

lodzkie region for the weekend





We offer you an exceptional trip inside the Lodzkie Region. Let's meet on this unique trail and explore Lodzkie, because it is worth it!.

Grzegorz Schreiber
The Marshal of Lodzkie Region

TABLE OF CONTENTS

1. TOP 10 – 10 greatest attractions for tourists in the Lodzkie Region

1.1. The city of Lodz	6
1.2. Romanesque monuments	8
1.3. Uniejow spa	10
1.4. The folklore of Lowicz	12
1.5. Belchatow. The Mine, Giants of Power exhibition and Kamienska Mountain	14
1.6. Rivers	16
1.7. The Lodzkie Horse Trail	18
1.8. Piotrkow Trybunalski – The Old Town	20
1.9. Palaces and gardens	22
1.10. Tomaszowska Okraglica	24

2. What can you do in the Lodzkie Region ?

2.1. Active time spending	26
2.2. Nature	32
2.3. Monuments	38
2.4. History	44
2.5. With family	50
2.6. Let's party!	56

3. Trips suggestions

3.1. 1-2-3 days in Lodz	60
3.2. 1-2-3 days in the western part of the region	66
3.2.1. 1st day: Sieradz + Uniejow	68
3.2.2. 2nd day: Wielun and its vicinity	70
3.2.3. 3rd day: Poddebice + Zdunska Wola	72

3.3. 1-2-3 days in the eastern part of the region	74
3.3.1. 1st day: Nadpilicze (Tomaszow Mazowiecki, Spala, Inowlodz, Studzianna-Poswietne)	76
3.3.2. 2nd day: Skierniewice + Rawka river + Bolimow + Rogow	78
3.3.3. 3rd day: Rawa Mazowiecka + Boguszyce + Brzeziny	80
3.4. 1-2-3 days in the southern part of the region	82
3.4.1. 1st day: Piotrkow Trybunalski + Sulejow	84
3.4.2. 2nd day: Belchatow + Moszczenica + Pabianice	86
3.4.3. 3rd day: Vicinities of Przedborz and Radomsko	88
3.5. 1-2-3 days in the northern part of the region	90
3.5.1. 1st day: Lowicz + Maurzyce + Sromow + Nieborow + Arkadia	92
3.5.2. 2nd day: Leczyca + Tum + Ozorkow + Zgierz ...	94
3.5.3. 3rd day: Krosniewice + Kutno + Oporow + Dobrzelin	96

4. List of certified centers and tourist information points

5. Index of places and towns	100
6. Map	103
7. Place for notes	104

10 greatest attractions for tourists in the Lodzkie Region



top 10





author: P. Tomczyk



LODZ



The capital city of the region is not only the largest city around, but also its main tourist attraction. The former “Polish Manchester” and “Promised Land”, today Lodz attracts with an abundance of old factories which are given new functions. The manufacturing history of the city is inextricably linked to the bygone multiculturalism – the monuments of secular and sacral architecture built together by Poles, Germans, Jews and Russians. Cinema fans in turn would find here places associated with the history (and contemporaneity) of Polish film.

Certainly, monuments and history do not exhaust what Lodz has to offer – the renovated **Piotrkowska Street** is a breeding ground for restaurants, bars, pubs and other eating and entertainment venues where everyone will find something they like best.

Just as **Manufaktura**, an entertainment, shopping, and cultural centre housed in renovated premises of one of the biggest factories in Lodz. Recently the list of attraction in Lodz was extended by the oldest municipal power plant, today **Science and Technology Center EC1**, a **planetarium**, the **National Centre for Film Culture**, to be followed soon by the **Comic and Interactive Narrative Center**.



EC1 - Science and Technology Center

author: P. Augustyniak



Lodz Fabryczna Station

author: R. Żydowicz



The Piotrkowska Street

2

ROMANESQUE MONUMENTS



In the Lodzkie Region, there are as many as seven buildings associated with the Romanesque style. The less known of them include temples in: **Zarnow** (Opoczynski district), **Ruda** (Wielunski district), **Stronsk** (Zdunskowolski district) or a **belfry in Krzyworzeka** (Wielunski district).

Those more easily recognised are: **romanesque the Saint Idzi church in Inowłodz** (Tomaszowski district), the monumental **collegiate church in Tum** near Leczyca (Leczycki district) or a **Cistercian abbey in Sulejow-Podklasztorze** (Piotrkowski district), considered the best preserved European example of a medieval monastic complex created by this order.



Archicolligate in Tum



Romanesque the Saint Idzi church in Inowłódz

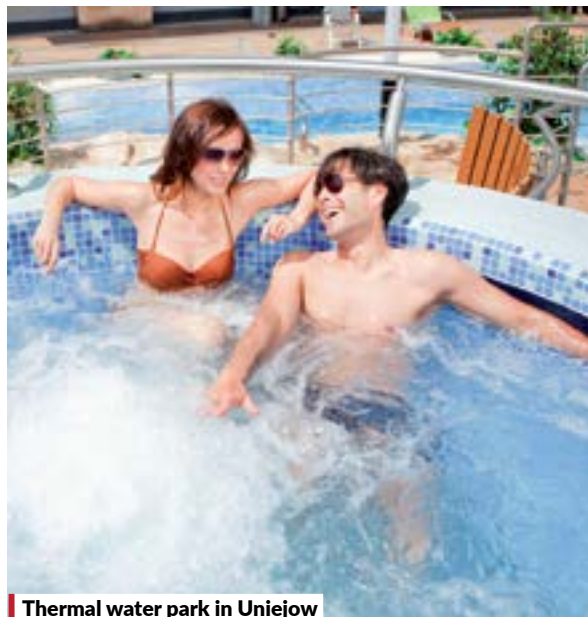
author: D. Redlicki

3

UNIEJOW SPA



What does seemingly failed exploration for oil could end in? In this case, the answer is: in discovering thermal groundwater reservoirs, environmentally friendly district heating for the entire city (the same geothermal energy) and finally – opening a water park recognised as a health resort thereafter. This is Uniejow, up to date the only thermal spa in the country (since 2012), where the therapeutic process is based on geothermal water. Certainly, all visitors are able to benefit from thermal brines of Uniejow, not only spa patients. **The Uniejow Thermal Springs water park** is a recreation venue open all year round, with the total area of water surface of as much as 1500 m². Additional attractions for those visiting Uniejow include the medieval **castle of archbishops of Gniezno** and the **Mill Homestead** (Zagroda Mlynarska), where it is possible, among other things, to stay a night in a genuine windmill.



Thermal water park in Uniejow



The castle of archbishops of Gniezno

author: J. Tatarkiewicz



Knights' tournament

author: J. Tatarkiewicz



The castle of archbishops of Gniezno



Mill Homestead

4

THE FOLKLORE OF LOWICZ



What are kodras, stars and ribbons? We will definitely learn what they are when visiting Lowicz and its vicinity. Here, in the former Ducatus Loviciensis, local traditions associated with art, clothing and customs are still alive. You can see it for yourself while visiting Lowicz during the Corpus Christi – the ceremonial procession is attended by numerous dwellers attired in traditional clothing.

Throughout the year, it is possible to visit the museum of Lowicz with an abundant exposition devoted to local art (there is also a small Open-air museum here with two homesteads), an **Open-air Museum located in Maurzyce** nearby (one can find there more than 40 historical buildings), as well as the exceptional **Folk Museum of the Brzozowski's family in Sromow**. While the latter is notorious for its collection of mobile sculptures, it offers a full range of Lowicz's culture.



Corpus Christi Day in Lowicz

author: J. Rybus



The folklore of Lowicz

author: S. Banas



The folklore of Lowicz



Museum in Lowicz

author: J. Rybus

5

BELCHATOW

THE MINE, GIANTS OF POWER EXHIBITION AND KAMIENSKA MOUNTAIN



Where is the biggest hole in Poland? Near Belchatow. An enormous lignite mine is located here – the quarry of the so-called Belchatow field, 10 km long, 3 km wide, and down to 350 m deep. The mine is one of the few objects, built by a human, which is possible to be seen from cosmos. From the Earth level is more like science-fiction movie scenography or other planet's surface. The largest artificial lake in Poland will be created in the area of the former excavation. The quarry itself is best visible from **the viewing platform** in the locality of Kleszczow. In turn, in Belchatow it is worth to see **the Giants of Power exhibition**, where the process of creation of lignite and then burning it and generation of electricity is shown in an interactive way. Those who like skiing should visit the **Kamienska Mountain**. On an artificial slope, created as an outdoor heap of the

Belchatow Lignite Mine, you can try out winter sports, and in the summer - bicycle tourism.



Kamienska Mountain



Kleszczow - The Belchatow Lignite Mine

author: J. Strachocki



Belchatow - PGE Giants of Power exhibition

6

RIVERS



Bzura River – kayaking

author: J. Panak

Rawka is a river more than 90 kilometres long, flowing across the eastern part of the Lodzkie Region. In opposition to many other lowland rivers, its channel is not regulated. Over its whole length, Rawka is protected as a wildlife park. The section between Skierniewice and Bolimow, covered by the **Bolimowski Landscape Park**, is particularly picturesque. It is best to discover Rawka in a canoe – an extensive tourist infrastructure makes it easy to rent one even in the peak of the summer season. You should remember, however, that Rawka is a challenging river, perfect for more experienced canoeists. Many a time, fallen tree trunks make it necessary to carry the canoe over, and the quick current may very

easily overturn it. On the other hand, the satisfaction after the end of the trip is guaranteed.

Pilica is one of the biggest rivers, and at the same time most surrounded by wildlife in Central Poland. Its large section is protected over three landscape parks located in Lodzkie Region – **Przedborski, Sulejowski and Spalski**, which confirms high tourist values of the river. For years, the **Sulejowski Reservoir** created over the river has formed the main recreational background not only for citizens of Lodz, making it possible to practice a whole range of water sports. Pilica is also very attractive for canoeing enthusiasts – it is easy, picturesque, with

well developed tourist infrastructure. Its large part is marked as a canoeing route. You may learn about the history of the Pilica basin, visiting the **Open-air Museum of Pilica River in Tomaszow Mazowiecki**.

Warta, next to Pilica, is the largest river in the Lodzkie Region. The most interesting area to explore is the vicinities of Wielun, protected as part of the **Zaleczanski Landscape Park**. The river flows here through a canyon, where you can admire **limestone inliers**. Today, in the vicinity of Dzialoszyn by Warta, **the Warta cement factory** is operating. However, the historical **limekilns** preserved until the present around Dzialoszyn and in the locality of Lisowice may be much more interesting for a tourist. Similarly as in the case of Pilica, Warta is suitable for canoeing – the river is considered an easy water route.

Bzura – is a typical lowland river with mild current, 166 km long. Its springs are located in the **Lagiewnicki Forest** (within the city of Lodz borders) at an altitude of 238 m above sea level, and the estuary to the Vistula River in Kamion at 60 m above sea level. Bzura flows through cities such as: Zgierz, Ozorkow, Leczyca, Lowicz and Sochaczew. It is an excellent river to start your adventure with canoeing, because there are no hydrotechnical constructions, weirs or spots that need to carry the canoe over. However, there are sections with quick current, requiring more attention. Bzura situated in a deep valley with numerous meanders is interesting canoeing route recommended for parents with children.



