



MAZOVIA

For active people

Mazovia Water tourism

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Mazovia

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MAZOVIA. WATER TOURISM

Mazovian water reservoirs are favourite weekend resting places of the inhabitants of major towns and cities. The largest clusters of allotments and holiday centres are on the banks of the Narew, Bug, Liwiec and Świder rivers, as well as on the shores of Zegrzyński Lake and the lakes in the Płock area. The standard of these holiday centres is gradually improving. Most of them are open to the public and, apart from other attractions, offer access to the beach and water equipment rental.

For sailors the most attractive are the Zegrzyński and Włocławskie Lakes. Water sports enthusiasts will surely take a liking to the Zegrzyński Lake – numerous marinas, water equipment rentals, clubs offering sailing licence courses and taverns resounding with shanties – all that makes a really tempting proposal.

IT IS SO CLOSE TO THE WATER

You sit in the office and the wind raging outside invariably makes you think of a yacht under full sail? Do you dream about a wild river and a real canoe challenge, while counting the days left to your summer holidays? You do not have to wait till your holidays or look for adventure hundreds of kilometres away. For thrilling canoeing a weekend will be enough; you will manage to catch the wind in your sails within several hours even. In the Mazowieckie Voivodeship all seekers of water adventures can find something for themselves – from the still virgin Vistula, where it is easier to encounter a beaver than a man, to the bustling harbours of the Zegrzyński Lake (Zalew Zegrzyński).

Looking at the map you can easily see that there are many water reservoirs in Mazovia. The valley of the Vistula is the backbone of this region. The largest of Polish rivers is fed by numerous tributaries. The Pilica, Świder, Jeziorka and Bzura flow from the south, the Wkra – from the north. Two other big Polish rivers head towards the Vistula from the east. The Narew is joined by the rivers which cut across environmentally attractive Green Forest (Puszcza Zielona), including the Omulew, popular among canoeists. The Bug

from the south is fed by the Liwiec, upon which lie the most popular Mazovian summer resorts. Within the borders of Mazovia there is also a part of the Gostynin-Włocławek Lake District, whose landscape resembles the terrain typical of the north of Poland. Several dozen lakes, hidden among the fields and forests, await water sports enthusiasts. The largest of them is the Zdwojskie Lake (Jeziro Zdwojskie). A belt of water with an area of over 350 ha picturesquely glistens among post-glacial hills. Since this shallow reservoir is only 5 m deep, its water quickly reaches the ideal temperature for a swim. To dive deeper, you have to go to the Białe Lake (over 33 m deep). Since at the same time it is one of the cleanest reservoirs in Mazovia, a swim in it will be very pleasant. Also the Lucieńskie Lake (Jeziro Lucieńskie) and the Łąckie Duże lake are popular resting places.

The water panorama of Mazovia would not be complete without the artificial reservoirs. The largest in Poland - as to the area – is the Włocławskie Lake (Zalew Włocławski), while the liveliest - the sub-Warsaw Zegrzyński Lake (Jeziro Zegrzyńskie). Three smaller lakes – Soczewka near Płock, Ruda in the surroundings of Mława and Nowe Miasto in the Płońsk district - are mainly visited by weekend sunbathers and anglers.



GREEN HEART OF THE NATURE

The valleys of Mazovian rivers are – environmentally - very attractive. To a large extent they have retained their natural state and are really wild oases in the Mazovian landscape. Unregulated, meandering channels can change their directions after each surge of water. The typical waterside flora – multi-species riparian forests – is sometimes compared to that of a jungle, due to its richness. High escarpments of river valleys are a typical

feature of the Mazovian landscape. From their tops, which are sometimes several dozen metres above the river level, you can enjoy wide views. The most beautiful are the panoramas of the Vistula valley near Góra Kalwaria and near Zakroczym. The valleys of Mazovian rivers are habitats for many bird species. Swallows and kingfishers nest on the riverside embankments, while on the sandbanks you can encounter plovers, terns and gulls. In late spring, the waterside forests resound with the songs of nightingales.



Over the last few years the water purity in Mazovia has been systematically improved. The purest water flows in the Narew and its right-bank tributaries. The poorest prospects are for the improvement of the water quality of the rivers running through big urban centres.

FOR SUNBATHERS AND EXPLORERS

Most of the Mazovian rivers are suitable for canoeing. On the Vis-

tula, Bug and Narew you can experience sailing down great rivers. From among their tributaries, Omulew, Świder, Wkra and Pilica are the most "sailor-friendly". The inconspicuous sub-Warsaw Jeziorka river may be a challenge even to the most experienced canoeists. Regardless of how difficult canoeing is, the tourist facilities are still very limited. However, there are already specialised companies which organise canoeing on any Mazovian river on request. You can expect them not only to rent the equipment, but

also to organise camps, set up field kitchens and even provide additional attractions.

WATER SPORTS ENTHUSIASTS' YEAR

The water season in Mazovia begins with the long May weekend. Then it bursts into life, but in summer it dies down, because yachts and canoes explore water reservoirs distant from the capital city. If the weather is favourable, autumn

weekends allow a prolonging of the summer activities. The toughest sailors and canoeists practice their hobbies even in November. If winter is severe and the Zegrzyński Lake is ice-covered, you can enjoy ice sailing.



THE VISTULA AND THE WŁOCŁAWSKIE LAKE

The longest river in Poland runs through the Mazowieckie voivodeship with a length of over 320 km. The reaches of the Vistula can be divided into three parts: above Warsaw, between Warsaw and Płock, and below Płock. The Vistula is mainly a wild, unregulated river. The width of its channel in many places exceeds one kilometre. The surface of the river is interspersed with numerous sandbanks, little islands and oxbow lakes. The level of water in the river changes according to the weather. It is the lowest from the end of August to October, the highest – in March and April, as well as at the turn of June and July. The Vistula easily changes its direction. After each surge of water the river channel may look different.

A different situation is near Płock. In this area the level of river water rose due to a dam built in Włocławek in the 1960's. The Włocławek's water reservoir is the largest in area and the second largest in capacity in Poland. The dam affects the look of the river over a length of almost 60 km, as far as Kępa Polska village lying above Płock. The Włocławek water reservoir is not a typical artificial lake,

but a slower and wider river. From one shore to another there is usually about 2 km.

Worth seeing

There is no doubt that contact with nature is the largest attraction of canoeing down the Vistula. The islands have been settled by beavers; the steep escarpments are inhabited by colourful kingfishers. You can easily discern them, because there are many more of them here than in other parts of Poland. In the middle reaches of the Vistula also nests the largest population of common gulls. But the Vistula is not only nature. For centuries the river has been an important transport route, and on its banks sprang up castles, monasteries and towns. The waters of the Vistula reflect two cities important for the history of Mazovia – Płock and Warsaw. A visit to each of these cities may be the aim of a separate trip. On your way you will pass by many smaller, but interesting, towns. It is worth measuring the thickness of the walls of the fortress in Modlin, listening to the silence of the Romanesque basilica in Czerwińsk and checking in Wyszogród what is left of the longest bridge in Europe.

Before you set off...

The Vistula water trail is marked, but the state of it leaves a lot to





be desired. Binoculars - to look for markers of shoals - should be the compulsory equipment of larger vessels. The orientation on the river is facilitated by metal plates, placed on the banks, which show the number of kilometres from the particular place to the river confluence.

The route along the Vistula can be recommended both to canoeists and sailors, for whom squaring up to the changeable, grand river can be a real challenge. However, the vessel should have a shallow

draught; otherwise the shoals can win a victory over the crew's exploratory impulse. Planning the expedition you have to be prepared for really wild canoeing. Apart from the Włocławskie Lake, where you can find some ports, harbours and clubs, you have to rely mostly on yourself. This also concerns accommodation and catering. Camping on one of the Vistula's islands is a unique opportunity to visit the world of beavers and kingfishers. Remember - you are only a guest there - do not leave any rubbish!

THE ROUTE:

MODLIN – NOWY DUNINÓW

The presented route shows two Mazovian natures of the Vistula. At first you will go down an unregulated river, accompanied only by otters and gulls. At the end of your trip you will reach the wide Włocławskie Lake. The trail is 99.5 km long, so you should allow three to five days for the excursion. You may freely lengthen the route, launching your canoe or yacht as early as in Warsaw, or even in sub-Cracow Niepołomice. If you grow fond of the Vistula, the final destination will probably be the Baltic.

Launch (or rent) your canoe in Silurus port, which is on the right bank of the Narew, beside a road bridge. From here, it is about 700 m to the railway station.

Before you set off, it is worth visiting the Modlin Fortress, whose red walls are mirrored in the water where the Narew flows into the Vistula. This astonishingly huge military building was erected to the order of Napoleon, who noticed the strategic importance of this place. After the November Uprising (1830 -1831) the Russians significantly developed the fortifications, adding the external bastions and six forts. By the First World War two rings of forts sprang up around the fortress. The most distant fort was built 8 km from the fortress. The inner fortress is surrounded by fortified barracks, erected from 1864 to 1875. They are 2.3 km long and are regarded as the longest building in Europe. Over the centuries the Modlin fortress was garrisoned by the Russian, German and Polish armies. The defensive war of 1939, during which the garrison heroically defended the fortress until 29th September, was a glorious episode in the history of Modlin.

The fortress is still a military object, which is why the inner citadel can be visited only with a guide. (Contact: tel. 604 528 293, 600 456 959 or (22) 828 90 02; www.twierzamodlin.pl; e-mail: info@twierzamodlin.pl; ad-

0 km
Modlin

dress: Park Militarny Twierdzy Modlin, ul. Mickiewicza 99, 05-100 Nowy Dwór Mazowiecki 5). Apart from the fortified architecture you can also enjoy a wide panorama of the surroundings.

0,5 km

Confluence
of the Narew
and the Vistula

On a peninsula in the fork of the rivers stand out the red walls of a huge 19th century granary. To the right stretches a beautiful panorama of the fortress and in front of you a road bridge on the route from Warsaw to Gdańsk is already visible.

5,5 km

Zakroczym Island

Just behind the bridge, on the right, begins an almost 3 km long sandy island, covered with a riparian forest of poplars and willows. This is really a kingdom of birds. To protect the rare water bird species which nest there, "Zakole Zakroczymskie" reserve has been established.

