



FOR THE TRAVELLERS

See the beauty of Mazovian nature and architecture

Mazovia

Live it and feel it

The Papal Route
and Routes of St. James in Mazovia



Mazovia

Live it and feel it



Setting out to a journey, you should think of a good guide, also a good spiritual guide to be sure that you have taken the right way. You'll need it to be able to follow the Mazovian Routes of S. James, learn a great deal of history and be at places gloried by the personality of St. John Paul II.

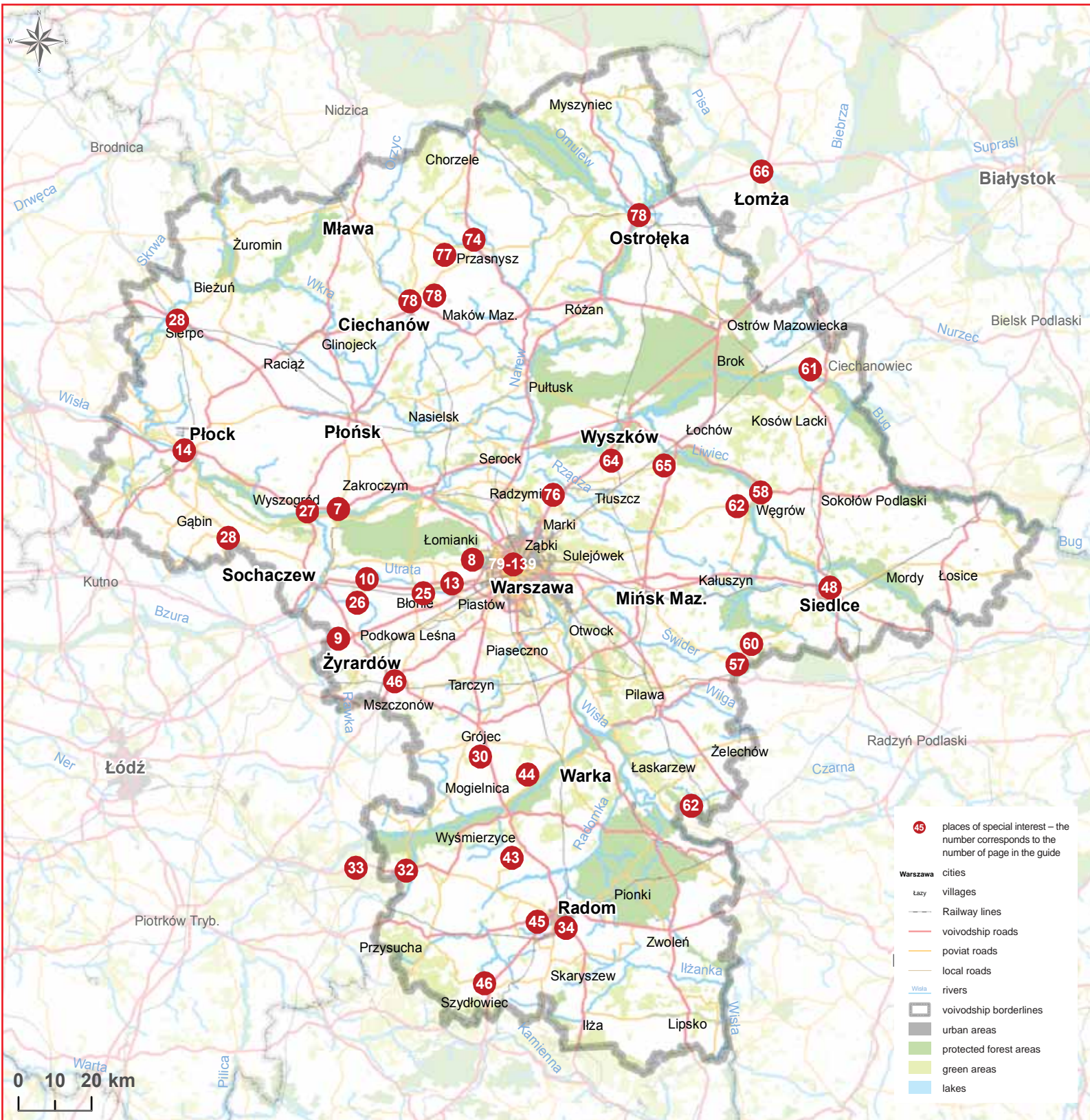
Not only will this guide provide you with tourist information, but also will give you a spiritual guidance while you are travelling along the Papal Routes in Mazovia. The guide will take you through various places related to John Paul II, old wooden churches, huge and impressive temples for hundreds of faithful. You will read about seemingly normal public space objects that become special when you take a closer look. Also those interested in architecture will read detailed description of historical buildings and churches, and also look into details of objects of worship, nature's wonders and works of art both religious and lay. History lovers will read about the lives of saints and other historical persons and know legends and interesting anecdotes. However, it is the words of John Paul II that are in the centre of attention in this guide.

We invite you to Mazovia to take a spiritual trip along its Routes of St. James and feel the power of the sacram.



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Legend



Routes of St. James in Mazovia



John Paul's II Route in Mazovia



tourist attractions

More on Mazovia at
www.mazovia.pl
www.mazowsze.travel

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West Mazovia



45 places of special interest – the number corresponds to the number of page in the guide

- | | |
|------------------------|------------------------|
| Warszawa cities | Wisła rivers |
| Łazy villages | voivodship borderlines |
| Railway lines | urban areas |
| voivodship roads | protected forest areas |
| powiat roads | green areas |
| local roads | lakes |



THE MONASTERY COMPLEX OF THE REGULAR CANONS
AND THE ST. MARY'S ANNUNCIATION CHURCH
– 23 KLASZTORNA STREET

WWW.CZERWINSK.SALEZJANIE.PL

This small Mazovian village harbours great history. Its monastery of regular canons was built almost 900 years ago. Founded in 1155 by the bishop of Płock Alexander of Malonne with a support of the Prince Bolesław the Wrymouth, the monastery went on to be extended during the reigns of his successors.

The romance monastery church with its two towers is the complex's most valuable building. Inside, one can find an array of works of art from romance all the way to classicism. One of the earliest treasures are: the richly carved stone portal dating back to the time the church was erected, frescos from 12th and 13th centuries, medieval tomb plaques and recently uncovered fragments of pillars and walls. The church has several altars but the one standing out is the altar with the sacred image of Our Lady by Luke of Mazovia. The image of "Mother of Mazovia" as it was later called, was deemed miraculous 300 years after it being painted but was crowned by Primate Wyszyński as late as in 1970. The coronation anniversary mass was held by Cardinal Karol Wojtyła which is noted on the special commemorative plaque in the church.

The Monastery lies on so called Mazovian Route of Saint James.



Photo 1





BLIND PERSONS' CARE SOCIETY
– 75 BRZozowa STREET

WWW.LASKI.EDU.PL

At the beginning of the 20th century, an educated countess Róża Czacka goes blind at the age of 22. Instead of falling into despair, she goes on to help others who had the same problem. She founds the Congregation of Franciscan



Photo 2

Sisters Servants of the Cross and adopts the name Elizabeth. She carries on to establish the Centre for the Care of the Blind being active to this day supporting people at all ages and edu-

cating more than 300 blind and visually impaired students to learn their professions.

On the Centre's premises, there is a church designed in 1924 by Łukasz Wolski. The church stands out for its original interiors with non-painted raw wood decorations. In the building adjacent to the church, we can visit Mother's Elisabeth's cell with all its original furnishings and equipment. In the forest cemetery there are graves of the sisters of the congregation, but also graves of well-known Poles having ties with Laski such as Antoni Słonimski, Jerzy Zawiejski, Halina Mikołajska, Marian Brandys, Jan Lechoń, Tadeusz Mazowiecki and others.

Karol Wojtyła spent his time in Laski at least four Times between 1957 and 1978 meeting priests, sisters and the centre's inhabitants.



HOLY FAMILY OUR LADY SANCTUARY — MIEDNIEWICE 90

WWW.MIEDNIEWICE.FRANCISZKANIE-WARSZAWA.PL

Pilgrims from all over the world travel to the old village near the great Forest of Bolimów to visit the miraculous painting of the Holy Family. Here, on the St Jakob's Route, they can step into the monastery and the church being a St. Mary's Sanctuary since the 17th century

The first chapel was founded by the starost Mikołaj Grudziński where the farmer's Jakub Trojańczyk's barn used to stand. One day, this very religious man brought home a copy of the miraculous Holy Family of Studzianna image (see page 33) from Sudzianna church fair. He placed the image in his barn where soon people started to gather attracted by a strange glare. Those who prayed saw their prayers heard and enjoyed mercy. Soon, the reforming monks came to the place to take care of it.

Later, the wooden buildings were replaced with brick and mortar ones. A baroque church designed by Bellotti and Fontana and built in 1767 was a venue for one of the first sacred image coronations in Poland. The main altar, made of dark wood, has a Holy Family image and other six sacred images placed on the side walls of the church tell the history of the Sanctuary. There is a spacious garden patio with arcades on the sides before the entrance to the church. The monastery is home to the Poor Claire Sisters' Congregation.



Photo3





MONASTERY OF FRANCISCAN FATHERS — PAPROTNIA, 5 KOLBEGO STREET

Maximilian Maria Kolbe arrived to Teresin in 1927 with a group of 20 Franciscan monks. After receiving land from Prince Drucki-Lubecki, first thing they did was set up a figure of Our Lady of Conception and then went on to build the monastery which started as few wooden houses for the monks and a small chapel that stands until this day. Next to the vestry, we can see the father Maximilian's cell where he lived and worked until 1930. Inside the cell there are iron bed with grey bedspread, a simple wooden table with drawers, cupboard, basin and a water jug. Poverty in which the brothers lived was not only the result of their adopted religious rules, but also came out of their bad financial situation.

Next door, there was another of his cells where he moved in after his return from Japan in 1936 and continued living until he was arrested by gestapo on 17th February 1941. There we can see his personal belongings such as hat, zucchetto hat and his briefcase that was found in the prison of Pawiak. Those object are the only left relics of St. Maximilian.

The Archbishop Karol Wojtyła visited Niepokalanów five times between 1971 and 1977 where he participated in church celebrations, held masses, giving sermons, and speeches at academic conferences.

However, the sixth visit turned out to be most memorable. On 18th June 1983, already as Pope John Paul II, he arrived at the place he cherished to commemorate St. Maximilian who was canonised a months before. Due to the Marshal Law, only few Poles were



able to take part in the canonisation celebrations in Rome, and this event turned out to be very important for the Catholic Church in Poland. The Pope landed on the sport's field next to the seminary and continued to the St. Maximilian's cell on the freshly asphalted Street now called John Paul II Street. In the monastery gardens the Pope held a mass for approximately 250,000 people filling in the gardens and the fields around the basilica.

St. Maximilian's cell is definitely a must see place in Niepokalanów, but also we can visit a museum in the old carpentry, a fire brigade museum and a modest papal museum with two unique articles of exhibition, namely, the cars John Paul II used while visiting Poland. Other things worth seeing are the moving nativity scene describing the history of Poland and the Mystery of the Holy Agony.

Niepokalanów lies on the Warsaw St. James Route.

Rajmund KOLBE – was born on 8th January 1894 in Zduńska Wola. At the age of 12 he had a dream. In this dream Our Lady gave him two crowns to choose: white, a symbol of chastity, and a red symbolising martyrdom. He reached for both.

A year later, Kolbe started his education in the small Franciscan seminary in Lviv. In 1910 he joined the Franciscan novitiate adopting the name Maximilian. He finished his education in Rome. After the return to Poland, he published the "Rycerz Niepokalanej" magazine. In 1930 Maximilian Kolbe set off to Japan to the mission of establishing the monastery in Nagasaki. In 1936 he came back to Poland and continued his activities in Niepokalanów where in 1938 he hosted the first programme in Niepokalanów Radio. Arrested by the Germans on 17th February 1941 he was imprisoned in the Auschwitz concentration camp where he voluntarily gave his life for the man by the name of Franciszek Gajowniczek. Maximilian Kolbe was beatified by Pope Paul VI on 17th October 1971 and canonised by John Paul II on 10th October 1982 in Rome.



BASILICA OF THE OMNI-MEDIATRESS OF ALL GLORIES — TERESIN NEXT TO SOCHACZEW

WWW.NIEPOKALANOW.PL

Modern body of the church stands out in the flatlands of Mazovia. Its construction started in 1939 but interrupted by the break-out of World War II. The works were resumed in 1948 and ended in 1954. Primate Stefan Wyszyński was to have consecrate the church in 1952 in the 20th anniversary of the congregation, however, before that was to happen, he was arrested by the communist authorities and isolated for four years without a chance of contacting anyone.

The church was given a title of a minor basilica in 1980 by John Paul II thus it is his sculpted image along with St. Maximilian's welcome worshipers at the entrance to the church. The church tower is specially worth seeing. The



Photo4

facade is dominated by monumental granite stairs with an array of pillars on top. Above stands a sculpted image of Our Lady Immaculate. On the doors there are images of

24 Our Lady's sanctuaries from all over the world.

Inside the church, with its coffered ceilings and square shaped pillars, is dominated by an illuminated sculpted image of Our Lady who seems to be floating above the altar.



PALLOTINE PRIESTS' HIGHER SEMINARY

– 20 J. KILIŃSKIEGO STREET, OŻARÓW MAZOWIECKI

WWW.WSDSAC.PL

The seminary buildings were erected just before World War II broke out. Despite the war, the teaching went on. However the church was not finished until after the war in 1948 and the Queen of Apostols became its saint patron. Since 1988, the temple has been a parochial church.

The church witnessed a great tragedy during the German occupation. Gestapo arrested 15 people including reverend Józef Jankowski who was later killed in the Auschwitz. He, along with other WW II 107 martyrs, was beatified by Pope John Paul II in 1999.

Since 1965 the seminary theatre has presented a very popular Mystery of the Holy Agony during Lent each year.

Ożarów has a big and modern Devine Mercy sanctuary church with an amazing stained glass window. It is another spot on the St. James's Route in Mazovia.

Bishop Karol Wojtyła arrived here with Primate Wyszyński and bishop Ignacy Tokarczuk on 5th November 1975 to participate in the conference held in the anniversary of the Second Vatican Council's Decree on the Apostolship of the Lay. Karol Wojtyła gave a speech at the conference and concelebrated the evening mass.



Photo5

PŁOCK



PŁOCK

Płock is one of Poland's oldest cities receiving its city rights as early as in 1237, yet 300 years before that, there existed a village surrounded by a fence (Polish: plot) which is said to have given the name to the city of Płock.

Situated on a high river cliff, the medieval city was surrounded by city walls with three gates. Those gates opened towards three major trade routes connecting Płock with Prussia, Toruń and Warsaw. Needless to say, the river route was highly important for the cities growth. In the 14th century, King Kazimierz the Great ordered to build a defence castle on the top of the cliff where the Prince's seat used to be. Before, in 12th century, there was a stone cathedral next to Prince's castle. The place, now called the Hill of Tumsk (pol. Wzgórze Tumskie), is undoubtedly the most interesting part of Płock's old town. Each tourist must take a stroll along the top of the cliff to marvel beautiful views of the river and the King's Forest. And in the evening another stroll is a must to look at the illuminated old buildings and the bridge reflecting the colourful lights off the Vistula River. It's also worth crossing the river to enjoy the panorama of the city.

A sightseeing tour should start with the cathedral standing next to the Benedictines' monastery build in the area of the castle reconstructed by King Kazimierz. Nowadays, the tourists can visit the diocesan museum and see a host of interesting exhibits such as Płock Bible from the 12th century, Płock Pontifical from the 13th century, old liturgical vessels, reliquaries, monstrances, etc.

Once you have seen the museum, you should take a walk down the old route of the pilgrims on the St. James's route along the paths weaving on top of the cliff passing



Poland's first ever school dating back to 1180 on to the Boleslaw the Wrymouth's statue. Prince Boleslaw was born in Płock, and here he was also made a knight at the age of ten. Here, in the Płock cathedral, is his grave. During his reign, Płock was practically the capital of Poland. Right next to the statue, you can see St. Bartholomew's church erected back in 15th century, yet later reconstructed in the baroque fashion.

Continue another few steps and you will find yourself at the Old Market with its classicistic town hall from the 19th century with its clock tower sounding bugle calls every day at noon and 6 p.m. Additionally at 6 p.m. on the tower you can see the mechanical scene of young Boleslaw's knight nomination. The place is full of historical buildings, cafes and restaurants just like on Grodzka Street coming out of the Old Market. Having had a moment of respite, why not visit the Devine Mercy Sanctuary where the St. Sister Faustyna experienced her first revelations.

Once you are on Grodzka Street, you can take a turn left to Tumaska Street and visit the Museum of Mazovia exhibiting a rich collection of art nouveau and art deco housed in the authentic historical dwelling interiors. Those of you who are modern art fans will be attracted to the exposition of modern works of art from the turn of 19th and 20th centuries. History lovers may step on to the adjacent building and learn about the city's thousand year history by analysing huge mock-ups of what the city looked like in the medieval days and see what has left since then.

Other buildings and places worth visiting are Maria-vites' neo-gothic cathedral and monastery, Płock zoological garden. You can also go down to the bank of the Vistula to take a river cruise or just stroll on the quay.

Don't forget to visit places related to John Paul II we are going to tell you about on the following pages.





CATHEDRAL BASILICA – 2 MOSTOWA STREET (TUMSKIE WZGÓRZE)

WWW.KATEDRAPLOCK.PL

The Bishopric of Mazovia was established in 1075 in Płock. Soon after that the wooden cathedral was destroyed during the raid of the pagans from Pomerania. In its place, the bishop Alexander of Malone ordered to build a stone temple almost as big and important as the Wawel cathedral in Kraków.

The cathedral was built in the romance style and made of stone bricks and was later renovated and extended after numerous raids by the pagan tribes of the north. The cathedral was destroyed in a big fire in 1530. This time, the reconstruction went renaissance way. The builders added an impressive dome and a transept.

To this day, the dome and pointy towers are the characteristic features of the church, which is a blend of

various architectural styles. The facade still has the original stone bricks. Inside, we can see an amazing, colourful polychrome covering walls and ceilings. The frescos were painted more than 100 years ago by such artists as Władysław Drapiewski, Cze-



Photo6



sław Idźkiewicz and Nicolas Brücher. One of the frescos presents the panorama of the Hill of Tumsk.

Another must-see place is the King's Chapel with black sarcophagus of Prince Władysław Herman and his son, Bolesław the Wrymouth. There, you can see a copy of the famous Door of Płock made in the



Photo7

12th century (the original is now in Novgorod in Russia). The door is decorated by 26 bas-relief pictures showcasing scenes from the Old Testament, images of well-known people of the era, and also some images of mythical monsters.

These were the doors Pope John Paul II walked through to the basilica when he visited Płock on 7th June 1991. He visited the place a few times when he was still a bishop. To commemorate his visit, there is a candle (left by scouts) and a memorial with the following inscription: „I give my greetings to the whole Mazovia“. Next to the chapel you can find one of the Pope Oak Trees planted to commemorate St. John Paul II.





THE HOUSE OF BISHOPS – 10 NARUTOWICZ SQUARE (OLD TOWN)

For almost 200 years the bishops of Płock had their seat in the principal castle next to the cathedral. In the 14th century one of the first stone building in Płock was erected in a location where now the building of the court stands. In 1872 bishop Dziewałtowski moved into his new seat which remains the house of bishops till today.

The building was erected 200 years ago and adopted to the needs of the bishopric seat to become a modest city small palace decorated with pilasters, triangle tympanum and the insignia of the bishop on it.

On 7th June 1991, the house of Bishops became the Pope's residence for the time of his stay in Płock.

John Paul II sent his greetings to the young gathered under the window as he usually did visiting different places in the world. As not everybody could see the Pope in the

My Beloved,

The Pope is still alive and, if God allows, he will live some more, but not longer. I'm really happy to be here talking with you from this window. So far I've made it only in Kraków back in 1979, 1983 and 1987. And now here, in Płock, which is like Kraków that used to be capital of Poland, just like Płock, that was made a capital for a short period of time by the successors of Bolesław the Bold (...).

(These were the Popes words to the youth gathered under the window of the House of Bishops.)

window, so he showed himself from a window on the other side of the building. A plaque on the building commemorates the visit.



SEMINARY AND THE ST. JOHN THE BAPTIST CHURCH – 2 PRIEST BISHOP A. J. NOWOWIEJSKI STREET

The temple was erected in the years 1758-1771 for the reforming monks who had come to Płock a few years earlier. The monks managed the church until their congregation was dissolved by the Russians after the Insurrection of January just like others in Poland. Then the church became the seminary.

The church is small, but amazes with its beautiful baroque altars made of oak tree wood and decorated with wooden figures. All decorations were made by the monks themselves.

The seminary campus was gradually extended to have its own library and church archive.

Before the fence, in the little park, you can see a statue of Bishop Antoni Julian Nowowiejski killed by the



Photo8

Germans in the Działdowo concentration camp in 1941.

The Pope's car stopped at the statue on 7th June 1991. Holy Father stepped out of his car, prayed and consecrated the statue even though initially it was planned that the Pope would consecrate the statue from the windows of his car without leaving it.

During his pilgrimage to Poland in 1999, John Paul II beatified 108 martyrs of the WWII, including bishop Nowowiejski.



PRISON
— 22 SIENKIEWICZA STREET

Płock's oldest prison was in the castle tower called „the tower of nobles”. Then the prisoners were held in the basement of the old city town hall.

King Frederick Wilhelm III is said to have ordered to build a new prison at the beginning of the 19th century when Płock was part of Prussian territory after the partitions. At that time, the prison was situated on the outskirts of the city. Another prison, designed by Henryk Marconi, was built by the Russians in 1844. Apart from common criminals, the patriots such as General Zygmunt Padlewski, were held there. The building still serves as prison for more than 600 prisoners.

John Paul II visited a prison only once during his visits in Poland, and it was the Płock prison. On 7th June 1991 his Popemobile parked in the prison yard filled with the prisoners. Defying the security, the Pope got out and came up to the prisoners to talk with them and give them his blessings. He said:

A prisoner (...) has not ceased to be a human being, however burdened with weakness, vulnerability and sin, maybe even crime still should have a chance to become better by coming back to God and receiving his mercy. You are sentenced, but not condemned. Each of you, with God's help, may become saint. Therefore, today I'm with you and with all of those who are sharing your fate.

There is a plaque on the walls of the prison commemorating that unusual visit.