Pilica River

author: M. Szelest

7

THE LODZKIE HORSE TRAIL

More than 2000 km of routes, 200 equestrian centres, above 1000 tourist attractions, topped with special rest places and information points equipped with GPS trackers. Regional paths and wilderness are just begging for equestrian exploration in which everyone will find something they like – starting from horse-riding for beginners, horse carriage driving, to hippotherapy and staging of historical events.



Lodzkie Horse Trail

author: K. Jarczewski



Lodzkie Horse Trail

author: K. Jarczewski



Lodzkie Horse Trail

author: K. Jarczewski

8

PIOTRKOW TRYBUNALSKI

- THE OLD TOWN



It is not without reason that Piotrkow has “Trybunalski” in its name – over a period of 200 years, the Crown Tribunal – the supreme court of the former Republic of Poland – had its seat there. Today, the historical layout of **the Old City** is a reminder of its bygone splendour, with well-preserved burgher tenement houses and a **former royal castle used as a museum**. An important element of multicultural past of the town is also **the Great Synagogue**, rebuilt after the war, currently used as a public library.

For those who seek escape from grand history, **film and brewing trails** will offer a nice asylum.



The Old Town



The Old Town - bird's eye view



The Great Synagogue



The Royal Chamber

9

PALACES AND GARDENS



Had Franciszek Karpiński lived in the Lodzkie Region, he would have loved **Arkadia**. This romantic garden of Helena Radziwiłłowa with its Aqueduct, Gothic House and Diana Temple forms a perfect scenery not only for creative imagination, but also for city dwellers looking for rest. For those who are eager to learn more historical facts, a visit to the second element of the complex – **the Palace of Radziwiłł Family, Nieborów Museum** – is obligatory. Both places are not just tourist attractions, but also a popular scenery for... marriage photographs. Who does not want to live in a palace? Especially one which saw the legendary romantic affair of Maria Walewska and Napoleon? However, **the Palace in Walewice** is not only a place for readers of romance books. It comprises an accommodation and boarding, as well as conference infrastructure and also an extended complex of the Horse Stable

in Walewice with its own half-bred Anglo-Arabian horses and an extensive equestrian infrastructure.



The aqueduct in Arkadia



The Palace in Nieborow



The Palace in Walewice



The Palace in Walewice

author: P. Augustyniak

10

TOMASZOWSKA OKRAGLICA



What is Tomaszowska Okraglica? It is a combination of the most important tourist attractions of Tomaszow Mazowiecki: **Blue Springs, Nagorzyckie Caves** and **the Open-air Museum of the Pilica River**. Three completely different places, but each one just as much connected with the local history and heritage. Of course it is not everything which is worth to see in Tomaszow. For active recreation enthusiasts we can recommend the **Ice Arena**, the first and so far the only one in Poland all year round skating facility. Polish Olympic team, among others, train there, but at selected hours everyone can test their skating skills. And when it comes to sports, what about canoeing on Pilica from Tomaszow to Spala and Inowlodz? In Spala, apart from the cultural monuments, there is also the whole complex of **Central Sports Center and Olympic Preparation Center**.



Nagorzyckie Caves

author: D. Kwapisiewicz

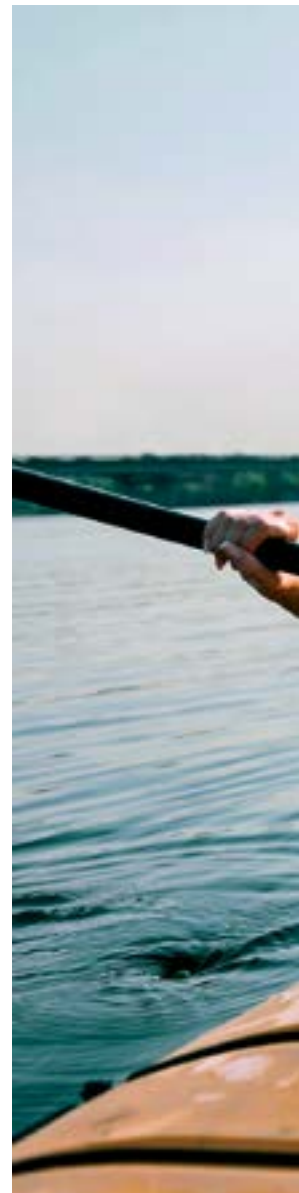


The Blue Springs Reserve

author: D. Kwapisiewicz

What can you do in the Lodzkie Region?

active time
spending







Kayak trails in Lodzkie Region

An asset of the Lodzkie Region is its diversity. Enthusiasts of active recreation will find here a lot of opportunity for time spending – you can explore hiking trails, use bicycle and canoeing trails as well as the longest horse trail in Europe or the biggest skiing slope in Central Poland.

The best areas for hiking are those with diversified topography. **The Landscape Park of Lodz Elevations** or **Zaleczanski Landscape Park** and **Przedborski Landscape Park**, situated at the southern borders of the region, are perfect for that purpose thanks to their networks of tourist trails. For a longer stroll (Nordic walking, for example)

you may also go to **Lagiewnicki Forest** in the northern part of Lodz or to the areas near **Spala** by the Pilica river. The Wieruszowski district has an interesting proposal for orienteering enthusiasts where the **“Wieruszowski district with a map and a compass”** programme is implemented. To seekers of more extreme experiences, **“A hundred in Lodz way”** may be recommended, which is an annual hiking orienteering ride in the closest vicinity of Lodz, as part of which the participants have to go a distance of 50 or 100 km.



Jeziorsko Reservoir

author: K. Gara



Lagiewnicki Forest

author: K. Krakowska



Warta River

Bicycle tourism enthusiasts will easily find both short- as well as long-distance trails for themselves both near Lodz (once again, it is worth to go to Lodz Elevations) and in the whole region. Since 2016, the **Lodz Public Bicycle** system has been available in Lodz, while in 2018, the **Regional Public Bicycle** was launched – the bicycles are available in 10 cities and towns of the region (Lodz, Koluszki, Kutno, Lask, Lowicz, Pabianice, Sieradz, Skierniewice, Zdunska Wola and Zgierz).

The Lodzkie Region has also a lot to **offer to canoeists**. **Rawka, Pilica, Warta Grabia and Widawka** are rivers which are most commonly used for canoeing. Relatively easy in technical terms (especially Pilica and Warta), interesting in terms of landscape and sightseeing (e.g. historical water mills by Grabia) have been attracting for years numerous enthusiasts of active tourism. An extensive tourism infrastructure makes it easy to rent a canoe or to find accommodation in the case of canoeing trips longer than one day. When planning next trips, it is also worth to consider other rivers – **Bzura, Mroga, Prosna, Ner or Drzewiczka**.

The two biggest reservoirs in the region – **the Sulejowski and Jeziorsko** – offer good conditions for sailing and windsurfing enthusiasts.

The Lodzkie Region is an excellent place for **equestrian tourism**. Those who like to watch professionals in action may come to **Boguslawice**,

Walewice or **Gajewniki**, where equestrian tournaments are cyclically held. Amateurs of independent horse-riding have more than 200 stables in the region for their disposal, as well as the longest horse trail in Europe connecting them, stretching at a distance of 2000 km. It is comprised of two loops – a smaller one around Lodz, and a bigger one around the whole region, with numerous connecting sections. Planning the trip - the Management Centre of the Lodzkie Horse Trail located in Lodz is worth visiting. Not only you can get there maps of this and others regional touristic trails but also information



The Sulejowski Landscape Park

about monitoring application, which offers you reporting problems or calling rescue service.

Winter is a time when we will discover also other tourist values of the region – on the **Kamienska Mountain** near Belchatow, there is the biggest skiing slope in Central Poland. More than 800 metres of a relatively easy piste will be perfect for a family trip (but remember that the upper part of the slope is more challenging!). Another slope with a ski lift is located in **Malinka Ski Park in Zgierz**.

An interesting way to actively explore the region, both its nature as well as history, may be provided by **quests and photogames**. The routes developed by the Lodzkie Region cover all landscape parks and selected cities.



Kamienska Mountain



Sulejowski Reservoir

What can you do in the Lodzkie Region?



nature







The Zaleczanski Landscape Park

In the Lodzkie Region, nature is often present just around the corner, as is the case for the Lagiewnicki Forest located in Lodz, one of the biggest forest complexes situated within city borders in Europe. On the one hand, it offers an abundant recreational infrastructure – ponds in **Arturowek** which are loved by the city dwellers, hiking and bicycle trails, and even equestrian trails (the Management Centre of the Lodzkie Horse Trail is located in the forest). On the other hand – one can find here such sanctuaries of nature as “**Lagiewnicki Forest**” wildlife park.

There is also another forest area in the region – **Spala Forests** – which is equally interesting in natural and historical terms. They gained national dignity due to stays of Russian tzars, and after the partitions – president of the Second Polish Republic.

Even though the forests were severely depleted during World War I, the Pilica river, surrounded by the most pure wildlife from among big rivers in Central Poland, certainly adds a natural tone to them.

In natural terms, one of the most important water attractions of the region is the **Jeziorsko Reservoir** on the Warta river, located in the western part of the region. Its southern part is protected as a fauna reserve. In the season of Autumn migrations of wetland birds, there are as many as several thousand birds at the same time here!



The Przedborski Landscape Park



The Landscape Park of Warta and Widawka Interfluvial Zone



The Landscape Park of Lodzkie Elevations

author: L. Samosiej

The nature of the region is preserved by local landscape parks:

THE LANDSCAPE PARK OF LODZ ELEVATIONS

Apart from the already mentioned Lagiewnicki Forest, can boast the following wildlife parks: “**Janinowskie Canyons**”, where sleek beeches and branching gorges form a scenery as of the Lord of the Rings or “**Dobieszkowska Stream**” located nearby the medieval **stronghold in Stare Skoszewy**.

THE SPALSKI LANDSCAPE PARK

The remains of the former Pilicka Primeval Forest – two hundred years old oaks, hornbeams and pines, will arouse enthusiasm of any dendrologist.

These specimens are located mostly in the “**Spala**” **wildlife park**, just as the curiosity of the local natural landscape – pines “on stilts” produced by river erosion.

THE SULEJOWSKI LANDSCAPE PARK

The Park’s area includes such magical places as “**Blue Springs**” wildlife park with its famous, azure water, or “**Apple Tree Forest**”, where among stands typical of forests we will find numerous specimens of wild fruit trees – apple trees, pear trees, and hawthorn. And if you prefer flora over fauna, an obligatory point of the trip is the **Forest Animal Education and Rehabilitation Centre in Kolo**.



The Bolimowski Landscape Park - Polana Siwica Reserve

author: P. Wojtyczka

THE PRZEDBORSKI LANDSCAPE PARK

With topography as its biggest asset. The hiking trails are meandering upwards and downwards across the local hills (including the biggest natural hill of the Lodz Region, “Cool Fish”).

THE LANDSCAPE PARK OF WARTA AND WIDAWKA INTERFLUVIAL ZONE

With its main characters being the rivers, of course, and in particular Warta which is an unquestionable queen of the area. Anyone who dreams of meeting common cranes, waders and other wetland birds should head straight here.



