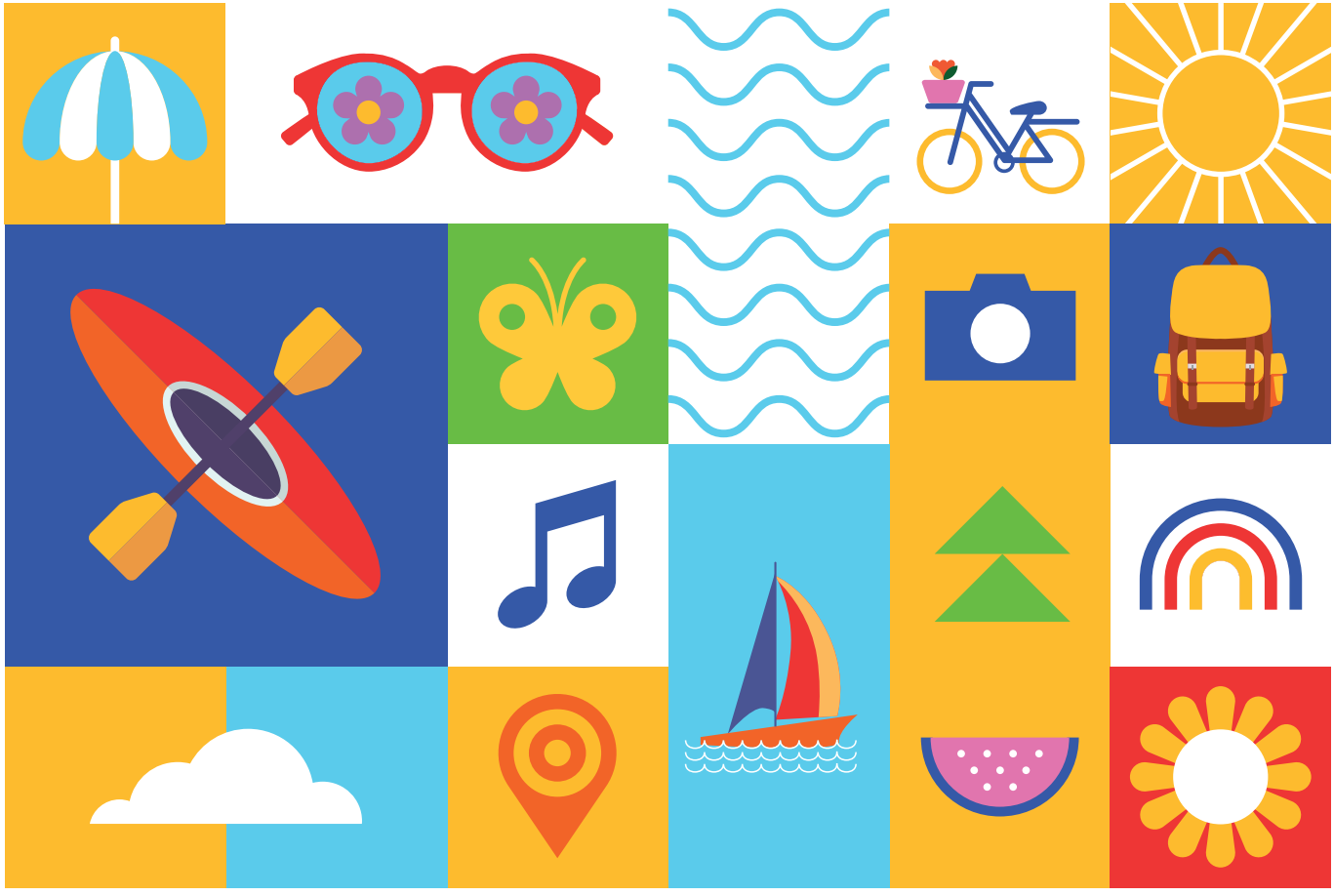
ŁÓDZKIE REGION FOR THE WEEKEND




LODZKIE REGION
FOR THE WEEKEND





A note from the author:

When travelling in Poland, one usually passes through the Lodzkie Region – after all, it's right in the middle of the country. Fortunately, this isn't the only reason to take a weekend and explore this region. Simply speaking, it's an interesting and very diverse place. There's something for fans of active tourism, nature lovers, but also true sightseers - young, old, as well as parents with children. Architectural monuments, amusement parks and cultural events are waiting to be discovered. There's also something special: an exceptionally rich collection of outdoor locations from the most famous Polish films. There are really plenty of opportunities to spend time here. Whoever comes here once will quickly realise that one weekend in the Lodzkie Region is definitely not enough.

