure capable of accommodating over 40 persons and used for meetings, workshops, lectures, etc. The site is connected to electricity, and audio-video equipment can be used. There is a place for a bonfire in the centre, and guests can use local toilets. Follow the signs to get to a church (2.3 km). Go straight ahead through the Eastern Gate of the old manor farm buildings (2.4 km) along the stable with a dovecote, to a monumental pendunculate oak tree (nature monument, over 500 years old) that grows at the shore of the lake (2.6 km). Change your direction there and follow the signs to get to the medieval town fortifications of Danków (2.9 km), i.e. defence embankments. Continue to a yard at the coach stop where the trail ends (3.0 km).



The Forest Education Centre



The campsite

20.

WATER TRAIL

"The Masuria of Lubuskie" Water Trail, "Towards the Baltic Sea" section.

TO THE END OF OGARDZKA ODNOGA - 7.5 km,
TO THE END OF OSIEK LAKE - 10.7 km.



The Strzelce Land, with its picturesque lakes among the forests of the Drawa Wilderness, with a total area exceeding 900 hectares, is attractive for canoeists as well. It is best to begin your water adventure in the village of Długie on the Lipie Lake. The village itself and the whole neighbourhood with our water trail is within the "Drawa Wilderness" Protected Scenic Area, the "Drawa Wilderness Forests" Area of Special Protection of Birds, and the "Drawa Wilderness Preserves" Special Habitats Protection area.

The Lipie Lake is a large water reservoir (area of 182 hectares, length: 2700 m, width: 1620 m), with clear water, up to 42 metres deep. It becomes even more scenic with the diverse shoreline (9750 m) with steep slopes with mixed forest, two islands, and under-water meadows. Apart from Crucian carp, bream, tench, perch and pike, fishing enthusiasts may even enjoy such a rare take as a European whitefish.

The entire location is complete with the passing cormorants who have their colonies here, and naturally the ability to rest on a beautiful sandy beach, with

Regatta at Lake Lipie



the area of 1.1 ha! Various accommodation and food service options are available at the lake and in the village of Długie. Active tourists may count on water equipment rentals, a harbour, and a divers' base.

Sail the lake towards the left branch north, heading to a natural pass (2.5 km) connecting it to the adjacent the Słowa Lake (description: trail no. 6). There is a peninsula on the left, where a medieval fortified settlement was once in the centre (description: trail no. 14). When you get there, you may see beautiful underwater meadows and many fish species in the lake's clean water.

According to one of the legends, the original town located here was destroyed through a war stratagem. One day, when the first frost bound the marsh surrounding the settlement with ice, a generous prince arrived. He won over the distrustful local people with his generous gifts, so much that the people held a great feast in his honour, with lots of beer, booze, and even wine. Everyone was drinking, including... the guards of the settlement. When everyone fell asleep, the enemy invaded the town across the frozen marsh, secretly and without a sound. They brutally murdered the sleeping townspeople and robbed the town. The "generous" prince turned out to be a leader of a band of robbers. Years have passed, but nobody wanted to settle there any more, for fear of ghosts - souls of the murdered people.

Exit the Lipie Lake through a natural pass of approximately 150 metres, which will help you get to the Słowa Lake (2.6 km, description - see trail no. 6). Head north (to the right) here, searching for the canal inlet (2.8 km) - the approx.

The canal connecting the lakes



The Arot Pipe

1500 m long canal connects the Słowa Lake with the Osiek Lake. It was widened and deepened during 2001-2002 to facilitate water tourism activities. The canal banks are covered by alder tree forests (spring-fed forests) growing on spring-fed fens. This area is inhabited by many animals, living in this asylum of peace and quiet. On 3.3 km of the trail, you will pass the so-called "Arot tube", with a dirt road above where a blue Nordic walking trail is set. In the final section of the canal, you will sail a small Łabęty (Błotne) Lake, with luxurious water plants forming a "water meadow". Enter (4.2 km) the Osiek Lake (636 ha, also called the Chomętowskie Lake). Here you need to decide about your further sailing direction.

The Osiek Lake (also called the Chomętowskie Lake, area with branches is 636 hectares! With the maximum depth of 35.3 m and average depth of 210 m, it offers good diving and sailing conditions.

If you sail to the left, you will soon (5.0) km enter the part of the Osiek Lake which is called the Ogardzka Odnoga, under a newly built bridge (scheduled project completion: 2014, the old bridge was burnt down in 1973), leading to the village of Chomętowo.