The Spalski Landscape Park

author: K. Krakowska

THE ZAŁĘCZANSKI LANDSCAPE PARK

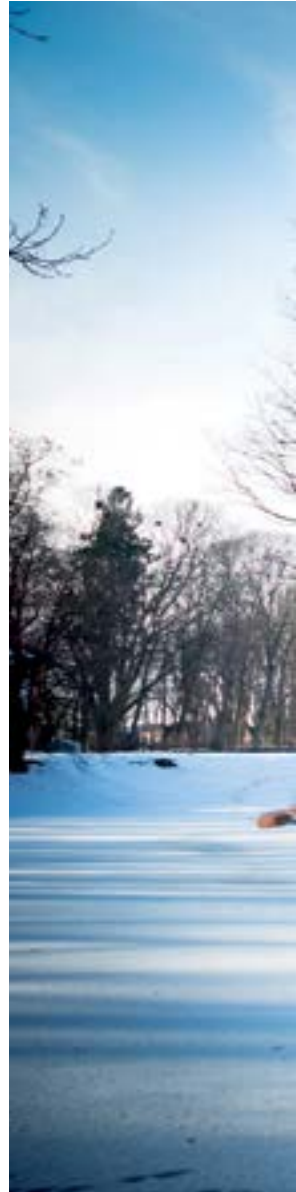
Here the presence of Warta is marked not only in terms of natural landscape. Indeed, in its valley we will find remains of ancient burial mounds, with the oldest ones dating back to the 2nd century AC. The Park belongs to the area of Wielunska Upland. Here Warta flows in a deeply indented valley, forming so-called **Great Bend of Warta**. The geological **reserve “Serpents”** located on the **Zelce Mountain** hides numerous caves inside. You also just have to come by to the **quarry in Lisowice** – the section with formations from consecutive geological periods are excellently visible here, you can also find here various types of **fossils**.

THE BOLIMOWSKI LANDSCAPE PARK

Its biggest secret (apart from the Rawka river) are enormous (even to several dozens hectares in size) primeval forest clearings resulting from activities of servant builders, felling the forest to obtain potash, birch tar, or lignite. Today, the clearings are a true repository of forest biological diversity. You will find 1/3 of all plants occurring in the area, and also animals – wetland birds, amphibians and large mammals. Both for nature protection as well as security reasons, part of the clearings (such as Siwica clearing) can be accessed only upon prior notification, together with Park workers.

What can you do in the Lodzkie Region?

monuments







The Castle of the Oporowski Family in Oporow



The fortified manor of Krakow's Bishops in Pabianice

Over the past few years as many as four sites from the Lodz Region were entered on the list of Monuments of History: **the cathedral basilica in Lowicz, the Cistercian abbey in Sulejow-Podklasztorze, the palace and park complex in Nieborow** together with nearby **romantic park in Akradia**, and also a **multicultural landscape of the industrial town in Lodz**. History of arts enthusiast will find sites in the Lodz Region that document a thousand years of tradition. Temples with Romanesque elements, Gothic churches (some of the first examples of this style in Poland are located in the **Sulejow abbey**), and castles (including the very well preserved private **castle of the Oporowski Family in Oporow** near Kutno). Examples of Renaissance architecture are also numerous here – such as **the fortified**

manor in Pabianice (presently a museum) or churches of Kalisz-Lublin type with characteristic stucco decorations (e.g. in **Poddebice, Chruslin and Sobota**). The Renaissance era is also represented by **the church of St Victoria in the Lowicz** cathedral, with the grave stone of archbishop Jakub Uchanski made by Jan Michalowicz from Urzedow (the most eminent Polish sculptor of that times). Also Baroque art is abundantly represented in the region, both in sacred, as well as secular architecture. In 17th and 18th century, the monumental **sanctuary of the Holy Family in Studzianna-Poswietne** was one of the most important pilgrimage centres in Poland. **The palace in Nieborow** designed by Tylman from Gameren, today a branch of the National Museum, is one of the best preserved Baroque manors in



The Cistercian Abbey in Sulejow-Podklasztorze

Poland. An interesting example of this style is also the noblemen **Manor in Ozarow** – one of rare preserved examples of a noblemen seat from the Baroque era, built of wood. Today, it houses **the Museum of Manor Interiors**.

Also Classicists properties, such as **the Palace in Walewice** or **the Palace and Church of St James in Skierniewice**, can be found in the region.

The romantic Park in Arkadia near Nieborow is a unique site. It was created by the Duchess Helena Radziwillowa at the turn of the 18th and 19th century. The neo-style (neo-Romanesque, neo-Gothic, etc.) and eclectic architecture (a combination of different styles) from the 19th century is

typical of the towns and cities of the Lodz region which developed as industrial centres at that time.

Lodz is a unique example here – in the centre of the city, there are more than 10 thousand tenement houses from the turn of the 19th and 20th century, preserved until today, and also numerous factory owners' residences, temples, public buildings and factories. Also here there are interesting preserved examples of Art Nouveau and Modernism from the first half of the 20th century.

Industrial monuments form one of the characteristic features of the region – they can be found not only in the capital city of the region, but also in smaller towns – first of all in **Zgierz, Pabianice, Tomaszow**



Manor - Museum of Manor Interiors in Ozarow

Mazowiecki or **Piotrkow Trybunalski**. Of course, the unquestionable leader is **Lodz** – approximately 200 smaller or larger factory complexes survived in the city. Often, these were whole developed areas where, apart from the manufacturing buildings, residences of the owners were seated, as well as houses for workers and social infrastructure buildings such as schools, shops or hospitals. The best example here will be **the Priests' Mill** housing estate, created by the richest manufacturers from Lodz – the Scheibler family and **Manufaktura** – the former empire of the Poznanski family.

The Lodzkie Region is mostly agricultural land, where examples of traditional rural buildings survived until today. The most interesting ones were transferred to Open-air Museums – the biggest one in **Maurzyce** near Lowicz and to smaller ones in **Lowicz**, **Sieradz** or **Kwiatowek** near Leczyca. Also the initiatives to use traditional buildings to create tourist attractions, as in the case of the **Mill Homestead in Uniejow** or the **Polish Folklore Centre in Nagawki** are noteworthy.

The Lodzkie Region is also one of the regions with plentiful of wooden churches – there are more than a hundred of them. The oldest of these churches originate from the end of the 15th century, most of them from the 16th century, including the most interesting ones in **Boguszyce** near Rawa Mazowiecka and **Grebien** near Wielun, both adorned with Renaissance paintings.

Finally, an important element of the region's heritage are monuments of the former multiculturalism.

The Poles, Jews, Germans, Russians and Czechs who once lived here left temples, synagogues, cemeteries, but also palaces, tenement houses, schools or factories. **The Jewish cemetery in Lodz**, one of the biggest and best preserved such sites in Europe, is a unique monument.



Open-air museum of Lowicz territory in Maurzyce

author: J. Ziółkowski

What can you do in the Lodzkie Region?

history





author: M. Stasiak



Dukes of Masovia castle in Rawa Mazowiecka

author: P. Wojtyczka

The Lodzkie Region as a separate administrative unit is “only” 100 years old, as it came into being after Poland had gained independence. The history of this area, situated in the border area between Lesser Poland, Greater Poland and Masovia is much more longer. One can find here seats of castellany dating back to Poland of the Piast dynasty or historical settlements such as Leczyca, Sieradz, Rawa and Wielun, where seats of medieval duchies, voivo-

deships and lands were located. The walls of the oldest monuments are silent witnesses of important events. Significant decisions were taken here (in Sieradz and Piotrkow Trybunalski, a couple of Polish kings were elected; in Piotrkow Trybunalski, the Crown Tribunal for the Greater Poland held its sittings for more than 200 years).

In the 19th century, the area of today's region became one of the main industrial regions of the then Kingdom of Poland. Even before Lodz had developed into the biggest centre of textile industry in the country, the leading position was occupied by Ozorkow and then by Zgierz. Until today, in both these cities (and also, among other things, in Pabianice, Aleksadrow and Konstantinow Lodzki or Tomaszow Mazowiecki), there are lots of preserved traces connected with economic history. They include both factories, factory owners' residences, as well as former weavers' houses. Zgierz, where **the Town of Weavers Cultural Park** is located, is exceptional in this scope. Several dozen traditional houses from the 19th century have survived here. In turn, in Zdunska Wola, there is a preserved historical town district for settlers developing local craftsmanship and the also manufactures and industry.

The 20th century brought about a number of tragic events connected with World War I and II. The front of the World War I was sweeping across the present Lodzkie Region a couple of times (from mid-1914 to mid-1915), where the Russian army clashed with German and Austrian forces. It is worth remembering that in all partitioners' armies, many Poles served as soldiers. The particularly intensive struggles from Autumn 1914 went down in history as the Battle of Lodz or Lodz Operation – during a few weeks, half a million soldiers took part in the fights, and as many as 200 thousand of them died.



The Town of Weavers Cultural Park in Zgierz

Today, numerous military cemeteries, dispersed nearly everywhere in the region, are a reminder of these days. In turn, near Bolimow in 1915, the Germans used war gases for the first time in history. The Autumn of 1939 and the defensive war of that time in the vicinity of Lodz is associated first and foremost with the Battle of Bzura, one of few successful military actions of the Polish army at that time. Also here **cemeteries** bear testimony to these dramatic events, first of all cemeteries with quarters of those fallen near Kutno, Lowicz, and Leczyca, as well as **the Battle of Bzura Museum**, located in Kutno. A tragic page of Poland's history was also written in Wielun which was the first



The Battle of Bzura Museum in Kutno

author: M. Jabłoński



The Battle of Bzura Museum in Kutno

author: M. Jabłoński

victim of German bombing in the morning of the 1st of September.

A separate story associated with World War II were ghettos for Jewish population created by German occupiers, including the first ghetto in Poland in Piotrkow or the second largest (after Warsaw ghetto) ghetto in Lodz.

Among historical figures, two eminent writers – Julian Tuwim and Wladyslaw Reymont – were associated with Lodz. The first of them, born in the city, is commemorated here by a couple of monuments, including the most famous **Tuwim's bench**

standing in the central point of Piotrowska Street, as well as an office named after him in **the Museum of the City of Lodz**. The other one, born in Kobile Wielkie near Radomsko, lived also in Lodz (when collecting material to The Promised Land), but also in the vicinity of Lipce Reymontowskie which inspired him to write his epic work devoted to the Polish countryside – The Peasants. In today's Lipce, there is a museum collecting memorabilia of him, as well as a private **Gallery of Antiques and Regional Memorabilia** with an enormous collection of The Peasants editions, as well as exhibits devoted to the TV series created on the basis of the novel.



The Gallery of Antiques and Regional Memorabilia in Lipce Reymontowskie

What can you do in the Lodzkie Region?

—
with family





Is the Lodzkie Region friendly for families with children? Definitely so. The attractions you can find here are suitable for the youngest ones as well as a little older tourists. And very importantly, these attractions will prove to be suitable both in full sunlight as well as in rainy days.

There are a lot water parks in Poland. But open-air pools with warm water – not so many. The local water park in **Uniejow** is called “**Thermal Springs**” for a reason – hot water from the earth’s interior makes it possible to bath in an open air pool the whole year round. Whatever the outdoor temperature, the temperature of water in the pool is always the same and equal 30 degrees. To diversify your experience during the visit to Uniejow, it is worth to come by to **the Mill Homestead** for a living lesson

in history. Here, in a historical mill, you can learn how grain is ground for flour.

Uniejow is not far away from **Borysewo** and the local **Safari Zoo**. In conditions as close as possible to normal ones, in an area of 25 ha, there live 500 animals representing 90 species. The biggest “stars” include white lions and white Bengal tigers; both species are very rare and endangered.