Maciej Kronenberg

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10 greatest tourist attractions of the Lodzkie Region

top 10





EC1 in Łódź
author: P. Augustyniak



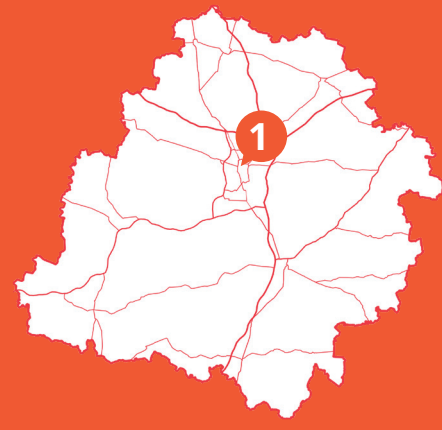
Palace in Nieborów
author: P. Wojtyczka



Arkadia
author: D. Kwapisiewicz

1

ŁÓDŹ



Capital of the region, it's not only the region's largest city, but also its main tourist attraction. Formerly the 'Polish Manchester' and 'Promised Land', today it attracts with its wealth of old factories which are being given new functions. Inherent in the city's industrial history are traces of its former multiculturalism – monuments of secular and sacred architecture built jointly by Poles, Germans, Jews and Russians. Cinema fans, in turn, will find places connected to the history and present of Polish cinematography.

Łódź is obviously not only about monuments and history – the renovated **Piotrkowska Street** is a famous area of restaurants, bars, pubs and other dining and entertainment venues, where everyone will find something for themselves. The same applies to **Manufaktura**, an entertainment, retail and cultural centre housed in the renovated spaces left behind by one of Łódź's largest factories. The list of attractions in Łódź also includes the oldest municipal power plant, now the **EC1 Science and Technology Centre,** the **planetarium,** the **National Film Culture Centre** and the **Comics and Interactive Narrative Centre.**

Łódź is also a city that is changing in a very dynamic way. Numerous renovation projects are underway here, covering almost the entire city centre. There's also a huge railway investment, namely the construction of the cross-town tunnel, which is to be a kind of Łódź metro. One of its elements is the underground **Łódź Fabryczna station** (the largest in the country!).



EC1 Łódź - City of culture

author: W. Ancerowicz



Łódź Fabryczna Station

author: R. Żydowicz



Gutenberg Tenement House on 86 Piotrkowska Street

author: P. Augustyniak/lodz.travel

2

ROMANESQUE MONUMENTS



There are as many as seven sites related to the Romanesque style in the Lodzkie Region. The lesser known ones are the temples in: **Żarnów** (Opoczno region), **Ruda** (Wieluń region), **Strońsko** (Zduńska Wola region), or **the bell tower** in **Krzyworzeka** (Wieluń region).

By far the more recognisable ones are: **the Church of St. Giles** in **Inowłódz** (Tomaszów region), the monumental **collegiate church** in **Tum** near Łęczyca (Łęczyca region) and finally **the Cistercian Abbey** in **Sulejów-Podklasztorze** (Piotrków region), considered the best-preserved example of a medieval monastery founded by this order in Europe.



Archcollegiate in Tum

author: P. Wojtyczka



Romanesque Church of St. Giles in Inowłódz

author: DO in Tomaszów Maz.

3

MONUMENTS OF WOODEN ARCHITECTURE



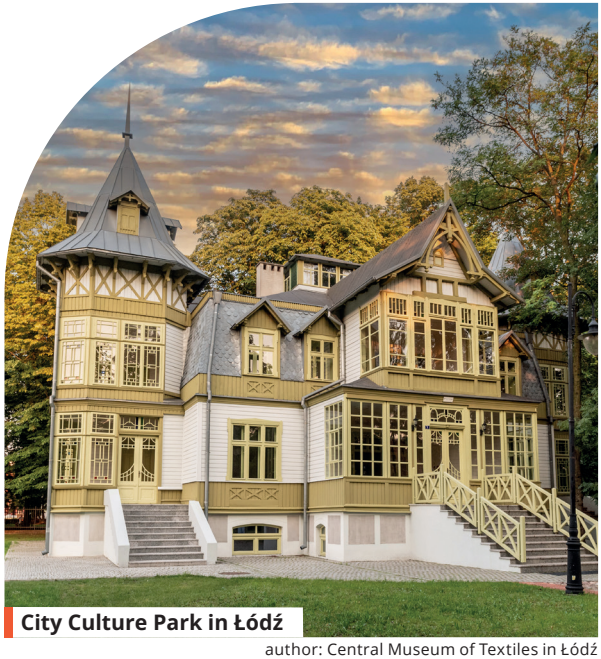
The Lodzkie Region is distinguished by its diversity of preserved wooden architecture. Numerous examples remain to this day. The easiest way to find them is to visit local open-air museums, especially those in **Maurzyce** near Łowicz, **Tomaszów Mazowiecki**, **Kwiatkówek** near Łęczyca or **Łódź**.