6 km

Zakroczym

On a high escarpment (1 km from the river) lies one of the oldest Mazovian towns. Presumably, it existed as early as in the 11th century. In this place the river was crossed by two important trade routes: salt and amber. Since 1374 little Zakroczym was the main town of the Zakroczym district (Ziemia Zakroczymska). Many Duke's conventions, on which Mazovian laws were established, took place in this town. Zakroczym, fallen into decline after the Swedish invasion of 1655, has never regained its former glory. Today this sleepy little town has 3,500 inhabitants. On the riverside embankment rises a 16th century parish church. It is a Gothic-Renaissance temple, typical of Mazovia. The two little towers adjacent to the façade are very characteristic. In the southern chapel there is an altar with late Renaissance sculptures from the beginning of the 17th century. Also it is worth visiting the baroque Capuchin church. In front of the temple lies an atmospheric courtyard, surrounded by a wall with gates; the monastery houses a museum of sacred art.

On the high right bank stands a 19th century palace, in which a youth hostel is located. The building is surrounded by a 7 ha park, in which you can admire splendid larches, a four hundred year old lime-tree and a charming hornbeam avenue. It is said that some of the trees were planted by King Michał Korybut Wiśniowiecki.

The right bank of the river is still precipitous, and its height is almost 30 m. The escarpment is cut by picturesque gorges and ravines. The geological history of the region has been recorded in the naked walls of the precipice. Just above the water level you will see post-glacial boulders. Over them rises a greyish wall of moraine clays. They are resistant to washing away; therefore the escarpment is so steep. In some places of the higher parts of the escarpment you can discern narrow strips. These are varved clays. The darker layers correspond to the periods of climate cooling, the lighter ones are the traces of warmer periods.

Along the left, lower bank you can see now numerous islands and sandbanks. Some of them are so vast that it is hard to establish what is an island and what is the mainland.

On the high, right bank of the Vistula you can see church towers in the distance. The basilica in Czerwińsk is one of very few Romanesque monuments in Mazovia. The abbey was established in 1148 by Canons Regular, brought from the distant Lombardy by Aleksander of Malonne. Despite the later architectural changes, the temple has retained many original features. Its stone towers have narrow, double windows and arrow slits. Inside the temple you can admire the preserved – the largest in Poland - fragments of Romanesque paintings and valuable Gothic frescos. In the main altar there is the painting of Our Lady of Czerwińsk, famous for mir-

13,5 km

Smoszewo

17 km

Miączynek

21,5 km

Nowy Secmin

25 km

Czerwińsk



acles. This oil painting, painted in 1612 by Łukasz of Łowicz, is a copy of the Roman original located in the basilica of Santa Maria Maggiore.

Since 1923 the monastery and the church have been looked after by Salesians. The Brothers run a museum which displays valuable exhibits related to the history of the church and presents an interesting exhibition devoted to Salesian missions. From the monastery courtyard stretches a wide view over the Vistula valley and the Kampinos Forest which lies behind the river.

At the foot of the monastery lies a small sleepy town. Charming, one-storey houses stand by narrow lanes. However, the town has not always been so quiet. In the Middle Ages Czerwińsk was an important centre of grain trade. It went down in the history of Poland in the first days of July 1410, when near Czerwińsk, under command of King Ladislaus Jagiełło, gathered the army heading for Grunwald. The army crossed the Vis-

tula river over a specially built portable bridge, which - for those times - was a wonder of technology. The bridge was supported by 168 boats. After the victory at Grunwald, the ruler presented the Czerwińsk church with his basinet as a token of his gratitude. Have a closer look at the portal of the basilica. The left column has visible traces of sword sharpening, presumably left by the knights preparing for the battle with the Teutonic Knights.

Along the left bank stretches Kępa Wyszogrodzka. This vast island is over 3 km long. On the right, high, bank you can see the buildings of Wyszogród. The settlement was mentioned as early as in the 11th century, and in 1398 obtained its town charter. In the Middle Ages in Wyszogród there were an important river port, warehouse and well-known cloth workshops. Today it is a small, quiet town. We recommend seeing two historic temples: the Gothic-baroque church of the Franciscans and late baroque church of the Holy Trinity. Until recently Wyszogród was famous for the longest wooden bridge in Europe. It was 1,285 m long and combined with the bridge over the Bzura - almost 2 km. The bridge was built in 1944 by Polish and Russian prisoners of war. Every year the poor old thing was damaged by ice floes and flood waters, therefore a decision was taken to build a new crossing. The right bridge abutment has been retained as a memento. Today it serves as an observation deck. In the distance, above the Vistula, you can see the towers of Czerwińsk basilica. Beautiful views may be also enjoyed from the northern abutment of the new bridge built nearby. Also this crossing belongs to "the mosts" - it is the longest concrete bridge in Poland.

36 km

Wyszogród

37 km

The confluence
of the Bzura
and the Vistula

53,5 km

Zakrzewo Island

This stretch of the Vistula belongs almost entirely to birds. The fairway leads among numerous islands. They are ornithologically protected. Among other species gulls, plovers and terns nest there.

63 km

Białobrzeskie Islands

Now you travel across a paradise of birds, protected by two further reserves: "Wyspy Białobrzeskie" on the right and "Ławice Troszyńskie" on the left.

65,5 km

Wykowo Island

On the right bank of the Vistula there is "Kępa Wykowska" – the last in the row of ornithological reserves.

72,5 km

Dobrzyków

A large village on the left riverbank. The wooden church was presumably erected in the mid- 18th century. The interior décor remained Gothic-Renaissance and baroque.

81,5 km

Płock

One of the most important cities of the historic Mazovia is visible from a distance. It was the seat of Kings Ladislaus Herman and Bolesław III Wry-mouthed (Bolesław Krzywousty) and in subsequent centuries – of the Mazovian dukes. The present-day Płock is inhabited by over 130,000 people. Before you reach the centre of the city, you will pass under two bridges – road and railway. The larger part of the city lies on the right bank; on the other side of the river there is Radziwie quarter, in which the biggest Polish river shipyard is located. The oldest part of Płock is situated on a high escarpment, called Tumskie Hill (Tumskie Wzgórze). At its foot, near the promenade for pedestrians, there is Morka sailing club, the most active water sports enthusiasts' centre in the city.

In Płock many interesting remnants of the past have been preserved. The most valuable monuments are on Tumskie Hill. The cathedral church of the Assumption was erected in 1126 – 1141 as a brick building. Since it was rebuilt several times over the centuries, the mass



of the temple bears traces of diverse styles. The layout is Romanesque, two tall towers, gable and buttresses are Gothic features, while the dome with a lantern is Renaissance. The present look of the interior decor was designed by Stefan Szyller at the beginning of the 20th century. The rich furnishings of the cathedral come from different periods. Between the vestibule and the central nave there are the famous **the doorway of Płock (drzwi płockie)** – a copy of double Romanesque doors of 1154, consisting of forty eight bronze plates with bas-reliefs depicting scenes from the Bible, allegorical images, as well as the effigies of the founder and the creators of the door. In the Royal Chapel (Kaplica Królewska), adjacent to the left nave, Kings Ladislaus Herman and Bolesław III Wry-mouthed are buried. Between the 11th and 15th centuries it was also the place of burial for Mazovian and Płock dukes. From the cathedral square stretches a wonderful view over the

Vistula valley. The river is wide here – it is because the Włocławek dam is not far away. On the opposite bank you can see in the distance a large wood complex of the Gostynin Lake District (Pojezierze Gostynińskie).

A neo-Gothic building from the beginning of the 20th century, situated at the back of the cathedral, houses the Diocesan Museum (Muzeum Diecezjalne). Its rich collections include over eight thousand diverse exhibits. In the sculpture section you can find medieval and baroque sacred sculptures, as well as folk saint figures. The museum displays also valuable incunabula and antique books, including the Płock Bible of the 12th century.

Once the most important building on Tumskie Hill was the seat of the ruler. Of the Castle of Mazovian Dukes only two Gothic towers – Clock (Zegarowa) and Gentry's (Szlachecka) – and a fragment of the defensive wall have survived. Presently in the remains of the Castle there is the Mazovian Museum (Muzeum Mazowieckie). The Museum is known, above all, for the largest in Poland collection of Art Nouveau. It displays decorative furniture, utilitarian articles with smooth lines, fabulously colourful glass and fanciful jewellery. Also you can admire paintings by the most outstanding artists of the period and an exceptional sculpture collection.

92 km

Brwilno

Quite a large village on the higher, right bank. We recommend you to stop there for a while to see the rococo wooden church of 1740. The interior décor is late Renaissance and baroque.

95 km

Ujście Skrwy Lewej

On the left bank of the Vistula, behind a narrow peninsula, hides Soczewka, a summer resort village. Near the village the Skrwa Lewa joins the Włocławskie Lake; there is a dam on this tributary of the Vistula, thanks to which a small artificial water reservoir, a favourite weekend resting place of Płock's inhabitants, has been created.

On the right bank stretches the Brudzeń Landscape Park (Brudzeński Park Krajobrazowy) crossed by the Skrwa Prawa which feeds the Vistula here. The charm of this spot is determined by the diversified lie of the land and the variety of woods, including beautiful broadleaved forests.

On the left bank there is a solid, and almost always empty, port in Duninów, which is a convenient shelter in case of stormy weather and a good place to end this trip. Before leaving this village it is worth seeing the romantic remnants of the 19th century mansion of the Ike-Dunikowski family. The large palace is accompanied by a little hunting palace and a neo-Gothic castle with a round tower. In the landscape park you can admire ancient trees: wide-stretching small-leaved lime, Sitka spruce and London planes.

96 kmThe confluence
of the Skrwa Prawa
and the Vistula**98 km**

Duninów Nowy

Practical information

Modlin; Silurus s.c., ul. Mieszka I 6, tel. (22) 775 59 01, www.silurus.pl, canoe rental, gondola rides, beach, bar.

Płock; "Morka" - division of Polish Tourist Country-Lovers' Society (PTTK Oddział Nadwiślański "Morka"), ul. Rybaki 10, tel. (24) 262 25 43.

Duninów Nowy;
the Water Hostel of Zgierz Water Sports Club
(Stanica Wodna Zgierskiego Klubu Sportów Wodnych),
ul. Kasztanowa 1, tel. 603 314 577.

Punting combined with angling training.
Marek Szymański, who knows fishing better than anyone, will help you to discover the charm of the Vistula and reveal the secrets of angling. You can also watch eagles with him. (Contact: www.sum.webpark.pl, tel. 502 227 228, (22) 652 19 21 or through "The Angling World" Publishing House (Wydawnictwo "Wędkarski Świat" – ul. Miedziana 11, Warszawa).