One of attractions for the youngest ones is **Jurassic and Botanic Park “Dinopark” and Santa Claus Land in Kolacinek** near Brzeziny. The major attraction here, of course, are full-scale dinosaur models, but when Christmas is coming, the highlight of the day is meeting someone else... Another fairy-tale attraction is **Park of Gnome Tales in Chociszew**, where you can learn about Slavic gnomes and take



The Mill Homestead in Uniejow



"Dinopark" / Santa Claus Land in Kolacinek



Indian Village "Tatanka" in Solca Mała

a stroll across the Valley of Gnomes or spend a night in a tree house. In the nearby **Solca Mala**, in turn, there is an **Indian Village, "Tatanka"**. It is a place where not only you can learn about tradition and customs of native Americans, but also test your skills in various competitions, e.g. in a fight on a Cheyenne balance beam. But if we are talking about Leczyca itself, you can most certainly meet **Boruta the devil** there. The castle museum boasts of the largest collection of demonology-related sculptures in the country.

Nagorzyckie Caves and the local sand pit in Tomaszow Mazowiecki have another host. Legend has it

that brigand Madej lived here. And even if you will not meet him during your trip along the underground hiking trail, there will be plenty other things to admire.

There is yet another exceptional place to visit near Tomaszow – **the Mikrokosmos Park in Ujazd**. The local collection includes 25 models of insects and as many models of microorganisms. If you want to face a ladybug, mosquito, or bee bigger than a human being, you will have such opportunity here.

In turn in **Lipka** near Lodz you can meet the latter insects, but this time real ones and buzzing. In the local **apiary**, educational classes are held during

which you can learn the secrets of these fascinating animals. Thanks to a glazed hive, you can look inside the bee home, and for the dessert, taste various honeys.

The life of bees is one of possible subject matters of educational classes in **the Botanical Garden in Lodz**. In addition, the local **Open-air Plant Museum** offers knowledge of medical and culinary properties of plants.

Also young communication enthusiasts will not be bored in the Lodzkie Region. On weekends, in the warm part of the year, you can go for a trip on a **narrow-gauge train in Rogow**. In selected days, you can also visit the historical **steam depot in Skierniewice**, where you can find, among others, a former training locomotive and look inside the boiler. In **Lodz** in turn, in the historical **Brus tramway depot**, you can see historical tramways (on summer weekends, you can also go for a trip on a tramway used by your grandparents where they were young).

Not enough? For the dessert, there are two places related to science – combined with real fun, of course. In **Belchatow**, it is worth to visit **the Giants of Power**, an interactive exhibition showing how lignite in the Belchatow deposit came into being and how electricity is generated from coal today. In **Lodz** in turn, in the historical municipal power plant, one of the newest and most interesting attractions of this type in the country operates – **the Science and Technology Center EC1**. You can track here the

power generation process (nearly complete equipment of a power plant from nearly 90 years before is preserved here) and see two additional expositions. Those who are interested can also watch a film in a **spherical 3D cinema** and go to the **planetarium**.



PGE Giants of Power exhibition in Belchatow



The narrow-gauge Train Rogów - Rawa - Biała

What can you do in the Lodzkie Region?

let's party!





author: P. Augustyniak

Concerts, festivals, entertainment and cultural events, historical stagings – all of this can be found in the Lodzkie Region. The offer is rich and, importantly, includes events held nearly throughout the year.

A festival which involves the whole region in the most comprehensive manner is Arthur Rubinstein Philharmonic's "**Colours of Poland Touring Festival**". It is a series of concerts taking place in different places, venues, and sceneries (interiors of temples, castle yards, parks, and museums), covering the whole range of music genres. Through the whole summer, on each weekend music can be heard in different places, not only inviting to listen, but also to explore the whole region.

In Lodz, there is one of the biggest event venues in Poland – **the Atlas Arena**, able to accommodate several thousand people. It is no wonder that concerts of the world's biggest music stars are organised here – the venue hosted performances of, among others, Rihanna, Shakira, Depeche Mode, or Rod Stewart. The highest-rank sports events are also held here – world or European championships in e.g. volleyball, basketball, or... enduro.

Lodz is also a place where the biggest number of various events takes place. The one attracting the widest audience for a couple of years is **Light Move Festival**. It is accompanied by installations, shows and mappings which transform the centre of Lodz in a magical way during one weekend.

Also other events have their faithful audience – **Triennial of Tapestry, Ballet Festival, Lodz of Four Cultures Festival, Lodz Design Festival, Cinergia Film Festival** are examples of events strongly associated with the city and its culture.

And there are many interesting events also in other parts of the region. Importantly, they refer to the local history and famous figures associated with the region. In Sieradz, a unique festival related mainly to hairdressing is held – the **Open Hair**, in Kutno, **the Jeremi Przybora National Festival "Kutno Station"** (Jeremi Przybora was a co-creator of the famous Older Gentleman Cabaret who immortalised Kutno in a song and was a honourable startosta (senior administrative official) of the town), and **the Festival of Sholem Asch** who was born here. In Piotrkow, the International **Art Festival "Interakcje"** and Cabaret Tribunals have a long tradition, and in Radomsko every year the **Rozewicz Open Festival** is held dedicated to the work of Rozewicz Brothers who were born in the town.

Another two unique festivals are connected with the local "plant" history – **the Rose Festival in Kutno** and the **Flowers, Fruits, and Vegetables Festival in Skierniewice**. Both those fond of picnic atmosphere and open air concerts as well as committed enthusiasts of floristics and horticulture will find something for themselves here. In turn, fans of heavy metal music should remember about **Summer Dying Loud** in Aleksandrow Lodzki.

The Lodzkie Region has also a wide offer for enthusiasts of historical stagings. Events related to World War I and II are cyclically recreated in the **Open-air Museum of Pilica River in Tomaszow Mazowiecki**. In Bolimow in turn, battles of 1915 are reconstructed. Somewhat similar, but with an entirely different era as a background, are **knights tournaments in Castles of Leczyca and Uniejow**, and since recently – also in the **castle in Inowloz**. For a couple of years, an event related to early Middle Ages is **Mokoszowisko** taking place in the reconstructed settlement in **Rzeczyca**. During the event,

there are no knights tournaments or fights. Instead, historical crafts, customs and beliefs are recreated. In turn, an event gathering staging artists showing different historical periods is **Historical Odyssey**, held annually in **Leszchynek** near Kutno. You can not only meet here Roman legionaries, medieval knights or Napoleon's troops, but even staging artists recreating the realities of the Afghanistan war from the 80s or living conditions in the German Democratic Republic...



"Open Hair Festival" in Sieradz



Historical Odyssey in Leszchynek

author: J. Stochliński

Trips suggestions



1-2-3 days in lodz





It is best to start exploring the Lodzkie Region from its capital city. It is the third largest city in Poland, which has been underestimated by tourists for years. Today, it is changing very fast and attracts visitors. The monuments of manufacturing and working class history, multiculturalism and film are distinctive features of Lodz.

1ST DAY IN LODZ

If you have one day to visit Lodz, you should start with a stroll along **Piotrkowska Street**. In most cities, their central point is the market – in Lodz, however, it is a street which is 4 kilometres long. Majestic tenement houses, showing the richness of the 19th century architecture, complemented with municipal palaces, original monuments and other exceptional places to discover in yards – gardens, factories, and since recently also artistic installations as for example at **Pasaż Róży no. 3**. You will also need to take a look on the yard at **number 136 – OFF Piotrkowska**. It houses a historical factory, transformed a couple of years ago in a metropolitan entertainment centre. It is best to extend a stroll over the northern, promenade part of Piotrkowska and cross **the Staromiejski Park** leading to **Manufaktura**. The former factory complex of the Poznanski family has been open since 2006 for everyone. The historical buildings are used by museums, theatre, cinema, and also a full range of

various eating venues. In the monumental spinning mill, the exceptional **Andel's Hotel** operates, and the whole centre is complemented by a modern shopping mall. In turn, in the palace adjacent to the factory, there is **the Museum of the City of Lodz**, a perfect place to learn about history of the city and at the same time a palace residence with beautiful interiors.

And since Lodz is a city that developed thanks to industry, you should most certainly also visit **the Priests' Mill**. It is the former empire of the Scheibler family, where next to factories, the residence of the owners, a housing estate of workers' houses called "famulas" in Lodz, as well as a school, store, hospital, and a fire station were preserved. This place offers a unique atmosphere, and owing to systematically renovated buildings it gains splendour.

In the end, there is yet another exceptional place to visit – **the Jewish cemetery** on Bracka Street. It is another site demonstrating the power of the 19th century Lodz. The Poznanski family mausoleum, overlooking the necropolis, is considered to be the largest Jewish tombstone in the world. However, the monuments of other factory owners are almost as impressive as the mausoleum. You must also step in to the pre-burial house from the end of the 19th century, and to the Ghetto Fields – a place marked by a tragic history of World War II and the Ghetto of Lodz.



The Museum of the City of Lodz



OFF Piotrkowska



The Piotrkowska Street

author: P. Wojtyczka

2ND DAY IN LODZ

Continuing your exploration of Lodz you should wander across the city along two trails – one associated with cinematography, and the other with technology. As part of the first one, an obligatory point of the programme is **the Film Museum** housed in the former palace of the Scheibler family. The most important exhibit in the museum’s collection is the original Kaiserpanorama from the end of the 19th century, but also historical film cameras and projectors are worth seeing. The interiors themselves are impressive, especially when we remember frames from “The Promised Land” directed by Andrzej Wajda. When Müller shows his palace to Borowiecki, there are luxurious rooms of the Scheibler family in the background. When you leave the museum, you will “bump into” Filemon and Bonifacy, characters of one of iconic Polish TV good night stories. You can continue your stroll right away along **the Fairy-Trail Lodz** Trail, meeting, among others, Teddy Floppy-ear, Pik-Pok Penguin or Colargol the bear. From the Museum, it is also very close to a legend-veiled place, namely **the Film School** or more precisely **the National Film School in Lodz**. Here, you need to sit on the famous stairs of the Rector’s office buildings (another factory owner’s residence) and read the plaques with names of the most famous students. It is also worth to come to the shooting facility and take a closer look at the place where film-makers work.

If during your walk along **Piotrowska Street** you did not have enough time to inspect closely **the Walk of Fame** near Traugutta and Moniuszki Streets, you should do this now. In turn, in the already mentioned **Museum of the City of Lodz**, the only genuine Oscar in the city is exposed, which was awarded to a pianist coming from Lodz, Artur Rubinstein.

If the day is not over yet, you should continue along the trail of technological monuments. In addition to **the Priests’ Mill** and **Manufaktura** (with the Factory Museum to be seen), the mandatory points of the programme include **the Central Textile Museum** and **the “Detka” Canal Museum**. The first one, situated in the older factory in Lodz, collects any traces of history related to textile industry. Its exposition does not only include an enormous set of textile machines (also in operating condition and sometimes activated), but also a historical boiler room with a genuine steam engine, as well as exhibitions devoted to clothing and artistic fabrics. The museum is complemented by the adjacent **Open-air Museum of the Lodz Wooden Architecture**, where a Lodz street of the 19th century has been opened.