When mentioning wooden monuments, it's worth remembering how varied they are, including traditional country cottages, technical monuments, such as water mills and windmills, but also weavers' houses related to the development of the textile industry (their largest concentration has been preserved in **Zgierz** and is protected within the **Town of Weavers Cultural Park**). When looking for wooden architecture, one should also keep in mind the summer houses – buildings of this type have survived in **Ruda Pabianicka** in the limits of Łódź, in **Tworzyjanki**, as well as in **Kolumna-Las** (today part of Łask).

Another distinctive feature of the region is the prevalence of surviving wooden churches, mainly in rural areas – nearly 100 of them have been preserved. The oldest date from the turn of the 15th and 16th centuries, and among the most interesting are the **churches in Boguszyce** near Rawa Mazowiecka and **Grębień** near Wieluń, both decorated with rich Renaissance polychromes. The building in Grębień represents so-called the Wieluń type, characteristic for the area around this town – churches of this type were built in the 16th and 17th centuries. About ten have survived to the present day.



Town of Weavers Cultural Park in Zgierz



City Culture Park in Łódź

author: Central Museum of Textiles in Łódź



Open-Air Museum in Kwiatkówek

author: J.Ziółkowski



Church of the Holy Trinity in Grębień

4

FOLKLORE OF THE LODZKIE REGION



The folklore of the Lodzkie Region region is diverse and colorful. It is a mosaic of various traditions – combining influences from the area of Mazowsze, Wielkopolska, Małopolska, and from Kujawy as well. There is no single, uniform style here; instead, each part of the Lodzkie Region (Sieradz, Opoczno, Rawa, Łęczyca, Wieluń, Piotrków or Łowicz regions) has its own distinct versions of costume, music, art and customs.

The diversity of Łódź folklore can be experienced today primarily during holidays and harvest festivals, as well as in regional museums (such as the **District Museum** in **Sieradz**, the **Museum** in **Łowicz** or the **Regional Museum** in **Opoczno**) and **open-air museums** for example: in **Maurzyce**, **Łowicz**, **Kwiatkówek**, **Sieradz** or **Lipce Reymontowskie**.

Folklore is not limited only to museums and open-air exhibitions. Enthusiasts and folk artists still actively cultivate traditional crafts such as paper-cutting, woodcarving, and embroidery, proudly passing them on to future generations. In some localities, traditional attire remains an important part of family and religious celebrations. This can be seen in places like **Łowicz** or **Spycimierz** during the **Feast of Corpus Christi**, when many residents of the Łowicz area take part in solemn processions dressed in traditional, colorful costumes. Meanwhile, the inhabitants of Spycimierz have been maintaining for over 200 years the custom of creating flower carpets. In 2021, this tradition was inscribed on UNESCO's Representative List of the Intangible Cultural Heritage of Humanity.



Opoczno Folklore - Regional Museum in Opoczno

author: Museum in Opoczno



Open-Air Museum in Maurzyce



Flower carpets in Spycimierz

author: Spycimierz Corpus Christi Centre



Feast of Corpus Christi in Łowicz

author: DO in Łowicz

5

MINE AND PGE GIANTS OF POWER EXHIBITION IN BEŁCHATÓW



Where is the biggest hole in Poland located? In the vicinity of Bełchatów. There is a huge lignite mine here – **the opencast 'Bełchatów field'**: 10 km long, 3 km wide and up to 350 metres deep (additionally, a few kilometres to the west, there is a second, almost equally large, **'Szczerców field'**). As preparations are being made to end with the extraction, two types of work are underway here: while coal is still being extracted in the western part of the opencast area, on the eastern edge of the area the formation of the future shores of an artificial lake is already initiated. The post-mining areas are to be flooded and replaced by the two deepest reservoirs in Poland. The entire investment is best viewed from viewing points in **Kleszczów** and **Żłobnica**.

From here you can see the buildings of the **Bełchatów power plant**, the largest such site in Poland, as well as the highest hill in the region, the **Kamieńska Mountain** (built of the soil from the Bełchatów field). Today it is a restored land, covered with forest and used for recreation. In turn, another mountain 'grows' all the time, on which the over-burden from the Szczerców field is stored.

The visit should be complemented by visiting the **PGE Giants of Power exhibition** in **Bełchatów**, where the process of creating lignite and then burning it and producing electricity is shown in an interactive way.