Five stars on the Vistula. Cruises on the "Frederic Chopin" luxury ship on the route from Gdańsk to Płock and when the water level is high – to Warsaw; www.balticgate.pl.



THE BUG

If a river beauty contest was announced, the Bug would certainly have the biggest chance to win it. The beauty goes hand-in-hand with the size. The source of the river is in the Ukrainian Podole Upland (Wyżyna Podolska), 772 km from the place where it empties into the Zegrzyński Lake. A significant stretch of the Bug is a border river. For over 300 km it marks out the border of Poland, and for another several dozen kilometres it separates Mazovia from Podlasie.

The Bug has not changed much since the Middle Ages, when it was one of the important stretches of the amber route. The river has retained its natural character. The depth of the Bug and the width of its channel are very changeable. The water level is the highest in April, after the spring thaw, as well as after the June rains. The Bug is usually shallowest in September. The river flows relatively fast; sometimes it is very fickle. It bends, menders and is interspersed with picturesque tiny islands. The valley of the river is quite narrow. Its bottom is covered with green meadows, and high slopes give charm to it. As an appreciation of its landscape values, two landscape parks have been created in the Bug val-

ley – “Podlaski Przełom Bugu” and “The Bug River Valley Landscape Park” (“Nadbużański Park Krajobrazowy”).

Worth seeing

The Bug will give you a unique opportunity to break away from civilisation. The views changing behind each bend, birds circling above your head and fish splashing in the water – those who crave for contact with nature will find there all they dream about. Going down the river you will have a great opportunity to get acquainted with the monuments and multinational culture of the borderland. In Podlasie there is the charming Mielnik village and Drohiczyn, the former main town of the region. In Mazovia, it is worth visiting Zuzela, a tiny village where the primate Stefan Wyszyński was born, and seeing the intricately ornamented ceiling of the church in Brok. On the riversides, by sandy beaches, also lie popular summer resorts. The best known are Serpelice and Kamieńczyk.

Before you set off...

Going down the Bug you will encounter many forks. Fortunately, the route is marked and we recommend you to follow the marks, especially when the water level is low. Thus you will avoid numerous vast shoals. There are no water hostels





on the banks of the Bug, but in the season many holiday centres are open. On the route you will pass by many villages where you can buy food and water. In case of breaks in the weather you can find shelter in one of the numerous tourism farms. Upon the water there are plenty of places convenient for resting and camping.

THE ROUTE:

NIEMIRÓW – SEROŁEK

The proposed route covers the entire Bug trail – from the border of Poland to the Zegrzyński Lake. The trail is not difficult – it is suitable for beginners. You have to allow 8 – 10 days to travel over two hundred kilometres.

The village, beautifully situated upon the Bug, was once a town, the evidence of which is the huge church of St. Stanislaus. The white-plastered building was erected in 1620, and reconstructed in 1791 after devastation. Apart from the church, there are not many bricked buildings in Niemirów. Although charming, the cottages of Podlasie are mostly holiday cottages; however, they have retained their traditional character.

It is worth pulling in to the beach of the holiday centre. This popular summer resort lies within "Podlaski Przełom Bugu" landscape park. The protected area stretches for several dozen kilometres along the southern part of the Bug valley. The river cuts through moraine hills; the height of the valley edges reaches several dozen metres. Down the valley there are mostly drained meadows; while the uplands are covered with pine forests.

One of attractions of Serpelice is the so called Calvary of Podlasie, being a replica of the Jerusalem Way of the Cross. The largest of the chapels – the chapel of Our Lord's Crucifixion - stands on the highest hill in the forests of Serpelice.

A summer resort village situated among riverside meadows. In Zabuże there are many tourism farms.

One of the most beautiful little towns upon the Bug is picturesquely located on a high escarpment. The vast

0 km
Niemirów

10 km
Serpelice

14 km
Zabuże

15 km
Mielnik



views, wide waters of the Bug and numerous historic mementos of the stormy past make Mielnik an interesting tourist resort. It is worth seeing the mysterious ruins of the castle church from the beginning of the 15th century, as well as the 19th century Jewish synagogue and Orthodox church.

In the season the ferry is as busy as a bee, because it links beautiful Mielnik with the tourist centre on the left bank. You have to watch out, as the steel line hangs low above the water.

In the pine woods on the left bank hide numerous holiday centres.

Under the railway bridge there is an island. Less than one kilometre further on, the river turns left and splits into four narrow channels.

The former main town of Podlasie looks exceptionally beautiful from the river side. At the foot of the escarpment there is a ferry point with a bar open in season. Nearby a wide, sandy beach invites you to take a swim. It is worth climbing up a little hill to breathe the sleepy atmosphere of the little town of Podlasie and see the numerous monuments of sacred architecture, such as: the cathedral and College of Piarists of the 18th century, the post-Franciscan church and monastery complex from the turn of the 17th century, the church and convent of the Benedictines of the 18th century regarded as a zero-category national monument, and the Orthodox church of the 19th century of St. Nicolas the Miracle Worker. From the old town, called the Castle

16,9 km

The ferry

22 km

Mierzvice

26,2 km

The railway bridge on the route from Hajnówka to Siedlce

30,9 km

The road bridge on the route from Białystok to Lublin

48,5 km

Drohiczyn

50,5 km

Bużyska

Hill (Góra Zamkowa) you can enjoy breathtaking views over the Bug valley.

When you pass by the buildings of the village on the left side, the Bug will show you how much it is changeable. At first the river widens significantly, surrounding a large island. Below the island the Bug turns at first left, then sharply right, and further on narrows to 60 m, a width very small for this river.

56,7 km

The confluence of the Mysł and the Bug

After the diminutive, left-side tributary joins the Bug, the main river turns sharply left. Behind the bend, opens a wonderful view over a huge, sandy escarpment. Flocks of swallows, which nest in it, fly around.

59,5 km

The road bridge on the route between Sokołów Podlaski and Drohiczyń

On the left bank there are ruins of a 19th century Orthodox church and an Orthodox monastery complex. From here you can admire a broad view over the Bug valley, which widens in this place.

66 km

"Mołozewska Dune" reserve

This may be the most beautiful spot on the whole route. The Bug gently curves left. The left bank is protected as a nature reserve. Many rare water bird species nest there. Among others, you can see ringed plover, dunlin and little terns. Behind the bend, the river runs between two escarpments, forming a postcard-like gorge. To the left there is a second reserve – "Mołozewska Escarpment" ("Skarpa Mołozewska"). The high edge of the Bug is covered with rare species of thermophilic plants.

71 km

Gródek

The left riverbank is occupied by a summer resort village. Look out for traces of an early medieval town

and remnants of fortifications. We recommend you to visit the 18th century wooden church, built originally as a Greek Catholic church. Below the village in the Bug you can encounter numerous shoals and tiny islands. The trail runs along the left side.

A range of several, quite large, islands stretches for two kilometres.

Now you enter the area of the Bug River Valley Landscape Park. The biggest area of this type in Poland covers over 57,000 ha, stretching as far as the Zegrzyński Lake. The Park includes the picturesque river valley with numerous old river beds, meadows, pastures, as well as vast woods.

In the Middle Ages a defensive castle stood on the high, right riverbank. In the 16th century Nur was a grain port on a water trail on which grain was floated to the Baltic towns. As the legend says, here Queen Bona hid the keys to the treasury, under a large boulder. This boulder lies in the river and is visible at the low water level. Today Nur is a quiet summer resort village.

For the following 20 km the river is straight and quite monotonous.

In a little village on the right bank of the Bug, Stefan Cardinal Wyszyński – the Millennium Primate - was born. In Zuzela you can visit the Museum of the Millennium Primate's Childhood (Muzeum Lat Dziecięcych Prymasa Tysiąclecia), located in a renovated wooden building of a former school. In one room, a class room from the

82,6 km

Islands

88,9 km

The confluence of the Nurzec and the Bug

93 km

"The Bug River Valley Landscape Park"

99,5 km

Nur

100,3 km

The road bridge between Czyżew Osada and Ceranów

105,5 km

Zuzela

beginning of the 20th century has been reconstructed, while in the others - the house of the Wyszyński family and numerous family mementoes.

122,6 km

The bridge on the road from Małkinia to Sokołów Podlaski

124,6 km

The railway bridge on the route from Warsaw to Białystok

137,2 km

Brok

A convenient location at the intersection of trade routes, leading from the Baltic to Ruthenia and from Lithuania to Cracow, made Brok a castellan's town as early as in the 13th century. It was granted a town charter in 1501. Squeezed between the river and the White Forest (Puszcza Biała), the little town is presently a popular summer resort. A sandy beach lies almost in the centre of the town. Along charming lanes stand wooden houses from the beginning of the 20th century.

On the marketplace rise the red walls of the most valuable monument of the town - the parish church of St. Andrew the Apostle. It was erected from 1541 to 1560 and founded by the Płock bishop, Andrzej Noskowski. The temple combines two styles - although the mass is Gothic, the gable refers to Renaissance. Inside you should pay attention to the presbytery and a beautiful Renaissance ceiling of the nave. The characteristic motif of circles linked by strips of wood is called "Pułtusk motif", because in Pułtusk collegiate church there is a similar ceiling (both buildings were designed by the same architect). The baroque main altar, with a painting representing Christ on the Cross, dates back to 1742. However, more interesting is the late Renaissance side altar in a shape of Jesse's tree. The painting from the end of the 16th century depicting the Virgin Mary with the baby Jesus, placed in this altar, is attributed to the Italian school.

In a grove on the outskirts of the town you can find the mysterious ruins of a tower. This is the only remnant of the summer residence of Płock bishops, erected upon the Bug at the beginning of the 17th century. It is planned to reconstruct the palace.

From this place the Bug begins to meander and numerous old river beds appear. Behind each bend you can admire attractive views.

Once an important centre for the floating of wood from the White Forest, Brańszczyk is today a large summer resort on the right bank of the Bug.

A large village in the fork of the Liwiec and the Bug. From the 15th to the 19th centuries it enjoyed town status and was a really busy settlement. The analysis of water tax charged on Kamieńczyk in the 1560's shows that many (sometimes even 4,000) barges with grain and fruits of the forest crossed the town every year. Assuming that the floating season lasted about four months, it makes thirty barges a day on average. Until the 1820's Kamieńczyk was an important centre of floating of wood from the Kamieńczyk Forest (Puszcza Kamieniecka). Today it is a popular summer resort of Warsawians, but has retained the charm of a small, sleepy town. Around the neo-Gothic church there are many traditional, wooden houses.