In the end, you should also look underground or more precisely – to the canal. “Detka” is a former rainwater reservoir. Today, it is operated as a museum which offers a unique occasion for tourist to discover the undergrounds of Lodz.

3RD DAY IN LODZ

After intense two days of sightseeing, anyone deserves a moment of rest. For people who associate Lodz with a “grey city” it may come as a big surprise that there are more than 30 parks in Lodz, and in addition, in its northern part, there is one of the biggest municipal forests in Europe – **the Lagiewnicki Forest**. The most interesting park in Lodz, **Zrodliiska**, is at the same time the oldest one. The old oaks growing here still remember the Primeval Forest of Lodz covering this areas two hundred years ago. In **the Park Palm House**, however, you will find entirely different vegetation. Also **the Botanical Garden**, occupying the area of more than 70 hectares and neighbouring the biggest park in Lodz (Jozef Pilsudski Park) is a good place for a walk. Until recently, there was a funfair in the latter, today transformed into an extensive family recreation zone.



The Central Textile Museum



The Fairy-Trail Lodz

Trips suggestions



1-2-3 days
in the western
part of the region





1ST DAY: SIERADZ + UNIEJOW

If you have one day to explore the western part of the Lodzkie Region, you should start with Sieradz, the main municipal centre in this area, a town with a thousand years of history. Today, its rank is demonstrated by a large **Gothic Collegiate Basilica** (and a nearby post-dominican church and monastery complex, also Gothic in style), between which there is **the Market** with historical tenement houses. Among them, so-called **Jagiellonian Tenement House** from the 16th century, today the seat of **the District Museum**, is worth particular attention. From the Market, you should also go to the historical castle hill. Foundations of the castle along with fragments of a Romanesque rotunda are still waiting for archaeological and securing works. In the meantime, you will need to use your imagination to discern the outline of walls. On the other hand, you can visit **the mini Open-air Museum**. Sieradz is situated by Warta and Zeglina rivers.

Heading north along Warta, you can reach Uniejow, taking a quick look on the way at the biggest water reservoir in the region, so-called **Sieradz Sea** or **Jeziorsko**. The southern part of the reservoir is protected as a fauna reserve due to wetland birds occurring here. It is one of the best ornithological location in Poland.

Uniejow itself is one of the smallest towns in the region and at the same time one of the most dynamically developing once in the recent years. Local geothermal water brings benefits both to spa patients as well as anyone who wants to **Uniejow Thermal Springs Water Park**. Next to the thermal springs, there is a medieval **Castle of Archbishops of Gniezno**, today used as a hotel, but also as a site for knights tournaments. There is **the Mill Homestead** nearby, where a couple of historical buildings from this area are gathered, creating a site combining the functions of a museum (you can learn about the arcana of work of former windmills here), as well as an accommodation and eating place. Spending a night with the second one of the windmills standing here can be a unique attraction.

If you consider visiting Uniejow in **the Corpus Christi Day**, you need to visit the neighbouring locality, **Spycimierz**. It is a small village with rich history and its distinguishing feature are so-called flower carpets: its dwellers prepare carpets of flower petals, forming a unique setting for the procession.



Castle Hill in Sieradz



The Corpus Christi Day in Spycimierz



Thermal Water Park in Uniejow

2ND DAY: WIELUN AND ITS VICINITY

It is worth to devote the second day in the western part of the region to see the vicinities of Wielun. There are plenty of historical buildings in this area, and beautiful landscapes over the Warta river will be an additional attraction. Wielun itself is one of the most interesting towns of the region in terms of urban development. Apart from a number of historical sacral buildings and fragments of town walls, you should also see the local **Museum of Wielun District**. One of its expositions is devoted to history, including its most dramatic part – namely German bombardments of the town on 1st September 1939.

We may say that World War II started here – the first bombs landed in the town still before shelling of Westerplatte had started. Today, apart from the exhibition, foundations of a collegiate church preserved in the form of ruins are a reminder of these days. Every year in Wielun, ceremonies are held to commemorate these tragic events.

In the vicinity of Wielun, you should visit at least a couple of historical localities. **In Ruda** (former seat of castellany), there is a surviving **church with Romanesque elements** (including very interested paintings from that time showing the Baptism of Mieszko I and its crew); **in Krzyworzeka**, next to the church, there is still a **Romanesque belfry**, where – according to the local legend – Wladyslaw I the Elbow-high was once hiding.



Museum of Wielun district

As for the sacral monument, you should not omit **wooden churches of Wielun type**. These very distinctive buildings originate from the 16th and the 17th centuries. Their most interesting example is **the church in Grebien**, where you can also admire lavish Renaissance wall and ceiling painted decorations. Grebien neighbours Ozarow with a noblemen manor house (today **the Museum of Manor Interiors** which also includes a **historical mill** in the nearby Kocilew).

Warta is a stone thrown from Wielun. Its picturesque section (so-called Great Bend of Warta) is protected as **the Zaleczanski Landscape Park**. You can engage both in canoeing, as well as hiking and bicycling tourism here. The most interesting trails include the short (just a couple of kilometres) **Ducal Burial Moulds** trail near the locality of Przywoz – with a couple of burial moulds from before nearly two thousand years. Also the historical **limekilns** (especially near Lisowice) are a sign of the presence of man in this area is, as well as the quarry in Lisowice. You can learn here a lot about geology, observing the exposed sections of consecutive geological layers. The fact that the areas around Wielun are the northernmost fragment of the Polish Jurassic is evidenced by the presence of limestone inliers, as well as **the Zelce Mountain** with a couple of caves, protected as the **“Serpents” wildlife park**.



The wooden church in Grebien



Zelce Mountain

3RD DAY: PODDEBICE + ZDUNSKA WOLA

When you are near Uniejow, you should also visit **Poddebice**, a locality which is also connected with geothermal water. **The Renaissance palace** build by the Grudzinski family, housing a cultural centre today, is also a must-see. The park surrounding it offers two exceptional attractions. In the former Evangelical church, **the Thermal Water Drinking Room** was arranged. The local water is not only hot, but first of all healthy. The other site, **the Garden of Senses**, contains elements which enable us to sharpen all our sense... At the market in Poddebice you can also go to the Renaissance church with beautiful decorations inside.

Between Lodz and Sieradz, **Zdunska Wola** is also a place worth seeing. This town has developed into one of the biggest industrial centres in the 19th century and this tradition has been continued until today, i.e. through production of towels and night gowns of the Zwoltex company or tights made by Gatta. In the town centre, also today you can see a row of wooden waiver houses, forming a historical district intended for development of production activities. In one of these houses, there is a **Museum – the House of Birth of St. Maximilian Kolbe** – as the future saints was born in this place, to a workers family. The house neighbours

brewery buildings (there is also a shop), remembering the 19th century.

When in Zdunska Wola you should remember about two more exceptional monuments. **The Jewish cemetery**, one of the biggest and best preserved such sites in the region, with 3000 gravestones. The second unique site, **the Karszince housing estate**, built in the interwar period, together with a railway line connecting Silesian mines with the port in Gdynia. You can see here a very large (able to accommodate a couple thousand people) historical railway housing estate, and **the Open-air Museum of Locomotives** with a wide rolling stock collection form an additional aspect related to railroading.



The Thermal Water Drinking Room in Poddebice

author: K. Ignaczak



Museum - the House of Birth of St. Maximilian Kolbe in Zdunska Wola



The Open-air Museum of Locomotives in Karsznice

Trips suggestions

1-2-3 days
in the eastern
part of the region





1ST DAY: AREAS BY THE PILICA RIVER (TOMASZOW MAZOWIECKI, SPALA, INOWLÓDZ, STUZIANNA-POSWIETNE)

If you have one day to explore this area, you should explore the areas by the Pilica river near Tomaszów Mazowiecki. You should start from **Nagorzyckie Caves** situated within the borders of this town (tourists may use an underground trail) and the **Open-air Museum of Pilica River** with a complex of historical buildings from the area, as well as a unique collection of military vehicles removed...



Nagorzyckie Caves

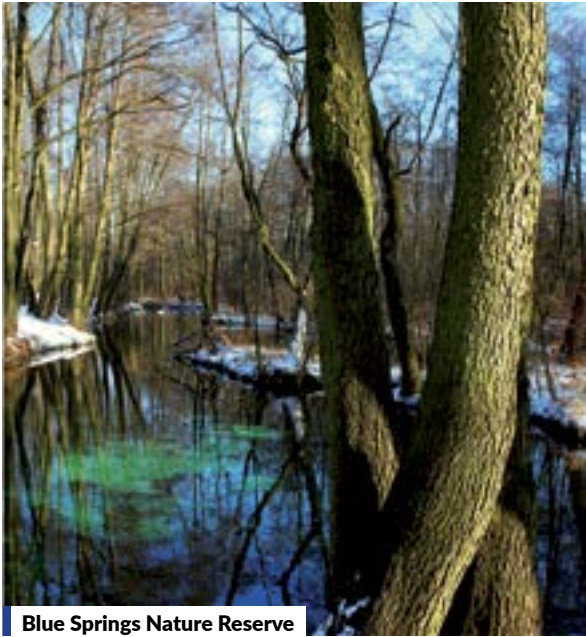
from the bed of Pilica. They are a reminder of dramatic events of January 1945.

When in the Open-air Museum, you should go for a walk to the nearby **Blue Springs Nature Reserve**.

Walking along Pilica (or perhaps canoeing), after a couple of kilometres you will reach Spala, made famous due to visits of kings. Until today, a whole complex of buildings for guests of Russian tzars remained (most of them still used as accommodation sites and restaurants), as well as a **dignified monument** of a wisent. Enthusiasts of active rest should also visit **Central Sports Center and Olympic Preparation Center**. With some luck, you will meet best Polish sportsmen on a treadmill, swimming pool or hall, preparing for next competitions.

After a couple of kilometres more, the distinctive **tower of the Romanesque Church of St Idzi** becomes visible on the horizon, overlooking the surrounding areas. Also the recently reconstructed **castle** is worth visiting, as well as the **former synagogue** in the centre.

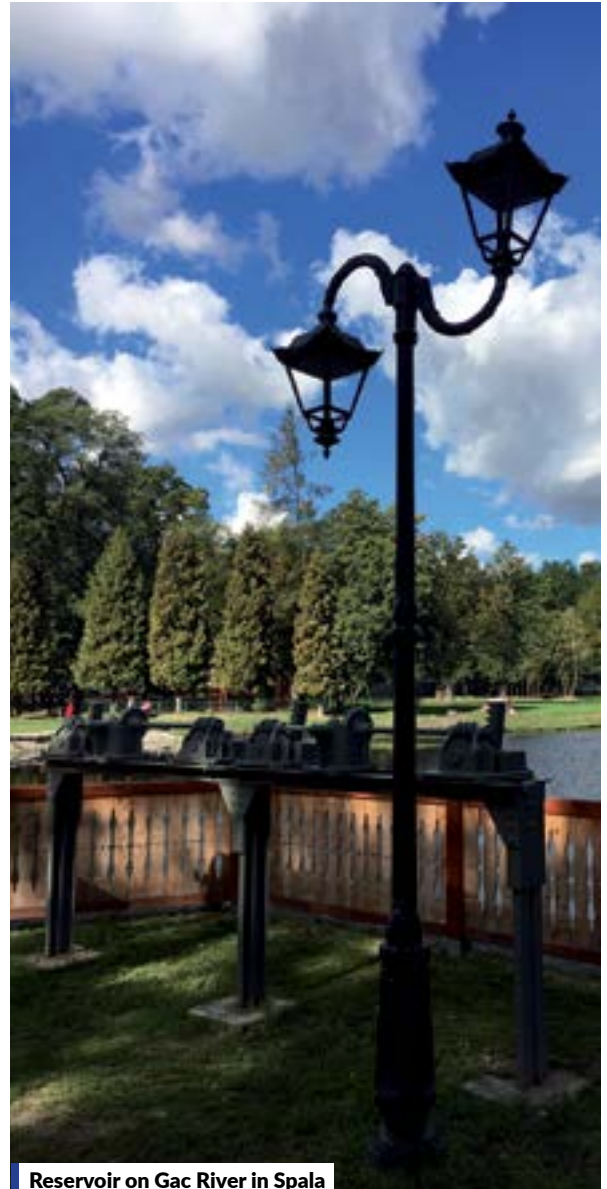
Staying here, you should also go several kilometres more and reach the monumental **Baroque basilica in Studzianna**, which is not only a pilgrimage centre with a painting of the Holy Family, but also one of the most popular film locations in the region.