Kleszczów - view of the mine and the power plant

author: MO Kleszczów



Sport and Recreation Center Kamieńsk Mountain

author: Regional Planning Office of the Lodzkie Region



PGE Giants of Power exhibition in Bełchatów

author: PGE Giants of Power

6 RIVERS



Rawka River – kayaking trip

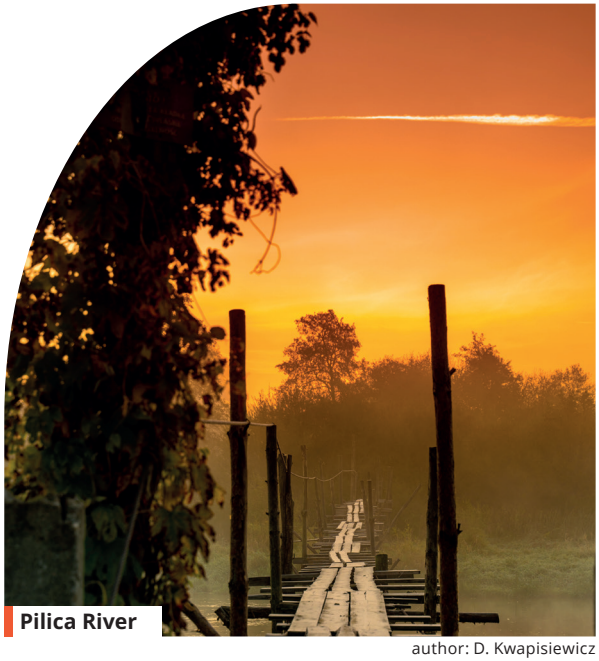
Rawka is a river of over 90 kilometres, flowing through the eastern part of the Lodzkie Region. Unlike many other lowland rivers, its bed is unregulated. Along its entire length, Rawka is protected as a nature reserve. The section between Skierniewice and Bolimów, covered by the **Bolimów Landscape Park**, is particularly picturesque. Rawka is best explored from the perspective of a kayak – the well-developed tourist base makes it easy to rent one even in the peak summer season. However, it's important to remember that the Rawka is a challenging river, dedicated to more experienced canoeists. Tree trunks that have fallen into the river often require to carry the kayak, while the rapid current can easily become a cause of capsizing. But the satisfaction at the end of draft is guaranteed.

Pilica is one of the largest and at the same time most wild rivers in central Poland. A large part of it's bed is protected in three landscape parks located in the Lodzkie Region, namely the **Przedbórz, Sulejów** and **Spała Parks**, which only confirms the high tourist value of the river. The **Sulejów Reservoir**, created on its course, has for years been a major recreational facility, not only for the inhabitants of Łódź, offering the opportunity to practice a whole range of water sports. Pilica is also a very good river for canoeing enthusiasts: it's easy, picturesque and

offers a well-developed tourist base. A large section of it is signposted as a canoe trail. The best way to learn about the history of the Pilica Area is to visit the **Open-Air Museum of the Pilica River** in **Tomaszów Mazowiecki**.

Warta, along with Pilica, is the largest river in the Lodzkie Region. By far the most interesting area to explore Warta is the area around Wieluń, which is protected as part of the **Załęcze Landscape Park**. The river flows here through a gorge section, where you can even see **limestone spur rocks**. Today, **Warta cement works** operates in the vicinity of Działoszyn, but tourists may be much more interested in the historic **lime kilns** that still survive around **Działoszyn** and in **Lisowice**. As in the case of Pilica, a canoe will work very well here - this river is a relatively easy waterway.

Bzura is the largest river in the northern part of the region. It's a typical lowland river with a gentle current, very good for beginner canoeists. Bzura can be a good excuse for a trip along the trail of the region's past, as it flows through a number of towns and villages of key importance to various stages of the region's history, including Łódź (where it has its source in the **Łagiewnicki Forest**), Zgierz, Ozorków, Łęczyca and Łowicz.