POPE'S MASS VENUE

On 7th June 1991 the helicopter landed on the pitch of the Wisła Płock stadium. Holy Father just arrived from Włocławek at 3.40 p.m. A meadow across the road later called 7th June 1991 Street was to be the venue of the great mass for hundred thousands of people who started gathering there early in the morning. Despite pouring rain, more than 200,000 people waited for John Paul II to arrive.

The Pope came in his Popemobile and made a round in the sector aisles to greet the gathered pilgrims. Once the service began, it stopped raining. Bishops from all over the world participated in the mass, children from Chernobyl shaken by nuclear disaster few years back and of course scouts who had their jamboree in Płock at that time.

The place looks a lot different now. The area is built-up with modern dwelling houses and blocks of flats with a sports arena for 5,500 spectators. Yet, there is a place that commemorated that special event. It is an obelisk with portrait of John Paul II and a quotation from the sermon he gave during the Płock mass.



Photo9



SANCTUARY OF JESUS THE MERCIFUL
 – 14/16 STARY RYNEK
WWW.PLOCK.FAUSTYNA.PL

Buildings located in the south western corner of Old Market were a centre and school for homeless girls conducted by sisters from the Our Lady of Mercy congregation. This was the house for homeless girls who learned their profession. In 1930 sister Faustyna Kowalska to work in the centre.

In 1939 the image of Jesus the Merciful was in the centre, but the growing cult was interrupted by the communist authorities who closed the centre in 1950 and evicted the sisters from Płock. 40 years later the congregation returned to its original premises. A sculpted image of Jesus the Merciful stands in the place (former monastery cell) where sister Faustyna experienced her first revelations.

Even though the place is now undergoing a major re-



Photo10

furbishment, the temporary chapel is open to the faithful. All day long Adoration of the Holy Sacrament takes place in the temporary chapel. Here you can also see a kneeler with relics of St. Faustyna. Soon a big chapel will be available to pray in.



ST. BENEDICT CHURCH

— 2 DOBRZYKOWSKA STREET (RADZIWIE)

WWW.BENEDYKT.NET.PL

The parish at Radziwie dates back to the 11th century, when the the palatine Seciech ordered to build a chapel later damaged by flood.

The present day Radziwie church was built and consecrated in 1902. Used as a warehouse during WWII and then burned by the withdrawing Germans in 1945, the church was rebuilt thanks to the efforts of priest Aleksander Strużyński.

Its high tower is a key feature of the Radziwie landscape and is easily seen from the Hill of Tumsk. The facade is an imitation of romance style buildings with its rosette shaped windows, brick columns and friezes. The church has two oak tree altars made in the 50s, frescos by Ryszard Politowski and the images of Stations of the Cross by Firmin Bandke.

In November 1966, during the celebration of 1000 anniversary of the Christening of Poland, Bishop Karol Wojtyła visited the parish, where he spent the night, and on 13th November he held the mass and gave his sermon in the St. Benedict Church. There is a plaque on the pulpit with a profile of John Paul II with an inscription informing of his visit. Another commemorative plaque is placed on the wall of the vicarage.



Photo11



ST. JAMES PARISH
 – 166 WYSZOGRODZKA STREET
WWW.PARAFIAIMIELNICA.PL

The Imielica parish was set up back in 12th century and ever since it carried the name of Sr. James from the time of the first wooden church all the way till today. The present day church was erected in the years 1927 1935 to replace the last wooden church that had survived almost 100 years.

The new church was too heavy, so it had to be built on a more stable ground. It became the church of Holiest Heart of Jesus.

The church, made of brick, has one tower and an eclectic shape. Interiors are decorated by colourful polychrome by Władysław Zych.

The relics of St. Joanna Beretta Molla rest in the church. St. Joanna Beretta Molla, a patron of families, parents and fiances, was canonised by John Paul II in 2004 which was the international year of family. One of the side altars, with her canonising image, is devoted to St. Joanna Beretta Molla.

Imielnica lies on the St. James's Route.



Photo12



OUR LADY THE HOLIEST CHURCH

– 23 ROKITNO

WWW.SANKTUARIUMROKITNO.PL

Back in 13th century Rokitno was a castle on the Utrata River. There were two parishes two kilometres away from each other, the castle parish and the town's parish. After moving the district authorities (kasztelania) to Warsaw, the castle church lost its importance and went to the decay.

The parishes were joined to be one by Bishop Mikołaj Świąciski and. A new, stone church was founded in the late 15th century, but the construction works were interrupted by the Northern War and the death of the founder. Finally, the church was built and consecrated 99 years later.

In October 1914 the German artillery wrecked the church to the ground. The reconstruction finished in 1931 after which the church was consecrated again becoming Our Lady the Holiest Church. Another consecration was performed by Primate Stefan Wyszyński in 1968. It was he who called the 15th century Our Lady Image, painted on a wooden plank, the Primates' Supporter. The image was crowned by Primate Józef Glemp in 2005.

The church's blueprint is based on the Greek cross with chapels in its corners, monumental facade and low towers. Apart from the Image of Our Lady the Promates' Supporter, we can marvel at works of such artists as Szymon Czechowicz and Franciszek Smuglewicz.





MONASTERY OF THE SISTERS
OF THE IMMACULATE CONCEPTION
— 2 SZKOLNA STREET

The congregation takes care of and educates young girls. At the beginning of their service, the sisters had a house in Jazłowiec in present day Ukraine. Yet, in 1946 they transferred to Szymanów and have stayed there ever since.

The monastery is actually a former palace built at the turn of 19th and 20th centuries. It's a 1907-year-built with an impressive porch and a balcony supported on pillars. The palace is surrounded with a park.



Photo13

In 2002, a sculpted image of Our Lady of Jazłowiec was placed in the new chapel. The image was sculpted in 1883 by Tomasz Oskar Sosnowski for Mother Marcelina

Darowska. Made of white marble, the image shows Our Lady at the moment of Annunciation. Looking at the image, you can see the courage, focus and a gesture of obedience to God. Just before the outbreak WWII, the image was crowned by Primate August Hlonda. In 1046, the sisters were forced to leave Jazłowiec and took the image with them. Now it stands in the middle of the altar in a spacy chapel. On the right there is another chapel devoted to the Beatified Mother Marcelina Darowska.

In February 1956, priest Karol Wojtyła gave his retreat classes for the students.



WYSZOGRÓD



On a high bank of the Vistula River lies Wyszogród, a town that dates back to the 11th century. That was the time the first defensive castle was built there. In 13th century, Prince Konrad Mazowiecki ordered to build a wooden castle that was later replaced by a stone one by Kazimierz the Great.

The first church in Wyszogród was built by the congregation of the God's Grave Guardians in 1320 at the order of Waclaw, the Prince of Plock. As the church of St. James, as it was later called, stood on the top of the river cliff, it fell down into the river in 1726 as the cliff receded. The new church was built in 1754 but lasted only 19 years when it was destroyed by the fire in 1773. Another temple was finished in 1786. Inside, we can see a 17th century altar with beautiful polychrome from 1890.

You can learn about the history of the town by visiting the Vistula River Museum, and taking a walk down Wiślana Street, you can reach the Castle Hill to see a host of historical constructions from various eras, from medieval walls to German war bunkers. From the hill, you can see the remnants of the wooden bridge, that was Europe's longest wooden bridge before it was deconstructed in 1999 for safety reasons.



Photo14

PŁOCK, SANNIKI, SIERPC



MUSEUM OF MAZOVIA – 8 TUMSKA STREET, WWW.MUZEUMPLOCK.ART.PL

On Tumaska Street, Płock's car-free zone for pedestrians only, there a museum with a vast collection of art nouveau and art deco displayed in authentically decorated interiors. Those who love modernism will be impressed by the amazing collection of art from the turn of the 19th and 20th centuries. In the building next door, you can see learn about the 1000 year history of Płock by analysing a huge mock-up showcasing the medieval city of Płock.

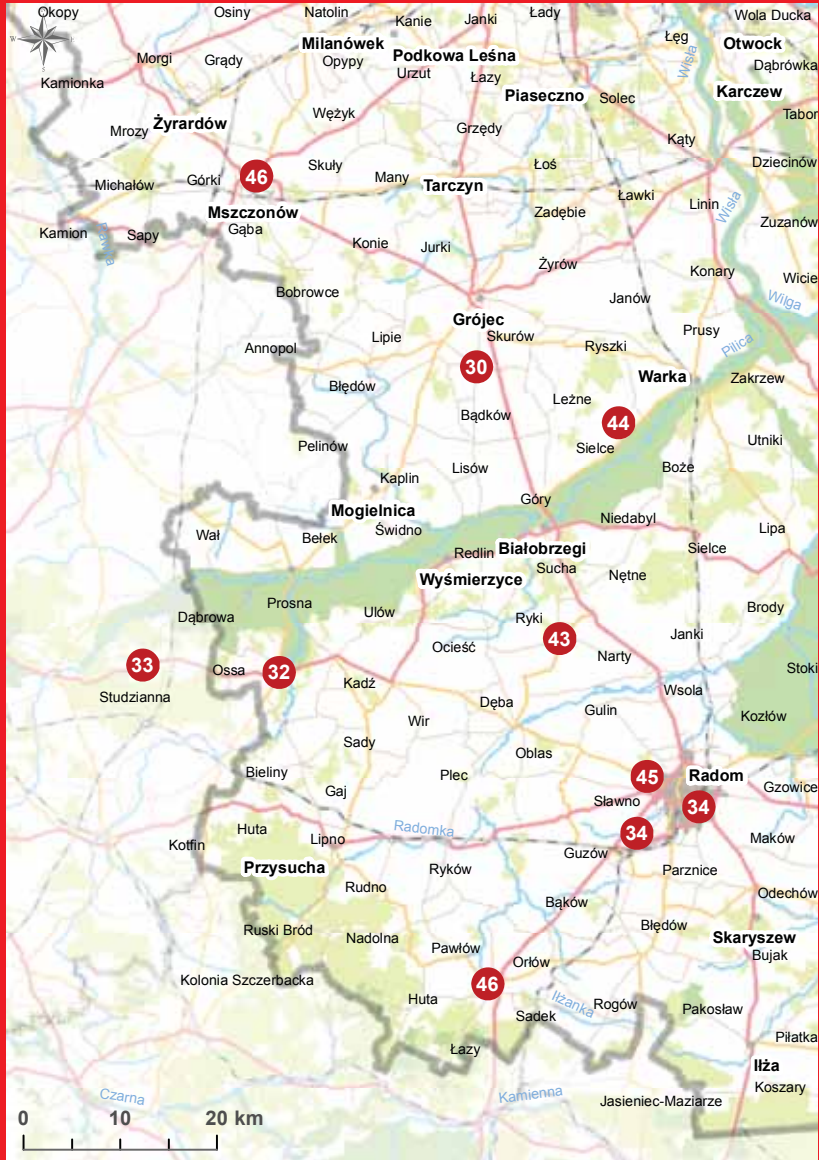
FRIDERIC CHOPIN EUROPEAN ART CENTRE – 142 WARSZAWSKA STREET, ECASANNIKI.PL

At the end of 18th century, the village of Sanniki was bought by the Pruszek family, who chose the place to have a classicistic manor house built. In 1828, young Frideric Chopin spent summer there and composed a few of his great musical masterpieces. The piano he played then is one of the most important piece of the manor's collection. The manor-house nowadays is a venue to classical music concerts and art exhibitions. The park is a venue for many folk music festivals which makes Sanniki a vivid centre of folk culture

MUSEUM OF MAZOVIAN VILLAGE – 64 NARUTOWICZA STREET, MWMSKANSEN.PL

The museum has more than 80 buildings from various historical periods including a real medieval inn, a noblemen manor house, a church or an old time wind mill. All this is gathered together in a picturesque land of Sierpc. The historical park was established in Bojanowo, west of Sierpc, in 1975. The park is a special treat for history lovers who can see all types of country-side architecture including old cart house and a folk art gallery with a vast collection of sculptures.

South Mazovia



45 places of special interest – the number corresponds to the number of page in the guide

- | | | | | |
|-----------------|------------------|--|-------|------------------------|
| Warszawa | cities | | Wisła | rivers |
| | villages | | | voivodship borderlines |
| | Railway lines | | | urban areas |
| | voivodship roads | | | protected forest areas |
| | poviat roads | | | green areas |
| | local roads | | | lakes |



ST. ADALBERT CHURCH — SANCTUARY
OF OUR LADY OF LEWICZYN
— LEWICZYN 1

SANKTUARIUM-LEWICZYN.PL

The history of the church goes back to the early middle ages when Polish knights defeated pagans in a great battle near by. The legend says that they banked up a hill to thank God and a church was built on that hill.

The wooden church stood there for 300 years, but had to be demolished due to its physical condition. The Lord High Steward of Czersk Prokop Oborski founded a new wooden church which was later extended in 1608 with two towers one of which was damaged by the storm. The church with one tower left remained until today.

On the outside, the church has three sections: presbytery, nave and tower with porch. The roof is now covered with copper plate. Inside, there is a beautiful wooden altar with baroque style carvings founded by the Lewiczyn Parish Priest Antoni Wilski. The side altars and the pulpit were made in the same baroque, ornamental style. The centre of the main altar is dominated by the image of Our Lady of Lewiczyn, called The Mother of Consolation due to the handkerchief she holds to wipe the tears running down the cheek of the miserable ones. The image was brought to Lewiczyn in 1604 and was officially acknowledged by Bishop Stefan Wierzbowski as miraculous in 1684. The image was painted on a plank and adorned with metal plate gowns and papal crowns. The coronation took place on 10th August 1975 and the coronation mass was held by Primate of Poland, Stefan



Wyszyński and the Metropolitan of Cracow, Cardinal Karol Wojtyła.

There are documents referring to this event in the parish archive with signatures of Primate Stefan Wyszyński, Cardinal Karol Wojtyła and nine other bishops participating. The vicarage still has a pater for messages the Pope used in Rome which was a gift to the sanctuary of Lewiczyn.

The pilgrims may stay in the House of Pilgrims located next to the church and sacred by Primate Józef Glemp in 2006. On 15th August each year thousands of pilgrims come to celebrate the day of Our Lady Patron of the Grójec Land. Yet, May is the most beautiful part of the year with millions of flowers and fruit trees blossoming on the neighbouring hills.

Before the entrance to the church, on a small embankment there is a statue of Pope the Pilgrim with a rosary in his hand.



Photo15



ST. JADWIGA ŚLĄSKA CHURCH AND ST. STANISŁAW THE BISHOP CHURCH

Knight Dobrogost the Black of Nałęcz set up a village on River Drzewiczka, which obtained city rights in 1418. In the 15th century the village got its current name of Odrzywół, and its owners, the successor of Dobrogost, started to be called Odrzywolski.

Dobrogost the Black was one of those responsible for preparations to the great battle of Grunwald in 1410. He was in charge of building a special bridge the King's army used to cross the Vistula River in Czerwińsk. The bridge was floated down the river to Czerwińsk in pieces and put together before the big army arrived. It took the knights three days to cross the river. After that the bridge was dismantled and moved to Płock where it waited for the events to unveil.

That bridge played a vital role in the war strategy. It enabled fast displacement of the Polish army to meet Lithuanian forces in a very short time which was without precedent in that time. In recognition of Dobrogost's merits for the State, the King granted him a privilege to build a town.

Despite being deprived of city rights by the Russians, it kept the layout of a small town with the market in the centre and houses with gates leading through to the back yards.

High and pointy towers of the Odrzywół church stand out in the lowland landscape. A three-nave neo-gothic church was built in 1907. The interiors are quite modest having some neo-gothic and baroque features. The altar has an image of Devine Mother Painful in its centre. Slightly in the back of the church there is a manor-house-style vicarage from 1790 with a porch propped on columns and a mansard roof.



On Sunday 18th August 1968, two great men of Polish Church met in Odrzywół. Cardinal Karol Wojtyła and Primate Stefan Wyszyński made a stop at the Odrzywół church and vicarage and took a short rest before continuing their travel to the nearby village of Sudzianna to participate in the coronation festivities.

The worship of Our Lady of the Holy Family started 350 years ago when Wojciech the potter experienced revelation and healing whilst praying to the image of the Holy Family having their dinner. The miraculous image was placed in the chapel on Panieńska Góra and fathers Philipines take care of it. The worship was more and more popular later on, at the beginning of 18th century, this resulted in building a baroque-style church imitating the Venice Church of Santa Maria Della Salute. The Basilica has an incredible interiors with richly adorned walls and numerous frescos. And of course, the impressive main altar.

Behind the church there is a 18th century monastery with a small, yet interesting sacral museum. Before the entrance, on the patio, the church goers are welcome by a small stature of John Paul II commemorating his visit on 18th August 1968. This turned out to be the place for the church goers to leave small cards with their faith resolutions making it the spiritual statue of John Paul II.



Photo16

RADOM



RADOM

The legend says that when Kazimierz the Great was making a stop at the River Mleczna, he said "I'd be happy to have a home here" which translates into Polish „Rad dom bym tutaj miał!". The story may have been true, because soon after he left a city protected by high walls with 20 wall towers was established. The new town had a carefully planned Street network, a town market with the town hall in the middle, a church and a castle for the King.

You should start your Radom tour at its crib, a 10th century defensive castle built on an a banked-up hill near the river. The remnants of the castle now called Piotrówka is deeply researched by the archaeologists who gradually unveil its mysteries. Having seen castle, you can now go down Piotrówka Street and take a turn left to stand in front of St. Waclaw's Church. The church has gone through a rough history. Destroyed and rebuilt many times, it served also as a warehouse, even as prison. The centre of the medieval village, which received its city rights in the 13th century, is now called the Old Town. Walking down Staromiejska Street, you will reach the New Town built at the order of King Kazimierz the Great in the 14th century. The New Town has the same Street network as in the Middle Ages. New Town's Market has beautiful old houses from the turn of 16th and 17th centuries, 1848 Town Hall and a former house of Fathers Piarists with a classicistic portico, now a home to the Malczewski Museum.

Next to the small park on Grodzka Street, you can



see the remnants of old walls and a gothic St. John Church. From the high tower of the church you can marvel at a beautiful panorama of the city.

Buidings on Żeromski Street mostly come from the 19th century, except for the Bernardine Monastery that was built in the 16th century. This neighbourhood reminds of how life in the 19th century. It is full of richly ornamented houses next to derelict backhouses for the poor. On the Constitution square stands a church that used to be an orthodox church. When Poland became independent, it was made into a Catholic Church for the Army.

In the close vicinity to the Constitution square, there are a couple of small city palaces.

Having walked 200 metres further, you will get to the square with the classicistic building now used by the local government. In Kościuszko Park you will stand in front of the statue of a famous Polish poet Jan Kochanowski.

Many interesting places are located away from the beaten tourist track. It is definitely worth seeing the Mazovian Art Centre housed in an old power plant and, in the south of the city, the Museum of Radom County Village as well as the Seminary displaying things belonging to John Paul II.



Photo17





OUR LADY'S CARE CATHEDRA
– 16 SIENKIEWICZA STREET

KATEDRA.RADOM.PL

At the end of 19th century there was only one parish in Radom for its 50,000 inhabitants. The citizens of Radom organised a committee to gather funds to build a new church and to get a building permit. The Russian authorities gave their permission and the works started. Although, the first masses were held in 1911 the construction work did not finish until 1921, the year of establishment of the new parish.

In 1992 Pope John Paul II established a new diocese of Radom, so the church became a cathedral.

St. Kazimierz JAGIELLOŃCZYK (the son) – the Prince, a patron of Lithuania, Poland and Radom.

Born in Kraków in 1458 as the second son of King Kazimierz Jagiellończyk and Elżbieta Rakuszanka. He was a student of Jan Długosz and Filip Kallimach. After his elder brother Władysław became King of the Czechs, Kazimierz was the first in line to inherit the Crown of Poland. When his father was abroad, he served as a governor and was being prepared to become King. He lived in the King's Castle in Radom, where he had a reputation of a good manager and a statesman and also as a good and fair judge.

Unfortunately, he never had a chance to become King. He died of tuberculosis in 1484 in Grodno. Prince Kazimierz was canonized in 1604.

The temple was designed by Józef Pius Dziekoński, one of the most famous Polish architects of the turn of the 19th and 20th centuries. A monumental basilica was built from yellow bricks with sandstone decorations on the facade additionally decorated with rosettes and pinnacles.



Inside, the cathedral has four neo-gothic altars, a pulpit, benches all made by the local carpentry specialising in sacral furnishings. Our Lady with the Child is in the centre of the three part main altar. In the right part of the altar there is an eagle-shaped reliquary of St. Kazimierz made by Bronisław Chromy in 1989 when the relics of St. Kazimierz were brought to Radom.

Cardinal Karol Wojtyła visited the Radom Cathedral on 16th June 1972. He held a service celebrating the visitation of the copy of the Holy Image of Our Lady of Częstochowa.

Already as Pope, he came to Radom Cathedral on 4th June 1991.

Before entering the cathedral John Paul II met with the children from the parish and carried on to pray before the Holiest Sacrament.

A two meter bronze statue of John Paul II stands before the Cathedral looking on the statue of Primate Stefan Wyszyński opposite.



Photo18



CATHEDRAL PARISH BUILDING – 13 SIENKIEWICZA STREET

The building seems not very impressive on the outside, and some of the interiors are kept in a style of 19th century city house. However, what is special about this building is that it was the starting point of the Radom part of pilgrimage of the copy Holy Image of Our Lady of Częstochowa. Six bishops lead the Image out of the building on 18th June 1972. Cardinal Karol Wojtyła was one of them.

The idea of pilgrimage of the copy of the Image came from Primate Wyszyński. The Image was to visit every parish in Poland as part of preparations for the new millennium celebrations.

The copy was painted by Leonard Torwirt, consecrated by the Pope on 14th May 1957, and on 29th a great journey started.

On 1st September 1966 the Image was captured by the communist militia and sent back to Jasna Góra. The authorities prohibited moving it from Częstochowa. Nevertheless, the pilgrimage did not stop. For six years only the frame, bible and a candle travelled and celebrations at parishes were continued.

In was on 18th June 1972 in Radom that the Image resumed its pilgrimage. It was possible only thanks to priest Józef Wójcik who managed to secretly remove the Image from Jasna Góra and took it to Radom where it was hidden and remained in hiding until the day of the celebrations. On that day the Image was carried out by the bishops to the cheering crowd. The communist authorities decided not to intervene.

The pilgrimage ended in Jasna Góra on 12th October 1980. The Holy Image visited more than 8 thousand churches. The second pilgrimage started in 1985.



ST. JOHN THE BAPTIST PARISH CHURCH — 6 RWAŃSKA STREET

WWW.FARA.RADOM.PL

The church belongs to the oldest Polish parish churches built in 1370 ordered by King Kazimierz the Great.

