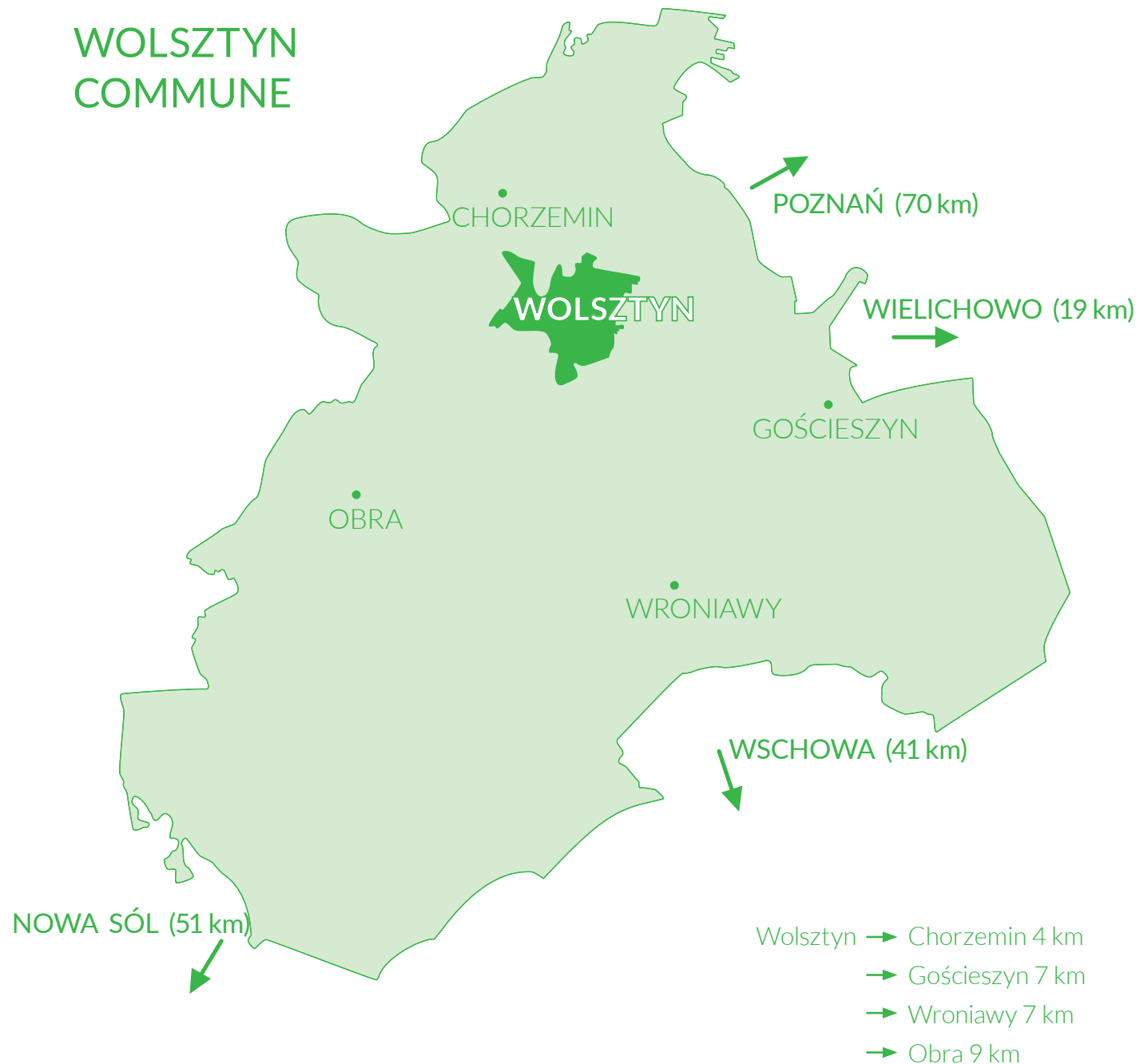


A scenic view of a lake with a sailboat, a bird in flight, and a forested background. The sailboat has three white sails and a dark hull. The bird is a large white bird with dark wings, flying over the water. The background is a dense green forest. The foreground has some reeds and water.

WOLSZTYN

tourism and nature

WOLSZTYN COMMUNE



WELCOME!