Pilica River

author: D. Kwapisiewicz



Warta River

author: D. Kwapisiewicz

7

CINEMATIC LODZKIE REGION



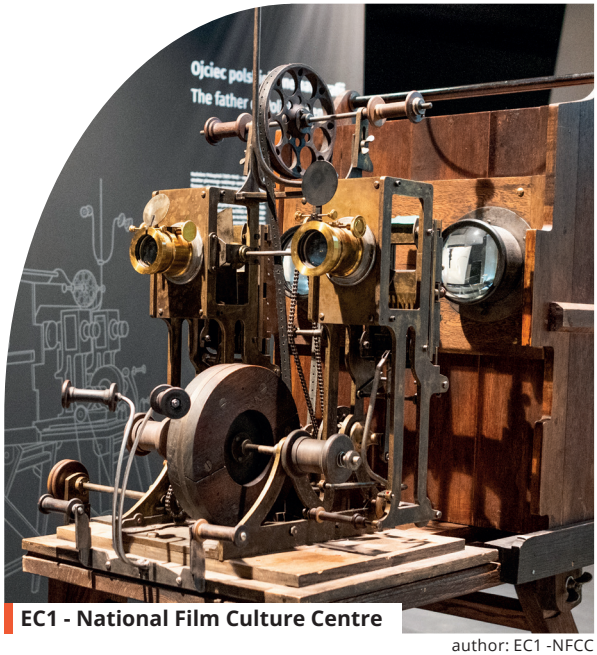
Film Museum

Łódź was for years referred to as the capital of the Polish cinematography; the term **HollyŁódź** is still popular today. It's here that the country's largest film studio used to operate and that the **Film School**, the **Film Museum** and the recently inaugurated **National Film Culture Centre** operate, invites you to extraordinary exhibitions: *Kino Polonia* (the largest exhibition in the country, telling the story of over 130 years of Polish cinematography) and *Materia Kina* (showing the stages of film production: budgeting, casting, editing, sound design, and promotion). You can walk along the **Avenue of Stars** or the **Łódź Fairyland Trail**. Thanks to the work of the Łódź Film Commission, several film routes were traced. The importance of Łódź's film heritageis is evidenced by the title of a **City of Film included in the UNESCO Creative Cities Network**.

The region also has much to offer in this aspect. In about a hundred towns and cities one can find open-air filming locations, including from such titles as: "The Promised Land", "Vabank", "Four Tank-Men and a Dog", "More Than Life at Stake", "How I Unleashed World War II or The Deluge", as well as more contemporary ones: "In Darkness", "Ida", or "Cold War". In a dozen or so of the region's most film related locations you can find **boards of the CINEMATIC Lodzkie Region**. Particularly noteworthy is **Piotrków Trybunalski**, which was used in almost 50 films and TV series – a **tourist trail dedicated to the film** industry was traced here.



Avenue of Stars on Piotrkowska Street



EC1 - National Film Culture Centre

author: EC1 -NFCC



EC1 - National Film Culture Centre

author: L. Staszczak-Gąsiorek

8

HISTORICAL MONUMENTS



The highest form of monument protection at national level is awarding the title of the **Monument of History**. There are five sites of this category in the Lodzkie Region. They represent an almost complete cross-section through the history of the lands making up the current region, and at the same time offer an overview of architectural styles from successive eras.

The oldest are the **Romanesque collegiate church** in **Tum** near Łęczyca and the **Cistercian Abbey complex** in **Sulejów** (with a defensive structure from the 12th/13th century and a Romanesque church still visible). Slightly younger is the former Primate's Collegiate Church, now the **Cathedral Basilica** in **Łowicz**, where elements of Gothic, Renaissance and Baroque can be found. Its uniqueness is evidenced, among other things, by the tombstones of several primates.

The Baroque and Classicism eras are represented by the **palace of the Radziwiłł family** in **Nieborów** complemented by a **Romantic park** in nearby **Arkadia**. Finally, a full cross-section through the buildings of the 19th and early 20th centuries is provided by a visit to **Łódź**, where the **multicultural landscape of this industrial** is a Monument of History. It comprises not only metropolitan buildings with town houses, palaces, villas and public buildings, but also major factory complexes and two historic cemeteries: a Christian and a Jewish one.



Cistercian Abbey complex in Sulejów

author: P. Wojtyczka



Księży Młyn in Łódź

author: P. Augustyniak/lodz.travel



Palace in Nieborów

author: D. Kwapisiewicz

9

PALACES AND GARDENS



If Franciszek Karpiński had lived in the Lodzkie Region, he would have loved **Arkadia**. This Romantic garden of Helena Radziwiłł, with its Aqueduct, Gothic House and Temple of Diana, is a great place to relax and is also the ideal setting for creative imagination. Arkadia is complemented by **Nieborów**, located a few kilometres away, with its superbly preserved historic **Radziwiłł residence** (together with the park in Arkadia, they constitute a branch of the National Museum). The palace is, of course, surrounded by a green area, which consists of a geometric French garden and an English park.

Also worthy of mention is the **Classicist residence** in **Walewice.** You can stay overnight in the palace, you can also see a suite specially prepared for Napoleon's stay, with preserved two-hundred-year-old wall papers; however, Walewice is not only a place for history lovers – its distinguishing feature is above all the **Walewice Stud Farm**, famous for breeding Anglo-Arabian half-bred horses.

Of course, there are many more palaces, manor houses and villas in the Lodzkie Region. It's worth visiting **Skierniewice** to see the former **primate's palace**, **Kutno** includes **the post palace of the kings** from the Saxon era, let's add also the Renaissance **palaces of the Grudziński family** in **Poddębice** and of the **Męciński family** in **Działoszyń** or **the Ostrowski family palace** in **Tomaszów Mazowiecki.** Around 130 factory owners' palaces and villas from the 19th and early 20th centuries have been preserved in Łódź.



Park in Arkadia

author: D. Kwapisiewicz



Ostrowski Palace in Tomaszów Maz.

author: CO in Tomaszów Maz.