A single nave gothic church was later extended with numerous chapels, which then were converted into another nave. In the 15th century a tower was built later made higher to the height of 45 metres. Kochanowski's chapel was added on the north side in years 1630-1633. The sculpted image of Our Lady with Child is church's oldest piece of sacral art. The frescos, however, were painted in 1970s.

At the beginning of the 21st century, the church underwent a major renovation. Those who visit the church may go up to the tower to admire the view of the whole city. Also, two sculptures of Jesus Christ and St. John Nepomucen are worth special attention.

Cardinal Wojtyła stayed at the parish church on his way to coronation of Our Lady of Błotnica Image on 21 August 1977. Before he set out to Błotnica, Cardinal Karol Wojtyła held a mass at St. John the Babtist Parish Church.



Photo19



SADKÓW AIRPORT
 LOTNISKO-RADOM.EU/PL

The Sadków Airport was a venue for the meeting of the Pope John Paul II with the faithful on 4th June 1991. Half a million people waited for the Holy Father to arrive. The Pope arrived in Bell helicopter. The weather was sunny, but windy. Yet, John Paul II received a very warm welcome from the cheering crowd.

Holy Father took a tour in the aisles in his Popemobile greeting the gathered and continued to the 4.5 meter altar which had a roof reminding of palms folded for the prayer and a cross on the top. On a wall next to the Pope relics of Beatified Wincenty Kadłubek and Image of Our Lady of Błotnica were placed.

The airport was built in 1927. Initially it was a home to the school for pilots and during WWII, the airport was a military base. Nowadays the airport serves for civilian purposes, and each year it's a venue for one of Poland's biggest air shows.

After the mass, John Paul II said:

Apart from us, we have a strong wind here. We may paraphrase and old Polish phrase that the Pope throws words on the wind, because he believes in that powerful wind that once shook the walls of the Cenacle. That wind was a sign from the Holy Ghost. The today's words will never be carried by the wind randomly. These words will be carried to every corner of the earth just like the words from the Cenacle.



RADOM SEMINARY
 – 23/25 MŁYŃSKA STREET
 SEMINARIUM.RADOM.PL

Radom Seminary was built in quite a short time in years 1988-1991. Despite construction works in progress, the first academic year started in 1989 in one of the finished buildings. In autumn 1990 a committee in charge of preparation of papal pilgrimage to Poland made a visit to the Seminary and were shocked by what they saw. In the following few months, Pope John Paul II was to pay his visit, and instead of a lecture auditorium, there was a big hole in the ground.

However, when the Pope's limousine pulled up at the Auditorium on 4th June 1991, it was finished and ready for the Pope's visit.

500 people cheered when John Paul II entered the Auditorium. The Pope went on to christen the Seminary.

The tourists can see the chapel the Pope prayed in and the room he stayed. There you can see some things that John Paul II used on that day such as: cassock, shoes, chasuble, stole, dishes etc. Even the carpet was specially made for the Pope's visit. Before the entrance to the Seminary, next to the statue of John Paul II lifting the Holy Sacrament, grows a Papal Oak Tree No 473.



Photo20



HARMED PEOPLE MEMORIAL – 25 CZERWCA STREET (RÓG UL. S. ŻEROMSKIEGO)



Photo21

It's a special place for Radom. It was the place of protests against the communist authorities in 1976 brutally suppressed by the militia. The protesters were beaten and later repressed by arrest,

interrogation, surveillance. Some even were dismissed from their jobs. In response to those repressions a new organisation to help the repressed was formed. It was called KOR – Workers Defence Committee.

To commemorate the tragic event the authorities put up a memorial now called a "Three Stone Statue" as it consists of three "stones": the 19th century cross, the Harmed People Memorial cornerstone and the stone which is a statue of John Paul II.

Holy Father came to this place on 4th June 1991. He prayed in silence for a while and then, out loud, he said the words of prayer by Piotr Skarga, the 17th century Polish preacher. He laid flowers at the Memorial and gave his blessings to the gathered.

The Memorial is still not finished.



THE BIRTH OF OUR LADY CHURCH — SANCTUARY OF OUR LADY OF CONSOLATION

WWW.BLOTNICA.PAULINI.PL

The first church in Błotnica was wooden. In 1759, the parish head priest Skórkowski initiated the construction of a brick-and-mortar church. Due to difficult financial situation the works lasted very long. The church was consecrated more than a hundred years later in 1868 and the works actually finished in 1913. Luckily, the church survived two world almost intact.

The most impressive part of the church is the classicist altar by Józef Fetter who also created boat-shaped side altars and a pulpit. The altar is dominated by the Image of Our Lady called The Queen of the Land of Radom.

On 21st August 1977 more than 200,000 people waited in the pouring rain for Primate Wyszyński who was supposed to crown the Image. However, due to his illness, the Primate could not come to the disappointment of the crowd. Primate Wyszyński was replaced by, then little known, Cardinal Karol Wojtyła who performed the coronation with the assistance of other bishops. Now Błotnica is proud on that replacement.



Photo22



ST. MARGARET CHURCH

In 1918 a new organist was hired in the Wrociszew church. His name was Stanisław Wyszyński, the father of Poland's most distinguished primate. A two-towered red brick church was built in the years 1894 to 1901.

Stefan Wyszyński was a frequent guest in Wrociszew. It was even his hiding place during WWII for a short period of time. In 1970, together with Karol Wojtyła and other bishops, he participated in the funeral of his father at the Wrociszew cemetery. Thousands of parish members bid last farewell to their organist. There is a plaque in the shape of church organs commemorating Stanisław Wyszyński. In the cemetery next to the church is the grave of the Wyszyński family.

During a war high church towers are an easy target for the artillery. This was the case with the Wrociszew church during WWII. In winter 1944, St. Margaret Church was on the front line.

On 16 January 1945 several bombs exploded close to the church. Unfortunately a piece of stray shell killed the priest Józef Widiński in the confessional while serving confession. There is a grey confessional with bullet holes in the church to commemorate that tragic event.



ELEKTROWNIA – MAZOVIAN CENTRE OF CONTEMPORARY ART – 1 KOPERNIKA STREET, WWW.ELEKTROWNIA.ART.PL

„Elektrownia” – is an interdisciplinary art museum. A building from 1901 located in the city centre is home to one of the most interesting modern art museums offering art exhibitions, conceptual art performance, educational and science conferences and workshops, meetings with artists. The museum was an idea of Andrzej Wajda, Radom’s Honorary Citizen.

JACEK MALCZEWSKI MUSEUM – 11 RYNEK SQUARE, WWW.MUZEUM.EDU.PL

One of the most impressive edifices in Rynek Square is Jacek Malczewski Museum. Jacek Malczewski is a famous Polish painter born in Radom. The museum was established in 1923. The visitors may admire paintings of Jacek Malczewski, but also other exhibits such as natural exhibit collection, coin collection, folk art collection.

RADOM LAND VILLAGE MUSEUM – 30 SZYDŁOWIECKA STREET, WWW.MUZEUM-RADOM.PL

In the outskirts of Radom you can admire the museum with manor houses, huts, a church, windmills or a blacksmith forge on display. Apart from the buildings you can feel the atmosphere of old Polish village by strolling through gardens, orchards passing roadside crosses and chapels. The museum has its branch in a close-by Przysucha that carries the name of the famous Polish ethnographer Oskar Kolberg. There you can learn about his life and work.

SZYDŁOWIEC, MSZCZONÓW



FOLK MUSICAL INSTRUMENT MUSEUM IN SZYDŁOWIEC – 2 SOWIŃSKIEGO STREET WWW.MUZEUMINSTRUMENTOW.PL

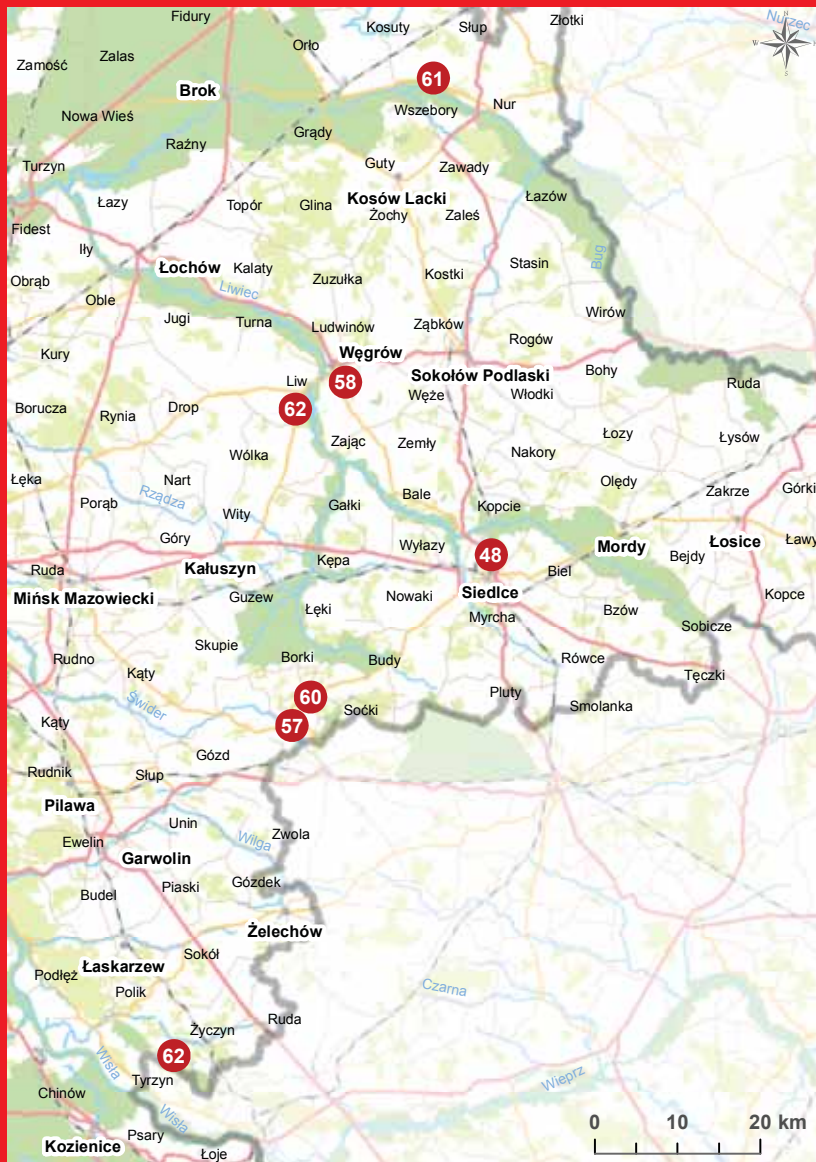
Gothic and Renaissance castle that used to be the home to noble families such as Szydłowiecki's and Radziwiłł's is now a museum displaying folk musical instruments crafted by non-professional musical instrument makers. The museum has more than two thousand exhibits from all over Europe. You can see all kinds of instruments from those traditional to totally strange and those that are not used any more.

MSZCZONÓW THERMAL SPRINGS – 52 WARSZAWSKA STREET WWW.TERMY-MSZCZONOW.EU

If you wish to relax in thermal springs, there is no need for you to go south of Poland. You can stop at Mszczonów, an hour drive from Warsaw, to enjoy its thermal water park. You can take a swim all year long in two hot water pools, one indoors and one outdoors. Relaxing water massage will provide the best relaxation for your tired muscles. Spending time in hot saunas and leaving them to get cold showers will help your body develop excellent resistance to illnesses.

Having had a healthy bath in thermal waters, you can rent a bike and take a ride on a network of bike paths to admire beautiful landscape.

East Mazovia



45 places of special interest – the number corresponds to the number of page in the guide

- | | | | | |
|-----------------|------------------|--|-------|------------------------|
| Warszawa | cities | | Wisła | rivers |
| | villages | | | voivodship borderlines |
| | Railway lines | | | urban areas |
| | voivodship roads | | | protected forest areas |
| | poviat roads | | | green areas |
| | local roads | | | lakes |

SIEDLCE



SIEDLCE

For many centuries, this was a border area. The people from the East called Poland a Lechistan and the Poles Lachs. The border land was called Podlasie and Siedlce was one of its most important cities. And still is.

In the Middle Ages, on the banks of Muchawka River, one of the slow flowing lowland rivers of Podlasie there were a few loosely related villages. This changed in 1503 when Daniel Siedlecki joined them together to set up what was then called New Siedlce. Soon, in 1547 the first Siedlce parish was established and King Sigismund the Old granted Siedlce its city rights. This led to the rapid development of the new city.

That winning streak of the city was interrupted by the Swedish raid in the 16th century. After the war, Siedlce continued growing. New owners, Czartoriski's, took special care about urban planning, street network and founded a stone church and also had a baroque palace built for themselves. However, it was a woman who turned out to be one of the most distinguished person in the history of Siedlce. Aleksandra Ogińska, an owner of the city in the years between 1775 and 1798, ordered to build the park called Alexandria, the City Hall, the theatre and a ballet school. She organised meetings with famous poets and artists. Once, even King Stanisław August Poniatowski visited the city at the invitation of Aleksandra Ogińska. She also ordered to build a grave chapel for her, a chapel which is one of the architecture gems of the city.

76 thousand people live in Siedlce of today. The city



is the industrial, academic, cultural and economic centre of Podlasie region.

Walk of the city should start at the Cathedral, whose pointy towers dominate over the roofs of the city. Having seen this astonishing temple, you can go across the street to visit the Diocese Museum with sacral art treasures on display. The museum has “Ecstasy of St. Francis”, the only El Greco’s painting in Poland. Carrying on down Bishop Świdorski Street, you will reach a complex of 18th century buildings including palace now being a University. North of the palace, there is a city park and to the south buildings of old theatre housing the city archive today. Going down Kościuszko Street, you will pass classicistic style post office building and get to St. Stanisław Church. Opposite to the church, there is old City Hall in the middle of the market square. The City Hall is topped by the statue of a legendary strongman hoisting the globe. Nowadays there is a Regional Museum in the Hall.



Photo23





IMMACULATE CONCEPTION
OF THE HOLIEST OUR LADY CATHEDRAL
– 55 BISHOP I. ŚWIRSKI STREET

WWW.KATEDRA.SIEDLCE.PL

Despite being only a hundred years old, the Siedlce Cathedral definitely worth seeing. The church was built in 1912 according to the medieval architectural rules based on a Latin cross blueprint with two 75 towers.

In Autumn 1912, the church was christened and the year later consecrated. In 1925 the church became a cathedral as Siedlce was made the capital of Podlasie bishopric by Pope Pius XI.

The facade is beautifully decorated. It has acute window and door arches, pinnacles. Moreover, the facade has numerous corrices, rozettes and tracteries.

The interior is mysteriously dim. When your eyes get used to the dark, you will notice amazing neo-gothic



Photo24

sacral furnishing: confessionals, pulpit, altars made of dark wood and blend with the dark.

Karol Wojtyła visited the Seidlce Cathedral a couple of Times when he was a bishop. As Pope, he visited the cathedral on 10th June 1999.



HOUSE OF BISHOPS

– 62 J. PIŁSUDSKIEGO STREET

The Curia building used to be a local agricultural bank. It was built in 1870s for the bank society. The building's original purpose is betrayed by a bas-relief showing farmers during work.

A two-storey edifice has a richly decorated facade.

Bishop Karol Wojtyła visited the Siedlce House of Bishops several times.

The sisters who worked in the kitchen tell a story about one visit when the bishop stopped at the House of Bishops on his way to Leśna Podlaska. Bishop Karol Wojtyła arrived late and didn't even ask for anything to eat. Despite that, he was treated to what they had: tea, bread, butter and cheese. The sisters promised more for breakfast, but the bishop left early in the morning not to cause any trouble.

His last visit was in 1999. After the general mass, John Paul II stayed in the House of Bishops for dinner and a short rest. In the hall you can see a plaque commemorating his visit.



Photo25





DIOCESE MUSEUM
 – 56 BISHOP I. ŚWIRSKI STREET

WWW.MUZEUM.SIEDLCE.PL

The museum was established and organised by Bishops Przeździecki and Dębiński before WWII. The war interrupted its activity for more than 30 years.

When the museum resumed, at the beginning the collection was displayed in rooms over the vestry of the Cathedral and then in the Curia. Finally the museum moved to the former building of the Seminary that was transferred to the new building in Opole next to Siedlce.

The building itself looks pretty modest, yet inside, it's full of treasures: paintings, monstrances, sacral equipment, sculptures, old documents. One of the most precious exhibits is El Greco's Ecstasy of S. Francis. Moreover, the Museum has a vast collection of other exhibits, including things belong-



ing to John Paul II such as the ornate he was wearing during the mass in Błonie of Siedlce in 1999. The red gown is decorated by part of the painting showing the martyrdom of Pratulín Unites. The visitors can also see the papal throne that was used during the Siedlce mass.

Photo26



PAPAL MEADOWS

Vast meadows north of the city became a huge temple for the papal mass. The altar, designed by Jacek Spisacki, had a main motif of rye and rye spikes. The same applied to the benches before the altar. Over the roof there was a big cross with an inscription in Polish *Abba Ojciec* and two hands of God and man resembling the famous fresco of Michelangelo.



Photo27

2500 coaches with pilgrims arrived at Siedlce. The Pope came in the helicopter and carried on to greet the pilgrims in his Popemobile. The mass began at 9.15. After the mass, John Paul II addressed the guests also those from the East in Russian, Ukrainian and Belarussian.

Today, a huge cross stands in the place where the altar used to be and just a few paces north a nature reservation.





JOHN PAUL II MUSEUM
— 5 WIŚNIOWA STREET

WWW.MUZEUM-PAPIESKIE.PRIV.PL

People of small faith say “What can I do? Nothing depends on me. People of great faith just do it. Adam Klejc was one of them. He gathered an impressive collection of exhibits related to John Paul II and managed to persuade city authorities and the principal of the primary school who made one classroom available.

The school got its new name of John Paul II on 17th May 1997 and at the same time the Museum was started



Photo28

in one of the classrooms. Mr Klejc was so determined to develop his project. He would even go to Rome to look for things belonging to John Paul II such as

cassocks, jackets, shoes, pen, watch, towels and other things such as documents, letters, photographs. You can also see a rich collection of stamps, coins and postcards, all related to the Polish Pope. It is the third biggest JP II related exhibit collection in Poland and the biggest Mazovia.

In the school corridor there is a bust of John Paul II, enlarged Pope’s autographs and the text of the blessing he gave to the students and their parents. The Papal Oak Tree number 503 grows next to the school yard.



SIEDLCE RAILWAY STATION

It is worth seeing the Siedlce Railway Station even if you are not planning on travelling by train. In a small room on the station's mezzanine there is a small St. Katarzyna Aleksandryjska chapel founded by the railway workers and private sponsors. The chapel was christened by Bishop of Siedlce a day before the Pope's visit to Siedlce.

On left wall of the chapel there is a plaque dedicated to John Paul II and opposite a St. Francis Cross, an exact copy of the cross from St. Claire Church, the cross before which St. Francis experienced his revelations.

Next to the cross, there is a copy of the Image of Our Lady of Częstochowa and the Image of St. Katarzyna Aleksandryjska, the patron of railway workers. It is also worth taking notice of the beautifully crafted tabernacle made by the Italian artist Giovanni Vedele.



Photo29



MEMORIALS AND PLAQUES DEVOTED TO JOHN PAUL II

The people of Siedlce has been paying their respect to John Paul II in various ways. The city is full of all sorts of memorials and plaques devoted to Polish Pope.

At the Kilińskiego and Piłsudskiego streets interjection, in 1998 a statue of John Paul II was put up. The statue has a high pedestal with the following inscription: PAX VOBIS/PEACE TO YOU POLAND/MY HOMELAND/PEACE TO YOU.

Another private memorial is located in a garden in J. Poniatowskiego Street. It's a pedestal with a medallion with the Pope's profile and an inscription: TO COMMEMORATE THE VISIT IN SIEDLCE

Next to the new Holy Ghost Church in Brzeska Street there is a memorial dedicated to the Uniate Martyrs. The inscription on the memorial goes as follows: TO THE MARTYRS OF PRATULIN IN PODLASIE FROM THE PARISH OF

HOLY GHOST IN 1999 THE,
YEAR OF JOHN'S PAUL II
VISIT IN SIEDLCE.

This new original looking church stands next to the Orthodox Church in St. Trinity Street.

There is also a plaque commemorating John Paul II in the city hospital in Starowiejska.



Photo30



ST. MARY'S CHURCH — 4 MIŃSKA STREET

South West of Siedlce lies a village that used to be very rich. The village was even a town with town rights granted by King Sigimund August back in 1548. The good location of the town drew tradesmen and craftsmen who would gladly arrive in the place to work and develop their businesses. The town had a school, water mills, a saw mill and fulleries. Despit all that success, the Russian occupants deprived Seroczyn of its town rights in 1869.

The first wooden church was built in Seroczyn as early as in 1547 and that year the parish was established. Today's church is the parish's third church built in 1914 according to the design of Zygmunt Zdański, the same architect who designed the Cathedral of Siedlce. The brick neo-gothic building has one high tower. The inside has three rococo style altars decorated by paintings by Jan Niezabitowski and Józef Buchbinder. Since 17th century the icon of Our Lady with Child is kept in the church. The icon is locally worshiped.



Photo31



WĘGRÓW



WĘGRÓW

A historical trade village located at the edge of Mazovia used to be part of Lithuania. The first ever item of information on the village comes from 1414 and it was the foundation act of the local parish church. Węgrów becomes a town in 1441 and part of Poland. Soon it becomes an important crops trade point due to its favourable location close to the Polish-Lithuanian border.

Węgrów was a private town going from hands to hands over its history. It belonged to Uhrowskis, Kostowicz's, Kiszkas, Radziwiłłs. All of them were open to new Christian denominations, but the the Krasiński family, who owned the town in the years 1664 to 1762, were stunt believers in counter reformation and carried out persecution of other Christian denominations. During the January insurrection o 1863, Jan Matliński troops fought a fierce battle with the Russian army outside Węgrów. The town was largely destroyed during WWII and the Jews of Węgrów were taken away to the concentration camps. Węgrów was liberated by Home Army troops.

The gothic parish church was refurbished in the 17th century and got its baroque style of today. Together with the bell towers, gate and fence it takes up the whole Eastern part of the Town's Square. Polychrome was made by Michael Angelo Palloni. There is a famous 16th century mirror called Mirror of Twardowski in the vestry.



St. Peter of Alcantara Church is another Węgrów temple and monastery. It is a single nave church with a transept and presbytery with a row of chapels on the sides of the nave. The polychrome, just like in the parish church, is the work of Michael Angelo Palloni. A centre of the main altar is occupied by the sculpted image of Jesus Christ on the cross by one of the most famous baroque sculptor Andrzej Schluter.