Wolsztyn a wealthy town, bustling streets, cafes, restaurants. Poznań should be jealous! Anyway, Wolsztyn is an example to follow and a competitor for itself. It is like rich Munich - separated from other towns and steam locomotives are the only toys, a pleasant hobby, precious airs. And it is not all, Wolsztyn has its celebrities: a crazy philosopher, an artist and a Nobel prize winner! This is a quotation concerning Wolsztyn by Piotr Libicki and Marta Piotrowska from "Spacerownik wielkopolski".

Wolsztyn is often described as a town of flowers, which in spring and summer decorates its squares, and streets with thousands of colourful plants. It is located by lakes, in the vicinity of flowing in three canals the Obra River, surrounded by forests, with impressive cultural heritage, rich history and undeniable charm. The town and its surrounding area is full of historical and natural monuments which draw attention of numerous tourists. We invite you to meet them all.



TOURISM



foto: Aleksander Żukowski

There are numerous places to visit in Wolsztyn – a picturesque town full of green areas, charming piers and quiet streets.

THE REGIONAL MUSEUM OF WOLSZTYN

The Regional Museum of Wolsztyn consists of three units, i.e. the Marcin Rożek Museum, the Robert Koch Museum and the West-Wielkopolska Folk Buildings Heritage Park.

ROBERT KOCH MUSEUM

Robert Koch, a microbiologist who discovered causative agents of tuberculosis and anthrax, the 1905 Nobel Prize winner; in the 70s of the 19th century he was a general practitioner.

The house where the famous scientist worked and lived became a museum devoted to his memory.

In two ground floor rooms of the English neo-gothic building constructed in 1842-1846 by the foundation of an English woman Mary Pearce, numerous memorabilia connected with the famous scientist are displayed. They come from the times when Koch was a regional doctor in Wolsztyn (1872-1880) and are connected also with other places, where he lived and worked. Photographs, copies of documents (also the Nobel Prize Diploma) and laboratory equipment placed among old furniture perfectly recreate the times when the scientist worked and lived.



MARCIN ROŻEK MUSEUM

The museum of the sculptor, a professor of the Decorative Arts School (Szkola Sztuk Zdobniczych) in Poznań and a creator of famous monuments is located in the villa at number 34, 5th January Street. It was constructed according to Marcin Rożek's concept. It is a multi-storey, stone house. Both facades are adorned with symbolic and allegoric sculptures and reliefs.



One of the floors of the house is devoted to the sculptor. Among the stylish furniture from his epoch one can admire the artist's sculptures and paintings as well as documents, photographs and memorabilia provided to the museum by the artist's sister Jadwiga Rożek. Among the museum exhibits there is even...a log of a tree. The log is quite unique because it is adorned with the original reliefs of Faun and Medusa created by Rożek on the oak tree in the park at Mycilesy palace (today the Municipal Park).

Numerous works by Marcin Rożek decorate a charming, approaching a lake garden, situated at the back of the house. Some are only following the artist's concept.

The garden was recreated on the basis of the iconography from the 30s of the 20th century, so the times when the creator lived in the house.

TOURISM



foto: Jerzy Hirnowski

WEST-WIELKOPOLSKA FOLK BUILDINGS HERITAGE PARK

On the west bank of Lake Wolsztyńskie, almost a kilometer from the town centre, there is a dozen or so diverse objects, which allow to imagine a character of the old village from this region of Wielkopolska.

All the buildings, situated in the park with 3.5 ha area, are located according to the topography of the old village.



STEAM LOCOMOTIVE SHED

The steam locomotive shed in Wolsztyn was constructed in 1907. It is the last operating shed in Europe. Its original buildings and machines (an engine house, a water tower, an ash pit, a coal bunker, a railway turntable 20.5m in diameter and a water crane) still exist.

The roundhouse is a location for a small museum, which exposes objects connected with rail (among others oil lamps, tickets, signaling devices) and a maquette presenting a part of the Wolsztyn railway station.

It was only recently that some of the Wolsztyn steam engines stopped regular rail connections from Wolsztyn to Zbąszynek, Leszno and Poznań. Today the locomotives are used only for tourist purposes. The trips by trains pulled by Wolsztyn steam engines are organized by PKP Cargo, the

Institute of Development and Promotion of Rail (TurKol.pl) and the locomotive shed converted into a cultural institution of the self-government of Wielkopolska Region.