In the distance you can see the road bridge on the route from Warsaw to Białystok and the white silhouette of a classical church on the right bank. The largest town on the route was once a seat of Płock bishops and

137,7 km

The road bridge on the route from Ostrów Mazowiecka to Łochów

148 km

Udrzyn

168 km

Brańszczyk

172 km

The confluence of the Liwiec and the Bug. Kamieńczyk

179,7 km

Wyszków



an important trade centre. Unfortunately, Wyszaków was seriously damaged during the last war. Today the town's face is dominated by high-rise buildings and several industrial plants. If you want to visit the town, you had better stop 100 m before (or behind) the bridge.

180,5 km

The railway bridge on the route from Ostrołęka to Tłuszcz

186 km

Gulczewo

This is the last stage of the route. The river is less winding and the right bank is almost entirely covered with holiday cottages.

205,4 km

Kuligów

A large summer resort on the left bank of the Bug. During the season a bar is open beside the sandy beach. The increased traffic on the water indicates that you are getting close to the Zegrzyński Lake. Watch out for speedy motor boats!

209 km

Kania Polska

In the river channel there are three islands – the favourite camping places of weekend water sports enthusiasts.

211,5 km

Zegrzyński Lake

213 km

Serock

The town beach is a good place to finish the journey. It is worth visiting this nice little town (see: the description of the Zegrzyński Lake).



Practical information

Uhowo; KAYLON,
ul. Kolejowa 8, 18-100 Łapy, tel. 502 508 060, 502 508 050,
tel./fax (85) 715 53 08, kaylon@kaylon.pl;
canoeing.



“Urocz” holiday centre; Serpelice,
08-221 Hołowczyce, tel. (83) 359 81 25, www.urocza.pl;
canoeing, gondola rides, rafting,
water sports equipment rental.

THE NAREW

The Narew is one of the largest right-bank tributaries of the Vistula. The river has its source in the marshes in the Belorussian part of the Białowieża Forest (Puszcza Białowieska). The Narew is 484 km long; at the 160 km point it flows across Mazovia. It is a typical lowland river, with a very slight gradient and usually gentle current.

When a dam was built in Dębe, the lower course of the Narew, around the place where it is joined by the Bug, was banked up. Thus the Zegrzyński Lake was created. The water level is higher on the stretch of several kilometres – as far as to Pułtusk.

Significant water level fluctuations are typical of this river. When in April the snow begins to melt, the amount of water the Narew usually carries increases 2.5 times. Therefore, in spring the river floods severely in many places.

Worth seeing

The Mazovian course of the Narew crosses the areas known for their colourful Kurpie folklore. In many villages you can still see wooden houses with characteristic decorations. On holidays the inhabitants – especially women – gladly put on the traditional cos-

tumes. Upon the Narew lie also interesting towns. In Ostrołęka, the richness of decor of the church of Observants will make you giddy. In Pułtusk you just cannot deny yourself a walk along the longest marketplace in Europe.

The riverside meadows and forests are an oasis for birds. Numerous sand martins nest on the riverside escarpments, on sandbanks you can encounter white-winged terns, and in riparian forests – common sandpipers and hoopoes.

Before you set off...

In some places the Narew is regulated, but it has mostly retained its natural character; hence numerous shoals. When the water level is low, you can see quite large stones in the river channel. Trail marks are helpful during navigation, but above all you have to rely on your instinct and your own experience.

The river is a part of a popular trail, linking the Great Masurian Lakes with Warsaw. You should really dedicate some of your sailing holiday to cover this route. It will be most enjoyable for the captains of vessels of shallow draught.

Although in the season you can see yachts and canoes quite often on the Narew, the river is still virgin to tourist accommodation. "Genuine" water hostels are open in Pułtusk and Ostrołęka.



THE ROUTE:

NOWOGRÓD – SEROCK

We present the entire Mazovian course of the Narew, as far as the confluence of the Pisa and the Narew in Nowogród. You should allow about a week to cover the route by canoe, while by yacht (fitted with a motor) three days will be enough.

0 km

Nowogród

A small town picturesquely situated on the left bank, opposite the confluence of the Pisa and the Narew. On a green escarpment descending towards the water, lightning conductor poles glisten in the distance. They have been installed to protect the exhibits from the Kurpie Open-Air Ethnographic Museum, one of the most interesting museums of this type in Poland. Over thirty objects come from the Green Forest (Puszcza Zielona), of which the oldest are over two hundred years old. You can see there the Kurpie houses with decorative gables and window "crowns", characteristic granaries with arcades, as well as a blacksmith's shop, oiler house, windmill and water mill. The cottages and outbuildings are equipped with original furnishings and equipment. The museum also displays exhibits related to the traditional occupations of the Kurpie inhabitants – forest bee-keeping and fishery. In the inn you should taste the local specialties, including juniper beer (piwo kozicowe). (Juniper berries are used to prepare this drink.) At the foot of the open-air ethnographic museum there is a convenient stopping place.

Several hundred metres down the river, in the bushes behind the road bridge, hides a bunker from the Second World War. The plaque placed on the bunker and the monument standing on the slope of the valley commemorate the fierce battles fought during the defensive war of 1939.

On the left bank you can admire one of the most beautiful landscapes upon the Narew - vast, dry meadows, covered with tree-like junipers and twisted pines. In some places there are shallows in the river, on hot summer days often used by herds of cows which unwillingly give way to boats and canoes.

On this part of the route the Narew valley resounds with the chirping and cooing of birds. Over your head you can often see herons, in the mornings and evenings you can hear the clang of cranes.

Actually, it is the suburbs of Ostrołęka. On the left bank there is an industrial quarter, which sometimes gives off a not very pleasant smell. The way is often blocked by dredgers, which provide a water intake for the factories.

The left riverbank (behind the road bridge) was converted into a convenient, concrete quay. However, you have to watch out for stones and water flora. The water hostel of the Town Centre of Sports and Recreation (Miejski Ośrodek Sportu i Rekreacji) houses a boatyard and a restaurant. Nearby there is a petrol station. Although everything that is necessary you will find just beside the river, we recommend you to go for a walk in the neat centre.

Ostrołęka was not always as quiet as it is today. Many times the town and its surroundings were battlefields. On 16th February 1807, in the battle of Ostrołęka, the French significantly defeated the Russian army. To commemorate this fact the town name has been placed on the Arc de Triomphe in Paris. Another war event in the history of Ostrołęka was the November Uprising. The

8 km

Czartoria

14 km

The confluence of the Ruż and the Narew

19 km

The confluence of the Szkwa and the Narew

28,5 km

The confluence of the Rozoga and the Narew

30 km

Wojciechowice

33 km

Ostrołęka

defeat suffered by the Polish army in the battle against the Russians on 26th May 1831 is regarded as the beginning of the end of the national uprising. Each year on the anniversary of the battle a colourful staging commemorating this event is performed.

The marketplace in Ostrołęka is named after General Józef Bem, the hero of the battle of Ostrołęka in 1831. In the middle of it stands a large bust of the general. At the south-eastern part of the marketplace stands a classical town hall of 1824. The building of the former post office of 1828 houses the District Museum (Museum Okręgowe). The museum presents an interesting ethnographic exhibition and on the illuminated model you can track the battle of 1831.

The most valuable historical monument of Ostrołęka is a monastery complex that used to belong to Franciscans. The temple was erected from 1666 to 1696. Cloisters with three little towers are adjacent to the one-nave building from the west. Inside you can admire rich baroque decor and an attractive polychromy from the second half of the 18th century.

34 km

The new road bridge in Ostrołęka

This architectonically interesting construction resembles a gigantic rib of a whale, hanging over the water. It was modelled after the bridge in Seville, built for EXPO 1992.

35 km

The confluence of the Omulew and the Narew

The Omulew river is also an interesting canoe trail, over one hundred kilometres long.

36 km

The railway bridge on the route from Ostrołęka to Szczytno

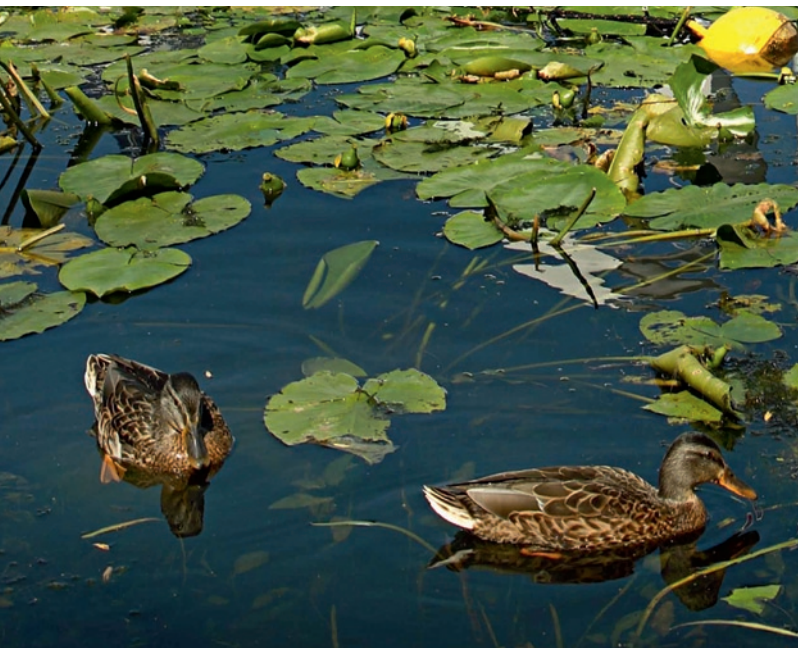
On this stretch you should watch out for unmarked stones under the bridge.

39 km

Dzbenin

In front of the island, near the left bank, a huge erratic block protrudes from the river – a pink granite with a girth of twelve metres, called Batory's Stone (Kamień





Batorego). A trained eye will notice a "B" letter carved in it. As the legend says, King Stefan Batory was dressed here by his physician after he was hurt by a deer while hunting in the nearby forests. According to another version, the king ventured deep into the forest chasing a huge deer and got lost. It was only by this stone that he found his team. Be careful, because many such stones await you in the river channel. Three kilometres below Dzbenin, on the left bank of the river, good camping sites begin to appear. It is not worth stopping close to Ostrołęka because of water pollution.