Moreover, a tourist should see a beautiful classicistic Evangelical and Augsburg church in Narutowicz Street, 18th century Dom Gdański (eng. House of Gdańsk) and an 18th century wooden chapel in the evangelical cemetery.



Photo32



WODYNIE

ST. PETER AND ST. PAUL CHURCH – 64 SIEDLECKA STREET



Photo33

The archaeological findings provide evidence that the first village in Wodynie area were set up as early as 6 thousand years ago. However, in historical writings, Wodyne was

mentioned in 1445 for the first time when the local parish was established. The village was located on the trade route and was an important trade area for the local communities. Probably, Wodynie got its town rights in the 16th century.

During the November Insurrection in 1931, Wodynie became a stationing base for one of the Polish armies that soon after defeated the Russians in the battle of Iganie. WWII did not spare the village which got almost completely burnt.

Stefan Wodyński, the then owner of the village was the founder of Corpus Christi Church. The next church in Wodynie was built after the Swedish invasion in the 17th century. One hundred years later that church started to fall into decay, so it was demolished and a new church was built in its place. Consecrated in 1777, the St. Peter and St. Paul Church was founded by Aniela Załuska.

It is a framework-type of construction made of beams joined at the corners. The shingle-covered roof is gabled and has a baroque-style tower.

The Church has a gate with a small bell tower and a lantern.



CARDINAL STEFAN WYSZYŃSKI MUSEUM

PARAFIAZUZELA.EU

A village on Bug River was never anything special, until it become famous for being a place of birth of Cardinal Stefan Wyszyński, the Primate of Poland. In most of its 900-year history Zuzela had small, wooden churches. The present parish church was built in 1913 from red bricks. Next to the church stand a belfry and the statue of Primate Wyszyński.

Acorss the street, opposite the church there is a small modest wooden house. That was where an old school used to be, a school of Stefan Wyszyński. There is still one classroom decorated as in the past. When the school was moved, the rest of the classrooms were made into a flat for the organists and their families. There are not many belongings of Stefan Wyszyński in the classroom, but its interiors are almost unchanged and offer unique atmosphere of those days.



Photo34



SIEDLCE, LIW, MOŚCISKA



REGIONAL MUSEUM

– 1 PIŁSUDSKIEGO STREET, WWW.MUZEUMSIEDLCE.ART.PL

In the building of the 18th century city hall you can admire a vast collection of exhibits related to the history of Siedlce. The museum has two branches outside the city: the museum of fire-fighting in Kotuń and the Museum of Fight and Martyrdom in Treblinka.

ARSENAL MUSEUM IN THE LIW CASTLE

– 2 BATOREGO STREET, WWW.LIW-ZAMEK.PL

The castle was built at the order of Prince Janusz I the Older around 1429. Nowadays the castle is one of Poland's biggest weaponry museum having on display all sorts of weapons from the 15th, 16th 17th 18th 19th and 20th centuries. Apart from weapons, the museum has a big collection of portraits and pictures related with weaponry and the armed forces.

THE ILLUSION FARM

WWW.FARMAILUZJI.PL

The illusion farm provides a special form of entertainment for both children and adults by letting them learn and have fun at the same time. You can also have a nice picnic in the park surrounding the farm.

North Mazovia



45 places of special interest – the number corresponds to the number of page in the guide

- | | | | | |
|-----------------|------------------|--|-------|------------------------|
| Warszawa | cities | | Włosa | rivers |
| | villages | | | voivodship borderlines |
| | Railway lines | | | urban areas |
| | voivodship roads | | | protected forest areas |
| | poviat roads | | | green areas |
| | local roads | | | lakes |



NURSING HOUSE OF BENEDICTINE SISTERS

FISZOR.BLOGSPOT.COM

In the wilderness of Bug River terrains, on the banks of Fiszor River there is a nursing house led by Benedictine Sisters of the Cross of Jesus. It was established in 1932 by Mother Wincenta Jadwiga Jaroszevska. The sisters take care of the mentally disadvantaged boys.

Close by in, what is called, a “House from across the Stream” senior sisters live. Stefan Wyszyński would often choose the house to have a rest in. The room he stayed and worked in hasn't been refurbished and still looks like when the Primate stayed there. It has the same desk, chair, bed, bookcase and the Image of Our Lady the Primate always carried during his travels.

The Primate chose that place for its being peaceful and quiet, yet not far from Warsaw. Cardinal Karol Wojtyła visited the Primate in Fiszor a couple of times. His last visit was before he became Pope in June 1978.



Photo35



THE FINDING OF THE HOLY CROSS CHURCH – 10 DRESZERA SQUARE

JADOW-SANKTUARIUM.JIMDO.COM

The village of Jadów, first mentioned in the historical texts in 1414, was of special importance. In its history Jadów belonged to the King, the Church and to the private owners, one of whom was the Zamojski family who procured the town rights in 1823. Unfortunately, Jadów was deprived of them after the January Insurrection.

The first Jadów temple was founded by the Prince of Mazovia in the 15th century. St. James the Apostle Church was built in 1481 but later completely destroyed by the Swedish army. Another church was erected after the Swedish invasion. Both of them were made of wood. Present day church was built in 1886. The church is home to Holy Cross relics. The church is neo-gothic with romance elements. Inside a rococo-style church organs are worth special attention.

Jadów also has a 19th century well preserved manor-house complex.

Jadów lies on the St. James's Route.



Photo36

ŁOMŻA



ŁOMŻA

The city, laid on the hills near Narwia River valley, originated in what is called the Hill of Bona the Queen. A thousand years ago, that was the place where a big castle stood. St. Bruno of Kwerfurt came to the castle in 1005 in his mission to convert the pagan Prussians. The legend says that St. Bruno was a founder of St. Lawrence Church whose foundations have recently been discovered.

St Bruno died as martyr in the area of today's Giżycko. Łomża was one the North Mazovia's most important fortresses for almost 400 years. In time a whole city developed west of the castle with a planned street network and a stone Prince's castle which, sadly, hasn't survived till this day.

Łomża's oldest historical building is St Michael Cathedral and it should be the starting point of the sight-seeing tour. Next to the Cathedral, in Sadowa Street, you will see the House of Bishops located in a beautiful park. Continue walking down Sadowa and Polowa Street and you will get to Hanka Bielacka roundabout shaped like hats that the famous Polish actress used to wear. On the left of the roundabout there is a big new edifice accommodating the house for the retired priests and a Diocese Museum with precious collection of sacral art and historical documents. Going up Giełczyńska Street, we pass the Palace of Bishops gardens and reach to North Mazovia. One of the rooms in the Museum is devoted to the Gold of Kurpie, namely, amber. After admiring amber wonders, you can carry on



down Dworna Street to reach monastery of Benedictine Sisters and on to the Old Market, which was destroyed during WWII almost completely but reconstructed after the war. The only building that avoided destruction was the building of the City Hall from 1823.

In Farna Street you can sit on Hanka Bielicka's bench or take a rest in one of many cafes. Before the Cathedral, you turn right and reach John Paul II Square with its Seminary and the Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary Church that used to be an Orthodox temple.

An finally, take Krótka Street and get to the high cliff of the Narwia River valley. In Krzywe Koło Street you will see the 18th century monastery and marvel at a beautiful view of the Narwia Valley and remnants of the 19th century Russian fort in Piątница.



Photo37



ST. MICHAEL THE ARCHANGEL CATHEDRAL
 – 25 DWORNA STREET
WWW.KATEDRA.4LOMZA.PL

When the new city of Łomża was being built, the parish of St. Apostols was transferred from the old city of Łomża. A small church that was built turned out too small for a rapidly growing city.

Princess Anna Mazowiecka and her sons founded a new and big church built in the years 1504-1525. The gothic temple of St. Michael the Archangel and St. John the Baptist was the only church in the parish and the city until 1972. In 1925 the church became a cathedral and the centre of the newly established Łomża Diocese.

The temple is not a usual gothic building as it looks heavy, has a wide facade and has no high tower which is typical for a gothic-style church. The gothic temple was destroyed during the Swedish invasion in the 17th century. After the invasion the church was rebuilt to become more baroque in style. The presbytery was refurbished recently when the new Łomża Bishops' crypt was built in 2009.

The altar table is made of white marble and has



Photo38



bronze image of Last Supper, and a marble pulpit with images of the Evangelists. The south chapel houses the miraculous Image of Our Lady of Łomża which is also called the Image of Our Lady of Beautiful Love. The Image rests in a beautiful 17th century wooden alter.

In the side naves there are tomb slabs and stones, and epitaphs, such as the priest Jan Wojślawski or an early baroque tomb stone of Nikodem Franciszek Kossakowski and a renaissance tomb stone of Elisabeth and Andrew Modlishewski with sculptures symbolising justice and mercy. You should pay special attention to the grave slab of Bishop Stanisław Kostka Łukomski portraying a bishop covering the cathedral with his own coat.

On 12th September 1944, the withdrawing German army planned to blow up the Cathedral. Two officers came and told Bishop Łukomski to remove all the church staff from the Curia buildings and the Palace. The Bishop asked the two Germans to step inside the church and pleaded them not to destroy the temple which is a very valuable historical building. Yet, they were unwilling to compromise. Then, the bishop asked them to give him a moment for a prayer.

I asked one of them if he was a catholic. He answered:

'Yes, how do you know?'. 'I noticed, you made a sign of cross in the church'. The other one said: 'I'm also a catholic'. I said to them: 'Here, I give you a rosary and I'll be praying for you every night, so that you come back to your families, but for that, you will spare my cathedral'. The officers took the rosaries, looked at each other, they said goodbye and left.

Karol Wojtyła visited the cathedral twice as a bishop and for the third time as Pope John Paul II on 5th June 1991. On that day he met with the Lithuanians as his visit in the Lithuanian Socialist Soviet Republic was impossible in that time.





HOUSE OF BISHOPS — 2 SADOWA STREET

The Palace was built in 1925 to be the seat of Łomża bishops. That low neo-classical building with a decorative portico with two backed ionic columns and a triangle headstall. Inside the Palace you can admire a host of baroque-style paintings including the series of portrays of the Wigry Bishops.

On the first floor there is a room furnished in neo-baroque style, where John Paul II stayed for the night when he visited Łomża in 1991.

In the evening of 4th June 1991 a dinner was held with more than one hundred people. One of the invited was President of Lithuania Vytautas Landsbergis. Unfortunately, he had to cancel his visit for the threat of another Soviet military intervention in Lithuania. A few months back the Soviet army killed 13 people during the independence rally.

In the morning, John Paul II christened the House for Retired Priests under construction and continued to meet the Lithuanian community.



Photo39



THE HOME FOR THE RETIRED PRIESTS – 20 GIEŁCZYŃSKA STREET

According to the canon law, parish priests retire at the age of 75. It's not automatic retirement. In some cases the priests may get retired earlier even at the age of 65. The bishop is obliged to provide support for the retired priests. Some of them stay in their parishes and some decide to retire in Homes for Retired Priests.

Initially the Home for Retired Priests of the Łomża Diocese was in Tykocin in the 17th century former Bernardine monastery. In the years 1987-1996, close to the Palace of the Bishops, a new building was erected.

In the left wing of that building there are Diocese Museum rooms. The Museum displays the history of Łomża and the Łomża Diocese and also the masterpieces of the sacral art. The Museum also runs its educational activities.

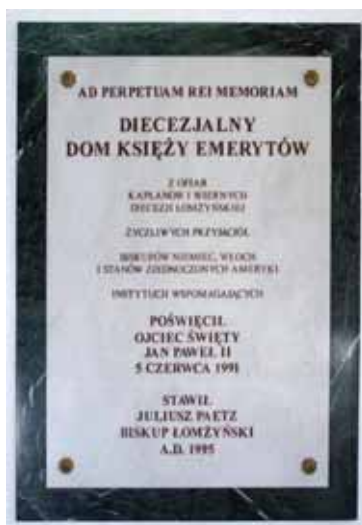


Photo40





JOHN PAUL II SEMINARY – JOHN PAUL II SQUARE

WSD.LOMZA.PL

Łomża Seminary was established in 1919, so some time before the Diocese was. The school was established for the needs of the then existing Sejny Diocese. In 1923 the Seminary bought a land property with buildings that later became campus of the new Seminary.

The seminary campus divides into the old buildings and a new edifice. The new building has a chapel with an incredibly looking sculpted Image of Risen Jesus Christ. The chapel and the image was christened by John Paul II on 5th June 1991 when he visited the Seminary. He prayed before the Image, then he talked to and blessed the students and the Seminary staff.

It was not his first visit in the Seminary. Bishop Karol Wojtyła arrived there in 1975 for an Episcopate conference.

Before the entrance to the Seminary stands a statue of John Paul II making a gesture of blessing.

The Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary Church is located close to the Seminary.



Photo41



GOD'S MERCY CHURCH – 11 CARDINAL STEFAN WYSZYŃSKI STREET

WWW.SMB.LOMZA.OPOKA.ORG.PL

This is one of the new churches in Łomża. It stands out for its interesting design and a 54 meter tower. Inside, a spacious temple has two side naves supported by pillars. Over the altar are sculpted images of the Saints and above the choir



Photo42

there is a huge stain glass window with the image of the Christ. The construction works began in 1982, but before the church was finished the cornerstone, christened by John Paul II, was built in the Summer of 1983. A year later the church was finished and officially open by the Bishop of Łomża.

Since the church was built on the former military cemetery for Orthodox soldiers, next to the temple there is a lapidary with an Orthodox chapel and memorials of the soldiers buried there.

Before the church, on a 5 meter embankment stands the Papal altar with a kite-shaped roof. A sculpted image of Jesus Christ stands where the altar was situated during the Papal mass in Łomża.

On that mass, Holy Father performed the coronation of the Image of Our Lady of Łomża in the presence of 170 thousand people.





ASSUMPTION OF THE BLESSED VIRGIN MARY PARISH CHURCH — 1B ST. WOJCIECH STREET

The trade village near the royal hunting area obtained its town rights in 1427 and went on to develop as the town of Przasnysz.

The Przasnysz Church was built in 1485 as a single nave temple with a presbytery. Later, in the 15th century the church was extended with two chapels. The decaying church, was fully renovated in 1978.

The church does not have a tower, only a separate 15th century bell tower standing next to it.

St. Stanisław Kostka was baptised in the church in 1550. In the south chapel there are graves of his parents and brothers Wojciech and Paweł, a soldier and founder of the Bernardine monastery.

In 1967, 400 years after St. Stanisław Kostka died, Cardinal Wyszyński together with Archbishop of Kraków Karol Wojtyła led the anniversary procession to Rostków. Since 1983, the anniversary has been commemorated by a pilgrimage of children and the youth from Przasnysz to Rosków.



Photo43



THE ST. ANNE AND ST. JAMES PASSIONIST FATHERS' CHURCH – 34 3 MAJA STREET

Paweł Kostka, the St. Stanisław's Kostka brother, was the Founder of the Bernardines' Church. When they were young, their parents ordered Paweł to stop Stanisław from joining the Jesuits in Rome, but after Stanisław's death, his brother decided to devote his life to commemorate Stanisław and to promote his worship. Paweł Kostka decided to invite the Bernardines to Przasnysz who built a stone church finished in 1618. The designer is not known, but his work is amazing. The Church has a myriad of decorations on its facade with pinnacles, wimpregs, blends etc. At the crossing of the nave and the presbytery there is a high tower. In the vestibule on the west side there is a grave of Father Bernard Kryszkiewicz, the famous Passionist.

The church has an annex with a chapel housing the crowned Image of Our Lady with the Child which was brought in by Paweł Kostka from Rome.

After the January Insurrection, the Bernardines were evicted from the monastery and replaced by the Passionists.



Photo44



WAR CEMETERY — JANA PAWŁA II AVENUE

Radzymin was a scene of fierce fighting in Polish-Bolshevik war of 1920. The Bolshevik army was very close to Warsaw. However, the Polish counter offensive pushed the Bolsheviks away.

Radzymin and Ossów areas are full of memorials commemorating the soldiers who died in that war. In the Radzymin cemetery there is a common grave for more than a thousand Polish soldiers. A chapel was built near that grave. The frescos on the facade show the soldiers protected by an angel and an image of the Warsaw Royal Castle in the backdrop.

John Paul II visited the cemetery on 13th June 1999. He prayed and talked to the war veterans. He said that Poland owed so much to those heroes.

On the front wall of the chapel there is a bust of John Pope II and an inscription quoting his words.



Photo45



ST. STANISŁAW KOSTKA SANCTUARY

WWW.PARAFIA.ROSTKOWO.PL

Rostkowo is a former seat of the Kostka family. In 1895 the stone church was built. Before there were only wooden chapels in the village. The new church was just a branch of the Przasnysz parish until 1967 when Rostkowo parish was established. 2000 was the beginning of the diocese sanctuary. The single-nave neo-gothic temple has a high tower over the entrance.

The whole complex hides many mysteries and legends, but also real histories. There, you can find a stone with St. Stanisław's footprint, an old lime tree with a strangely awry stem where he prayed. You will be able to see the reliefs showing the life of St. Stanisław.

Archbishop Karol Wojtyła came to Rostkowo on 20th August 1967 together with Primate Wyszyński and other Polish bishops to participate in anniversary celebrations. About 5 thousand people attended the main mass, which he co-held.



Photo46

CIECHANÓW, OPINOGÓRA, OSTROŁĘKA



MAZOVIA'S NOBILITY MUSEUM

– 61A WARSZAWSKA STREET, WWW.MUZEUMCIECHANOW.PL

This Ciechanów Museum has an interesting collection of exhibits related with North Mazovia, and especially those related with Mazovia's Nobility and its traditions. Ciechanów Museum has a branch in the 14th century fortress that used to play a vital role as a defence point close to the Teutonic Knights territory. If you are fond of the middle ages, you should step in to see an astonishing exposition displayed in a modern, multimedia fashion.

MUSEUM OF ROMANTICISM

– 9 KRASIŃSKIEGO STREET, WWW.MUZEUMROMANTYZMU.PL

In the 19th century General Wincenty Krasiński had a small neo-gothic palace built as a gift for his son, Zygmunt, the famous Polish poet. Today the palace is a museum devoted to the poet, however in the area around the palace there are other museums displaying to the romanticism in Polish art.

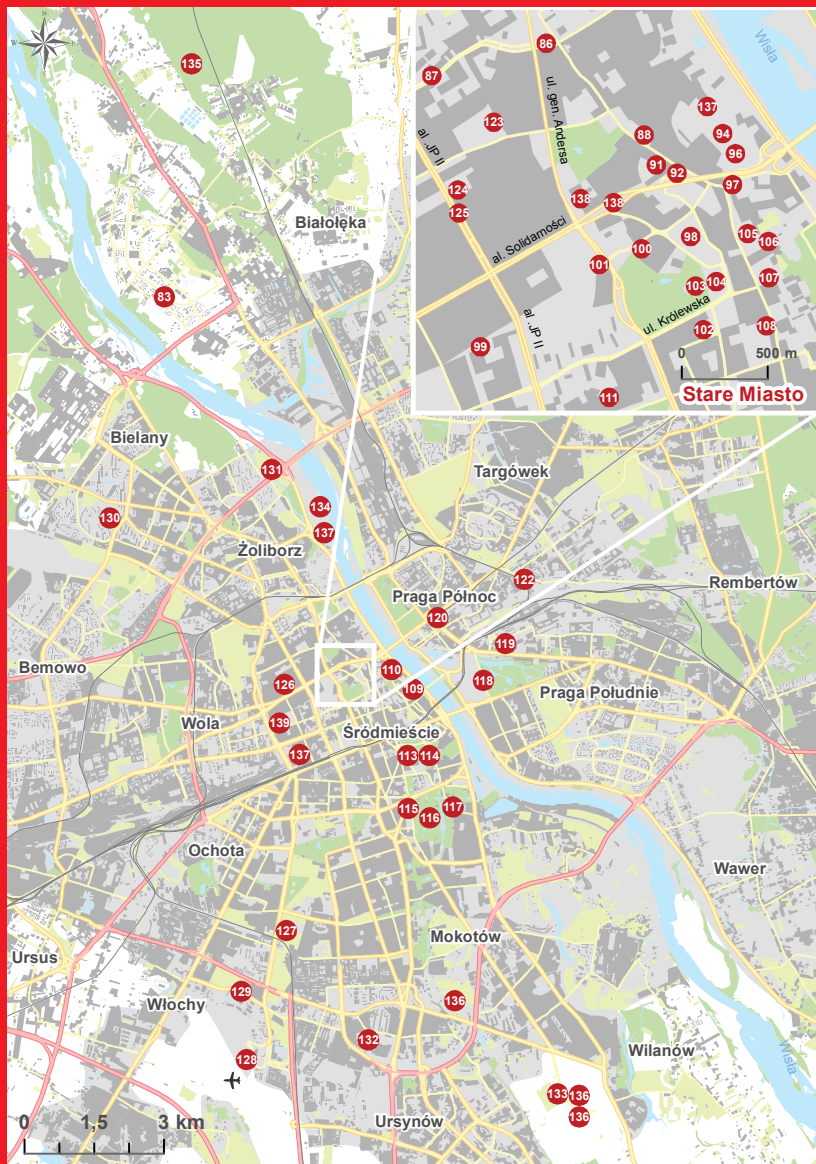
KURPIE CULTURE MUSEUM

– 8 BEMA SQUARE, WWW.MUZEUM.OSTROLEKA.PL

In an old building, a so called "old post office" there is a museum with a vast collection of Kurpie folk art on display.

One of the branches of the Museum is the Kurpie Farmhouse in Kadzidle. In a small open-air museum there is a reconstructed 19th century farmhouse with a crane well, granary, barn and woodshed. You can also see an old forge, beehives and two huts.

Warsaw



45 places of special interest – the number corresponds to the number of page in the guide

- | | | | | |
|-----------------|------------------|----------|-------|------------------------|
| Warszawa | cities | | Wisła | rivers |
| | Łązy | villages | | voivodship borderlines |
| | Railway lines | | | urban areas |
| | voivodship roads | | | protected forest areas |
| | poviat roads | | | green areas |
| | local roads | | | lakes |

WARSAW



WARSAW

The capital of Poland and its biggest city with two million inhabitants. Obviously, one day is definitely not enough to see all of Warsaw's interesting spots. However, even if you have a few hours on hand, it is worth using it to take a look at this wonderful city. Warsaw is full of historical buildings, nature wonders, theatres, cinemas, sport centres and other modern city architecture and facilities.