Palace in Walewice

author: D. Kwapisiewicz

10

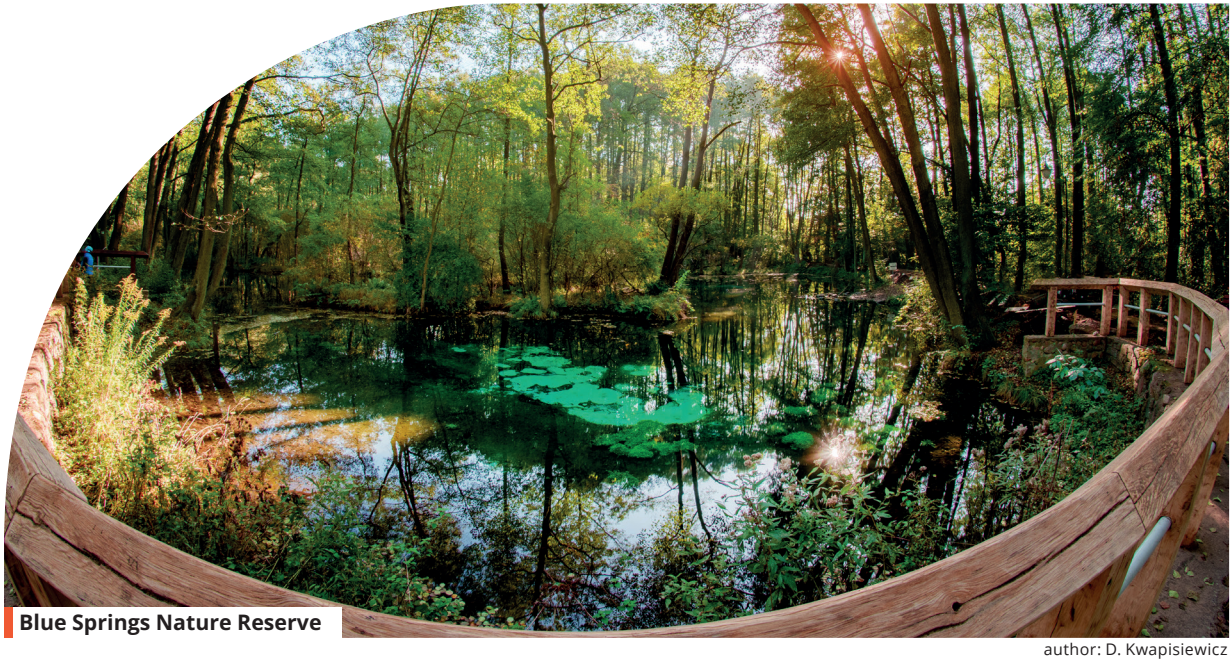
TOMASZOWSKA OKRĄGLICA



What is Tomaszowska Okrąglica? It's a combination of the most important tourist attractions of **Tomaszów Mazowiecki**: **the Blue Springs Nature Reserve, the Open-Air Museum of the Pilica River** and the **Nagórzyckie Grottoes** (underground tourist route). Three very different sites, and each equally connected to local history and heritage. Of course, this is not all that is worth seeing in Tomaszów. For lovers of active leisure, we can recommend the **Ice Arena**, Poland's first and so far only year-round ice-skating facility, where, among others, Polish Olympic athletes train, but at selected times everyone can test their skating skills. And while we're dealing with sport, why not take a canoe trip down the Pilica River from Tomaszów to **Spała** and Inowłódz? In addition to the historic monuments, there's also the entire complex of the **Central Sports Centre for Olympic Preparations** in **Spała**.



Pilica River Open-Air Museum



Blue Springs Nature Reserve

author: D. Kwapisiewicz



Nagórzyckie Grottoes

author: CO in Tomaszów Maz.

What can you do in the Lodzkie Region?

active leisure





On the Pilica River



Kayaking trip on the Warta River

The asset of the Lodzkie Region is its diversity. Fans of active leisure will find plenty of opportunities to spend time here: you can hike and cycle and use canoe trails or even the largest ski slope in the central Poland.

The best areas **for hiking** are certainly those with varied terrain. **The Łódź Summits Landscape Park** or the **Załęcze** and **Przedbórz Landscape Parks** located on the southern edges of the region, are perfectly suited for this purpose thanks to their entire networks of hiking trails. Of course, you can also go for a longer walk (perhaps with Nordic walking poles) in the **Łagiewnicki Forest** in the northern part of Łódź or in the **vicinity of Spała**. An interesting offer for fans of orienteering marches awaits us in the Wieruszów Poviat, where the programme **"Wieruszów District with Map and Compass"** is being implemented. Fans of more extreme experiences will certainly enjoy the **"Setka po Łódzku"**, an annual orienteering walking rally in the immediate vicinity of Łódź with distances of 50 or 100 km.