Blue Springs Nature Reserve



Open-air Museum of Pilica in Tomaszow Mazowiecki



Reservoir on Gac River in Spala

2ND DAY: SKIERNIEWICE + RAWKA RIVER + BOLIMOW + ROGOW

What if you have another day to spend in the eastern part of the region? Great! It will be an excellent occasion to visit a couple of extraordinary places. If you passed through **Skierniewice** by train, you will certainly remember the monumental body of the **railway station**. It is worth to look at it from each side to fully appreciate its architecture. In addition, there is a unique decoration from the 50s. of the 20th century preserved inside. On the platform in turn, travellers are greeted by Stanislaw Wokulski

himself, the protagonist of *The Doll* by Boleslaw Prus. Railroading enthusiasts will find another exceptional monument in Skierniewice – a **steam house** from the 19th century. Today you will be able to see not only the historical buildings, but first of all the broad collection of rolling stock.

Of course, it is also worth to take a longer walk across the town itself, especially the picturesque park surrounding the historical **seat of archbishops of Gniezno**. Today, the palace is used as the seat of the Institute of Horticulture, and in selected summer Sundays it is open for visitors.

Several kilometres to the north from Skierniewice, there is the former town of **Bolimow**. Both sites are connected with the Rawka river, flowing across the **Bolimowski Landscape Park**. Experienced canoeists may try their skills here.



The railway station in Skierniewice

The rich pottery tradition of Bolimow is continued today by the **workshop of the Konopczynski Family**, open for visitors. You can learn the arcana of this craft here, and try your hand on the pottery wheel yourself. The tragic history associated with World War I is evidenced in turn by nearby **military cemeteries**, among other things in **Bolimowska Wies** and **Joachimow-Mogily** or by annual reconstructions devoted to fights of Bolimow of 1915. The attractions of this day may be complemented by a visit to the **Arboretum in Rogow**. You can use this visit as an excuse to take a stroll in a beautiful forest, but it can also be an excellent occasion to broaden your knowledge of plants, including exotic ones.



Arboretum in Rogow



Primate Palace in Skierniewice

3RD DAY: RAWA MAZOWIECKA + BOGUSZYCE + BRZEZINY

The castle in Rawa Mazowiecka is presently a small building comprised of a tower and a fragment of walls. However, there is a dark legend related to it and... the White Spirit. Tragic events from before centuries allegedly provided an inspiration for William Shakespeare himself when writing the Winter's Tale. When in Rawa, you should also spend some time walking across its market and adjacent streets. In the area, there is, among other things, the **station of the narrow-gauge railway in Rogow**, running from Rogow through Rawa to Biala Rawska. Currently, tourists may use trains running from Rogow to Jezowo and from Rawa to Biala Rawska. In Rogow itself, by the station, there is a small Open-air Museum of narrow-gauge railway.

Just a couple of kilometres to the west from Rawa, the locality of **Boguszyce** is situated, where you can see one of the most valuable wooden monuments of the region. It is the **Church of Stanislaus the Bishop** from the 16th century, with unique Renaissance paintings decorating its entire interior.

Between Rawa and Lodz, it is worth to make yet another stop – in Brzeziny. In the **Church of the Elevation of the Holy Cross**, a very interesting

chapel of the former owners of the town, the **Lasocki family**, was preserved. The fittings worth particular attention include Renaissance grave slabs, including one made by Jan Michalowicz from Urzedow. Nearby, there is the **Regional museum** with the biggest national **collection of... irons**. At the turn of the 19th and the 20th century, Brzeziny was one of the largest tailoring centres in the country, and the local exposition related to textile and tailoring industry is a reminded of these times.



Dukes of Masovia castle in Rawa Mazowiecka

author: J. Koprowski



The church of the Elevation of the Holy Cross in Brzeziny



Collections of irons in Museum in Brzeziny



Regional Museum in Brzeziny

Trips suggestions



1-2-3 days
in the southern
part of the region





1ST DAY: PIOTRKOW TRYBUNALSKI + SULEJOW

Which of the towns of the region (apart from Lodz, of course) is most “film-like”? Piotrkow Trybunalski! More than 40 films and shows were shot here, and even the American star Robin Williams visited the town once during work on Jakob the Liar directed by Peter Kassovitz. Film-makers are particularly fond of **the centre of Piotrkow** for a reason. It is one of the best preserved old towns in Poland, which has been successively restored for a couple of years. The whole set of sumptuous buildings for tsarist officials, including the monumental **Palace of Justice** from the beginning of the 20th century, comes from the times of partitions, when Piotrkow was the seat of provincial authorities. The set is complemented by an interesting **royal castle** (in the form of a tenement house), today a **museum**, a **railway station from the times of the Warsaw-Vienna Railroad**, a **synagogue**, an **Orthodox church** or a **complex of historical multi-confessional cemeteries**. Not enough? After seeing all the monuments you can go for a walk along the indicated film trail. And for the dessert, you can serve yourself a visit to the **Centre of Brewing Education**, where you can buy products of the local craft brewery, but also familiarise yourself with the process of beer production and history of the brewing industry in Piotrkow.

In the past, it was possible to reach Sulejow, the next point on the trip route from Piotrkow, by narrow-gauge train. Today the only signs that remained after it are two former station buildings by the road connection the two towns. However, Sulejow itself is worth visiting first and foremost for the former **Cistercian Abbey** located in **Podklasztorze**. It was created in the 13th century as a defensive structure, with a Romanesque church in the heart of the whole complex. Until today, the nearly whole complex of buildings have survived – today, some of the historical buildings house a hotel, but also a small museum. The church’s interior is definitely worth seeing. Its rough Romanesque architecture is complemented by Baroque fittings with one of the oldest operable pipe organ gallery. Staying here, you can also definitely go for a stroll on the Pilica river, and even a couple of kilometres further to the **Sulejowski Reservoir**.



The Old Town in Piotrkow Trybunalski



Palace of Justice in Piotrkow Trybunalski



Cistercian Abbey in Sulejow



Sulejowski Reservoir

author: P. Wypych

2ND DAY: BELCHATOW + MOSZCZENICA + PABIANICE

How about a visit to the wealthiest commune in Poland? Why not? For a number of years at the turn of the 20th and the 21st century, Kleszczow, a locality situated to the south of Belchatow, remained in the lead of Polish communes with highest income. In the commune in consideration, there is **the largest open pit mine in Poland, the Belchatow Mine**. The pit is best visible from **the sightseeing platform** located by the school **in Kleszczow**. After the exploitation shallow workings and flooding with water are planning. It will cause that two water tanks will emerge, which possibly could be the deepest artificial lakes in Poland.

However, already today, after a visit to Kleszczow, you should go to **Belchatow** to see the interactive **exhibition Giants of Power**. Once there, you will learn the origin of lignite in the area and how its extraction and burning to generate electricity look like.

It is worth to spend the rest of the day to visit yet two industry-related places, but in this more historical version. At the turn of the 19th and 20th century **in Moszczenica**, a large textile factory of the Ender family came into being. It is all the more interesting that one can find there a **workers housing estate** associated with the plant. It looks very similar to

the famulas in the Priests' Mill in Lodz, or to Silesian familoks.

Pabianice in turn are worth seeing first of all for its **historical factories**. By the Dobrzyńska river, you can find a whole complex of historical buildings, adapted today to serve as a hotel, among other things. The factory of the Krusch and Ender families at Zamkowa Street is accompanied by a palace and an impressive administration building. In addition, the entire complex of residential buildings from the 19th and the 20th century, including an Evangelical church, has survived in the area. **A Renaissance church** and a **Defensive Manor House of Bishops of Cracow (today a museum)**, located in the Old Town, are reminders of the earlier history of Pabianice.



Skate Park in Belchatow



PGE Giants of Power exhibition in Belchatow



Enders' Family Palace in Pabianice



The Defensive Manor of Bishops of Cracow in Pabianice

3RD DAY: VINICINTIES OF PRZEDBORZ AND RADOMSKO

Przedborz is one of the smallest towns in the region which can be seen as a gate to the so-called Przedborsko-Małogoskie range, a range of hills forming an extension of the Swietokrzyskie Mountains. Enthusiasts of mountain hiking may try to get to the top of the highest natural hill in the region here – the "**Cool Fish**". While it is "only" 347 metres high, the view to the surrounding landscape are very impressive. You should also go to the **Chełmo Moutain**, which is just slightly lower (323 m), situated on the opposite bank of Pilica. The hill is protected as part of a wildlife park, and apart from the old tree stand, there are traces of a medieval fortified settlement on its top. To the north from the Chełmo mountain in turn you can find a single hill – the **Bakowa Moutain** (282 m). Apart from picturesque views, you can see there ruins of a **Castle and the Manor House of the Malachowski Family**.

A visit to **Gidle**, located to the south from Radomsko, will provide different impressions. It is an important **pilgrimage centre** with a small figure of the Holy Virgin Mary as the most significant cult object. Apart from the Baroque sanctuary, you should also see one of the few **churches** in Poland with **so-called sobotas or low arcades**.

The fans of works of Tadeusz and Stanislaw Rozewicz should visit **Radomsko** where the poet and the director were born (an obligatory point in the trip programme is the former Kinema cinema, reminded by both of them with a sentiment, as evidenced by a documentary). Of course the best time to plan such a visit is the **Rozewicz Open Festival**. In addition, you may visit the **Jewish cemetery in Radomsko**, one of the best preserved such necropolises in the region.

Lovers of the works of Wladyslaw Reymont in turn may visit the nearby **Kobiele Wielkie – the place of birth of the writer**.



Reymont's room in Community Cultural Center in Kobiele

author: P. Wypych



Basilica of the Assumption of Holy Mary in Gidle

Trips suggestions

1-2-3 days
in the northern
part of the region





1ST DAY: LOWICZ + MAURZYCE + SROMOW + NIEBOROW + ARKADIA

What is interesting, Lowicz in the interregnum period, was a capital city of Poland. Most of us associate Lowicz with **the unique local folklore** with its handicraft, paper cuttings forms, music, dance and original clothing. All these traditional customs you can see during the **Corpus Christi Procession**. In the **local cathedral**, as many as 12 primates are buried, and the church itself presents a beautiful combination of Gothic and Baroque. By the Old Market, there is also the building of the **former missionary college**, today a **museum** where you can find historical and ethnographic collection. However, you must go to the chapel of St. Charles Borromeo, considered one of the best examples of Baroque in Poland. As for ethnography, there is a **small Open-air Museum** on the yard. Going back to the market, it is worth to find the local boulevard of famous people or the **Stars Avenue...** The most persistent visitors may also see the **unusual triangular market** (Nowy Rynek) and the only **Museum of Buttons** in the country.