The city layout developed over the course of history. Although the first small castle was set up in, what is now called, Bródno in the 9th century and a bigger one in the 12th century, it was 13th century that is said to have been the beginning of Warsaw of today which originated from a small village situated in a place where the King Castle now stands. There a city developed with regular street network, church, market place and soon was surrounded with walls, so it was safe. This caused a massive migration to the city, and soon it turned out that the old Warsaw was too small. North of the old city, a new one started to develop. Next the city grew to the south as new houses were built along the road to Warsaw later called Krakowskie Przedmieście (Kraków's Suburbs) and further along the Vistula River. That was the time when Warsaw was part of Duchy of Mazovia which, in the 14th century, was incorporated to the Kingdom of Poland after the death of the last Prince of Mazovia who didn't have a heir. When Warsaw became part of Poland, its importance grew considerably. After the Polish Lithuanian union in 1569,



Warsaw became the place for the parliament sessions and the place of Polish King election. Finally, at the end of the 16th century, King Sigismund III Waza decided to move the capital from Kraków. As the capital, Warsaw went through even more rapid development. Praga, the village across the river got its city rights from King Władysław IV.

Despite being badly destroyed during the Swedish invasion of 1655 to 1660, Warsaw carried on growing dynamically. The next Kings had their residences built south of the city. Kazimierzowski Palace, Wilanów, Saski Palace, Łazienkowski Palace lay on what is called the Royal Route which is a must-see for every tourist.

18th century was the golden age for Warsaw. Streets were cobbled, and lit, the Collegium Nobilium School a public library and many theatres and factories were built.



Photo47

All that drew more people to Warsaw, the number of which exceeded 100,000 at the end of the 18th century.

The partitions, Napoleonic wars brought the bad times for Warsaw that became a marginal city in the Russian province. Poland tried to regain its independence few times over the 19th century, but it was the end of WWI that brought the freedom to the Poles. Before that

WARSAW



happened, Warsaw was intentionally side lined by the Russian authorities. One of the new developments in that era was an erection of huge prison called Cytadela, where many of Polish independence fighters were kept, tortured and killed. Apart from that prison, there were a few more moderate developments such as new factories, railroads, power plant, gas works and some new dwelling buildings.

The local authorities did their best to speed things up during the 20 years between the wars, yet the WWII stopped it all. Warsaw was one of the key targets for Nazi bombs. After a month of resistance the city, that didn't get the promised help from France and Britain, had to give in to the power of the enemy. The occupants introduced their draconic laws. Even the slightest crime could end with being shot. Only primary education was allowed, all the cultural institution were closed down, people were sent to work in Germany by force and the Jews locked within a limited space called a ghetto. The people of Warsaw could not stand the humiliation and decided to stand up against the invaders. They chose a moment when the German army was withdrawing from the Eastern front, and the Soviet army reached Praga across the river. On 1st August 1944 the fighting started and lasted 63 days. After the uprising, the Nazis expelled those who left in Warsaw and destroyed 85 per cent of the city.

It is said the rebuilding of Warsaw lasted 20 years after the war, but it was as late as at the end of the last century that the last ruins disappeared.

In the recent years Warsaw has been vividly developing. Visit Warsaw and see how it is doing.



ST. JAMES THE APOSTOL CHURCH

– 4 MEHOFFER STREET

WWW.SW-JAKUB.WAW.PL

The village of Tarchomin was first mentioned in the official documents as early as in the 13th century when Warsaw still didn't exist. It's not known when the Tarchomin parish was exactly established, but the first notes about the church come from the early 15th century. The church, founded by the Mazovian Governor Jakub Gołyński was reportedly finished in 1518 and consecrated in 1583 by the Bishop of Płock.

In the 17th century the church was destroyed by the Swedish army and stood in ruin for the following decades until it was rebuilt by the Ossoliński family around 1720. At the beginning of the 20th century the outer plasterwork was removed and original Mazovian gothic looks restored.

A single-nave church with a lower presbytery stands on an embankment that protects it from flood. In the 19th century the inside walls were covered with frescos of the evangelists and the saints. Now what is left from the old interiors is the baptismal font and the 19th century organs. In the floor there is a slab with Ossoliński Family emblem closing the entrance to the crypt

Tarchomin used to be a stopping point for the pilgrims going to Santiago de Compostella. Today, it is a point on the Mazovian St. James' Route.



Photo48





ST. STANISŁAW KOSTKA CHURCH – 2 STANISŁAWA HOZJUSZA STREET

POPIELUSZKO.NET.PL

The construction works on St. Stanisław Kostka Church started in 1930, but interrupted during WWII. The works resumed after the war and the Church was ready to open in 1963. On 7th April 1963 Primate Wyszyński consecrated the temple.

That modern construction resembles a traditional old Christian romance-style basilica, therefore the ambulatory and galleries in the side naves. There are two 17th century paintings of Peter and Paul's martyrdom on the walls of the presbytery by the baroque master Michał Willman. The left nave has the copy of the Image of Our Lady of Częstochowa, here referred to as Our Lady of Żoliborz.

There is a number of plaques commemorating the Polish heroes of the WWII and beyond. In 1975, the then parish priest Teofil Bogucki created the wall of memory with commemorative plaques that has become some sort of a history handbook.

From May 1980 until his martyr's death on 19th October 1984, the Blessed Reverend Jerzy Popiełuszko



Photo49



worked in St. Stanisław Kostka Church.

Next to the church there is a grave of priest Jerzy surrounded by a rosary made of stones. Opposite, there is a statue and the bell called "Jerzy" (Eng. George). In the basement of the temple there is a museum where you can learn about the life of Blessed Jerzy Popiełuszko and about the recent history of Poland.

John Paul II came there during his third pilgrimage to Poland on 14 June 1987. He prayed accompanied by the steelworks workers. After the prayer, the Pope came up to the grave and prayed in silence. Later he met with Popiełuszko's family: his mother, father and his brothers.

Jerzy POPIEŁUSZKO – the Blessed Priest and Martyr. Born on 14th September 1947 in Okopy next to Suchowola as son of a farmer. After his secondary school graduation, he joined the Seminary in Warsaw and became a priest on 28th May 1972. From the famous mass he held for the strikers at Huta Warszawa, he became the chaplain of Solidarity. During the Marshal Law he would hold masses for the Homeland in the St. Stanisław Kostka Church. During the masses, he called upon the authorities to respect the truth and human beings.

Accused by the communist authorities of disseminating hatred, Jerzy Popiełuszko was persecuted, notoriously arrested and interrogated. Kidnapped by the secret police, he was tortured and eventually killed. The murderers threw his body to the Vistula River near the dam in Włocławek.

Thousands and thousands people attended the funeral which turned into a huge protest rally. Jerzy Popiełuszko was beatified on 6th June 2010 in Warsaw.





MEMORIAL OF THE KILLED IN THE EAST — MURANOWSKA STREET

At the crossing of Muranowska and Andersa streets, the passers-by notice something strange. They see a railway car and ten of crosses and other religious symbols falling out of it. Each track sleeper has a name of the city or village occupied by the Soviet Union that were the places of mass killings of the Poles. The whole area around the memorial is paved with stones.

The Memorial, created by Maksymilian Biskupski, was unveiled on 17th September 1995.

It is a tribute to hundreds of thousands of Poles who were forced out of their homes and taken away to the far regions of Siberia and Kazakhstan. Many of them never came back to Poland.

During his seventh visit to Poland, John Paul II stopped at the Memorial and prayed with the veterans and widows of the ones murdered in Katyń and other places.



Photo50



UMSCHLAGPLATZ (THE LOADING SQUARE) — STAWKI STREET

A short way north of the Warsaw Ghetto there was a branch rail line for the trains coming from Warszawa Gdańska freight station. From that branch line station thousands of people were forced to the box cars and taken away to the death camps, mostly to Treblinka. More than 300,000 people were sent to death that way!

The Memorial at the Umschlagsplatz is designed to resemble an open box car. The wall looks like a box car and above the entrance to the car there is a slab resembling a Jewish tomb stone with an image of a dead forest. Inside the "box car" there are more than 400 alphabetically ordered Jewish names from Aba all the way to Zanna. Each name commemorates a thousand victims of the Warsaw Ghetto.

Pope John Paul II visited that place in 1999. He took time to pray in silence and then met the representatives of the Jewish community in Poland.

God, please listen to our prayers for the Jewish nation, a nation so dear to You.

Give strength to all generations so that the humanity understood your intension that You, God, are the beginning and the goal of all the nations on the earth.

(Holy Father's Prayer at Umschlagplatz)



FIELD CATHEDRAL OF THE POLISH ARMY
— 13/15 DŁUGA STREET

WWW.KATEDRAPOLOWA.PL

The Blessed Virgin Mary Church was built in place of a wooden church destroyed during the Swedish invasion and consecrated in 1701. The Church was a monastery chapel and a chapel of the school called Collegium Nobilium led by the Brothers Piarists.

After the November Insurrection, the Russians took the monastery from the Piarists and all the buildings along with the school, church were given to the Orthodox Church parish. Soon the towers were replaced by Orthodox style domes and the church came to be the Holy Trinity Orthodox Church for many years.

When Poland regained its independence, the temple was returned to the Catholic Church and become the main field church of the Polish army.

The Church, as most buildings in Warsaw, was destroyed during WWII. After the war, the rebuilding took 14 years as the communist authorities didn't offer their support. The temple was a field church only by name, as there was no room for religion in the communist army.

On 21st January 1991 John Paul II appointed priest Sławoj Leszek Głódź to be Field Bishop and few months later he had a chance of seeing the Polish army paying respect to God during his visit in the Cathedral on 8th June 1991.

During his pilgrimage to Poland in 2006, Pope Benedict XVI made a stop at the Cathedral solemnly greeted by the regiments of the Polish army and the Scouts.

Nowadays the interior of the Church looks modern. On the left from the entrance there is the Our Lady of



Ostra Brama chapel also called the Chapel of Polish Airmen. In the chapel there is a grave of Field Bishop Tadeusz Płoski who died in the plane crash near Smolensk in 2010. The Katyń Chapel is on the right. The altar is made of white marble and has relics of the Polish officers murdered in Katyń and a small Image of Our Lady of Ostra Brama painted on a wooden plank in one of the war camps by Lieutenant Henryk Gorzechowski. The image was surrounded by a halo made of buttons from the murdered soldiers' uniforms. On the walls of the temple there is a list of 18 thousand names of the officers killed by the Soviet secret police in Katyn, Charkiv and Miednoje.

Out on the facade of the Cathedral there is a bust of John Paul II and two plaques commemorating the visit of the Holy Father.



Photo51



GREEK CATHOLIC CHURCH OF FATHERS BASILIANS – 16 MIODOWA STREET

WWW.GREKOKATOLICY.PL

In 1596 the Orthodox Church of Eastern Poland and Lithuania submitted itself to the supremacy of the Pope without rejecting its Orthodox traditional ceremonies. This marked the beginning of what later was called the Uniate Church or Greek-Catholic Church. The Basilian Fathers joined the new Church.

In the 19th century the Tsar ordered to convert the Uniates back to Russian Orthodox denomination and repressed those who refused including the Basilians who were expelled from their monastery and their churches. The Monks returned to their church



Photo52

in 1930. Later the church became the cathedral for the archdiocese of Warsaw and Prague.

The Church has an octagonal design with extensions used for monastery purposes. It was built in 1782 at order of Jazon Smogorzewski, the Bishop of Kiev and Vilnius. The classicistic facade is decorated with ion pilasters supporting the triangle tympanum with an eye of providence. The interiors are surprisingly modest for an Orthodox church. Yet, on the walls you can see impressive paintings by Franciszek Smuglewicz.

On 11th June 1999 John Paul II met the Uniate priests and the faithful. He mentioned his unofficial visit at the church during his third pilgrimage to Poland. The visit was so unexpected that there were only few people in the temple.



HOUSE OF WARSAW ARCHBISHOPS – 17/19 MIODOWA STREET

The 18th century baroque-style palace became the seat of Warsaw Bishops in 1843. After the WWII and its reconstruction it became the seat of Stefan Wyszyński, the Primate of Poland. That was where he was arrested in 1953 and taken away to the unknown.

The palace is not available for sightseeing, but it is worth stopping at and taking a look at its facade with the entrance gate with the emblem of Primate Wyszyński above.

John Paul II was a frequent guest to the House of Warsaw Archbishops. In fact this was the place he spent his first night during his first pilgrimage to Poland and he would come back for a rest during his two following visits in Poland. However, before he became Pope, he would come to the palace many times as a bishop as that was the place for Episcopacy meetings.



Photo53



WARSAW

TRANSFIGURATION OF THE LORD CHURCH OF CAPUCHIN FATHERS – 13 MIODOWA STREET

WWW.KAPUCYNI.WARSZAWA.PL

King John III Sobieski made vows before his Vienna expedition, that when he comes back from the war against the Turks, he will found a church. Sobieski famous aid expedition saved Vienna from the Turkish invasion and the King founded the temple that was designed by the famous Tylman of Gameren and finished in 1692. The Church was burned during the Warsaw Uprising, but soon after the war it was rebuilt.

The Church has a chapel called the King's Chapel with a sarcophagus containing the heart of King John III Sobieski. Another chapel is devoted to Blessed Father Honorat Koźmiński.

Holy Father paid a visit in the Church in 1983 to commemorate the 300 year anniversary of the Vienna expedition.



Photo54

He had a meeting with the Solidarity activists. One of them was Barbara Sadowska, the mother of Grzegorz Przymyk, brutally beaten and killed by the communist militia a month before. John Paul II embraced the suffering mother in silence. Sometimes words are unnecessary to express feelings.



OUR LADY THE MERCIFUL FATHERS' JESUITS CHURCH – 10 ŚWIĘTOJAŃSKA STREET

WWW.LASKAWA.PL

At the turn of 16th and 17th centuries, the rich congregation of the Jesuits bought a few buildings, demolished them and carried on to build a new church. In 1609 it was finished. Its tower is still the highest one in the Warsaw's Old Town.

The Jesuits owned quite large part of the city then. They created a cultural centre with a school, printing house, chemistry and a theatre. It all ended in 1773 when the Jesuit congregation was dissolved.

Having returned to the Jesuits in 1917, the church was blown up by the German army after Warsaw Uprising in 1944. After the war, the temple was rebuilt, but gained a new design and not many original works of art survived the war. Two of them were the Image of Our Lady the Merciful and the Image of Madonna of Faenza holding broken arrows that symbolise her ability to defend people from the God's anger. On her head there is a crown laid by the Pope in 1973.

Holy Father John Paul II visited the temple twice during his pilgrimages to Poland.



Photo55





CATHEDRAL CHURCH OF DECAPITATION OF ST. JOHN THE BAPTIST — 8 ŚWIĘTOJAŃSKA STREET

WWW.KATEDRA.MKW.PL

The Church was built soon after Warsaw got its city rights at the beginning of the 14th century. In time, the temple became more and more important. It was the venue for coronation ceremonies and other important state events. Finally the Church was made the Cathedral Church for the newly established Diocese of Warsaw in 1798 and in 1817, of the Archdiocese of Warsaw.

The temple was completely destroyed during WWII, even the burned walls were blown up by the German army. Only the fragments of the presbytery and the Chapel of Miraculous Cross survived.

The Cathedral was rebuilt in the years 1947-56 according to the new design of Jan Zachwatowicz. The facade was made in the Mazovian gothic style with a high stair-like and pinnacle decorated front.

The three-nave interior has little of the original furnishings. However there are a few things that deserve special attention. First is the tomb slab of the last of the Princes of Mazovia Stanisław and Janusz made from Hungarian red marble, a renaissance tombs stone of Brother Italians and a statue of Stanisław Małachowski made by one of the greatest sculptors of that age Bertel Thorvaldsen. In the presbytery there is a modest main altar with a copy of the Image of Our Lady of Częstochowa.

On the left from the entrance there is a Mausoleum of Primate Stefan Wyszyński with a sarcophagus. On the left from the entrance there is a Barczyks' Chap-



el with a 16th century cross.

In the basement there are crypts with graves of famous Poles such as President Gabriel Narutowicz's, writer Henryk Sienkiewicz's, Mazovian Princes' and King Stanisław August Poniatowski's whose ashes were laid down in 1995.

Karol Wojtyła visited the Cathedral many times. Even as Pope, he was here 5 times. However the first of his papal visits was a special one. In 1979, during his first pilgrimage, John Paul II went to the Cathedral straight from the airport and was greeted by Primate Wyszyński who said: 'You are greeted by this Cathedral, a younger sister o Royal Cathedrals in Wawel and Gniezno.

Zygmunt Szczęsny FELIŃSKI, the Archbishop of Warsaw, a deportee and a Catholic Church Saint

Born on 1st November 182 in Wojutnie next to Łuck. He graduated the Seminary of Żytomierz and became a priest in 1855 in St. Petersburg (Russia). On 6th January 1862 was appointed to be the Archbishop of Warsaw, which had the Russian Emperor's approval. However, he was soon arrested for supporting the independence efforts of the Poles. He spent 20 years in exile in Jaroslavl on Volga in Russia. After that time he was released, but banned from returning to Warsaw.

Zygmunt Szczęsny FELIŃSKI died in Kraków on 17 September 1895. In free Poland, his body was laid in the crypt in the Warsaw Cathedral. He was beatified in 2002 by Pope John Paul II in Kraków and Canonised by Pope Benedict XVI in 2009.





ROYAL CASTLE
 – 4 PLAC ZAMKOWY
 (ŚRÓDMIEŚCIE DISTRICT – STARE MIASTO “OLD TOWN”)

WWW.ZAMEK-KROLEWSKI.PL

Royal Castle in Warsaw, a token of Polish history and culture, has been a venue for most important events of the country's history. Royal Castle is available for sightseeing all the time. Additionally, it offers many interesting temporary exhibitions to tourists and art lovers.

The castle was built in stages from the 14th to the 17th century. When the capital was transferred from Kraków, the castle was considerably extended to become the royal seat. And it was said to be the greatest royal seat in Europe of those days. Pillaged by the Swedish army, it regained its greatness. When Poland lost its independence, Royal Castle was a seat of Russian governors. After regaining the independence, Presidents of Poland resided in the castle.

Destroyed during the war, it was rebuilt in the years between 1971 till 1984.

On 8th June 1987 John Paul II met the communist leaders of Poland in the Royal Castle. Later, he prayed in the castle chapel and handed in his gifts to the castle.

On 8th June 1991, the Pope met with President Lech Walesa and other representatives of Polish authorities.



Photo56



ST. ANNE ACADEMIC CHURCH — 68 KRAKOWSKIE PRZEDMIEŚCIE STREET

WWW.SWANNA.WAW.PL

A small, stone, gothic temple was built as part of the Bernardines' monastery invited to Warsaw in 1454 by Princess Anna. The church was totally reconstructed after the Swedish invasion. St. Anne Church came out of the war in a good condition, but it turned out that the road works nearby were a serious threat.

The inside is absolutely baroque. Walenty Żebrowski's illusionist paintings will make you think the walls are moving. However, it is the altars that make the biggest impression. And the furniture impress with detail in artwork. The temple amazes in general.

On 3rd June 1979 John Paul II stood in front of the St. Anne Church to meet with the young that filled up all the free space in Krakowskie Przedmieście Street, Miodowa Street and the Castle Square making applause. Holy Father decided not to keep to the prepared text and started improvising rising even louder applause. The Pope liked that meeting so much that he decided to meet young people from all over the world regularly from then on.



Photo57





THE GREAT THEATRE — 1 PLAC TEATRALNY

TEATR WIELKI.PL

The edifice of Teatr Wielki was built in the years from 1825 till 1833 according to the design of Antonio Corazzi. The first performance was on 24 February 1833 staging the Barber of Seville by Rossini. During the partitions period, Teatr Wielki was a haven for the Polish culture.

Destroyed by the bombs in the first month of war, Teatr Wielki was rebuilt according to the design of Bohdan Pniewski. Straszny Dwór of Stanisław Moniuszko was stage at the premiere on 19th November 1965.

The theatre has the largest opera stage in the world and can hold 1,800 people in the audience. It also has a small scene. The building is also a home for the National Theatre. It has a huge storage for costumes and stage props and even a museum. Classicistic fasade takes up all the south side of the Theatre.

On 8th June 1991, John Paul II came to the Theatre to meet the people of Polish culture: writers, musicians, artists, actors. He didn't want to meet them at a church. He wanted to be their guest this time. On that day, the Pope saw opera entitled Halka by Stanisław Moniuszko.



Photo58

The Theatre Museum displays some exhibits related to John Paul II including his letter to Juliusz Osterwa, his pen and inkwell and, of course, his autograph.



ST. BROTHER ALBERT AND ST. ANDREW THE APOSTOL CHURCH – 18 PLAC TEATRALNY

Built in the 18th century, a baroque church founded by Primate Teodor Potocki, in 1819 become home for the Canon Sisters congregation. During the Warsaw Uprising the church was a field hospital. The temple was burnt, but still served to the faithful, until 1953 when the authorities decided to pull it down. The new church was built in 1999 and became the church of the artists.

Classicistic facade imitates the original one. It has a tympanum supported by four ion columns with a symbol of a dove and a quotation from the famous papal sermon: Let Your Ghost descent and renew the land, this land. In the right nave, there is an altar with the relics of St. Brother Albert. The temple also keeps the relics of St. Andrew the Apostol.

John Paul II blessed the still unfinished church on 13th June 1999. In the same year, Primate Józef Glemp opened the church.



Photo59



ST. ANTHONY OF PADUA CHURCH
– 31 SENATORSKA STREET
WWW.SWIETYANTONI.COM.PL

The Reformed Fathers's Order was invited to Poland by King Sigismund III who gave them a plot of land on a small hill near Senatorska Street. This was the place where a monastery and a church was built, first wooden, then in the 17th century, stone. Bishop Stefan Wierzbowski consecrated the temple in 1679.

The Modest church has a little yard surrounded with a small arcade gallery. Upfront there is a triangle tympanum propped on pilasters. Modest on the outside, the church has a rich collection of works of art inside such as the altar founded by King August III and Maria Józefa and 18th century images of Stations of the Cross.

In the gallery you can see plaques commemorating the killed in the WWII. It's an unofficial pantheon of Polish soldiers who died for their country, also of those soldiers who continued their fight after the war not being able to accept the communist rule.

Karol Wojtyła was here still as a bishop in 1968 to hold a mass in anniversary of the martyr's death of Władysław Penar in the Nazi concentration camp.



Photo60



JOHN PAUL II PRIVATE MUSEUM

– 1 PLAC BANKOWY SQUARE

MKJP2.PL

Janina and Zbigniew Porczyńskis, emigrants from Poland, devoted all their life's savings to gather a collection of religious paintings which they handed as a gift to the Polish nation. The collection was displayed in Poland in 1987 and the Museum was set up in 1990 and financed from donations.