51 km

Kruszewo

In the middle of the river there is an island, and some unmarked stones by it.

60 km

Dyszobaba

The local shallows have scared many generations of sailors going to Masuria. The great pool has been narrowed by groynes on the right riverbank, but some-

times it is still shallow here. The layout of shoals changes very often so do not trust the navigation marking much. Fortunately, the bottom is sandy. Behind the shallows the Narew rounds a sharp bend.

You will recognise Różan by the characteristic silhouette of the high road bridge on the route from Ciechanów to Ostrów Mazowiecka. In the Middle Ages there was an important port in Różan. The town was famous for grain and fruits of the forest trade. In 1581 a salt warehouse for the entire north of Mazovia was established there. Among the contemporary buildings of the town, which was razed to the ground during the Second World War, distinguishes a neo-Gothic church to the design of Stefan Szyller. In the side chapels you can see fragments of an older, Gothic building.

A straight stretch of the river ends with a sharp turn to the right. Just behind the bend there is a village, conveniently situated upon the very river.

A summer resort village on the left riverbank. We recommend visiting the wooden church of 1890. Inside, visitors' attention is drawn to such masterpieces as the 18th century paintings of the saints, baptismal font and rococo organ prospectus - all brought from the former temple.

In this place the river current is the strongest of the entire route. For the following 5 km you have to watch out for stones.

The area full of leisure plots is dominated by a huge mass of the 19th century church.

64 km

Różan

69 km

Dzbażdż

79 km

Lubiel Nowy

80 km**97 km**

The confluence of the Orzyc and the Narew

99 km

Zambski Kościelne

**117 km**

Pułtusk

The most charming town on the route. With a bit of exaggeration it is sometimes called the Mazovian Venice. In the 14th century Pułtusk was already quite a big town. In the following two centuries it grew wealthy through trade and craft, becoming at the same time an important centre of artistic, intellectual and spiritual life. In the mid- 19th century a school in Pułtusk was attended by Wiktor Gomułicki, the later writer and poet. In his novel *Reminiscences of a Blue Uniform (Wspomnienia niebieskiego mundurka)* he vividly presented the atmosphere and the looks of the town.

Pułtusk is situated mainly on the right riverbank. Above the crowns of the riverside trees you can discern a tiled roofed tower with a pennant flying from it. Heading towards it you will arrive in a convenient port at the foot of the former castle of Płock bishops. The building has always been connected with water – it was erected on an artificial embankment, the remnant of the earlier town, surrounded by the Narew. The Gothic building of the 14th century was repeatedly destroyed and rebuilt. The present, two-storey building in a shape of polygonal horse-shoe was rebuilt after the last war in the classic style from the first half of the 19th century. Today it serves as a House of Polonia – a hotel and conference centre, which also runs the water hostel. It is nice to have a warm meal in one of the two riverside restaurants and then go for a ride in a gondola or a little motor ship. Perhaps the fanciest vessels on the Narew are the local pedal boats – you can ride on a gigantic duck or a swan.

Although the sport and recreation facilities of the castle are very attractive, it would be an irreparable loss if you did not visit the town.

The most important monuments of Pułtusk are concentrated near the square marketplace. 400 m long, it is often regarded as the longest market place in Europe. Among the buildings surrounding the marketplace there are several classical burgher houses from





the first half of the 19th century. Have a closer look at house no. 29 - at the turn of 1806 and 1807 Napoleon quartered in it. On the southern end of the marketplace rises a small, round church – the castle chapel of St. Mary Magdalene, popularly called “Magdalenka”. The Renaissance temple, erected in the first half of the 16th century, is in Poland a rare example of a free-standing church with a central layout. The town hall, standing in the centre of the marketplace, consists of an eight-storey tower and a classical-style building added to it after the Second World War. The tower houses a regional museum. We recommend seeing the archaeological and ethnographic exhibits gathered there. Do not forget to check out what the Pultusk meteorite looks like. In 1868, over 9 tones of iron-rich material, in the form of stone rain, fell down on the fields near the town. Its chips are presented in all “decent” geological collections of the world.

The northern side of the marketplace is taken up by the characteristic silhouette of the bell tower of the collegiate church. When in the 15th century it was planned to build in Pultusk an impressive residence of bishops, it turned out that a splendid church should be erected, too. The Gothic, three-nave temple of the Annunciation and St. Mathew was founded in 1443. In the mid- 16th century John Baptist, a Venetian architect employed by Bishop Andrzej Noskowski, added the side chapel in Renaissance style and rebuilt the ceiling of the main nave, giving it the characteristic form of circles linked by strips. The impressive ceiling is covered with Renaissance paintings. The side aisles have retained their Gothic cross-ribbed vaults. The majority of the church furnishing dates back to Baroque times. This style is followed by fifteen side altars, choir stalls, pulpit and eight gravestones founded by Bishop Ludwik Załuski for the members of his family.



Outside the church, on the right side of the entrance, in the wall there is a stone in a shape resembling a human head. One of the legends related to it says there was a thief, who tried to escape with loot from the collegiate church and got trapped in the walls for good. Other tales see a head of a pagan god in this stone mask.

After leaving the harbour of the House of Polonia go under a footbridge and then under a road bridge on the route from Pułtusk to Wyszaków. From this place the Narew becomes wider and wider – it is the influence of the dam in Dębne. The river is interspersed with numerous picturesque islands of various sizes. If you travel in a vessel of deep draught and do not know the Narew well, you had better keep to the fairway.

132 km
Stawinoga

A marshy valley of the river resounds with chirping, warbling and quacking. Now you travel through the Bug River Valley Landscape Park (Nadbużański Park Kra-

jobrazowy). The biggest protective area of this type in Poland covers also a part of the Narew valley. To protect the breeding places of many bird species, “Stawinoga” reserve has been created on the left riverbank and “Dzierżeńska Kępa” reserve on the islands a little down the river.

On the high, right bank the red neo-Gothic church is visible from the distance.

The bridge on the route from Serock to Wyszaków. Behind it – the wide waters of the Zegrzyński Lake. On the right bank you can see the buildings of Serock.

The town beach is a good place to finish the journey. You have to go for a walk in this nice little town (see: the description of the Zegrzyński Lake). You can also travel further on, through the Zegrzyński Lake to Warsaw.

135,5 km

Dzierżenin

139 km

Wierzbica

141 km

Serock

Practical information

Ostrołęka; Town Centre of Sports and Recreation, Water Hostel (Miejski Ośrodek Sportu i Rekreacji, Stanica Wodna), ul. Witosa 1; ul. Wioślarska 1, tel. (29) 760 68 68; boatyard, restaurant.

Pułtusk; House of Polonia (Dom Polonii), Water Hostel (Stanica Wodna) and Castle (Kasztel), ul. Szkolna 11, tel. (23) 692 90 01; water sports equipment rental, gondola rides, ship cruises, accommodation, restaurants, bar.

Pułtusk; “Pełta” - division of Polish Tourist Country-Lovers’ Society (Oddział PTTK Wodny “Pełta”), ul. Solna 9; seasonal canoe rental, small motor ship cruises.



THE ZEGRZYŃSKI LAKE

It is hard to believe that forty years ago there was no lake here. This second largest retention reservoir in Mazovia was created between 1958 and 1963, by damming the Narew in Dębe. The dam is a 20 m high earth embankment. The normal level of damming is less than 7 m, which is enough to create a lake with an area of 33 km² in a relatively narrow valley. If necessary, it can hold 94,000,000 m³ of water. At its deepest it is 15 m. The Zegrzyński Lake is the fifth largest in area, and twelfth largest in capacity, artificial reservoir in Poland.

The close vicinity to the capital city makes the Zegrzyński Lake vibrant with life from spring to autumn. Probably there is no water sport which is not practised there. On hot weekends the lake surface is white with sails. Many captains took their first sailing steps on this lake. When the wind blows, the wind-surfers fly on their surfboards like colourful butterflies. Fast speed-boats cut noisily through the water, adventurers try to perform acrobatic tricks on water skis or a gigantic plastic banana. Canoes, pedal boats and rowing boats dash along the shores. In winter the lake becomes quieter, but not dead. When

its surface is ice-bound, the ice angling enthusiasts sit at the blow-holes and ice-boats are taken out of their boathouses. Whoever tried to skate under sail, will always miss the feeling of the freedom given by this sport.

The Zegrzyński Lake is linked with the Vistula by the Żerański Channel. The water sports enthusiasts gladly use this as the shortest way to the capital city. At the minimum damming level the water is deep as far as Pułtusk on the Narew and as far as Popowo on the Bug.

Worth seeing

On the Lake's shore there are plenty of summer resorts, whose chief assets are an atmosphere of serenity, and waterside bars resounding with shanties. There are also attractions for those for whom cold beer is not enough. Have a walk among the monumental oaks in Szaniawski's Gorge (Wąwóz Szaniawskiego), visit picturesque Serock, and at dawn, equipped with binoculars, set off on ornithological safari near the confluence of the Bug and the Narew.

Before you set off...

Remember that, in spite of appearances, the Lake is quite shallow and its bottom – muddy. If you travel in a vessel of deep draught, pay attention to the sail trail buoys and





additional marks – poles stuck into shoals. Since on weekends it is really crowded, try to recall all the rules of the river and put them into practice.

One day on the lake will be enough to see that it is composed of three distinctive parts. If you look for peace, you should visit the part between Dębe and the road bridge in Zegrze. The pool between Zegrze on the west and Rynia on the east, called “The Frying Pan” (Patelnia) is the busiest part of the lake. The narrower stretch leading towards the fork of the Narew and Bug is regarded as the most picturesque.

Along the several hundred metres long top of the dam embankment runs a road from Legionowo to Nasielsk. From the middle of the dam you can admire a nice view over both sides - the river and the Lake. Dębe is surrounded by numerous allotments. Every year, new settlements of small houses belonging to Warsawians spring up in this area. Between the roads to Serock and Zegrze rise the grey walls of an interesting monument of warfare, hidden among the allotments. A small fort in Dębe was to strengthen the northern west stretch of the Warsaw Fort District (Warszawski Rejon Forteczny). The fortifications were erected by the Russians at the turn of the 19th century to link Zegrze Fortress with Modlin Fortress. The fort in Dębe is much better preserved than the fort in Beniaminów, dating back to the same period and designed by the same architect, General Wieliczko. It was – for those times – a very modern construction.