The Ogardzka Odnoga Lake, with the area of 55.3 hectares, with a diversified shoreline (5700 m), covered with forests, fed by the waters of the Ogardna stream, is a scenic place recommended to anyone willing to have a quiet rest.



Lake Słowa and Lake Lipie

In this neighbourhood, you have a chance to observe beaver lodges or otter and badger sets. Looking up, you may recognize characteristic silhouettes of cormorants, eagle owls, or even the majestic white-tailed eagles. After about 1.5 km, there is a camping site on the left shore, at the village of Pielice, with a resting place with roofed tables and benches. The end of Ogardzka Odnoga Lake (7.5 km) marks the beginning of your return path.

The White-tailed Eagle's nest



If you turn right after you enter the Osiek Lake (4.2 km) (area of Dobiegniew commune), you will soon reach a pass, closed with a regular peninsula with the buildings of Chomętowo (5.7 km) (village description: see trail no. 6). There is a beautiful, monumental sessile oak on the opposite shore (370 cm in circumference). If you decide to continue to the north-west, you will still have 5 km of the Osiek Lake to cover.

Pass the harbours and marinas on your right: Ługi (8.7 km) and Osiek reaching the outlet of Mierzęcka Struga (10.7 km). Follow this stream further to Wielgie Dobiegniewskie Lake, and if you are truly ambitious, you have the Drawa, Noteć, Warta, and Odra rivers ahead of you, and finally... it is the Baltic Sea!

ACCOMMODATION INFORMATION

"Staropolski" Hotel, address: ul. Bolesława Chrobrego 19, 66-500 Strzelce Krajeńskie, no. of beds: 45, telephone: +48 (95)763 11 10, +48 (95)763 11 13, +48 (95) 763 11 12,

e-mail: staropolski@op.pl, URL: www.staropolski.pl

"Łuczniczka" Hotel, address: ul. Sportowa 1, 66-500 Strzelce Krajeńskie, no. of beds: 40, telephone: +48 (95)763 29 95

"Wodnik" Hotel, address: ul. Długie, ul. Dobiegniewska 30, 66-500 Strzelce Krajeńskie, no. of beds: 70, telephone: +48 (95)761 22 88, e-mail: hotel-wodnik@freenet.de, URL: www.hotel-wodnik.de

"Wika" Roadside Inn, address: Welmin 32, 66-500 Strzelce Krajeńskie, no. of beds: 10, telephone: +48 604 552 340, e-mail: zajazdwika@onet.eu, URL: www.zajazdwika.pl

Tourist and Recreation Resorts

Sports & Educational Summer Camp of the Brother Krystyn Neighbour Aid Society, address: Długie, ul. Turystyczna 14, 66-500 Strzelce Krajeńskie, no. of beds: 260 during holiday season only, telephone: +48 (95)720 14 75, +48 (95)763 68 88, e-mail: biuro@bratkrystyn.pl, URL: www.bratkrystyn.pl

KADET-OK holiday resort, Krzysztof Jaz, address: Długie, ul. Dobiegniewska 22, 66-500 Strzelce Krajeńskie, no. of beds: 70, all year, telephone: +48 722 33 9999, +48 693 384 715, +48 509 096 302, e-mail: biuro@kadet-ok.pl, e-mail: adam.bogdan@kadet-ok.pl, e-mail: bartek.jaz@kadet-ok.pl, URL: www.kadet-ok.pl

"Muchówka" Mini Holiday Resort. Summer houses - address: Danków 9b, 66-510 Bobrówko, no. of beds: 14 during holiday season only, telephone: +48 502 701 252, +48 501 473 702, e-mail: amucha@matprofessional.pl, mmucha@matprofessional.pl, service season from 1 April to 30 October

SAPETÓW Palace, address: Tuczno, ul. Parkowa 3B, 66-510 Bobrówko, no. of beds: 44, telephone: +48 (95) 763 51 95, +48 509 401 501, e-mail: palacsapetow@interia.pl, URL: www.palacsapetow.pl

Scuba Diving Center Marlin Plus, 66-400 Gorzów Wielkopolski, ul. 9-go Maja 6c, telephone: 96-720-75-55, mobile: +48 604 850 917 (Piotr Raginia), e-mail: centrum@marlinplus.pl, URL: www.marlinplus.pl