The paintings come from the last 500 years, however not all are confirmed originals. The paintings are put into thematic groups: Bible and the Saints, portrait and self-portrait, mother and a child, mythology and impressionism. The Museum carries the name of John Paul II for which he gave his personal consent.

The museum is located in the edifice of the former Bank of Poland and former Stock market. Designed by Antonio Corazzi, the edifice was built in 1828 and is characterised by arcades and a flatted dome.

Next to the entrance to the museum stands a bronze statue of John Paul II holding his Papal Cross.



Photo61



THE HOLY TRINITY LUTHERAN CHURCH – 1 MAŁACHOWSKIEGO SQUARE

The 15th century was the age of reformation in the Catholic Church in Europe. Janusz III, the Prince of Mazovia forbade all religious practices apart from those Roman Catholic in the whole Mazovia. The few lutherans that lived in Warsaw belonged to the Węgrów parish 100 km East of Warsaw. .

The Lutheran Assembly in Warsaw was established by Stanisław August Poniatowski and then the new church was built. The round-shaped church with a 58 meter dome had exceptional acoustics.

Like many other historical buildings in Warsaw, also the Lutheran church was badly experienced in the course of history. During WWI, the occupants stole the bells and tore copper roof down. During WWII, the church was hit by a bomb and got burned down. After the war it was rebuilt in 1956.

On the outside, the church had rusticated walls with



Photo62

two rows of windows, the lower windows are large with an arch on top and the upper windows are small and round. Inside, there is an altar with a big cross and an Image of Jesus Christ and new organs made in classicistic fashion.

On 9th June 1991 John Paul II participated in the ecumenical mass.



GRAVE OF THE UNKNOWN SOLDIER — PIŁSUDSKIEGO SQUARE

King August II decided to have a palace and park built. The baroque residence was rebuilt many times and it became classicistic with time with an impressive arcade gallery. The central arcade soon became the grave of an unknown soldier whose body was transferred from the Lviv cemetery. The grave became a mausoleum for all the soldiers that died for Poland and never had their own grave.

In December 1944 Saski Palace, as it was called, was blown up by the Nazis. Luckily, the central arcade remained almost intact and now, it is still the Grave of the Unknown Soldier guarded all the time by the soldiers.

On 2nd June 1979 John Paul II paid a homage to the Unknown Soldier. He prayed with Primate Wyszyński before the Grave and wrote an entry in the visitor's book.

Also Benedict XVI paid a homage to the Unknown Soldier on 26th May 2006.



Photo63



MARSHAL PIŁSUDSKI SQUARE

Initially, it was the yard of the Saski Palace. However, the Palace hasn't been rebuilt so now it's a huge open space.

The square was one of the most important places during all the Papal visits in Poland. This was the venue of John Paul's II first ever mass in Poland as Pope. A simple altar with a tall cross was a place from which John Paul II uttered, what turned out to be one of the most important words in the history of Poland.

„(...) There I call, I, the son of this land, and at the same time Pope John Paul II, I call from the whole depth of this millennium, a day before Holy Ghost descend day, I call with all of you:

Let Your Ghost descend!
 Let Your Ghost descend!
 And Let Him renew the land.
 This Land!”

Then, not many understood the deep sense of those words. Poles understood those words when Pope came to the Piłsudski Square twenty years later in 1999, seeing all the changes that had happened in Poland, Europe and the world. Around million people are reported to have participated in that mass. On 26th May 2006, Pope Benedict XVI held a mass on the Piłsudski Square.



Photo64



METROPOLITAN SEMINARY

– 52/54 KRAKOWSKIE PRZEDMIEŚCIE STREET

WWW.WMSD.WAW.PL

The Warsaw Seminary dates back to 1682 when a Jesuit school was established. In 1867 the Russian authorities moved the school to the former monastery of Carmelites where it is located now.

The complex started with a construction of the church on 1681 on the blueprint of a Latin cross with two side naves. Its facade is very impressive thanks to the founder Karol Radziwiłł and designer Efraim Schroeger.

The building of the monastery itself was built at the end of the 17th century. In the 20th century an extension was built for a library.

In the History Classroom, you can see things that belonged to the famous graduates including things of priest Jerzy Popiełuszko.

Cleric Wojtyła studied in Kraków, but showed up in the Warsaw Seminary already as priest to hold a mass in the Seminary chapel. It was his first stay in Warsaw.



Photo65



PRESIDENTIAL PALACE – 46/50 KRAKOWSKIE PRZEDMIEŚCIE STREET

At the beginning of the 17th century the Koniecpolski family had a baroque-style palace built with Warsaw's first ever Italian-style garden and boat quay at the bottom of the Vistula high bank. The present design comes from the 19th century.

The Palace was a venue for a number of important national and international events such as signing a communist military pact, later known as the Warsaw Pact. Round Table sessions took place in the Palace from 6th February till 5th April 1989 which was the beginning of democratic transformation in Poland.



Photo66

In July 1994 the Palace became the official seat of the President of Poland. The first president who moved in was Lech Walesa.

The Presidential Palace has a classicistic facade with Corinthian pilasters and semi-columns. The attic, partly blocking the view of the roof, is decorated with ten stone statues. In the front yard, there is a statue of Prince Józef Poniatowski.

During his seventh visit to Poland, John Paul II was a guest of President Aleksander Kwaśniewski in the Presidential Palace.



ST. JOSEPH CHURCH OF VISITANDINE SISTERS — 34 KRAKOWSKIE PRZEDMIEŚCIE STREET

WWW.WIZYTKI.WAW.PL

The 18th church amazes with its incredibly rich facade full of columns, cornices and other decorations. Sun rays falling on the facade make it seem in constant motion.

That late baroque masterpiece by Karol Bay and Efraim Schroeger decorated the church which was built for almost 100



Photo67

years with problems such as fire and construction disasters. To compensate for this, WWII spared the church that didn't suffer from major damages. The original interior survived including the boat-shaped pulpit. Over the presbytery hangs a clock measuring the time from the days of King John III Sobieski. Bishop Karol Wojtyła is said to have set his watch according to that clock when he was marrying his friends in 1965.

The Church belongs to the Order of Visitandine Sisters who were invited to Warsaw by Queen Ludwika Maria Gonzaga. The Sisters are locked in the monastery without a contact with the outside world. Frederic Chopin, as one of the students of a Warsaw secondary school, played on the organs in St. Joseph Church.





THE HOLY CROSS CHURCH – 1 KRAKOWSKIE PRZEDMIEŚCIE STREET

WWW.SWKRZYZ.PL

In the medieval times Warsaw had only two parishes. In 1626 the third was established at the wooden Holy Cross Church. The priest missionaries took care of the church.

In 1696 Primate Michał Radziejowski consecrated the new stone church designed by Józef Szymon Belotti. This large three nave church gained a baroque facade in the 18th century.

The Holy Cross Church was bombed in 1939 and it went through further damages during the Warsaw Uprising when the German mines destroyed the interiors and the north tower, made the lower ceiling collapse, so did the statue of Jesus Christ from the banister before the entrance.. Despite serious damages, the church was rebuilt in 1953. The works were carried on and still performed even at the beginning of the 21st century when The Holy Sacrament altar was renovated. The parish members asked John Paul II to sign the cornerstone act naming it the Altar of Homeland.

The Pope met with artists in The Holy Cross Church on 13th June 1987.

On the left side of the nave there is a marble statue of Frederic Chopin which indicates the place where Chopin's heart urn was embedded in the wall.



Photo68



HOUSE OF URSULINES OF THE AGONIZING HEART OF JESUS — 2 WIŚLANA STREET

WWW.URSZULANKI.PL

They call it a Grey House either because its facade is grey, or because the Ursuline Sisters wear grey habits.

The cornerstone was laid on 2nd July 1930, and the year later the first sisters moved in. The building was not so much a monastery as a dormitory for girl students. During the war it was a hospital, a safe haven for the runaways, the evicted, the orphans (also Jewish orphans), an eatery and a secret school.

Nowadays, a five-storey building, apart from being the sisters' house, a dormitory, a kindergarten, health centre, has a special guest room, now a kind of a sanctuary. It commemorates two honourable guests: Mother Urszula Ledóchowska, the founder and a Sister Superior of the Order and Karol Wojtyła who would stay in the Grey House while visiting Warsaw. 2 Wiślana Street was, practically, his Warsaw flat where he spent the last night before leaving to Rome for the Conclave in October 1978.

In 1999 he visited the Grey House, but as Pope this time.



Photo69



WARSAW

UNIVERSITY LIBRARY
– 56/66 DOBRA STREET
WWW.BUW.UW.EDU.PL

The library was set up together with The University of Warsaw in 1816. Its book collection was sharing faith with Warsaw, enlarged and then pillaged, destroyed and again enlarged and so on.

At the end of the 20th century, the old library turned out to be too small for the growing book collection. A new building was constructed near the river. Apart from modern reading rooms, the students can take a stroll in the garden growing on the library's roof and enjoy the beautiful view of the Vistula River. While strolling you can look down and see the library through the glass elements of the roof.

On 11th June 1999, John Paul II christened the new library. A monumental green facade displays samples of different notation systems such as musical score, math symbols and a host of alphabets such as Hindu, Hebrew, Arabic, Greek, Russian or Old Polish. Inside the library there is a chair John Paul II was seating in during the visit at the library. They say that the chair was made by a carpenter from the mountainside for the price of one Euro.



Photo70



ALL SAINTS CHURCH — 3/5 GRZYBOWSKI SQUARE

WSZYSZYCWIECI.PL

It's one of the Warsaw's biggest churches. There is a legend saying that it had to be so big to have enough room for all saints.

The architect Henryk Marconi, inspired by the Italian renaissance, extended the facade with an arcade gallery. Horizontal cornices give out an illusion of horizontality and closeness to the ground. Even the towers do not make it look higher on the backdrop of the high rise block of flats built in the communist era.

The three-nave interior with transept and a dome at the crossing of the naves. It is worth paying attention to the iron pulpit.

The Church was built in 1893, founded by the Countess Gabriela Zabiełłowa. During WWII it was in the limits of the Warsaw Ghetto and served the Christians of Jewish descent and also it was the place the Jews could get some help.

On 8th June 1987 John Paul II held the opening mass of the World Eucharistic Congress. Mother Teresa of Calcutta was present at the Congress. Despite its size, the Church did not hold thousands of people who came to the mass.

On the top of the stairs stands a statue of John Paul II, a gift from the Our Lady of Częstochowa parish of Dozio Valgreghentino next to Milan, Italy.



Photo71



THE PARADE SQUARE

The communists wanted to have a huge square for military parades and other communist demonstrations. They decided not to rebuild one of the central part of Warsaw, and on that place they build a huge square where the communist leaders greeted the parades of 1 of May.



In the midst of the square stands Poland's tallest building, the Palace of Science and Culture (Pałac Kultury i Nauki), a gift from the Soviet Union. For years it was a symbol of the Soviet

domination in Poland. But soon things was to change and one of the tokens of that change was a huge cross that was to have been placed on one of the Palace walls as a backdrop for the mass John Paul II held on 14th June 1987. Unfortunately, the authorities didn't let the cross to be placed on the wall. During the mass that ended the World Eucharistic Congress, John Paul II beatified Bishop Michał Kozal murdered in the Dachau concentration camp. He also gave his blessings and handed in crosses to two hundred missionaries.

After John Paul II died, there was a huge and lit portrait of the Pope in the Plac Defilad which became one of the places of homage paid to John Paul II by people of Warsaw.

It is worth going up to the 30th floor of the Palace of Culture to marvel at breath taking panorama of Warsaw.



THE MEMORIAL OF POLISH UNDERGROUND STATE AND HOME ARMY — MATEJKI STREET

The memorial on the green before Sejm looks like a wing with a Fighting Poland (Polska Walcząca) emblem, a symbol of struggle against the German occupant. The memorial is there to commemorate the unprecedented resistance and the underground state and army that functioned under the Nazi occupation.

Despite Poland being occupied by Germany and Soviet Union, it never officially surrendered. Polish government kept on working in exile, first in France and then in Great Britain. In the occupied country an underground state stayed in contact with the official government in exile. Also the new army was formed, called Home Army preparing for guerrilla activities.

On 11th June 1999, on his way to Sejm, the Pope stopped at the Memorial that was unveiled a day before.

There is a plaque to commemorate this event.



Photo73



THE PARLIAMENT OF POLAND
– 4/5/8 WIEJSKA STREET

WWW.SEJM.GOV.PL

The buildings erected in the quarter of Wiejska, Górnośląska and Maszyńskiego Streets were originally the seat of the Nobility Institute. The first session of the Polish Parliament took place on 10th February 1919. However, it soon became too small and Poles needed a modern edifice for their parliament to have its sessions in. In 1928 the first session in the new complex was held. The buildings of Sejm were destroyed during the war but rebuilt soon after.

On the outside, a main feature of the edifice is a big semi-rotunda with the session room. The facade is decorated with columns and bas-reliefs by Jan Biernacki and Jan Szczepkowski. On the top flies a white and red flag of Poland.

Holy Father paid a visit in Sejm on 11th June 1999 to give a speech to Sejm and Senate. He reminded of the long way Poland went to make that meeting happen.



The Pope received a standing ovation followed by the National Anthem. At the end John Paul II exclaimed: „Wiwat Król, wiwat Naród, wiwat wszystkie stany!” which translates into English: Long Live the King, Long Live the Nation, Long Live All the Classes!

Photo74



APOSTOLIC NUNCIATURE – 12 SZUCHA STREET

NUNCJATURA.PL

The building of the Nunciature was built at the end of the 19th century as a big villa. The Episcopate of Poland bought the villa in 1924 for a seat of the Apostolic Nunciature in Poland.

In 1945 the concordat was terminated by the Polish authorities and the Polish diplomatic relations with Vatican were severed. The relations were resumed in 1971 and Archbishop Józef Kowalczyk became the first ambassador of Vatican in Poland.

The House stands way back in the large garden. It's a two storey, non-symmetrical house painted in white. On the left, an older part with a porch and a balcony with John Paul's II emblem. On the right, stairs leading to a small terrace and up above a balcony with the emblem of Benedict XVI.

The seat of the Nunciature was hotel for John Paul II during two of his visits in 1991 and 1999.

He made a speech to the people of Warsaw from the balcony of the Nunciature.



Photo75



BELWEDER — 52 BELWEDERSKA STREET

On a hill near the Vistula River a villa was built in 1660 for Krzysztof Hieronim Pac. The beautiful view from the windows of Belweder was a reason for its name with an Italian origin, *belle vedere* means a beautiful view. The villa was later extended to become a classicist-style palace.

Between the wars, Belweder was a seat of Chief of State (Naczelnik Państwa) and President. The palace survived the war without major damages and soon it became the seat of communist authorities. Nowadays it belongs to the President's office and is used for representative purposes.

Its present looks, the palace owes to the extension project carried out 200 years ago. The building has a ground floor and the first floor. The roof is of a tent-like shape. Two wings going away from the building in straight angles make up a spacy front yard with the main body.

John Paul II was a guest to Belweder three Times. First time he met Edward Gierek, the first secretary of the communist party of Poland in 1979. Then he met General Wojciech Jaruzelski in 1983. Finally, in 1991, the Pope met President Lech Walesa on 8th June 1991.



Photo76



NORTH ŁAZIENKI PARK (AGRYKOLA)

In the times of King Stanisław August Poniatowski Agykola was part of Łazienki Park. Later it was separated from Łazienki by a street. In 20th century it was Warsaw's sport centre. 1908 was a year of establishment of Warsaw Sports Society, and three years later a stadium with a football pitch and running track was built.



Photo77

On top of the high river cliff, where the town of Jazdów used to be, a castle stands, called Ujazdowski Castle with the Piaseczno Chanel in front of it. There are stairs leading down the cliff and on those stairs an altar was set for the Pope to hold the mass on 9th June 1991. In the presence of the Polish authorities, the Pope reminded the commandment of love and talked about developing the free Poland that is part of Europe.

Not far from the where the altar used to be, there is now a granite monument with an irregular crystal on top that symbolise the victory of the Pope's words.





THE NATIONAL STADIUM
— ZIELENIECKA AVENUE

WWW.PGENARODOWY.PL

A very modern stadium for 58 thousand spectators was built as a venue for the European Football Championships Euro 2012. It's also a venue for other sports events, cultural, religious, business and political events.

The National Stadium was built on the ground where the old Dziesięciolecia Stadium used to be. The old stadium was opened in 1955 and was a venue for a numerous events, including political ones.

On 17th June 1983, a stadium was a venue for a church event for the first time in the communist Poland. It was the papal mass.

A year before the communist authorities introduced the Marshal Law making Solidarity illegal. The words of John Paul II about victory, overcoming difficulties and keeping up spirits gave hope to the suppressed nation.



Photo78



OUR LADY VICTORIOUS CATHEDRAL CHURCH — 365 GROCHOWSKA STREET

WWW.PARAFIA-KAMIONEK.PL

Kamion was first mentioned in documents from the 11th century. It was a venue for election of two kings of Poland: Henryk Walezy in 1573 and August III in 1733. An old wooden church with one of Poland's oldest graveyards was a witness of these important events. The parish was established in 1917 and on its area, in the Dziesięciolecia Stadium was a papal mass held in 1983.

The present day temple was built in 1931 as a token of gratitude for the great victory of the Polish army in 1920. The altar requires special attention. It is dominated by a triptyc of paintings. The central painting is the Image of Our Lady Victorious, the left one shows of St. Andrzej Bobola and St. Stanisław Kostka praying for Poland's victory and on the right a painting of Archbishop Ratti and priest Ignacy Skorupka thanking for the victory. Other precious historical objects are the Image of Our Lady of Berdyczów, renaissance triptyc called Adoration of Madonna with the Child from 1492 and a plaque on the front wall commemorating the papal mass of 1983.



Photo79





ST. FLORIAN AND ST. MICHAEL WARSAW-PRAGA CATHEDRAL
 – 3 FLORIAŃSKA STREET
KATEDRA-FLORIANA.WAW.PL

Traditionally the right-bank Warsaw is called Praga, even though there are many other districts across the river. However, it was Praga that was established first in the forest-grown area that was burned down to build a village. In 1648 Praga received its city rights from King Władysław IV and remained a separate city until 1791.

Praga's proximity to Warsaw was an asset, but not always. At the turn of the 18th and 19th centuries it was a battlefield first destroyed by the Russian army that slaughtered almost everybody who lived there, then the Napoleonic wars that made a huge impact, just like in 1831 during the November Insurrection. Yet, the district kept on recovering. In the late 19th century a major railway hub was built which made the district develop very fast also population-wise. Praga was brutally experienced during WWII, but in September 1944 it was recovered from Germans by the Soviet army and wasn't so much destroyed as the left-bank Warsaw.

St. Florian Church was blown up by the German army in September 1944 and what we see now is a new building that looks like the original. However, miraculously fragments of two walls survived, and at those walls stood the sculpted images of the temple's patrons St. Michael's and St. Florian's. After the war the church was being rebuilt until 1970. Originally it was built in 1904 designed by one of the most famous architects of the era Józef Pius Dziekoński, whose epitaph can be seen in the church porch.

The church was consecrated in 1901, before being



finished and in 1919 Ignacy Kłopotowski became the parish priest.

The church resembles the greatest gothic temples of Europe. The inside is pretty modest and raw with unplastered pillars, and unplastered door and windows framing. The walls are painted in white. The windows have modern stained glass images of the saints.

On June 1999 John Paul II visited the temple to christen the cornerstone for the Praga seminary and the Image of Our Lay of Haller from Mińsk Mazowiecki. After that there was the Liturgy of the Word followed by the Pope's sermon and blessings.

Blessed Ignacy KŁOPOTOWSKI, a priest, founder of Loteran Sister Order.

He was born on 20th July 1866 in Korzeniówka, studied in Lublin and St. Petersburg. He became priest on 5th July 1911.

In his service, he helped the poor. He was a founder of many institutions for teaching the poor to help them be able to make honest living. He would set up schools, asylums, senior homes. Additionally he was involved in the publishing activity. He would say that print is the sermon pulpit of today. .

In Łochów Forests he created a rest centre called Loretto for the poor and for the old people.

Priest Ignacy Kłopotowski died suddenly on 7th September 1931 and was buried in Loretto. He was beatified in Warsaw on 19th June 2005.



THE HOLIEST HEART OF JESUS BASILICA — 53 KAWĘCZYŃSKA STREET

WWW.BAZYLIKA.SALEZJANIE.PL

The temple was founded by Princess Maria Radziwiłłowa who received her blessings for that project from Pope Pius X. The construction works started in 1907. Despite the raging WWI, the works never stopped and the parish was established in 1919 and the church was consecrated by Archbishop of Kraków in April 1923. Earlier the same year, Pope Pius XI gave the church the title of Minor Basilica and called it Poland's most beautiful church. Since 1931 it has been taken care of by the Salesian Fathers.

The Basilica was designed to imitate the Rome's St. Paul Church. Monumental stairs lead to the gallery of Corinthian-style columns and a portico. All is topped by a five-storey tower.

Inside, two rows of columns separate the naves. The ceiling is coffered and the upper row of windows has stained-glass images of the Polish saints. The main nave is ended with an apse with mosaic and frescos by priest Wincenty Kilian and Kazimierz Poczmański.



Photo80

On 8th June 1991 in the Basilica, Pope John Paul II opened the Second Polish General Synod. On display, there are gifts from the Pope, a cup and a paten. You can also see the kneelers he used for praying.



HEROES' OF THE GHETTO MEMORIAL – L. ZAMENHOF STREET

WWW.WARSAWTOUR.PL

On 19th April 1943, the German army and police entered the ghetto to liquidate it. However, the Jews did not want to give up easily and put up a fierce fight that lasted until May. The Nazis advanced destroying the ghetto and killing its inhabitants. The Polish underground state helped the Jews by providing them with weapons, ammunition and by hiding those who escaped.



Photo81

The memorial, designed by Natan Rappaport, was unveiled on 19th April 1948 and it is mostly a large 11 metre wall and a statue of the fighters with hand grenades, pistols and knives. There is also a big stone bas-relief showing the Jews being led to death.

Opposite the memorial, there is an interesting looking building of the Polish Jews History Museum POLIN. A building with glass facade has a strangely looking crack that symbolises the opening of the Red Sea. The museum, designed by Finnish architect Rainer Mahlamäki was open in April 2013 in the 70th anniversary of the Warsaw Ghetto Uprising.

John Paul II prayed at the memorial and paid homage to the victims of the mass murder on 18th June 1983.