Fans of **cycling** will easily find trails for themselves, both in the vicinity of Łódź (again, the **Łódź Summits** are worth a try) and throughout the region, for short and long distance. **Kamieńska Mountain** (405.6 m) is



Jeziorsko yacht port

author: CO in Warta



Vicinity of Bąkowa Góra



Marina on the Sulejów Reservoir

author: E. Duda

an interesting offer for off-road enthusiasts – it offers as many as four trails of several kilometres.

Canoeists will also find in the Lodzkie Region a wide variety of options. **Rawka, Pilica, Warta**, as well as **Grabia** and **Widawka** are the rivers most frequently used for canoeing. Relatively easy in technical terms (this applies especially to Pilica and Warta), interesting in terms of landscape and sightseeing (e.g. historic watermills on the Grabia River), they have attracted numerous amateurs of active tourism for years. The well-developed tourist base guarantees no problems with renting kayaks or accommodation if you choose a trip longer than one day. Other rivers, such as **Bzura, Czarna, Drzewiczka, Luciąża** or **Mroga**, are also worth considering when planning your next rafting trip.

The two largest reservoirs in the region, namely the **Sulejów Reservoir** and the **Jeziorsko Reservoir**, offer also good conditions for sailing and windsurfing. In addition, wake parks, dedicated to water ski enthusiasts, are becoming an increasingly popular attraction. Such facilities can be found at the **Jeziorsko Reservoir** (in Ostrów Warcki), as well as in **Głowno, Tuszyn, Łódź** (on the Stefański Ponds), **Drzewica** and **Lisowice** near Koluszki. Most are equipped with infrastructure that allows amateurs to have fun, but also the opportunity for more experienced people to test their skills. Often (as in Głowno or Lisowice) they are accompanied by other attractions: climbing walls or rope parks.

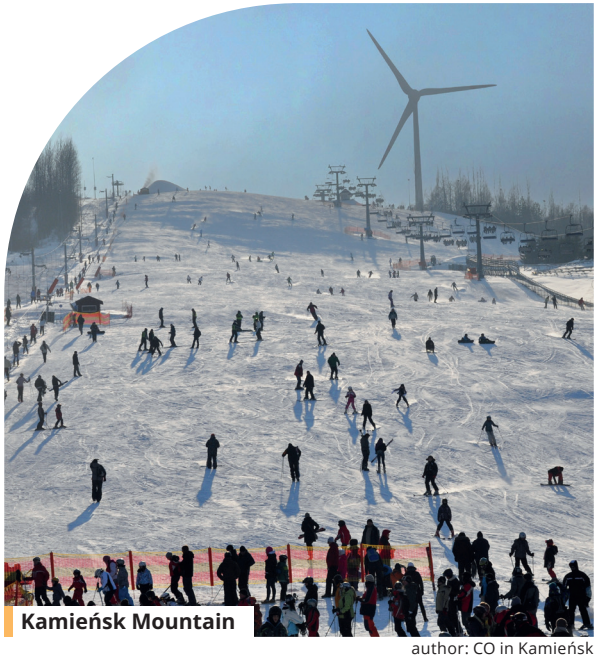
Lodzkie Region is a good place for horse tourism. Self-riding enthusiasts can choose from more than 200 stables throughout the region, which are connected by the Europe's longest marked horse trail of more than 2,000 km. It consists of two signposted loops: a smaller one around Łódź and a larger one around the entire region, with numerous links. Those who want to see the professionals in action can visit **Bogusławice**, **Walewice** or **Gajewniki,** where regular horse riding events are held.



Walewice - stud farm

author: K. Jarczewski

Winter is the time when we discover other tourist attractions of the region as well: the largest ski slope in central Poland is located on the **Kamieńska Mountain** near Bełchatów. More than 800 metres of fairly easy piste is ideal for a family trip (although the highest part of the slope is more challenging!). Due to the increasingly warmer winters, the ski season is quite short, so it's worth to check the weather forecast and information on snow conditions on the slopes.



Kamieńsk Mountain

author: CO in Kamieńsk



On the Sulejów Reservoir

author: M. Robak



On the Jeziorsko Reservoir

What can you do in the Lodzkie Region?