Agritourism

Farm Accommodation for Tourists - Marianowo, Urszula Palczyńska, address: Danków 44, 66-510 Bobrówko, no. of beds: 40, telephone: +48 (95) 746 44 32, +48 605 513 504, e-mail: marianowo@o2.pl, URL: www.marianowo.dt.pl

Farm Accommodation for Tourists, Władysława Klimczak, address: Danków 5, 66-510 Bobrówko, no. of beds: 40, telephone: +48 608 600 754, e-mail: dankow@vp.pl, URL: www.dankow.republika.pl

Farm Accommodation for Tourists, Tomasz Klimczak, address: Danków 4a, 66-510 Bobrówko, no. of beds: 10, telephone: (+48) 604 427 665, e-mail: aklimczakmdankow@wp.pl, URL: muzyka-dankow.pl

Farm Accommodation for Tourists, Piotr Śpiwak, address: Przyłęg 23a, 66-500 Strzelce Krajeńskie, no. of beds: 9, telephone: (+48) 501 549 639, holiday season service from 1 April to 30 October

Farm Accommodation for Tourists, Stefania Górka, address: Danków 11, 66-510, Bobrówko, no. of beds: 7, telephone: +48 (95) 763 66 98

Summer Houses - Magdalena and Piotr Gluszko, address: Danków 6a and 6b, 66-510, Bobrówko, no. of beds: 8, telephone: (+48) 605 560 085, e-mail: agrodankow@tlen.pl, URL: agrodankow.pl

"Na Janówku" Farm Accommodation for Tourists, Anna Szczepaniak, address: Strzelce Krajeńskie, Al. Wolności 9 C, telephone: +48 500 600 280 (horse riding, hippotherapy, aviaries for birds, activities for children, traditional cuisine).

"Skulin" Farm, Roman Pytłos, address: Gilów 40, telephone: +48 602 834 327, email: romanpytlos-59@o2.pl (partridges, pheasants, koniks, campsite, fishing)

Camping sites

Camping sites managed by Strzelce Krajeńskie Forest District, address: ul. Gorzowska 17, 66-500 Strzelce Krajeńskie, telephone: +48 (95) 763 10 60, fax: 95 763 73 50, e-mail: strzelce@szczecin.lasy.gov.pl

• **Buszów** on Lake Buszewo

• **Danków** on Lake Dankowskie (Wielgie)

• **Pielice** on Lake Ogardzka

• **Ogardzki Młyn** on Ogardna Stream

Długie Tourist & Holiday Resort on Lake Lipie, address: Długie, 66-500 Strzelce Krajeńskie, no. of beds: 100 during holiday season only; managing authority: Sports & Educational Summer Camp of the Brother Krystyn Neighbour Aid Society, address: Długie, ul. Turystyczna 14, 66-500 Strzelce Krajeńskie, telephone: +48 (95)720 14 75, +48 (95)763 68 88, fax: +48 (95)720 14 75, e-mail: biuro@bratkrystyn.pl, URL: www.bratkrystyn.pl

OTHER IMPORTANT ADDRESSES

Municipal Office of Strzelce Krajeńskie, Aleja Wolności 48, 66-500 Strzelce Krajeńskie, telephone: +48 (95) 763 11 30, fax: +48 (95) 763 32 94, e-mail: urzadz@strzelce.pl, URL: www.strzelce.pl

Strzelce Krajeńskie Forest District, ul. Gorzowska 17, 66-500 Strzelce Krajeńskie, telephone: +48 (95) 763 10 60, fax: +48 (95) 763 73 50, e-mail: strzelce@szczecin.lasy.gov.pl, URL: www.szczecin.lasy.gov.pl/strzelce

PTTK [Polish Tourist and Sightseeing Society] Branch of Gorzów Wielkopolski Land, ul. Mieszka I 15/1, 66-400 Gorzów Wlkp., telephone: +48 604 207 243, e-mail: oddzial_pttk_gorzow@wp.pl, URL: pttk-ziemiagorzowska.pl