PALACE AND PARK

The northern part of the town, at Lake Wolsztyńskie is a location for a park with an old tree stand. In the centre of the park one can find a palace dated back to the beginning of the 20th century, which was created on the basis of the walls of a former building from the 19th century.

The first palace in neo-renaissance style was erected in 1857 for Apolinary Gajewski, the contemporaneous proprietor of Wolsztyn. In 1890 the town became a property of the Mycielscy family. The new palace was constructed in 1911 in the so called national style, designed by Roger Sławski for Stefan Mycielski.

The building burnt in 1945 and was reconstructed in the 60s of the 20th century.

CHURCH OF THE IMMACULATE CONCEPTION OF OUR LADY IN WOLSZTYN

Although the notes about the first parish church in Wolsztyn date back to the mid 15th century, the contemporary temple of the Immaculate Conception of Our Lady was erected in the second part of the 18th century, founded by the owners of Wolsztyn domain – Rogoźno castellan Rafał Gajewski and his wife Katarzyna. It was presumably built according to the design of a Czech architect, Antoni Höhne.

It is a late baroque, three-aisle church with a northern tower. Its furnishing comes from the times of the construction, probably from the workshop of Augustyn Schöps. The main altar is filled with a picture of the patron saint from the turn of 16/17th century, which is adorned with a silver plated cover dated back to the end of the 18th century. The vaults are decorated with biblical polychromes painted by Jakub Byszowski. These works of art gave the church a name of “the temple covered with sky”.

TOURISM



Recommended in Wolsztyn:

CHURCH OF LORD'S ASCENSION

It is a post evangelic church. It was built 1830-32 and the final shape was given by Karl Friedrich Schinkel. The main altar in the classicist style is filled with the painting of Lord's Ascension by Edward Gillem.

TOWN HALL

This three-storey building with a rectangular ground plan was built in 1835 and extended in 20th and 21th century. Situated in the central part of the market square, it is a location for municipal government. A statue to Wielkopolska Insurgent from 2014 stands in front of the Town Hall.



CISTERCIAN ROUTE

A part of Wielkopolsko-Lubuska Loop of the Cistercian Route runs in the vicinity of Wolsztyn. The post Cistercian monastery complex in Obra, which is a part of the loop, is situated in Wolsztyn commune. The Cistercians came to Obra from Łekno near Wągrowiec about 1240. The contemporary St. James the Bigger Church was constructed in 1722-57, according to the design of Jan Catenazzi. It is a one-nave temple with two small towers in the façade – a pearl of late baroque architecture. The furnishing is in rococo and early classicist style.

The monastery adjoins the church from the south. A well preserved vestry with rococo furnishing can be found in the eastern wing. Today, a former chapter house plays a role of a theatre hall and a refectory became a dining room.

In 1926 the post Cistercian buildings were granted to the Oblates. The monks returned to Obra after World War II. Today the complex is still a location for the Major Seminary of Missionary Oblates of Mary Immaculate (affiliated at the Theological Faculty of Adam Mickiewicz University in Poznań). The old monastery was extended by a new seminary building, which houses, among others a seminary chapel, a great hall, the Missionary Museum and the Treasury.



for Jerzy Hironowski

"SYNAGOGUE" AT 17 POZNAŃSKA STREET

The synagogue was erected in 1839-1840 and reconstructed at the end of the 19th century. After the second World War, the devastated by Germans building was rebuilt and turned into a cinema. Unfortunately, the fire in 2009 destroyed the construction so heavily that it had to be disassembled. Today one can admire a new building with a façade stylized into a former synagogue.

NATURE



foto: Jerzy Hironowski

10



foto: fotolks.pl

Wolsztyn town and commune are eagerly visited by tourists because of their nature and landscape attractiveness. Forests, lakes, the Obrza canals and the charming Dojca River, old tree alleys, old palace parks and natural reserves draw attention of those who appreciate peace and quiet as well as a relax in natural surroundings. It is enough to say that over 37% of the commune's territory is occupied by forests and the landscape is enriched by eight lakes: Lake Berzyńskie (330.8 ha), Lake Orchowe (163 ha), Lake Wolsztyńskie (124.2 ha), Lake Obrzańskie (86.8 ha), Lake Wilcze (48.2 ha), Lake Krutla (23.3 ha), Lake Wuszno (22.4 ha) and Lake Świętno (5.2 ha). The Dojca River picturesquely meanders among forests and meadows flowing in Wolsztyn gully and connecting two lakes Wolsztyńskie and Berzyńskie.