PAWIAK

– 24/26 DZIELNA STREET

WWW.MUZEUM-NIEPODLEGLOSCI.PL/PAWIAK

„Pawiak” is one of the Warsaw prisons built by the Russian authorities in 1835. Ever since the January Insurrection of 1863, it became a place of seclusion for political prisoners.

The prison was widely used by the Nazi occupants during WWII. More than 100,000 Poles are said to have been imprisoned there during the war. The prison was blown up in August 1944. The prison was not rebuilt after the war, but the basement that remained became the new museum. The prisoners were commemorated by the Fight and Martyrdom Memorial that stands next to the museum.

Near the remaining gate stands a tree made of bronze that commemorates all the political prisoners. An elm tree stood there right after the war and was used by the families to pin the cards with the names of their loved ones that were imprisoned with enquiries about their faith. When the tree went dry, the authorities decided to save the symbol by casting the dying tree in bronze for it to become a memorial.

John Paul II stopped at Pawiak on 18th June 1983 to pray at the bronze tree with the cardinals that accompanied him.



Photo82



JOHN PAUL II AVENUE

The avenue was built after the WWII as part of link of Mokotów in the South with Żoliborz in the North of Warsaw. It runs through the area where Pawiak prison used to be. The whole project was finished in 1959. The avenue is a dual carriage street with tram tracks in the middle. This is one of the most important streets in Warsaw.

Few hours after John Paul II died, on the sidewalks of the avenue the people of Warsaw started placing candles, and soon the sidewalks got filled in with them. Actually, all the places related to John Paul II filled in with candles, but here there were the most of them. The avenue became a symbol of sadness and mourning. Each year, on the anniversary of the death of John Paul II, the people of Warsaw come here to lit the candle for the Pope.

In 2009 a strange memorial was set at the avenue near Pawiak Museum. It looks like an egg with an engraved date of John Paul's II death. In Christianity, the egg is a symbol of a new born life.



Photo83



THE SEAT OF EPISCOPACY OF POLAND — 6 CARDINAL WYSZYŃSKI SQUARE

EPISKOPAT.PL

In old days, Polish bishops didn't meet too often for geographical and communicational reasons. In the 18th century the bishops started to meet regularly and after the Second Vatican Council, the meetings were called the Conference of the Episcopacy of Poland.

Initially the Conferences took place in the Palace of Warsaw Archbishops. In the 80s a new building was erected to be the official seat of the Conference of the Episcopacy of Poland.

John Paul II visited the new seat twice. First time on 14th June 1987 he gave a speech to the bishops on their role of building new relationships with the communist authorities.

His second visit was on 9th June 1991. He talked about the church–politics relations that had to be forged anew after the change of a system. Then he had a meeting with children which didn't turn out very easy as the Pope had to answer many, sometimes surprising, questions.

You can read his entry to the commemorative book and see the armchair he was seating on during the visit.



Photo84



ŻWIRKI I WIGURY AVENUE

Everyone who arrives at Warsaw Airport must take this avenue to get to the Centre.

The avenue, built in 1934 to join Warsaw with the newly built airport in Okęcie, was named after two Polish famous airmen Franciszek Żwirko and Stanisław Wigura. Nowadays this avenue, though wide and long, is not enough to handle the Warsaw's heavy traffic.

On 2nd June 1979, the avenue was actually the first venue for the people of Warsaw to meet the Pope. The sides of the avenue were packed with people waiting for the Pope to pass and give them his blessings.

During his first visit in Poland, the Pope was moving about in a special open car manufactured in Starachowice. It had room for the papal armchair and for some church dignitaries. During the following visits, the Pope used a special Mercedes Popemobile with reinforced glass windows for the safety reasons. That was due to the assassination attempt in 1981.



Photo85



OKĘCIE CHOPIN AIRPORT
 – ŻWIRKI I WIGURY AVENUE
WWW.LOTNISKO-CHOPINA.PL

The Okęcie Airport was built in the 1930s for both civil and military purposes. At present the Okęcie Airport is Poland's biggest and most modern airport providing services of more than 10.5 million passengers a year.

Not far from the new passenger terminal there is a military airport where most important guests are welcomed, so was John Paul II.

Also Bishop Wojtyła would start his travels around the world from Okęcie Airport. He got on the plane to Rome to participate in the conclave in October 1978. That was his last flight as a bishop. Holy Father was welcomed at Okęcie Military Airport three times in 1979, 1983 and 1987.

In the airport tradition showroom there is a papal flag with his autograph that flew on the mast after his flights.

The Pope would kiss the ground right after leaving the plane. He did the same in 1948 in Niegowicie which was his first parish. He would do that after one of his spiritual role models St. Jean Marie Vianney.

He took a bus from Kraków, then a horse cart and finally he walked to Niegowicie, his first parish. As Pope, he had more comfortable means of transport, but wherever he went, he would always kiss the ground after leaving the plane to show his respect to the place and people living there. This ritual of his had a special meaning for him and us, Poles.



LOT OFFICE BUILDING AND HANGAR – 17 STYCZANIA STREET

An airport is not only a terminal and a runway. It also has a number of technical facilities such as repair workshops, hangars and a mass of equipment used for passenger service. Not to mention a numerous airport staff.

On 13th June 1999, the Pope met the airport staff and their families in Hangar 4. A special mass was held by Bishop Józef Michalik. After the mass and the liturgy of the word, the Pope made a short speech to the gathered and thanked them.

John Paul II was given many gifts from the airport staff including a copy of the Image of Our Lady of Loreto.

The hangar is not available for tourists to see. However, you can see things related to the Pope using the services of Okęcie Airport, in the LOT office building in 17 stycznia Street. There are things like the Pope's airplane ticket for the flight he made to Rome in 1979, the dishes used for the in-flight meals, photos and a copy of the commemorative plaque in Hangar 4.



Photo86



OUR LADY THE ASSISTANT OF THE FAITHFUL CHURCH – 7 CONRADA STREET

WWW.WSPOMOZYCIELKA.WAW.PL

Karol Wojtyła is known to have enjoyed mountain trips or kayak trips. He is less known for his love for hiking in the lowlands. Hiking was his way of meeting God through His creation. As young priest, he joined a leading Polish tourist society PTTK and as Pope, he became an honourable member.

In Our Lady the Assistant of the Faithful Church in Chomiczówka district of Warsaw Tadeusz Martuszewicz and priest Jan Huryn opened what was soon to be called a Tourist Chapel to commemorate famous Polish tourists. The chapel has a painting showing the Pope hiking in the Tatra Mountains. The windows have stained glass presenting tourist badges. In the chapel there is a reliquary with John Paul's II blood drop and the PTTK honourable member badge.



Photo87



FATHER RAFAŁ AND BROTHER ALBERT FOLLOWERS'
CHURCH CALLED A CHURCH BY THE ROAD
– 17 GWIAZDZISTA STREET

On 22nd June 1983 in Kraków John Paul II beatified Father Rafał Kalinowski and Brother Albert Chmielowski. Holy Father said that day, that the new beatified should be role models for every Pole to follow. Priest Henryk Michalak, minding the words of John Paul II, chose them to be patrons of the new parish that he was in charge of establishing in the Ruda dwelling area in Warsaw.

The beginnings were tough as the authorities refused to give a construction permit for the church to be built. They even repressed some people that participated in masses under a wooden cross set at the future construction site. Finally, the authorities granted their permission and on 15th June 1988 the church was ready for its first mass although still under construction.

Until today, the church is still under construction. The masses are held in a temporary building standing next to the construction site. At the site there is a cross that was part of the papal mass held in Dziesięciolecia Stadium on 17th June 1983.



Photo88



ST. MAXIMILIAN KOLBE CHURCH — 35 RZYMOWSKIEGO STREET

WWW.PARAFIA-MAKSYMILIAN.WAW.PL

The attempts at establishing a parish and building a church lasted since 1965, however the authorities gave their permission 12 year later. In the meantime the masses were held in private buildings. In 1980 Primate Wyszyński built in a cornerstone which was a brick from the Auschwitz concentration camp.

The church was consecrated by Primate Józef Glemp in 1999. In 1979 Primate Wyszyński handed over the cross from the altar in Piłsudski Square where the Pope held his famous mass during his first pilgrimage to Poland. The cross still stands next to the church. It was moved only two times. First, when it was taken to the Piłsudski Square for the funeral mass of Primate Wyszyński and in 1991 it was a main element of the altar during the papal mass at Agrykola.

During the Marshal Law, the cross was a hiding place for documents of NZSS Solidarność trade union.

At the right nave of the church there is a stained glass window showing the first papal mass at the Piłsudski Square (then Victory Square).



Photo89



GOD'S PROVIDENCE CHURCH — RZECZYPOSPOLITA AVENUE

WWW.CENTRUMOPATRZNOSCI.PL

At the end of the 18th century Poland was in a really bad home and international situation. To save the country, the governing party decided to write down a constitution to introduce democracy. The King, Sejm and Senate all approved the constitution on 3rd May 1791. It was the first ever constitution in Europe.



Photo90

The signatories of the constitution decided that the nation should build a temple to express its gratitude to God. Unfortunately, the collapse of Poland and its further faith made it possible to come back to the idea 200 hundred years later at the end of the 20th century.

During his pilgrimage to Poland in 1999, John Paul II christened the cornerstone for the temple. The cornerstone was built in in 2002. The temple is still under construction. It is a huge church with an impressive dome over the centre. Four sides of the temple are four gates leading to the church from four roads the Polish nation took on its way to freedom. Those are the roads of Prayer, Suffering, Fight and Culture. Under the dome, 26 meters over the floor there is a museum devoted to John Paul II and Primate Wyszyński. The underground, called the Pantheon of Great Poles is a place where the dignified Poles are laid to the eternal rest. In the underground chapel there are relics of St. John Paul II and of Beatified Priest Martyr Jerzy Popiełuszko.





MUSEUM OF SPORTS AND TOURISM – 4 WYBRZEŻE GDYŃSKIE STREET

WWW.MUZEUMSPORTU.WAW.PL

The museum was set up in 1952 as one of the oldest museums of this type in Europe. Since 2005 the museum has its seat in John Paul II Olympic Centre.

Among thousands of exhibits portraying the history of Polish sports and tourism, a special place is reserved for a special exhibit, a canoe Karol Wojtyła used during his canoe excursions in 1950s and 1960s. Next to the canoe there is a photo of Karol Wojtyła canoeing and a quotation:

Another of his passions, apart from canoeing, was mountain hiking. He was a great fan of mountaineering. He sent a congratulation letter to the Polish mountain-

„The beauty of this land makes me call upon all to save it for the future generations. Let those who care about their homeland, take this call”.

ering team who successfully made the first ever winter approach at Mount Everest on 17th February 1980. The letter, which is one of the museum’s exhibits, ends with the Pope’s blessings to the team.



Photo91



THE HOUSE OF PRIMATE WYSZYŃSKI INSTITUTE — ŚWIERKOWA 4 STREET

WYSZYNSKIPRYMAS.PL

In 1942 a group of eight girls set up a team of Eights to promote the New Testament Eight Blessings under conspiracy in the occupied Poland. Their leader Maria Okońska and priest Wyszyński came up with an idea of an institute called The Institute of Our Lady of Jasna Góra Assistants, in 2006 renamed to become Primate Wyszyński Institute.

The Eights helped with office work and edition of sermons and magazines. They also managed the house in Choszczówka, the place Primate Wyszyński rested. The property was purchased in 1969. In the ground floor, in the biggest room there is a chapel and on the first floor, a room of Primate Wyszyński with a desk, chair, bed, a bookcase and a copy of the Image of Our Lady of Częstochowa. In 1973 a Kurpie style hut was transported to the property and made into a chapel.

Choszczówka was a place of meetings for the bishops as it was far away from the communist surveillance. Bishop Karol Wojtyła was a frequent guest to Choszczówka. One of the 'Eights' said about him and Primate Wyszyński: 'They were real friends'. Cardinal Wojtyła spent there the last day before setting out to the Conclave in 1978.



Photo92



JOHN PAUL II INSTITUTE

– 1 Ks. PRYMASA AUGUSTA HLONDA STREET, WWW.IPJP2.PL

The Institute was established in 2006 to promote the works of John Paul II. The Institute conducts an academic and publishing activities. It is a venue for concerts, performances and exhibitions promoting the teachings of John Paul II. A special care is given to teaching the young generation about the values that were dear to St. John Paul II.

ASIA AND PACIFIC MUSEUM

– 24 SOLEC STREET, WWW.MUZEUMAZJI.PL

The museum was set up in 1973 initiated by a traveler, collector and a diplomat Andrzej Wawrzyniak. He had a vast collection of objects from Indonesia and used it for the first exhibition. Nowadays, the museum has around 22.5 thousand objects from whole of Asia and Pacific Region and also a collection of Polish art with oriental themes. Parts of the collection may be seen at temporary exhibitions in Asian Gallery on 5 Freta Street.

WARSAW MUSEUM OF THE HISTORY OF THE POLISH POPULAR MOVEMENT

– 204 WILANOWSKA AVENUE, WWW.MHPRL.PL

The Museum has its seat in the historical building from the 19th century called a Yellow Inn (Żółta Karczma). It displays a vast collection of objects related to the history of the Polish village, popular political parties and other country-side organisations.



RAILROAD MUSEUM IN WARSAW

– 1 TOWAROWA STREET, WWW.MUZKOL.PL

The museum dates back to the 1920s when a group of hobbyists decided to find a place to display the valuable objects related to railway services. In the building of closed station Warszawa Główna, you can see documents, photos, railway equipment and models. If you wish to see something bigger, just step outside the station to admire old engines. If you happen to be there in spring or summer, you can take an old train ride from Sochaczew to the Kampinos forest.

ADAM MICKIEWICZ MUSEUM OF LITERATURE

– 20 RYNEK STAREGO MIASTA SQUARE, WWW.MUZEUMLITERATURY.PL

The museum exists since 1952. It has on display numerous historical objects related to the Polish literature and culture. Apart from the objects, it collects recordings of voices of famous Polish literates such as Władysław Broniewski's, Maria Dąbrowska's, Andrzej Struga's, Witold's Gombrowicz and many others.

MUSEUM OF SPORTS AND TOURISM

– 4 WYBRZEŻE GDYŃSKIE, WWW.MUZEUMSPORTU.WAW.PL

The permanent exposition called 'History of Sports and Olympic Participation' showcases the history of sport from Ancient Greece, 19th century rebirth of Olympiad, the history of Polish sport and modern times. Apart from the exhibits, the museum offers films, audio recordings and multimedia presentations (see page 134).





MUSEUM OF INDEPENDENCE IN WARSAW
– 62 SOLIDARNOŚCI AVENUE, WWW.MUZEUM-NIEPODLEGLOSCI.PL

The museum gathers and displays objects related to Polish independence movements of the 19th and 20th centuries. The museum organises concerts, lectures, conferences and lessons for the young. It also publishes its own magazine called „Niepodległość i Pamięć” (English: Independence and Memory).

STATE ARCHEOLOGICAL MUSEUM
– 52 DŁUGA STREET, WWW.PMA.PL

The museum was established in 1928 and in 1957 it moved to the 17th century arsenal building. The museum has a multitude of exhibits from all eras of humanity, copies, models etc. The museum organises interesting history lessons for school pupils and students.

STATE ETHNOGRAPHIC MUSEUM
– 1 KREDYTOWA STREET, WWW.ETHNOMUSEUM.PL

Established in 1888, is Poland's oldest and one of the biggest ethnographic museums in Europe. In 2013 the first museum for children was opened in Kredytowa Street with a special programme for the youngest museum goers. Recently a new exhibition was opened displaying religious art and a collection of historical liturgy attire.



COPERNICUS SCIENCE CENTRE

– 20 WYBRZEŻE KOŚCIUSZKOWSKIE STREET, WWW.KOPERNIK.ORG.PL

This is one of the most popular places among those who visit Warsaw. No wonder! You can easily learn how the world works and have fun at the same time. In this modern building, you will be able to experiment by yourself on hundreds of interactive exhibits. There are no set tour directions. You can go wherever you wish to enjoy a multitude of attractions. 'A Human and Environment' is the most surprising exhibition where the guests themselves are exhibits!

WARSAW RISING MUSEUM

– 79 GRZYBOWSKA STREET, WWW.1944.PL

The people of Warsaw demanded that museum for years. They wanted to commemorate the fighters who stood up to the Nazi occupants. Finally, in 2004 the museum was opened in the buildings of old power plant. The history here is told through tens of screens, speakers and re-enactments. You can touch the exhibits and lift them up without worrying about the security intervention. The museum perfectly imitates the historical climate of those days, shows how they fought and how they lived.

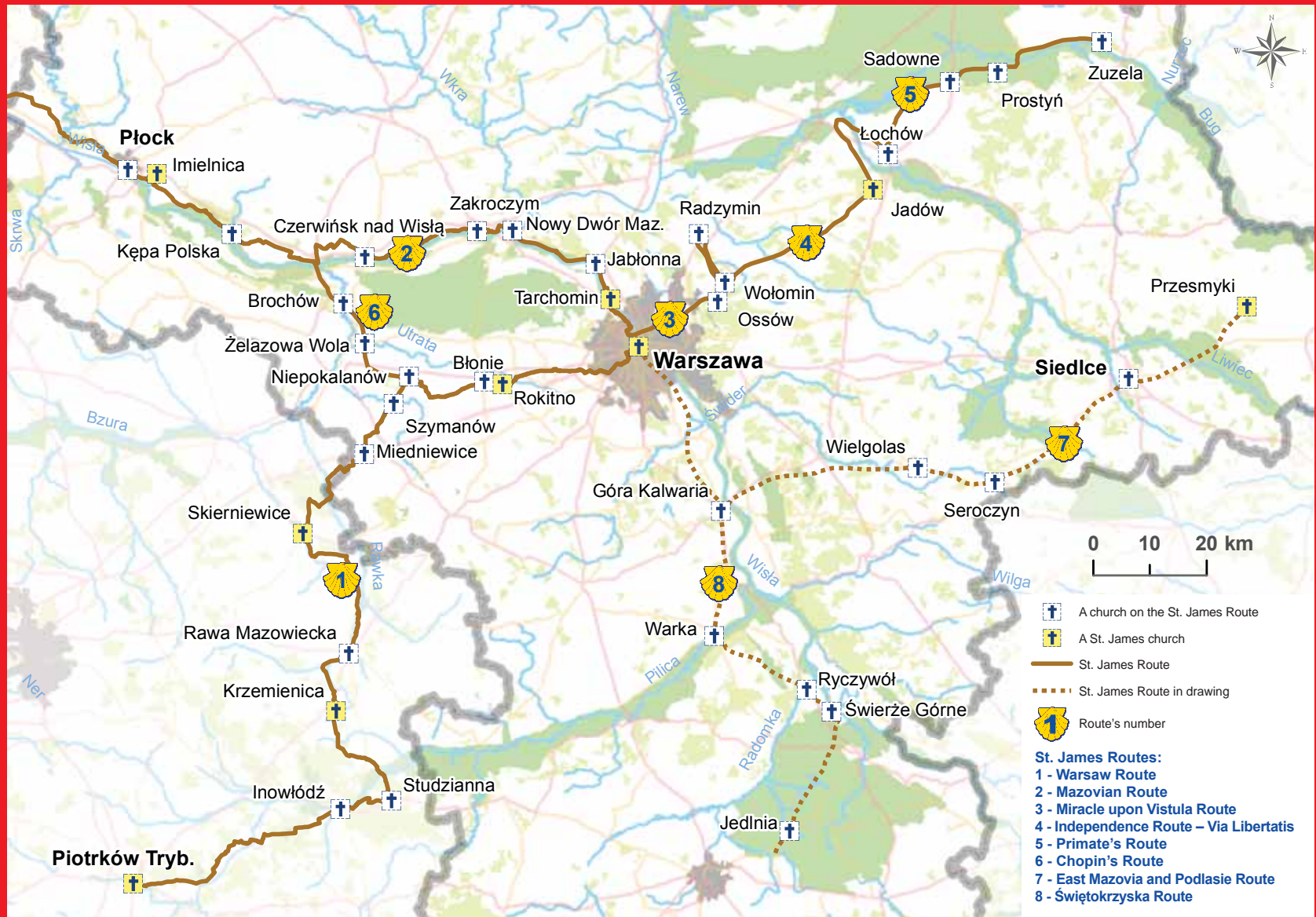
MUSEUM OF THE HISTORY OF POLISH JEWS POLIN

– 6 ANIELEWICZA STREET, WWW.POLIN.PL

The POLIN Museum exhibits the long history of Polish-Jewish relations and the influences both cultures had on each other. The objects of everyday use, worship, craftsmanship are described in an attractive, multimedia way. Also the building itself is impressive with that irregular crack on the facade that symbolises the opening of the Red Sea. Before the museum stands the Ghetto Heroes Memorial (see page 123).



THE ROUTES OF ST. JAMES



THE ROUTES OF ST. JAMES

PILGRIMAGE ALONG THE ROUTES OF ST. JAMES — CAMINO DE SANTIAGO

In North Western Spain, in the Mountains of Cantabria lies Santiago de Compostela, the capital of the autonomous region of Galicia. Its name can be loosely translated as "Saint James from the Field of Stars". It was in here that the grave of St. James was discovered in the 9th century ad which gave the beginning of the world famous sanctuary.

St. James, called the Elder or Taller, Christ's Apostol and Martyr. He came from Betsaid in Galilea. A son of Zebedee, the fisherman and his wife Salome, he was an elder brother of St. John the Evangelist. They were fishing when Jesus passed by. St James called upon his brothers to follow Jesus who would later call the brother as 'the sons of thunder' for their expressive characters.

James was beheaded in Jerusalem at the order of Herod Agryppa in ad 44. The legend says that before the execution he kissed the executioner who soon converted into Christianity. The body of St. James was transported over the sea to Spain and laid there in a stone sarcophagus. In 813 a church was built on that place, the church known today as the Cathedral of Santiago de Compostela

St. James is the patron of Spain and Portugal and also the patron of pilgrims, chemists, workers and beggars.

Discovery of the St. James's grave initiated a huge pilgrimage movement to Santiago de Compostela. The place became even more popular after the victory of Christian Knights in the battle of Clavijo with Moors in 844. A mysterious knight is said to have joined the battle on a white horse wreaking panic among the Moors. The

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legend says it was St. James himself and from then on he became a patron of knights.

In the Middle Ages, Santiago de Compostela was the third most visited pilgrimage destination after Jerusalem and Rome. The routes to the St. James's grave were marked with piles of stones for the knights not to lose their way. Soon a network of routes appeared all over Europe, even in the remote places. These routes were links for many cultures to meet and blend. J.W. Goethe once said that the European culture blossomed on the routes to Santiago de Compostela also called Caminos de Santiago (Routes of St. James).