3.5 km from the dam, on the high northern bank, lies Jachranka village which further to the east borders Skubianka. Apart from the allotments there are numerous

Around the Zegrzyński Lake

Dębe

Jachranka







The northern water supply system

holiday centres. Those of a high standard are regularly used as conference centres.

Opposite Jachranka, in Wieliszew, there is one of the places where water is drawn into Warsaw's water supply system. From there, the filtered water flows to the northern quarters of the capital city.

"Wieliszew Meadows"

2 km to the south west from the water supply system facilities, marshy meadows descend towards the Lake shore. Have a closer look at the plants growing there, but do not pick them, because they are legally protected. The Wieliszew Meadows are the richest community of orchids near Warsaw. Among other species, you can see marsh helleborine, with delicate cream-pink flowers.

The bridge in Zegrze

Behind the meadows, on the left bank, appear the buildings of Zegrze village. The modern bridge on the

route from Warsaw to Pułtusk is visible in the distance. The newest crossing over the Narew will consist of two identical bridges. The northern one was open to the public in 2003. During the construction of the northern bridge the remains of a German wooden bridge, dating back to the First World War, were discovered. The southern crossing will replace the characteristic arched bridge, existing until recently. At first it was planned to rebuild this over seventy year old monument of technology, but its state was too poor. The little stone towers, protruding from the water near the bridge, are the memento of the older construction, erected by Russians. Ducks and swans feed often in the coves by the bridge. If you travel in a sailboat, you will have to lower the mast before you go to the other part of the Lake.

The southern part of Zegrze lies on a large headland, jutting into the Lake. Along the Lake shore plenty of sailing centres wait for sailing enthusiasts. There you can rent water sports equipment, sign up for a sailing course, rest in a restaurant or on a sandy beach. The popularity of this place is determined by the convenient transport connection to Warsaw. By one of the private buses you can reach the city centre within less than an hour. Acoustic screens and a busy road separate the lake from the army premises, the second part of the village. Those who like beautiful views can have a walk along the bridge, from where there is a wide panorama of the main part of the Zegrzyński Lake, called "The Frying Pan" ("Patelnia"). On bright days it is hard to count all the sails visible from there.

As early as in the Middle Ages there was an important port and a customs chamber upon the Narew. In tales from the second half of the 15th century a castle was mentioned as existing there. At the turn of the 18th century, thanks to the wooden bridge over the river,

The south of Zegrze

The north of Zegrze

Zegrze became a place of strategic importance. After the fall of the January Uprising the tsarist authorities built a huge fortress there. It was planned as part of the fortification ring which was to surround the European part of Russia. The fortifications, rebuilt and reinforced several times, played a significant role during the First World War. Zegrze is still garrisoned by troops. For the last 30 years there was the School of Signal Corps Officers (Szkoła Oficerów Łączności), presently military IT specialists are trained in Zegrze. On the lake shore there is also a large water hostel.

To the east from the army premises, on a peninsula surrounded by the lake, stands a little 19th century hunting palace. Its white walls glisten among monumental oaks. In this charming spot there is the holiday and training centre of the Polish Press Agency (Polska Agencja Prasowa).

Zegrze – Nieporęt

On the woodless southern shore of the lake, along the road to Warsaw, every year spring up new bars, beaches and harbours. On sunny days it is crowded here. From this place you can see the entire lake.

The Żerański Channel

About 4 km from Zegrze, on the southern bank of the lake, there is an entrance to the Żerański Channel. This seventeen kilometres long link between the Zegrzyński Lake and Warsaw was built between 1960 and 1966. The Royal Channel (Kanał Królewski), planned to be built as early as in the 16th century, was to have the same route. The three metre difference between water levels is compensated by the lock in Żerań. The Channel is not only of recreational significance – this is the way for barges with the gravel from the bottom of the Narew.

Nieporęt

This large village stretches along the Żerański Channel. New villa quarters extend the village towards Warsaw. Here, centuries ago, rustled the Nieporęt For-



Pilawa – Białobrzegi – Rynia

est (Puszcza Nieporęcka), in which Polish kings used to hunt. In this place King Sigismund III Vasa erected a larch manor house. A baroque church, founded by King John Casimir in 1651, has survived till now. The Vasa family's coat of arms was placed on its brick portal. At the entrance to the temple grounds stands an 18th century bell-gate.

From the Żerański Channel to the confluence of the Rządza and the Narew, the eastern shore of the Zegrzyński Lake abounds with holiday centres. The heaviest traffic on the water is near Nieporęt. A small cove, called by the regular visitors the Bay of Pigs (Zatoka Świń), is a busy yacht port. Many Warsaw clubs have their bases there. You can charter equipment, have a delicious dinner, do your 'sailing shopping' and walk among some well-trimmed lawns. For the motor boat fans waits a waterside petrol station. The sandy beach on the headland is occupied by windsurfers. There you can rent a surfboard and get expert advice.

A little further on to the east, by the shore you can see a concrete pier, to which a passenger fleet draws up in summer. The cruise from the harbour at the foot of the Warsaw's Old Town lasts three and a half hours.

In the majority of holiday centres you can rent water sports equipment. The best restaurant – a branch of Warsaw's well-known "Prohibicja" – is in Marina Diana. The chief assets of this part of the Lake are sandy beaches and a pinewood complex with a balsamic scent, stretching along the shore. If you have had enough of the water, go for a walk to the distant (about 3 km) fort in Beniaminów, the "twin" of the fort in Dębe. The huge fortifications make a big impression.

About 6.5 km to the north west from the Żerański Channel, the Zegrzyński Lake is fed by a tiny river – the Rządza – from the east. In its confluence lies a wooded island, called an Island of Love (Wyspa Miłości) by the regular visitors. Not only water sports enthusiasts, but also animals are fond of the island – you need a quiet minute and a bit of luck to see an otter's muzzle emerging from the water. Behind the island the river becomes shallow and after several hundred metres the Rządza is crossed by a bridge.

The western, high bank of the Zegrzyński Lake is covered with trees. The wind reflecting off them does strange things to sails. This narrow part of the lake requires attentive navigation. From the water you cannot see one of the most interesting monuments on the lake – the little palace of the Radziwiłł family, as it is surrounded by a one hundred hectare park. It was erected from 1890 to 1892 to the design of Francis Arveuf, a French architect. The mansion is in French renaissance style. The building is remarkable for its irregular layout with numerous masses arranged asymmetrically. The palace is partly one- and partly two-storey. It is built on a field stone foundation, and the outer walls are cov-

The confluence of the Rządza and the Narew

Jadwisin



ered with red ceramic tiles. A two-storey, square tower has been added to the front of the palace. The entire building is covered with a mansard roof with wooden dormers covered with fish scale sheet metal. The reconstructed park is similar to the original one, with parts in baroque and English style. For years the Office of the Council of Ministers has been its caring host. Recently, the palace also welcomes external guests.

Zegrzynek

On the western bank, in front of dark trees, stand out the stone walls of the former water hostel of Polish Tourist Country-Lovers' Society. This architecturally interesting building – not in use at the moment – is gradually turning into a romantic ruin. The water hostel was established in the 1950's on the land belonging to Jerzy Szaniawski, a well-known playwright. The ruins of the writer's manor house are in "Szaniawski's Gorge" (Wąwóz Szaniawskiego) reserve. It is the waterside escarpment, covered with picturesque ancient forest of pines and oaks that is protected.

Serock

Perhaps the most beautiful little town on the Lake is situated to the north of the water reservoir, opposite to the confluence of the Bug. Serock obtained its town charter in 1417, but there are not many historical elements among the modern buildings. The square marketplace is the only remnant of the former urban layout.

The most valuable monument of the town is the parish church of the Annunciation. The late Gothic building, erected by Mazovian dukes – Janusz and Stanisław – was rebuilt in 1526. The temple is a rare example of a sacred defensive building. The characteristic feature of this one-nave church is a four-sided tower, covered with a roof common with the nave. The interior is adorned with baroque furnishing from the 18th century. During the several hundred years of its existence Serock was many times the centre of historical turmoil. In the north-



ern wall of the church an artillery shell dating back to the First World War is stuck. The temple is picturesquely located on a high escarpment, from which you can enjoy a wide view over the confluence of the Bug.

Water sports enthusiasts frequently visit Serock, perhaps because it is very spruce and clean. Between the town centre and the lake shore lies a nice park, and along the shore runs a promenade for pedestrians.

Near Serock the Bug joins up with the Narew. It is hard to sail up the latter, due to the bridge in Wierzbica, a little above Serock. Three islands, lying 2.5 km up the Bug, are popular places. The surroundings are very picturesque. The nearby marshy meadows are inhabited by plenty of birds. Over your head you can see grey herons and swans. With a bit of luck you may see a glove-shaped nest of a penduline tit on a branch of a waterside tree. ce rękawicę gniazdo remiza.

Islands in the confluence of the Bug and the Narew



Practical information

Nieporęt; Emper Yacht Sp. z o.o.,
ul. Wojska Polskiego 3, tel. (22) 772 50 00, 509 162 229,
www.emperyacht.home.pl;
the largest port on the Zegrzyński Lake;
charters, windsurfing school, motorboat rides,
sailing regatta, shop, restaurant, petrol station.



The south of Zegrze; "Marina" Water Sports Centre -
one of three harbours of the Warsaw Rowing Society
(Warszawskie Towarzystwo Wioślarskie),
ul. Warszawska 1, tel. (22) 793 02 72, 505 066 390;
charters, bar.

The north of Zegrze; the Training Centre of the Military
University of Technology
(Ośrodek Szkoleniowy Wojskowej Akademii Technicznej),
ul. Groszkowskiego 2, tel. (22) 688 32 65,
fax (22) 688 34 33, www.wat.edu.pl

Rynia; Military Holiday Centre
(Wojskowy Dom Wypoczynkowy),
ul. Wczasowa 59, gm. Białobrzegi tel. (22) 768 01 66,
(22) 688 28 50, www.wdwrynia.pl;
a leisure centre of a high standard; charters, restaurant.

Jadwisin; YACHT KLUB POLSKI,
ul. Konstantego Radziwiłła 2, Serock,
tel. (22) 782 74 16, 515 272 225;
a secure harbour with a long tradition;
charters if arranged with the boatswain..

Academia Nautica – a Licensed Sailing School, Warsaw,
ul. Lentza 35, tel. (22) 651 90 35, www.anw.pl;
training courses for sailing, motorboat,
and iceboat steersman licences.