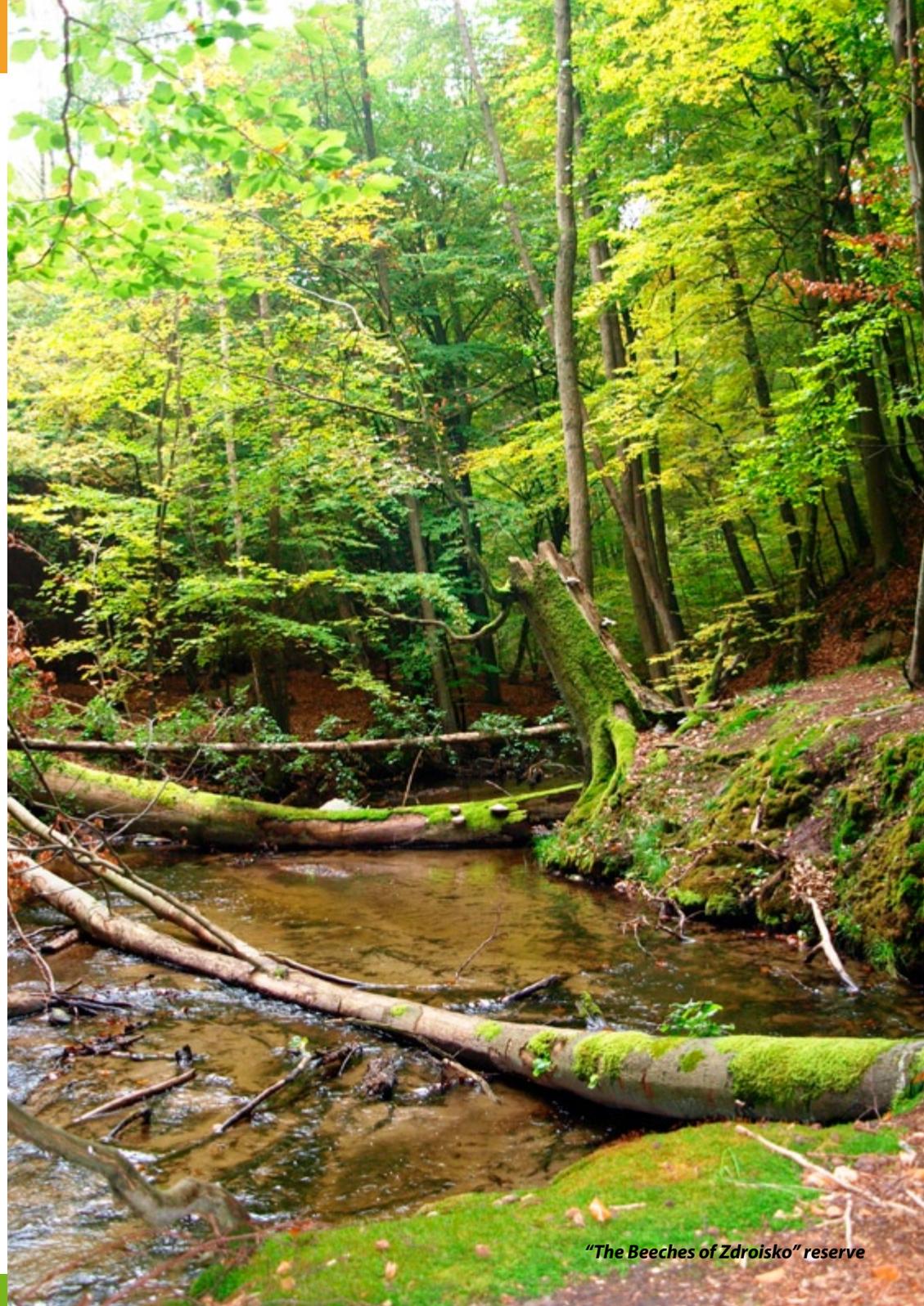
Tourist Information in Strzelce Krajeńskie, ul. Katedralna 15, telephone: +48 (95) 763 21 00, e-mail: punkt@strzelce.pl

Covering the trails in the Strzelce Krajeńskie Commune, you should visit the local artists, authors and fiends:

1. Henryk Grudzień, address: Gardzko 8, telephone: +48 501 150 639
2. Ryszard Kiona, address: Gardzko, telephone: +48 790 338 979
3. Leszek Nowak, address: Wielisławice 33 A, telephone: +48 606 328 007
4. Mirosław Koziół, address: Wielisławice 2/1, telephone: 884 124 895
5. Edward Dąbrowski, address: Licheń 34, telephone: +48 697 634 847
6. Stefan Szymoniak, address: Tuczno, ul. Słoneczna 6, telephone: +48 725 050 658
7. Urszula Szadyko, address: Bobrówko, ul. Choszczańska 7, telephone: +48 601 803 762

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Forest Division of Strzelce Krajeńskie

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(Polish Tourist and Sightseeing Society)