It took months and a lot of effort for pilgrims to get to Santiago de Compostela. They usually did that for pure religious motivation, but sometimes they walked as part punishment to repent their sins. The punished had to get a certificate of getting there and undergoing a penance. Many pilgrims would die during their journey from illnesses, tiredness and assassinations of the marauders. Soon an infrastructure for the pilgrims was developed along the main routes. New churches, hospitals and inns cropped up.

The pilgrimage movement was stifled by religious wars, French Revolution and advancing secularisation of Europe. In 1970s only a few hundred pilgrims walked on their feet a year. John Paul II gave a sign to renew the movement who called upon Europe to go back to its roots.

Nowadays up to 300,000 pilgrims walk to Santiago de Compostela and there is more and more of them each year. The Europeans started to reconstruct the network of the routes of St. James and the European Council took care of it as part of European heritage.



THE ROUTES OF ST. JAMES

In Poland, the Routes of St. James have been charted since 2005 and more of 5000 km have been traced since then. The further 2000 are being prepared. Poland now has many new Brotherhoods of St. James and the Society of Routes of St. James Friends.

This place, so dear to the pious people of Galicia and Spain, has become a point that attracted the whole Europe and Christianity. That's why I wished to meet here the honourable representatives of European institutions and bishops. I send you my respect and cordial greetings and I wish to discuss the future of Europe with you.

I take a look at the whole continent, the intricate network of roads connecting cities and nations. I also see the medieval routes that led to Santiago de Compostela and countless pilgrims walking to attend the mass of James the Apostol.

People from all over Europe would make their long journey, from France, Italy, Central Europe, Scandinavia, they came from all social backgrounds, from kings to common peasants. From saints, like St. Francis of Assisi or St. Bridget of Sweden all the way to common sinners that would walk here to repent their sins.

The whole Europe found itself around the grave of St. James, in the times Europe was one spiritual wise.

(From the European Act of John Paul II)

In 2010, a group of enthusiasts started drawing up a network of St. James's Routes in Mazovia. The following routes were drawn: Mazovian, Warsaw Route, the Route of Miracle on the Vistula River, Primate's Route, Chopin's Route, the Route of Independence, the Route of East Mazovia and Podlasie. Świętokrzyska, Nadpilicka and Łowicka routes are now being prepared.

Buen Camino

THE ROUTES OF ST. JAMES

WARSAW ROUTE OF ST. JAMES



Sacralisation was the main criterion for drawing up Warsaw Route. The route was set along sanctuaries, old churches and all St. James churches. The Warsaw route runs South Western way which is geographically understandable as the route is on the pilgrim way to Częstochowa.

Warsaw Route of St. James starts in Warsaw and heads towards Piotrków Trybunalski. It joins St. James parishes of Warsaw, Rokitno, Kierniewicem Krzemienica and Piotrków Trybunalski. It runs along sanctuaries: God's Mercy Sanctuary in Ożarów, Our Lady the Assistant of Primates (Rokitno), Basilica of the Omni-Mediatress of All Glories and St. Maximilian Sanctuaries (Niepokalanów), Our Lady of Jazłowiec Sanctuary (Szymanów), The Holy Family Sanctuaries (Miedniewice and Studzianna), Holy Family and St. Anne (Smardzewice). Following the route, you will be able to see the remnants of medieval towns and churches in Błonie, Stara Rawa, Kurzeszyn, Inowłódz, and other historical churches built between 12th and 20th centuries. The Route runs through three landscape parks: Bolimowski, Spalski i Sulejowski, and river valleys: Utrata, Rawka, Pilica and Korabiewka rivers.

The Route starts in the St. John Cathedral in Warsaw's Old Town (see page 94). Then we move on to get to the Royal Castle Square, the Column of King Sigismund, Warsaw's oldest statue (erected in 1644) and St.

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Photo93

Anne Church (see page 97).

Going further south along the Road of Kings, we pass the sculpted Image of Our Lady of Passawa founded by famous architect J.S.Bellotti in the 18th century in gratitude for saving his family from the plague and for the victorious expedition of King Sobieski in Vienna. The Route carries on to pass Adam Mickiewicz statue and Blessed Virgin Mary and St. Joseph Seminary Church with icons of Our Lady of Rosary and Our Lay of Good Death both crowned in 2014 (see page 105).

Then, there is Piłsudski Square reminding of John Paul II famous mass of 2nd June 1979 (see page 104).

Continuing from Saski Garden along Królewska Street you will reach All Saints Church (see page 111) with four pictures by Michael Willman including one of St. James.

The Route runs on to Warsaw Rising Museum devoted to the 1944 heroic insurrection of people of War-

THE ROUTES OF ST. JAMES

saw against the Nazis. While you are there, you should step into the chapel of the Blessed priest Józef Stanek, the martyr of WWII, for a moment of prayer.

Then take Towarowa and Grójecka streets to get to the Warsaw St. James Church with a huge square-shaped tower looking like it is unfinished, because the tower hasn't got a top. Inside you can see beautiful frescos including one depicting the execution of St. James.

Another interesting place along the Route is the Museum of Icons in Lelechowska Street.

The next stop is outside Warsaw. It is the sanctuary of God's Mercy in Ożarów Mazowiecki with impressive stained glass windows. Not far away there is Pallotine Fathers' Seminary (see page 13).

Then, we head west toward Rokitno, a village where as early as in the 13th century there was a St. James parish and now we can stop to pray in the Assumption of Our Lady Church (see page 25). The next stop is Błonie with the 18th century town hall and St. Trinity Church built in 1288. Moving on westwards, you will get to vivid pilgrimage destination of Niepokalanów and the sanctuary of the Omni-Mediatress of All Glories (see pages 10-12).

From Niepokalanów the Route turns south towards Szymanów the Image Our Lady of Jazłowiec is worshipped. It is taken care of the sisters who also run a secondary school for girls (see page 26).

Going 10 kilometers further on we reach Miedniewice and Holy Family sanctuary and beautiful natural sanctuary of Bolimów forests and the Rawka River to stop at the memorial in Joachimów-Mogily that commemorates the Polish soldiers who died during the Jan-



THE ROUTES OF ST. JAMES

uary Insurrection of 1863. The forest witnessed one of the first ever uses of chemical gases during WWI. The Germans used chlorine making thousands of soldiers die suffering on both sides of the front. They are buried in mass graves in Joachimów-Mogiły, Guzów, Humin and Miedniewice.

In Bolimów Landscape Park we leave Mazovian Voivodship and enter Łódź Voivodship to carry on through Skierniewice, Stara Rawa, Kurzeszyn, Rawa Mazowiecka, Boguszyce, Krzemienica, Studzianna, Inowłódz, Smardzewice to finally reach Piotrków Trybunalski, from where you can continue south along Staropolska and Jasna Góra Routes of St. James and on to Via Regia all the way to Santiago de Compostela.

THE ROUTES OF ST. JAMES

MAZOVIAN ROUTE OF ST. JAMES



Mazovian Route of St. James is 163 kilometer long and runs along the northern Vistula River bank from Warsaw westwards to Dobrzyń upon Vistula. That was an old medieval route the pilgrims used to walk to Santiago de Compostela. Numerous castles, churches, towns and villages along the route provided the moments of respite for the tired pilgrims. They could stop and rest in the St. James Church in Tarchomin, in towns of Wyszogród or Imielnica, monasteries in Bielany, Czerwińsk, Wyszogród, Płock and Dobrzyń. Among the pilgrims were diplomats such as Jan Pilik of Sierpc, Paul of Radzanów who reach Santiago de Compostela in 1380. In Dobrzyń, the pilgrims could feel safe protected by the Order of Knights called Brothers of Dobrzyń that had a task of protecting Poland from the raids of pagan tribes from the north.

The Route runs through exceptional natural areas, many riverside reserves and the Brudzeński Landscape Park.

The Mazovian Route of St. James starts in Warsaw's St. John Cathedral and runs north on what was in the past called the Route of Zakroczym passing the Jesuit Sanctuary of Our Lady the Merciful (see page 93), the statue of the mermaid, the emblem of Warsaw, Barbakan, the medieval defence walls on to New Town and Holy Ghost Church from which the famous

THE ROUTES OF ST. JAMES



Photo94

Warsaw pilgrimage to Częstochowa starts each year since 1711. Then, there is the 17th century baroque St. Jack Church and the house of Mary Skłodowska-Curie which is also a museum. Moving on, we reach St Franciszek Seraficki Church, the former Palace of Sapieha family, the 19th century Cytadela prison walls and finally St.

Stanisław Kostka Church and Blessed Jerzy Popiełuszko Sanctuary (see page 84).

Another stage ends at the former Camaldolese church in the middle of Forest of Bielany now being part of Cardinal Wyszyński University Campus. The church dates back to 1639, when the area was granted to the Camaldolese Brothers from King Władysław IV.

Going further north we get to the bridge and cross the river to reach Tarchomin and the historical St. James Church and the Diocese Seminary (see page 83). Leaving Warsaw, you will reach Jabłonna with its 18th century palace and park open to the public that used to belong to the Poniatowski family.

Further the Route runs along the Vistula River of-

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fering a lot of contact with beautiful nature, rare birds and an occasional beaver or moose. After crossing the Narwia River, you will reach the 19th century Modlin Fortress now without a military purpose but available for sightseeing. Next stop is Zakroczym, an old town first mention in documents from 11th century. Zakroczym has two interesting sacral buildings: the renaissance Elevation of the Holy Cross Church and the 18th century Capuchin Fathers' monastery.

After crossing a few small streams and gorges, you will reach Czerwińsk with one of the most precious historical building in Mazovia, the romance-style Annunciation of Blessed Virgin Mary Church (see page 7). Further journey down the riverside will lead you to the wooden St. John the Baptist Church from 1620 and the town of Wyszogród (see page 27). Then, you pass Zakrzewo Kościelne with its 17th century wooden church and Kępa Polska with 1785 church and the 18 Image of Our Lady finally to reach Płock. First, you will be able to step in the hundred years old St. James Church in Imielnica, now part of Płock. While you are there, it is worth taking a walk to the new housing estate with stroll around the 27 Oak Tree Park. 27 oak trees symbolise 27 years of John Paul's II pontificate.

Once you have sightseen Płock, you go westwards through Brudzeński Landscape Park to the boarder of Dobrzyń Land and the village of Siecień with the 17th century church and the Image of Our Lay of Snow given by the founder of the church Bishop Stanisław Siecieński.

Nearby you can see one of Mazovia's oldest church in Rokicie. The brick church was built in the 13th century.



THE ROUTES OF ST. JAMES

That romance style church (just 18 meters long) has a presbytery, nave and a square-shaped tower. On its walls you can see signatures of pilgrims (the oldest from 1640) and mysterious looking wall holes whose origin and purpose no one knows.

The Route ends in Dobrzyń with the ruins of the medieval castle that was the seat of the Order of Knights that defended Poland from the raids of pagan tribes from the north. The castle used to stand on a hill with a breath taking view of the area.

You can continue your journey on to Włocławek, Kruzwica, Gniezno and further to Santiago de Compostala.

THE ROUTES OF ST. JAMES

PRIMATE'S ROUTE OF ST. JAMES



The Primate's Route of St. James leads from Zuzela to the field Cathedral of Polish Army in Warsaw.

The Route starts in Zuzela and runs along the Bug River eastwards to Nur next to the former Nazi concentration camp at Treblinka, on to Prostynia sanctuary. The Route may not be that full of historical objects and buildings, but the abundance of nature compensates for it.

Zuzela is a village known as a birth place of Primate Wyszyński (see page 61). The next stop is Nur, today a small and quiet village, used to be one of the most important centres of medieval Mazovia. Nur got its town rights in the 15th century, but the parish was probably established earlier in the 14th century. The brick church was built in 1870 after the flood that destroyed the previous one.

The Route carries on running on the Bug dyke and reaches a small village of Treblinka, a place where the Nazis built a labour camp that later became one of the biggest death camps of the WWII times where more than 800,000 Jews were killed. Before withdrawing, the Nazis pulled the camp down to the ground to cover up their crime. Today, there is only a commemorative ramp and an obelisk surrounded by 17,000 stones imitating Jewish tombstones and a symbolic furnace where the crematory used to be. You can also visit a small museum devoted to the victims of the holocaust.

THE ROUTES OF ST. JAMES

Among the riverside meadows there is a small village of Prostynia with a modern church, but the village is interesting for another reason. In 1510, a simple village woman, Małgorzata Błażkowa, experienced a revelation of St. Anne that wished the Holiest Trinity Church was built up on the hill and a chapel in the place of revelation. The owners of the village, the Prostyński family decided to have two churches built the Holiest Trinity Church and St. Anne Church, and while establishing the parish in 1511, Bishop Holszański gave the parish a wooden sculpted Image of the Holy Trinity. The sculpture is 125 cm tall and shows God seating on the throne, holding a cross with Jesus Christ. Over them flies a dove symbolising the Holy Ghost. The sculpture is called „The Throne of Mercy”.

The old church was replaced by the new one in the 19th century, which, in turn, was blown up by the Germans in 1944. After the WWII the present day basilica was erected.

The Primate’s Route of St. James ends at Sadowne where the Independence Route begins.



Photo95

THE ROUTES OF ST. JAMES

INDEPENDENCE ROUTE OF ST. JAMES – VIA LIBERTATIS



The Primate's Route is followed by the Independence Route starting at Sadowne and runs on the Loretto sanctuary, Urle and Jadów. It also branches out to the places like Długosiodła, Sieczychy, Porządzie, Rząśnik, Wyszków, Niegów, Mostówka, Szewnica and back to Jadów and its St. James Church. Then the Route runs through the fields to Tłuszcz, Klembów, Ostrówek and ends at Ossów, where another Route starts.

The Independence Route of St. James starts at St. John the Baptist Church in Sadowne where you can also visit a small ethnographic museum.

Another 20 km of the Route goes through meadows, fields and forests to lead you to the sanctuary of Our Lady of Loretto located in the middle of the forest. This is a monastery of Loretan Sisters and a resort for children from poor families established by Blessed Priest Ignacy Kłopotowski (see page 121). Now a new, big temple is being erected there.

Then you go south to Jadów with St. James Church and the parish established in 1481. Another parish with the St. Cross Church which became a sanctuary in 2013. The Church has a piece of the Holy Cross of the Jesus.

The Independence Route branches out in Jadów and runs to Długosidło through Wyszków, then to Chrzęsne with its 17th century manor house of Stefan Grzybowski and to Postolisko where you can see a neo-gothic St.

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Stanisław Church with a long pointy tower.

From Postolosko there isn't a long way to Tłuszcz, a very young town (town rights received in 1967), but as village part of Podstolisko parish since 15th century. Once passing through the town of Tłuszcz, you will get to the Dębina reservation with many more than 200 years old oak trees. After admiring that wonder of nature you step in a small village of Ostrówek. In 1912 the Lipszyc family moved into the wooden house in the middle of the forest. In 1924 a young maid started working there. Her name was Helena Kowalska, the future St. Sister Faustyna. She worked there to save some money before going to the monastery.

Two kilometers away, in Klembów you will visit the 1829 St Clemens Church founded by General Franciszek Żymirski, the hero of battle of Olszynka Grochowska. The nowadays its neo-gothic look the church owes to the reconstruction works at the end of 19th century.

The Route turns to south-west to Leśniakowizna and Ossów. The latter a crucial role in the 1920 Battle of Warsaw. It was here that the advancing Bolshevik army was stopped and forced to withdraw. Many soldiers died including Chaplain Ignacy Skorupka. There is a cross in the exact place where he died and across Długa River there is an Our Lady Victorious chapel and a cemetery of the fallen.

THE ROUTES OF ST. JAMES

MIRACLE UPON VISTULA ST. JAMES'S ROUTE



It's the continuation of the Independence Route. It is only 35 kilometre long, but runs through two basilicas and four cathedrals. The Route was drawn to commemorate the places related to the great victory of 1920.

It starts in Radzymin near the Transfiguration of Jesus Collegiate Church founded by Eleonore Czartoryska in 1780. Despite many reconstructions throughout the past, the church remained its classicistic design. The parish was established in 1473, two years before Radzymin received its town rights. Out of the old town market goes John Paul II Avenue that leads towards the cemetery with specially built graves of the soldiers fallen during the fights with the Bolsheviks. (see page 76).

The Route then leads through the battle fields of Ciemna and Czarna and on to the town of Kobylka that was first set up in the 14th century as Targowa Wola. After incorporation of Mazovia to the Kingdom of Poland, the village belonged to the King and then moved on to the private hands in the 18th century to become a property of Bishop Marcin Załuski who founded the late baroque style church and a printing house in 1740. The village received its town rights in 1751 and changed its name to Załuszczyń (from the name of the Bishop). However, the location of the town was not successful at that time and Kobylka remained a village. The next owner, Count Unrug established a famous weaving

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factory in 1778. In 1969, the village finally received the town rights.

The most valuable historical building of the town is the late baroque style Holy Trinity Basilica with a wavy looking facade and two high towers. According to the general fashion of the period, the church is richly decorated both on the outside and on the inside. All the walls and ceilings are covered with frescos and other decorative drawings. The frescos in the nave and the presbytery are the work of Grzegorz Łodziński, the side naves were decorated by a Jesuit Ignacy Doretti in mid-18th century. The church was designed by the famous Italian architect Guido Longhi. There is a statue of Załuski brothers next to the Church.

From there we go straight to Ossów (see page 156) and further on along a forest path to the Military Technical Institute in Zielonka. The village of Zielonka existed as early as in the 17th century, yet it grew considerably after the construction of Warsaw to St. Petersburg railroad in 1962. Two years before, Zielonka became a town. Then the Route runs to Ząbki, another Greater Warsaw town that flourished when the railroad was laid. During the Battle of Warsaw in 1920, there was a major field hospital in Ząbki. The soldiers that died of injuries in the hospital, were buried in the local cemetery where you can see a memorial with a large, white eagle.

Carrying on down Ziemowita Street, you will pass a modest looking church that was built in gratitude for the Poland's regaining of independence. The Resurrection Church was consecrated by Achille Ratti, the then Apostol Nuncio in Poland, later Pope Pious XI. The

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church has recently been refurbished.

To reach the next stop, you have to cross numerous rail track, but soon, you will be able to see the tower of The Holiest Heart of Jesus Church about which Achille Ratti said that it was the most beautiful church of Warsaw.

Passing the Wschodni Railway Station, you get to Our Lady Victorious Church in Kamionek (see page 119).

Take Targowa Street and you will reach an important place for the 1920 Battle of Warsaw. In the building of the secondary school, established in 1885, there was headquarters of the battalion that was victorious in the Battle of Ossów. Priest Ignacy Skorupko, the chaplain of the battalion, advanced with his soldiers and died in the battle.

Opposite the school there is Maria Magdalena Orthodox Church that survived the WWII. The interiors have the original design with beautiful frescos and an impressive iconostasis. Next to the temple, stands a memorial devoted to the victims of the Praga Carnage of 1894.

The Route then leads to the Warsaw's highest church, the Warsaw and Praga Cathedral with its impressive towers reaching as high as 75 meters.

Having crossed the river, you get to St. Anne Church which is said to be a sheer handbook of the history of architecture with its many naves and chapels representing different eras in architecture. (see page 97).

The Route carries on through the Castle Square and along Piwna Street to St. Martin Church built in the 14th century and completely destroyed during the WWII. The church was rebuilt after the war apart from



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the cross that is half burned and a witness of those terrible times. Also the Images Stations of the Cross are worth special attention. The Images show Jesus's Stations on the ruins of Warsaw. Right after St. Martin Church there is Decapitation of St. John the Baptist Basilica (see page 94).

Right beside it stands the Jesuits' Our Lady Merciful Church with renaissance facade in front (see page 93).

The Miracle upon Vistula Route ends at the Polish Army Field Cathedral, a church where the funeral of Ignacy Skorupko started. He was buried in the Powązki Cemetery.



Photo96

THE ROUTES OF ST. JAMES

EAST MAZOVIA AND PODLASIE ROUTE OF ST. JAMES



There are actually two Routs:

The north one runs through: Drohiczyn – Przesmyki – Paprotnia – Rozbity Kamień – Węgrów – Starawieś – Jadów (approx. 104 kilometer long, partly marked).

The south one runs through: Rozbity Kamień – Siedlce – Wodynie – Seroczyn – Wielgolas – Góra Kalwaria (approx. 83 kilometer long, partly marked).

The north route starts in Drohiczyn, one of the oldest towns in Podlasie. Its name comes from the Baltic language word drages which means road. In 1253 Russian King Daniel Romanowicz was crowned here. Drohiczyn received its town rights in 1498 and was a long term capital of Podlaskie Voivodship. This is why this town with only 2100 people has a lot of historical buildings and objects such as Castle Hill with the ruins of the old castle, The Holiest Trinity Cathedral, Benedictine Sisters' Church, Franciscan Brothers' Church with a diocese museum and St. Nickolas Orthodox Church.

Further on, the Route takes us to the wooden St. James Church in Przesmyki built in 1776. The Church was the centre of an old parish established in 1224 incorporating as many as 27 villages. Next stop is Paprotnia with its 1750 wooden church. The Russian authorities closed the church that fell into decay. It was reconstructed at the beginning of the 20th century and the parish was renewed by Bishop Przeździecki.



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In close by Patrykozy stands a beautifully reconstructed palace originally built in 1843 for General Teodor Lubicz-Szydłowski. The Route continues to Rozbity Kamień (Broken Stone). The strange is said to come from a pagan sacrifice altar smashed by a lightning. Rozbity Kamień has the 18th century Holy Trinity and St. Nickolas Church founded by Kazimierz Jastrzębski, now not used as the new church was built in 1995. You travel on to Węgrów (see page 58) full of historical places and to Stara Wieś with its neo-romance St. Michael Church and the 17th century palace and park that used to belong to the noble Polish families such as Radziwiłłs, Krasieńskis, Ossolińskis, Golicyns. Now it is owned by the Central Bank of Poland.

The north Route goes on to Jadów to join the Independence Route (see page 65).

The south Route starts in Rozbity Kamień and runs south to Siedlce, the region's capital (see page 48). From there, it runs to the battle fields of Ignanie and Wodynie with its 18th century church (see page 60).



Photo97

The south Route ends at Seroczyn and the neo-gothic St. James Church (see page 57). The Mazovian Brotherhood of St. James gave the church a wooden sculpture of St. James the Apostol. From Seroczyn you can continue on the Lublin Route of St. James.

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cit@zyrardow.pl
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www.cit.radom.pl

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Warsaw

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