Wandrus; the Office of Active Tourism
(Biuro Turystyki Aktywnej),
ul. Nowy Świat 18/20, Warszawa, tel. (22) 828 34 24, fax
(22) 828 34 52, www.wandrus.com.pl; training courses for
sailing and motorboat licences.

Żegluga Stołeczna;
tel. (22) 697 78 10, www.zegluga-stoleczna.pl;
cruises from Warsaw to the Zegrzyński Lake on "Wars" ship.



THE WKRA

The right tributary of the Narew is 249 km long. The Wkra has its source in the drained marshes on Garb Lubawski. The upper reaches of the river are named Nida, and the stretch near Działdowo is called Działdówka. The river becomes the "proper" Wkra as late as in Mazovia, near Żuromin. The Wkra is a typical lowland river, with a very slight gradient. It flows among moraine hills and across be-flowered meadows. Only in some places can you see a forest by the river. The river-sides are inhabited by many animal species. Of larger mammals you can encounter beavers and otters.

The landscape of the Wkra surroundings is completed by Mazovian villages and small towns with interesting monuments and above all attractive churches. Most of them are visible from a canoe.

Worth seeing

By the upper reaches of the Wkra lies Biezuń, with the unique in Poland Museum of a Small Town, in which the atmosphere of the pre-war Mazovian province has been perfectly reconstructed. Malużyn village, charmingly situated upon the river, vaunts an in-

teresting little church. To the brick Gothic presbytery of the 18th century a brick nave has been added. A nice wooden temple of the 17th century can also be admired in Królewo.

Some parts of the Wkra valley of great scenic beauty are protected by law. In Dziektarzewo reserve a high riverside escarpment is covered with a mixed forest with very rich undergrowth. "The Wkra Valley" ("Dolina Wkry") reserve, which covers the ravine part of the valley in the Pomiechówek Woods (Lasy Pomiechowskie), competes with Dziektarzewo for the title of the most beautiful stretch of the river.

Before you set off...

The Wkra is accessible to canoeists below Działdowo. The stretch from Działdowo to Joniec is considered a difficult route. Further on, until Modlin, it is easier, although sometimes tiresome. The river is partly regulated; therefore you have to often carry your canoe across weirs. The Wkra, although a lowland river, is not a lazy one – in some parts its current is quite strong.

There are no water hostels, neither any other tourist facilities upon the river, but in the numerous towns and villages on the route you will be able to shop.





THE ROUTE:

JONIEC – NOWY DWÓR MAZOWIECKI

We present the route down the lower Wkra. This picturesque, but short, trail is great for a weekend outing.

Launch your canoe from a large meadow near the bridge.

The way is crossed by a stone barrier, a bit washed away. You can safely pass it in the place where the current is the strongest.

A short obstacle course awaits you. In front of an island several pillars, which are probably the remnants of a bridge, protrude from the river. Below the island, on the left, there are remains of a stone groyne. Watch the water carefully. Avoid the places where it is churned up.

An exceptionally picturesque place. The branches of the huge trees almost entirely obscure the sky.

Watch out for stones!

Along the right bank, on the hills you can see the houses of long Dobra Wola village.

Along a tiny river, the Nasielna, joining the Wkra from the right, stretches a summer resort village – Ciekosyn. We recommend visiting the local church of St. Dorothy. The design of this Gothic–Renaissance temple is attributed to the famous architect John Baptist of Venice. The interior decor is very interesting. Visitors' attention is drawn to the late Gothic sculptures, as well as Man-

0 km

Joniec

2,0 km

Popielżyn

3,0 km

Popielżyn Dolny

3,5 km

The confluence of the Sona and the Wkra

6 km

7, 5 km

The confluence of the Naruszewka and the Wkra

10 km

Ciekosyn



nerist and baroque altars. Also two 16th century tombstones have been preserved. Just behind the church wall stands a huge small-leaved lime, with the largest girth of a trunk in Mazovia.

11 km

Borkowo

Below the road bridge you will encounter the remains of a dam, separated by tiny islands. It is best to pass by the obstacle near the right bank.

13 km

Błędowo

The river is crossed by a mill weir. You can carry your canoe across the weir, but you can also cross it in the canoe. Head towards the strongest current. Behind the obstacle the river is very deep – it is a favourite swimming spot of local people and holiday makers.

Below Błędowo the riverbanks become steep and high, and are covered with picturesque flora. From the river protrude well visible, huge boulders.

17 km

Goławice

Now you go under a suspension bridge. Its pylon is 26 m high. According to the original design, the General Stefan Grot-Rowecki bridge in Warsaw was to look exactly like this one. The project was abandoned due to the lack of funds; the bridge in Goławice is five times smaller than the original. From this place the river becomes shallower. When the water level is low, now and then you will have to go out of your canoe.

22 km

Szczyplorno

Here begins an exceptionally beautiful stretch. The valley is bordered by wooded, precipitous banks. A landscape reserve has been created there.

24 km

Kosewko

The crossing over the remnants of the weir is the most perilous place on the route. Less skilled canoeists should carry the canoe across the weir, the more experienced will feel the surge of adrenaline.

27 km

Pomiechówek

A well-known summer resort village. On the left bank stretches a residential area. Go under the road and rail-

way bridges. The riverbanks become lower and turn into marshy meadows.

On the left bank you can see a tall church tower. The building of the temple was started in 1544. It combines Gothic, Renaissance and baroque features. The presbytery is the oldest part of the building.

In this place the river forms a wide alluvial cone. It is so shallow that you cannot cross it in a canoe. Just behind the “fan” of the confluence the Narew becomes deep.

The last part of the trail may be less picturesque, but the marshy riverside meadows are great places to observe nature. The area is crossed by the route of migrating birds, so it is the most interesting in spring and in autumn.

Silurus port (on the right bank behind the bridges) is a good place to end this trip. From here, there are only 700 m to the railway station. Before leaving it is worth visiting the Modlin Fortress (see: the description of the Vistula route).

29 km

Pomiechowo

31 km

The confluence of the Wkra and the Narew

36 km

Modlin

Practical information

Modlin; Silurus s.c.,
ul. Mieszka I 6, tel. (22) 775 59 01, www.silurus.pl,
canoe rental, gondola rides, beach, bar.



Sochaczew near Warszawa;
“Suselek” company, Ecotourism,
Władysławów 11 a, , tel. 602 265 239, www.ekoturizm.pl;
canoeing organizing, water sports equipment rental.



THE PILICA

For centuries the Pilica marked the southern edge of Mazovia. The river originates from karst springs on the Cracow-Częstochowa Upland (Wyżyna Krakowsko-Częstochowska). Measuring 319 km, it is the longest left-bank tributary of the Vistula and the eighth longest river in Poland. The lower, Mazovian reaches constitute one third of the entire length of the Pilica. At this stretch Pilica is a typical lowland river. It strongly meanders, forms islands and picturesque old river beds. An average width of the channel reaches one hundred metres, but in some places it is three times as wide. The Pilica is a relatively clean river; the physical and chemical indicators correspond to the first and second class standards of purity.

In the lower reaches of the river, the Pilica valley has a characteristic structure. The edge of the high, left bank is composed of moraine clays. The escarpment is covered with thick brushwood, while on the uplands stretch orchards. The flat right bank is accompanied by several kilometres of long plain meadows and pastures.

Worth seeing

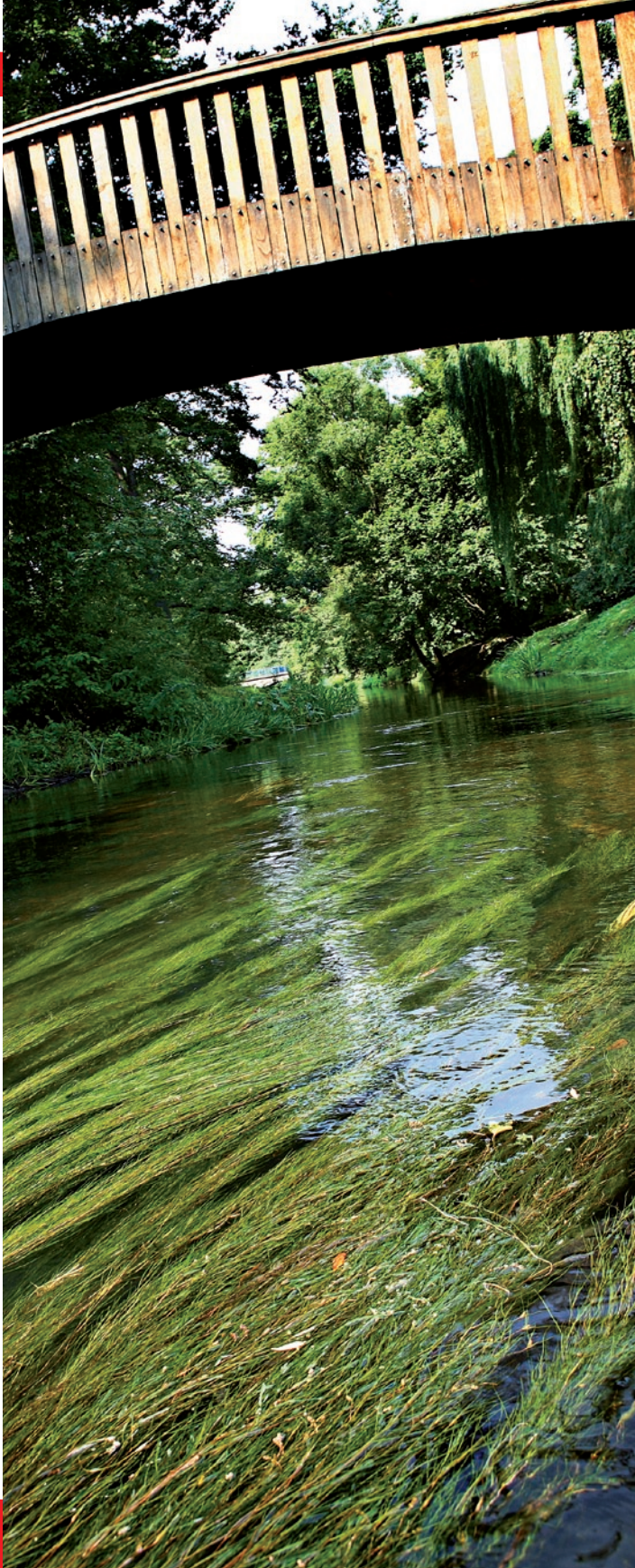
The natural riparian flora in the river valley is a habitat for many bird species. Upon the Pilica you

can encounter numerous species of gulls, terns and sandpipers. The turquoise feathers of kingfishers often shimmer over the water.