Flora and fauna is very varied in this region. There are 29 protected and 21 partially protected types of plants and over 120 protected species of animals, including 79 species of birds.



foto: Rafał Mencil

WORLD OF PLANTS



Many factors influence a variety of plants in the given territory – an origin, a land form, water, a type of soil, a climate and activities of people. Some territory of Wolsztyn commune is covered with dry coniferous forests (with a pine as a basic type) growing on extremely dry dunes and outwash plains. The green pine forest is the most popular type of woods in this territory but there are also some areas of mixed forests, some boggy forests among dunes in the vicinity of Nowa Obra as well as oak-lime-hornbeam, alder and willow forests.

Many types of plants are under special protection, for example *Geastrum triplet*, *Lycopodium clavatum*, the snowdrop, the fringed pink, *Hepatica*, *Drosera*, *Lilium martagon*, orchids (*Orchis militaria*, the green-winged orchid, the early marsh-orchid, the broad-leaved marsh orchid), *Iris sibirica*.



WORLD OF ANIMALS



Vast forest territories, numerous lakes and rivers constitute perfect environment for different species of animals. The roe deer, the fallow deer, the cervus, boar, foxes, hares, elks, otters, badgers as well as protected weasels, ermines and beavers are examples of mammals living in this territory. Amphibians are represented by many toad species, the European fire-bellied toad, Pelobates fuscus and reptiles: lizards, the grass snake and the common European adder. Lakes and rivers are the home for many fish: perch, breams, zanders, wels catfish, eels, pikes, vendaces and grass carps.

Wolsztyn Commune is also a permanent and temporary habitat for 200 bird species, 79 of which are protected. At least 14 species which nest here are endangered in the European scale: the black tern, the crane, the little crane, the black-tailed Godwin, the white stork, Botaurus, the black kite, the western marsh harrier, the hen harrier, the European nightjar, the common kingfisher, the black woodpecker, the red-backed shrike and the woodlark.



NATURAL RESERVES



CHORZEMIŃSKIE BOGS RESERVE (BAGNO CHORZEMIŃSKIE) 3,66 ha

It is the most naturally worthless place in the commune – a strict nature reserve created in 1956 to protect transitional bog. It is situated by the Dojca River and its valley, in the depression of terrain, surrounded by pine forests about 5km north of Wolsztyn. Many rare and protected types of plants can be observed in this territory: the round-leaved sundew, the great sundew, the bog cranberry, the marsh Labrador tea, the pod grass, Andromeda and some types of sedges.

Wolsztyn commune is a location of two Natura 2000 areas. The first one is the area of special habitat protection and the other one of special birds protection.

BARŁOŹNIA WOLSZTYŃSKA (22 ha)

This territory is a mainstay surrounded by pine forests – a wet and full of peat basin with two small water reservoirs. It is the furthest eastern location of the swamp minnow (the endangered species of fish from the Polish Red Book of Animals).

GREAT OBRA MEADOWS (23.43 ha)

The territory comprises the oldest part of the Middle Obra valley where the river flows in three beds. It is a land of meadows, bogs, floodplain forests and mixed forests cut by a network of canals and ditches. It is a mainstay for birds and an area for the tawny pipit, the subalpine warbler, the barred warbler, the bluethroat, the black woodpecker, the corn crake, the little crake, the spotted crake, the crane, the hen harrier, the western marsh harrier, the black kite, the red kite, the European honey buzzard, the lesser spotted eagle, the black stork, the white stork and the great bittern. The part of the mainstay in the territory of Wolsztyn commune occupies 4056 ha.



foto: fotoliks.pl



NATURAL MONUMENTS



18

foto: fotiks.pl



foto: fotiks.pl

In Wolsztyn commune, one can find 28 objects from the list of natural monuments. There are single trees, groups of trees, old alleys and interesting land forms.

There are numerous interesting specimens of single trees, among others the pedunculate oak (in Wolsztyn at 5 Stycznia Street with the girth of 470 cm, one at the road from Borek to Solec with the girth 520 cm), the platanus (with the girth measurement of 385 and 420 cm in the palace park in Wroniawy), the ash (in Kłębowo forestry with the girth measurement of 560 cm), the elm (territory of Dąbrowa forestry with the girth measurement of 300 cm). There are also groups of old trees, for example in Kłębowo Kolonia there are 12 pedunculate oaks with the girth of 280-660 cm and in Obra next to the sport yard one can find 12 small-leaved limes with the girth of 300-610 cm. A beautiful example of an alley can be found at the old road Stara Dąbrowa – Gościeszyn where 167 trees of different age, mainly small-leaved limes with the girth up to 460 cm grow in a passage.