Those interest in folklore should visit the **Open-air Museum in Maurzyce**, located a couple of kilometres from Lowicz, and the **Folklore Museum of the Brzozowski Family**.



Cathedral of the Assumption of Holy Mary in Lowicz

author: G. Turski

Being in Lowicz, you just cannot skip two other nearby sites: Nieborow and Arkadia. In the first one, there is the **Palace of the Radziwill Family**, one of the few such well preserved magnate residences in Poland. Today, it is a **branch of the National Museum**, with the most impressive staircase clad in Dutch tiles (each of them different!) and the majestic library with two globes from the 17th century. In **Arkadia**, there is a surviving **romantic park** full of mysterious buildings among a beautiful landscape.



Open-air Museum of Lowicz district in Maurzyce



Folklore Museum of the Brzozowski Family in Sromow

author: J. Rybus

2ND DAY: LECZYCA + TUM + OZORKOW + ZGIERZ

Leczyca has long history. The centre of the town is overlooked by a **castle** built to the order of Casimir III the Great, today a **museum**. The castle tower is also you may want to see – a panorama of the whole town stretches from it – including two heaps and a tower... of a mining shaft. It is a remainder of the local iron ore mine. From there, you can also discern the monumental **Romanesque collegiate church in Tum**. After a walk across the centre of Leczyca, you should head to the east, to Tum. The beautiful, lavishly sculpted portal is one of the most important architectural details of the collegiate. Lovers of legends will find a unique treat here – a print of devil's hand on one of the walls... Near the church, there is also a well-preserved **settlement** on which today's Leczyca was built. Also the **open-air museum in Kwiatowek** is worth seeing. Especially technology enthusiasts will have a lot to see there – apart from a historic windmill, the museum offers the only **oil mill** open for visitors in the region.

On the way from Leczyca to Lodz there is Ozorkow, a town which is hardly associated with tourism. However, it is worth to stop there and see the local monuments. **Ozorkow** was developed in the beginning of the 19th century as one of the first industrial

settlements in Poland. Today, you can see here a **couple of factory owners' palaces, factories**, as well as an interesting **Evangelical church and a cemetery** of that confession. Those interested in the history of Lodz may find it interesting that the wealthiest factory owner in Lodz, Karol Scheibler, started his Polish professional career in Ozorkow and met his future wife here. Today, there are many traces of the family in the town.

As the last stop before Lodz, you should visit Zgierz. The town offers one of the only three **cultural parks** in the region – **The Town of Weavers**. In the centre of Zgierz, there are several dozen surviving historical weaver houses. Several of them can be found in a densely developed area at Narutowicza and Rembowskiego Street. They are reminiscent of an industrial settlement from before nearly 200 years. While in Zgierz, you should definitely visit the local **Bathing Facility**. It is one of the oldest roofed swimming pools in Poland which looks today almost exactly the same as 90 years before. You should take a bathing suit with you, because the pool is open today.



Royal Castle in Leczyca

author: P. Marynowski



Open-air Museum - Leczyca peasant's farm in Kwiatkówek

author: J. Ziółkowski



Bathing Facility in Zgierz

3RD DAY: KROSNIIEWICE + KUTNO + OPOROW + DOBRZELIN

Only 10 years ago, one of the most important cross-roads in the country was located in Krosniewice – the meeting point of national roads no. 1 and 2. Presently, it is worth visiting for its monuments and history. You can find here the largest surviving station of narrow-gauge railway in the country, with an extensive technical backup facilities and a rolling stock collection. We could only regret that the trains are no longer in operation. **In Krosniewice**, there is also a **historical palace**, once a property of Rajmund Rembielinski, one of the founding fathers of the industrial Lodz. And there is also a **museum** and a **former synagogue** in the town...

Similarly to Krosniewice, also Kutno has a lot to offer to tourists. There is a surviving **Saxon Palace** by the market. Today, the site is worth seeing first of all for its history – it is one of preserved court palaces connecting Warsaw with Dresden under the rule of the Saxon dynasty. After the currently planned renovation, the building is to regain its bygone splendour and serve as the seat of a museum. Other sites worth visiting in Kutno include: a **historical railway station**, the **former culture house of the fire brigade** from the beginning of the 20th century or a **park with the Palace of Gieralta** – in

the park, there is a former grave chapel, today a seat of a small **Museum of the Battle of Bzura**. The best time to visit Kutno is the annual **Rose Festival** in September.

From Kutno, it is only a short trip to **Oporow**, one of the best preserved **private medieval castles** in Poland. The castle houses a **museum** with lavish original fittings. The palace neighbours a **historical monastery**, and both sites are connected by a certain legend...



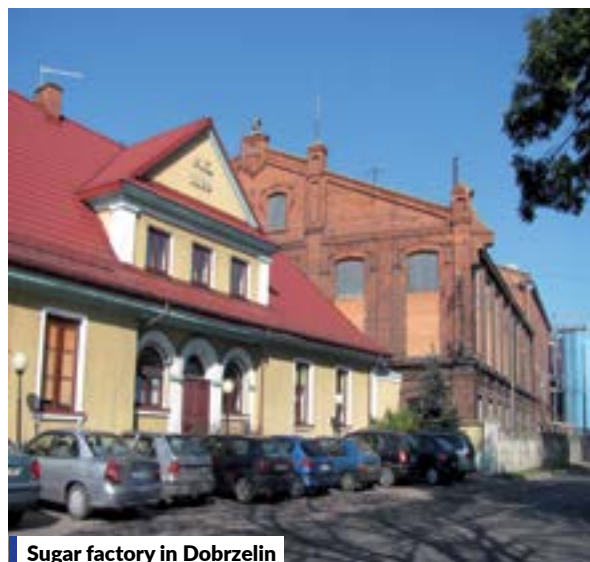
Oporowski Family Castle

author: P. Wojtyczka



Palace of Gieralta in Kutno

The vicinities of Kutno were once one of the “sweetest” regions in the country – in the past, more than 10 sugar plants operated in the district. What remained of most of them today are buildings used for other purposes and the original production profile is followed only in Dobrzelin. The best time to visit this site is during the so-called beetroot campaign from September to early December. Already a couple of kilometres from the village one can smell the very characteristic scent accompanying sugar production (an effect of mixing of the boiling beetroot juice with... limestone). At the site, there are surviving **historical buildings of the sugar plant** itself, but also the entire **housing estate** accompanying the plant – houses for workers and a school.



Sugar factory in Dobrzelin

CERTIFICATED CENTERS AND TOURIST INFORMATION POINTS

Tourist Information Center in Piotrkow Trybunalski

11 Zamurowa Street
97-300 Piotrkow Trybunalski
phone: 44 732 60 50
phone: 44 732 60 49
cit@piotrkow.pl
<http://www.cit.piotrkow.pl>

Tourist Information of Lodz Lodz Tourist Organization

28 Piotrkowska Street
90-423 Lodz
phone: 42 208 81 81
mobile phone: 722 005 314
it@lodz.travel
<http://www.lodz.travel>

Tourist and Culture Information Point in Skierniewice

The Center of Culture and Art
in Skierniewice
33 Reymont Street
96-100 Skierniewice
phone: 46 833 24 12
<https://cekis.pl/punkt-informacji-turystycznej/>

Tourist Information of Culture and Sport Unit of Town Hall in Tomaszow Mazowiecki

29 Plac Kosciuszki
97-200 Tomaszow Mazowiecki
phone: 44 710 03 29
informacjaturystyczna
@tomaszow-maz.pl
<http://www.kochamtomaszow.pl>

Tourist Information Center in Belchatow

15 Tadeusza Kosciuszki Street
97-400 Bełchatow
phone: 44 733 51 35
phone: 44 733 51 40
cit@um.belchatow.pl

**

Tourist Information Center in Inowlodz

The Castle in Inowlodz
7 Zamkowa Street
97-215 Inowlodz
phone: 44 726 01 34
zamek.pit@interia.pl
<https://www.inowlodz.pl/turystyka/punkt-informacji-turystycznej>



*

**Tourist Information Center of the City
and the Community of Leczyca**

2 Kazimierza Odnowiciela Street
99-100 Leczyca
phone: 24 721 03 11
phone: 510 104 937
fax. 24 721 03 11
cit@leczyca.info.pl
<http://www.cit.leczyca.info.pl>

*

Tourist Information Point in Sieradz

District Public Library in Sieradz
4 Zwirki and Wigury Street
98-200 Sieradz
phone: 43 827 16 41
fax. 43 827 16 41
info@pbp.sieradz.pl
<https://pbp.sieradz.pl/punkt-informacji-turystycznej,p19.html>

*

Tourist Information Point in Wieruszow

District Public Library in Wieruszow
11 Warynskiego Street
98-400 Wieruszow
phone: 62 783 11 88
fax. 62 783 11 88
pbpwieruszow@wp.pl
<https://www.powiat-wieruszowski.pl/punkt-informacji-turystycznej.html>

*

**Tourist Information Point
in Rawa Mazowiecka**

District Authority Office in Rawa
Mazowiecka
5 Tadeusza Kosciuszki Street
96-200 Rawa Mazowiecka
phone: 46 814 57 40 internal number 308
fax. 46 814 57 40
pit@powiatrawski.pl
[https://www.rawamazowiecka.pl/
1826,punkt-informacji-turystycznej](https://www.rawamazowiecka.pl/1826,punkt-informacji-turystycznej)

INDEX OF PLACES AND TOWNS

Aleksandrow Lodzki

- Summer Dying Loud - 58

Arkadia

- romantic park - 22, 40, 42, 92

Bakowa Mountain

- castle ruins - 86
- Malachowski mansion - 86

Belchatow

- Giants of Power Exhibition - 14, 54, 86

Boguszyce

- church of Stanislaus, the Bishop and the Martyr - 43, 80

Bolimow

- historical reconstructions (I and II World War) - 58, 78
- pottery workshop of Konopczynski family - 78

Bolimowska Wies

- cementary from the I World War - 79

Bolimowski Landscape Park - 37, 78

Borysewo

- ZOO Safari - 52

Brzeziny

- church of the Elevation of the Holy Cross - 80
- Regional Museum - 80

Bzura

- river - 17

Chefmo Mountain

- nature reserve/ settlement - 88

Chociszew

- Park of Gnome Tales - 53

Chruslin

- church of Michael Archangel - 40

Dobrzelin

- sugar factory - 97

Dzialoszyn

- cement factory WARTA - 17
- Limekilns - 17

Fajna Ryba

- hill - 37

Gidle

- Basilica of the Assumption of Holy Mary - 88
- the church of St. Maria Magdalena - 88

Grebien

- wooden church of Saint Trinity
- 43, 70

Inowlodz

- former synagogue - 76
- knightly tournament - 59
- Romanesque church of Saint Idzi - 76
- royal castle - 76