In the river surroundings you can admire many interesting monuments. Have a rest in the aristocratic atmosphere of Świdno, see an attractive exhibition in one of Warka's quarter, Winiary - the home seat of Kazimierz Pułaski, and admire the 18th century little church in Łęgonice. If you come upon the Pilica in autumn, be prepared for a feast. The apples from the nearby orchards taste heavenly. You can buy them freshly picked from the trees.

Before you set off...

Canoeing along the Pilica is not very difficult; it is considered to be appropriate also for beginners. Of course it does not mean that you do not have to observe the water carefully. The lower the water level, the more bothersome shoals you will encounter on your way.



THE ROUTE:

NOWE MIASTO NAD PILICĄ - MNISZEW

The proposed route covers almost the entire Mazovian stretch of the Pilica, and is 79 km long. You should allow 3 days for the excursion. If you have only two weekend days, start canoeing in Białobrzegi.

0 km

Nowe Miasto
nad Pilicą

The picturesquely situated town – on the high, left bank of the Pilica - obtained its town charter as early as in 1400. The most valuable monument in Nowe Miasto is a baroque church and the Capuchin monastery. The three-aisle basilica was completed in 1786 and further developed in the century to follow. According to the strict monastic rule, the Baroque interior is modest and decorated in dark brown shades. The paintings hanging in the altars were made by famous artists of the epoch: Franciszek Smuglewicz, Szymon Czechowicz and Józef Buchbinder. Father Honorat Koźmiński, a charismatic confessor and founder of numerous religious congregations, lived in the local monastery from 1892 to his death eighteen years later. In 1988 Pope John Paul II announced him as a blessed person. Nowe Miasto is visited by numerous pilgrims. The monastery museum exhibits keepsakes of the monk, including his confessional.

Another characteristic element of the landscape of Nowe Miasto is a late baroque palace built in 1753 for General Franciszek Gronowski. Among other residences of Mazovia, the one in Nowe Miasto stands out with a semi-circular break on the side of the garden going down in the direction of the Pilica. The break is crowned with a baroque attic and accompanied with a semi-circular terrace supported by columns. In front of the palace you can admire a vast view of the river valley.

It is best to launch the canoe below the bridge, because by the pillars there are wooden stakes, not visible at higher water level.

In the village there is a little 19th century manor house, surrounded by a park. Behind it the Pilica is joined by a tiny river – the Lubanka. Below, the river picturesquely meanders. Behind the fifth bend it reaches “Tomczyce” reserve, which protects a beautiful mixed forest covering a steep and ravine escarpment. Old pines stand next to huge oaks and larches, ashes and alders grow near the river.

Go under the middle span of the bridge. On the left there is a village, located picturesquely on a high escarpment. The late classical palace in Tomczyce was erected in the mid- 19th century. The sandy beaches on the opposite bank invite the taking of a swim.

On the right bank lies a little village - Górki. It is worth stopping by the opposite riverbank and setting off on a short excursion to Świdno, scenically situated on an escarpment, behind a two kilometre wide belt of meadows. In the village there is a palace, the building of which was started in the first half of the 18th century for Stanisław Antoni Świdziński, the Voivode of Rawa. The baroque-classical building is surrounded by a vast park. For the last several years it has housed a conference and leisure centre. The stylish interior creates an atmosphere suitable for relaxation.

The first owner of Świdno's palace founded also the church in nearby Michałowice. The baroque temple hides well preserved illusionist paintings.

The river becomes wider; in its channel appear islands. Here it is easy to encounter small birds inhabiting riverside brushwood: kingfishers or pendulin tits.

5 km

Gostomia

11 km

Tomczyce

17 km

Górki, Świdno

23 km

Dębnowola



24 km

The bridge on the way from Osuchów to Wyśmierzyce

27 km

Przybyszew

The Przybyszew surroundings are famous for cucumber and onion cultivation. The village situated on the left bank and the nearby plantations are overlooked by the church tower. This neo-Gothic temple was erected in the end of 19th century to the design of Konstanty Wojciechowski. In the church crypt General Antoni Madaliński, a hero of Kościuszko's Insurrection, is buried.

Behind Przybyszew the river approaches the escarpment bordering the valley with a steep wall. On the right, flat bank stretches a wide belt of meadows and pastures; in the distance you can see the roofs of the villages.

29 km

Pacewo

Go under the left span of the bridge.

31 km

Adamów – Góry

Under the next bridge you should also go on the left side.

34 km

Białobrzegi

This nice little town is located on the right bank, at a certain distance from the river. Here, the Pilica is wide. The valley landscape is interspersed with willow and poplar groves. In Białobrzegi you will pass under two bridges. The old one – with characteristic arches – is just in front of the town. The new bridge, which is a part of the town's ring road recently open to the public, is below Białobrzegi. Across the bridge runs the busy road from Warsaw to Radom. We recommend visiting the parish church. The building is relatively new – it was erected in the mid- 20th century to the design of Stefan Szyller, a well-known architect. Inside the church you can admire valuable furnishings, coming from the earlier temple - a baroque baptismal font and side altars. Near the church stands an 18th century wooden bell tower.

In summer Białobrzegi is a busy resort. In the Pilica valley there are many allotments and holiday centres.

On the right bank there are holiday centres.

Once again the Pilica approaches the escarpment which it has left before Białobrzegi. Its edge rises over twenty metres above the water surface.

Go near the right bank. On this side you can see in the distance the forests of the "Majdan" reserve, established to protect the beautiful broadleaved forests and alder woods. In the surroundings you can sometimes see black storks.

The village has been named after the high dune, which is an attractive observation point. In the forests near the village there are holiday centres. On the river you will see several islands covered with tall alders. The way may be blocked by fallen trees.

The largest town on the route is situated on the left riverbank. Go under the railway bridge on the left side. Below the bridge there are the premises of the former water hostel of Polish Tourist Country-Lovers' Society (PTTK). One and a half kilometres further on, the Pilica is crossed with a road bridge. In this place the river is artificially narrowed.

The town, with a population of over 10,000 inhabitants, is above all known as the seat of the famous brewery and the birth place of the hero of two nations - Kazimierz Pułaski. Located on the trade route from Mazovia to the Małopolska

37 km**40 km**

Brzeźce

41,5 km

The bridge in Biejków

44 km

The bridge on the route to Branków

46,5 km

The bridge in Budy Michałowskie

50 km

White Mountain

61,5 km

Warka



region, Warka obtained its town charter in 1321. The name of the town refers most probably to the beer brewed here, that was already famous outside Mazovia. It is said that in the 16th century Pope Clement VIII, who before his election was a papal nuncio in Poland, took a special liking to the beer from the local brewery. On his death bed he must have wanted to drink it for the last time, because he whispered "Biera di Warka". The people gathered around the bed thought he meant some saint, so they started to pray: "Santa Biera di Warka ora pro nobis".

Warka has preserved its historical urban arrangement. By a little square marketplace stands a small classical town hall. On the escarpment by the road to Koziernice rises the parish church of St. Nicolaus. The building was erected at the beginning of the 17th century, but since it was rebuilt many times, the temple has been deprived of the features of the period. However, inside the church several attractive late Renaissance altars have remained.

The grandest building in the town is the post-Franciscan monastery complex. The baroque church vaults feature tombs of the Mazovian dukes Trojden and Ziemowit III as well as of the wife of Duke Janusz I, Danuta Anna.

In the eastern corner of the town, the Winiary quarter, a vast park descends towards the river. On the escarpment stands the so called White Palace, built at the end of the 17th century to the design of Augustyn Locci. On 4th March 1747 Kazimierz Pułaski was born in Winiary – later a participant in the Bar Confederation and a hero of the American War of Independence. The mansion houses a museum displaying memorabilia of Pułaski and other Poles who threw their lot in with the United States of America. Also furniture and carpets of the period are exhibited. On the first floor of the building there are interesting temporary exhibitions. Occasionally, classical music concerts take place here.

65 km
Winiary



68 km

Stara Warka

On the left bank of the Pilica archaeologists have discovered an ancient town which originated Warka, situated a couple of kilometres further on. The river once again gets close to the precipitous escarpment. It is cut by a huge ravine called Czarniecki Ravine (Wąwóz Czarnieckiego) to commemorate the battle against the Swedes which took place here in 1656.

69,5 km

Boguszków, Pilica

On the right bank there is Boguszków village, on the left – Pilica village, surrounded by orchards. In this place the steep escarpment curves northwards, forming the edge of the Vistula valley.

71 km

Rozniszew

At the edge of the meadows stands a neo-Gothic church. Behind the village, on the right the Pilica is fed by the Trzebieński Channel. This unfortunate post-war investment uses the old, medieval bed of the Vistula. On the right bank, in the distance, you can see high dunes, on which Mniszew village is located.

75,5 km

Ostrołęka

From the village situated on the left riverbank came the medieval strongman, Stanisław Ciołek. According to the chronicles by Jan Długosz, he managed to raise a bell up the tower of the St. Mary's Basilica in Cracow (Kościół Mariacki), which forty men could not do. On the right bank stretch beautiful meadows, cut through by old river beds.

79 km

Mniszew

The journey ends by the bridge on the route from Warsaw to Kozienice, on the right side. If you have some energy left, visit an open-air war museum, situated on a huge dune at the opposite end of the village. From the 9th to 16th August 1944 in the area of Warka, Studzianki, Manguszew and Mniszew fierce battles were fought for the Warka-Magnuszew bridgehead. The aim of keeping the westward position was to secure a starting point for the joined forces of the Red Army and the 1st Corps of the Polish Army to go further west. Since it was cre-



ated in the 1970's, the museum has fallen a little into decline, but it is still heaven for small and big boys. In a pine grove you can see weapons and means of transport used during the battles for the bridgehead. The network of trenches, dugouts and entanglements has also been reconstructed.

Practical information

Warka; Klub kajakowy Korek, ul. M. Konopnickiej 7, tel. 504 878 209, kk.korek@gazeta.pl; wypożyczalnia sprzętu, organizacja spływów.



Sochaczew k. Warszawy; Firma Susełek, Ekoturyzm, Władysławów 11 a, tel. 602 265 239, www.ekoturizm.pl; organizacja spływów, wypożyczalnia sprzętu.