The mid forest peat bog (0.10ha) near Nowa Obra with the round-leaved sundew is an example of a land form monument.

PALACE PARKS



Although the prime time is far behind them, palace parks still remain charming green areas, often with many monumental trees.

MUNICIPAL PARK IN WOLSZTYN

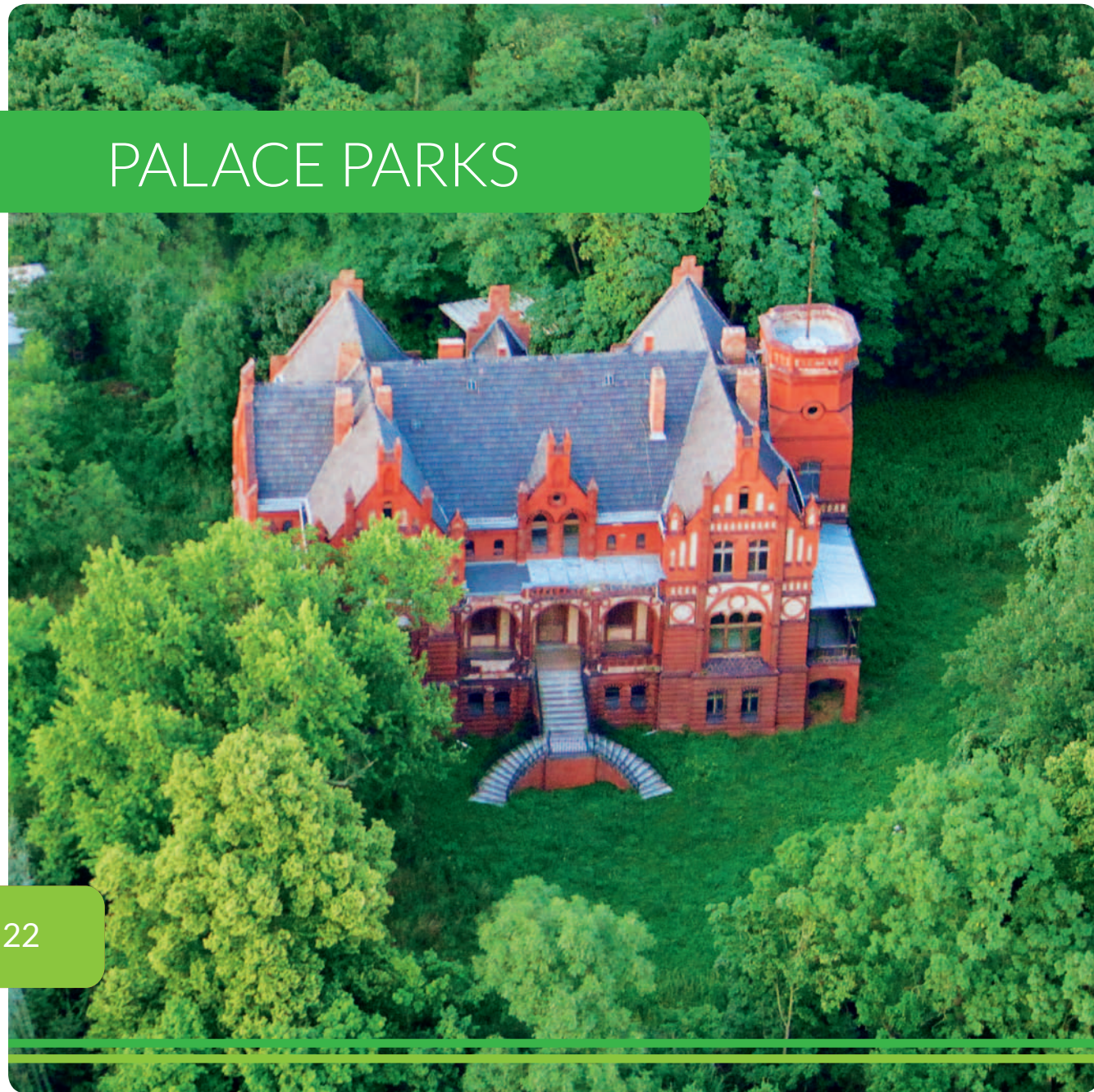
The landscape park surrounding the palace in Wolsztyn is the biggest palace park in this territory. At present, it is the Municipal Park with the area of 17.76 ha. The regular form with hornbeam and lime alleys was introduced by the then owners of the manor, the Gajewscy family. The following proprietors added new plantings, placing overseas trees and ornamental shrubs but leaving the layout in the original form. There are numerous monumental trees growing in the park, among others Ginko biloba (with the girth of 155 cm), the Canadian poplar (510 cm), oak trees, beeches, elms, pines, fir trees and larches. One of the oaks was adorned with the heads of Faun and Medusa by Marcin Rożek. The original log was moved to the Marcin Rożek Museum and the copy of the sculpture by Wiesław Stępyra can be admired in the park. The park is crossed by walking paths. Many of them are original but some were created as a result of the tourist infrastructure introduction. The works saving and maintaining the trees have been held here since 1993.