Jeziorsko Reservoir - 30, 34, 68

Joachimow-Mogily

- graveyard from I World War - 78

Kamiensk

- Kamienska Mountain - 14, 31

Kleszczow

- Lignite mine - 14, 86

Kobiele Wielkie

- house of Wladyslaw Reymont's birth - 88

Kocilew

- historic wooden mill - 70

Kolacinek

- Dinopark/ Santa Claus Land - 52

Krosniewic

- former synagogue - 96
- museum of Jerzy Dunin-Borkowski - 96
- Rembielinski Palace - 96
- narrow-gauge railway station - 96

Krzyworzeka

- romanesque belfry by the church of Saint Peter and Paul - 8, 70

Kutno

- railway station - 96
- Szaloma Asz Festival - 58
- Battle of Bzura Museum - 48, 96
- Nationwide Festival of Jeremi Przybora "Kutno station" - 58
- Palace of Gieralta - 96
- Saxon Palace - 96
- Rose Festival - 58, 96

Kwiatkowiek

- open-air museum - Leczyca peasant's farm - 43, 94

Landscape Park of Lodzkie Elevations

- 30, 36

Landscape Park of Warta and Widawka Interfluvial Zone - 37

Leczyca

- former iron ore mine - 94
- former prison - 94
- knightly tournament - 59
- Royal Castle – Museum - 53, 94

Leszczyniek

- Historical Odyssey - 59

Lipce Reymontowskie

- Gallery of Antiques and Regional Memorabilia - 49
- Regional Museum - 49

Lipka

- bee-garden “Pszczeli Swiat” - 54

Lisowice

- stone-pit Lisowice - 37, 70
- limekilns - 37, 70

Lodz

- Atlas Arena - 58
- Arturowek - 34
- Ballet meetings- 58
- Botanic Garden - 54
- Central Textile Museum and Open-air Wooden Architecture Museum - 64
- city parks: Pilsudski, Staromiejski, Zrodlistka - 65
- Design Festival - 58
- “Detka” Canal Museum - 64
- EC1 - 6, 54
- Film Festival Cinergia - 58
- Fairy-Tail Lodz - 64
- Jewish cemetery- 43, 62
- Lagiewnicki Forest - 28, 34, 65
- Light Move Festival - 58
- Lodz of Four Cultures Festival- 58
- Manufaktura and Factory Museum - 6, 43, 62
- National Film and Theatre School in Lodz- 64
- OFF Piotrkowska - 62
- Palm House - 65

- Piotrkowska Street - 6, 62
- Poznanski Palace – Museum of the city of Lodz- 49, 62
- Priests’ Mill - 43, 62
- Rose Passage - 62
- Scheibler Palace - Cinematography Museum - 64
- Stars Avenue - 64
- Tramway depot on Brus - 54
- Triennale of Cloth - 58

Lodzkie Horse Trail - 18, 28

Lowicz

- Buttons Museum - 92
- cathedral of the Assumption of Holy Mary and Saint Nicolas - 40, 92
- Corpus Christi - 12, 92
- Museum in Lowicz - 92
- New Market - 92
- Old Market - 92
- open-air museum - 12, 43, 92
- Stars Avenue - 92

Maurzyce

- open-air Museum of Lowicz district - 12, 43, 92

Moszczenica

- Enders’ factory - 86

Nagawki

- open-air museum - Polish Folklore Centre - 43

Nieborow

- Radziwill family Palace - museum - 22, 40, 92

Oporow

- monastery of the fathers Paulins - 96
- Oporowski family Castle - 40, 96

Ozarow

- Mansion – Museum of mansion’s interiors - 42, 70

Ozorkow

- Protestant cemetery - 94
- Protestant church of Twelve Apostles - 94

Pabianice

- fortified Manor of bishops of Cracow – museum - 40, 86
- Wool factory – hotel - 86
- Protestant church of Saint Peter and Paul- 86
- Renaissance church of Saint Mathew- 86
- Ender’s and Kruschs’ Palace - 86
- the Old Town - 86

Pilica

- river - 16, 34, 84

Piotrkow Trybunalski

- Cabaret Tribunals - 58
- Centre of Brewing Education - 84
- Film Trail - 20, 84
- Great Synagogue - 20
- Interakcje Art Festival - 58
- Old Town - 20
- Orthodox church - 84
- Palace of Justice- 84
- Royal Castle - museum - 20, 84
- Station - 84

Poddebice

- Garden of Senses - 72
- Grudzinski family Palace - 40,72
- Saint Kate church - 40
- Thermal Water Drinking Room- 72

Przedborski Landscape Park - 16, 28, 37

Przywos

- Prince’s mounds - 70

Radomsko

- former cinema Kinema - 88
- Jewish cemetery - 88
- Rozewicz Open Festival - 58, 88

Rawa Mazowiecka

- Dukes of Masovia castle - 80

Rawka

- river - 16

Rogow

- Arboretum - 79
- Narrow-gauge railway Rogow – Rawa – Biala - 54, 80

Ruda

- Romanesque church of Saint Wojciech - 8, 70

Rzeczycza

- Mokoszowisko (settlement in Rzeczycza, medieval entertainment) - 59

Sieradz

- collegiate basilica of All Saints - 68
- District Museum - 68
- Old Town - 68
- open-air museum - 43, 68
- Open Hair Festival - 58
- the castle hill - 68

Skierniewice

- church of Saint Jacob - 42
- historical steam depot - 54, 78
- Flowers, Fruits, and Vegetables Festival - 58
- Primate Palace with garden - 42, 78
- Station - 78

Sobota

- church of Saint Apostles Peter and Paul - 40

Solca Mała

- Indian village „Tatanka” - 53

Spala

- Central Sports Center and Olympic Preparation Center - 24, 76

- the monument of wisent - 76

- holiday development - 76

Spalski Landscape Park - 16, 36**Spycimierz**

- flower carpets for Corpus Christi - 68

Sromow

- Folklore Museum of the Brzozowski Family - 12, 92

Stare Skoszewy

- settlement - 36

Stronsko

- Romanesque church of Saint Ursula and 11 Virgins - 8

Stuzianna-Poswietne

- monastery/sanctuary of Saint Family - 40, 76

Sulejow

- Cistercian abbey - 40, 84

Sulejowski Landscape Park - 36**Tomaszow Mazowiecki**

- Blue Springs Nature Reserve - 24, 36, 76
- Ice Arena - 24
- Nagorzycie Caves- 24, 53, 76
- open-air Museum of Pilica River - 24, 59, 76

Tum

- Archicollegiate - 8, 94
- settlement - 94

Ujazd

- Mikrokosmos Park - 53

Uniejow

- castle of archbishops of Gniezno - 10, 68
- knightly tournament - 59
- Mill Homestead – open-air Museum - 10, 43, 52, 68
- thermal water park Uniejow - 10, 52, 68

Walewice

- palace and horse farm - 22, 42

Warta

- river - 17, 34

Weze

- nature reserve - 37, 71

Wielun

- Museum of Wielun district - 70

Wieruszow

- orienteering - 28

Sulejowski Reservoir - 16, 30, 84**Zaleczanski Landscape Park** - 17, 28, 37, 70**Zarnow**

- Romanesque church of Saint Nicolas

Zdunska Wola

- brewery - 72
- Jewish cemetery - 72
- museum - the House of Birth of St. Maximillian Kolbe in Zdunska Wola - 72
- open-air Museum of Locomotives in Karsznice - 72

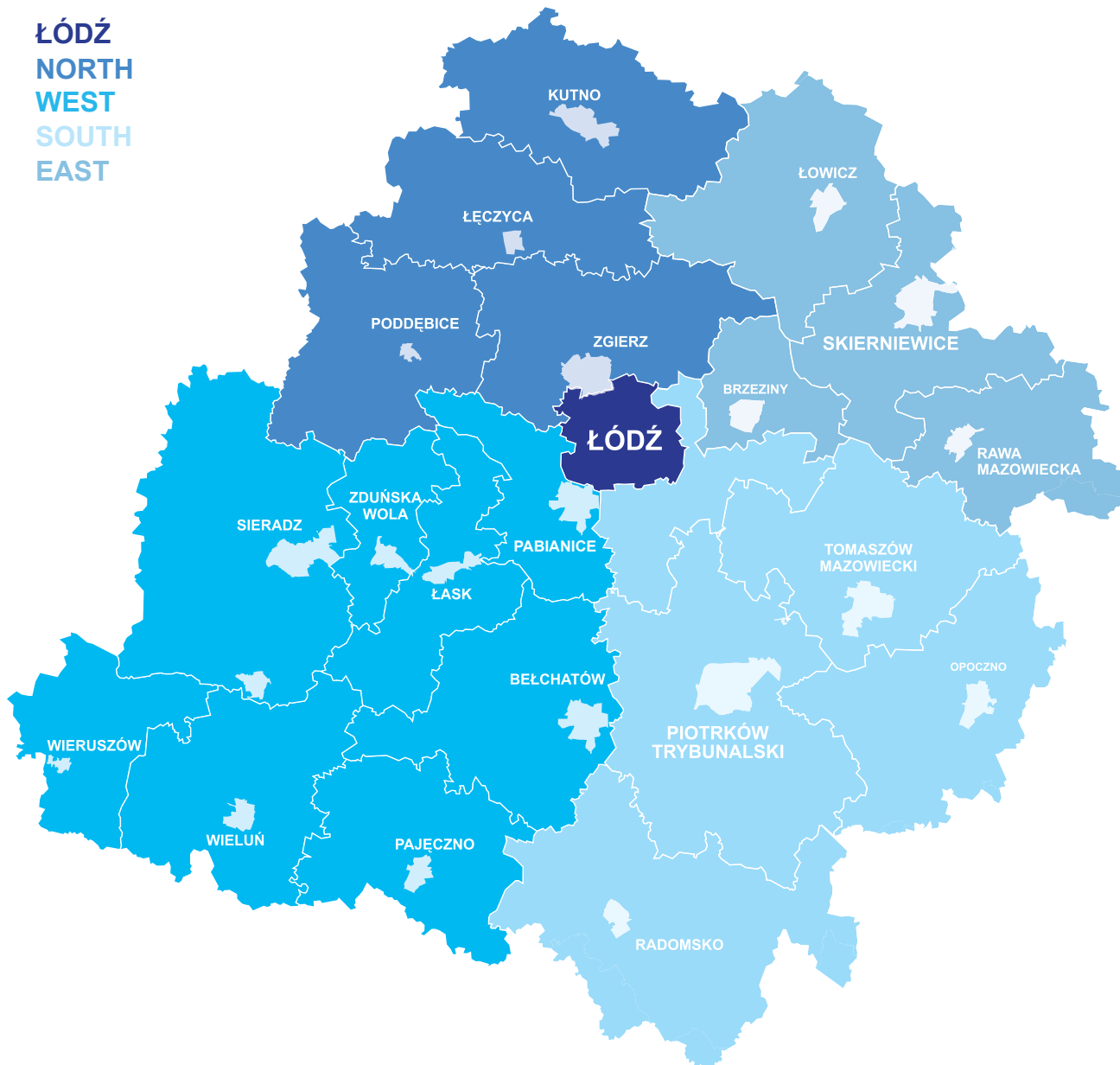
Zelce Mountain

- hill - 37, 70

Zgierz

- Bathing Facility - 94
- Cultural Park Town of Weavers - 47, 94
- ski slope Malinka - 31

ŁÓDŹ
NORTH
WEST
SOUTH
EAST



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