PARK IN WRONIAWY

The park comprising the territory of 12.18 ha was founded at the end of the 18th century by the then owners of the manor, the Gajewscy family. Unfortunately, little of the original layout has preserved – the main entrance, major walking paths and a chestnut alley. Two 250-year plane trees and a 200-year pedunculate oak are precious examples of old trees.



PALACE PARKS



GOŚCIESZYN PARK

The park surrounding the palace in Gościeszyn occupies the territory of 13 ha. Its beginnings date back to the turn of 18/19th century but it was rebuilt and enlarged in the second part of the 19th century (this period left Douglas trees, maple trees, chestnut trees and larch trees) and at the beginning of the 20th century when Zygmunt Kurnatowski erected a monumental neo gothic palace. From the planted exotic types, only a sweet chestnut and hawthorns survived. The park in Gościeszyn is surrounded by alleys; the northern one (with 190 years old small-leaved limes), eastern one (with 110 years old small-leaved limes) and the southern one (with 55 and 125 years old limes and 185 years old oak trees). Among others, there are also plane trees (with the girth of 380 to 575 cm), slender ash trees (the girth of 375 to 525 cm), pedunculate oaks (the girth of 400 to 590 cm) and a common alder (360 cm) grow in the park.

PARK IN CHORZEMIN

A small park with the area of almost 3 ha surrounds the palace in Chorzemin. It was created probably in the mid 20th century. There are some natural pearls hidden among many old trees; a Caucasian oak with the girth of 350 cm, which is probably the most impressive specimen of that type in Poland, a silver maple (340 cm), a common beech (320 cm), a red oak (280 cm) and an American lime (180 cm).



EDUCATIONAL PATHS



01

ENVIRONMENTAL PATH CHORZEMIŃSKIE BOGS RESERVE

Prepared by the Wolsztyn Forest District path runs around the Chorzemińskie Bogs Reserve. There are 15 thematic stops which allow the recognition of nature of the protected peat bog area, the plants and animals occurring in the neighboring forests, activities of foresters and also a picturesque gorge of the Dojca River. The path offers two options, a shorter one, which is 2 km long and a longer one with the length of 5 km.



02

CRANES' ROUTE PATH

It starts and ends in the Municipal Park in Wolsztyn and its 11 km trail runs around Lake Wolsztyńskie on the way of a yellow bicycle trail. Numerous information boards presenting the world of plants and animals as well as different forms of protection in this area are placed along the path.

for: fotokis.pl



03

ENVIRONMENTAL PATH IN MUNICIPAL PARK IN WOLSZTYN

It was designed by students of the Secondary High School in Wolsztyn. Some information boards presenting the history and the nature of the park and Lake Wolsztyńskie were created for the purposes of the path. There is also a commemorative plaque of professor Janusz B. Faliński a famous botanist, a pioneer of Wolsztyn region nature protection and a graduate of the Secondary High School in Wolsztyn.



Wolsztyn



at full steam!

Wolsztyn Administration Office and Tourist Information

ul. Doktora Kocha 12a, 64-200 Wolsztyn
www.wolsztyn.pl; fb.com/gciwolsztyn

Purchase of regional souvenirs:

Shop MASTER, ul.5 Stycznia 39, Wolsztyn
Tourist Information, ul. Doktora Kocha 12a, Wolsztyn

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