in nature





Jeziorsko Reservoir
author: D. Kwapisiewicz



Warta River in Załęcze Landscape Park

author: K. Kierniakiewicz

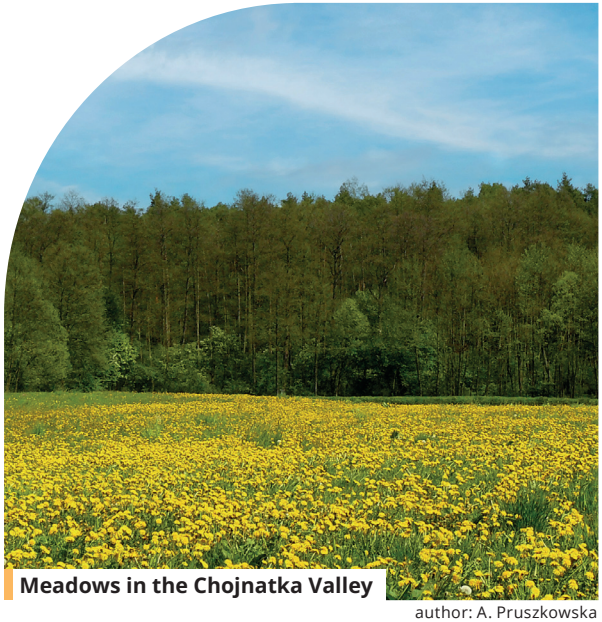
In the Lodzkie Region, nature is often just around the corner, as in the case of the Łagiewnicki Forest, which is one of the largest forest complexes located within the city limits in Europe. On the one hand, it has a rich recreational infrastructure: the **Arturówek** ponds favoured by the city's residents, hiking and cycling trails and running routes. On the other hand, it's possible to find such nature sanctuaries as the **Łagiewnicki Forest Nature Reserve**.

Another forest area in the region – the **Spała Forest** – is just as interesting as Łagiewnicki, both in terms of nature and history. It was made an important place for the statehood due to the stays of the Russian tsars and, after the end of partitions period, the presidents of the Second Polish Republic.

Although the forests were severely depleted during World War I, their natural character is still enhanced by the Pilica River flowing through, the wildest of the large rivers in central Poland.

In terms of nature, one of the region's most important water attractions is the **Jeziorsko Reservoir**, located in the west of the region and founded on the Warta River. Its southern part is protected as a wildlife reserve. During the autumn wetland bird migration period, up to tens of thousands of birds are present here at the same time.

If you're an ornithology enthusiast, we can recommend visits to the peat bogs in the **Piskorzeniec Nature Reserve** near Przedbórz or the **Święte Ługi Wilderness** near Szczerców, as well as at the **Okręt Lake** and the **Rydwan Pond** near Łowicz.



Meadows in the Chojnatka Valley

author: A. Pruszkowska



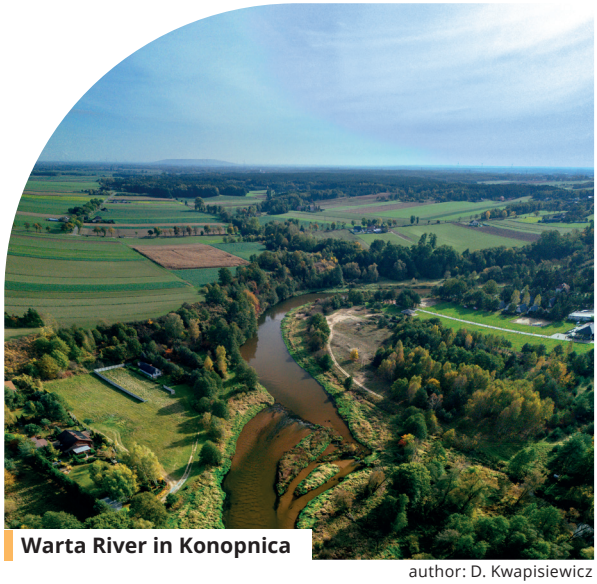
Young foxes in Przedbórz Landscape Park

author: D. Kuzdak



Łagiewnicki Forest in Łódź

author: T. Grala



Warta River in Konopnica

author: D. Kwapisiewicz

The region's nature is supported by the local nature parks:

THE ŁÓDŹ SUMMITS LANDSCAPE PARK

In addition to the aforementioned Łagiewnicki Forest – can boast such reserves as: **Parowy Janinowskie**, where slender beeches and branching gorges create a setting like straight from The Lord of the Rings and **Struga Dobieszkowska**, which is located only a few steps away from the **medieval castle** in **Stare Skoszewy**.

SPAŁA LANDSCAPE PARK

Every dendrologist will get excited by the remnants of the ancient Pilica Forest still present there – two hundred-year-old oaks, hornbeams and pines. These can be found above all in the **Spała Reserve**, together with a curiosity of local nature: pine trees "on stilts" created by river erosion.

SULEJÓW LANDSCAPE PARK

The area of the park includes primarily the Sulejów Reservoir itself, but also such magical places as the **Blue Springs Nature Reserve** with its famous azure water or the **Las Jabłoniowy** (Apple Tree Forest Reserve), where, among the typical forest stand, you can find numerous specimens of wild fruit trees: apple trees, pear trees and hawthorns. If you prefer fauna rather than flora, the **Forest Center for Animal Education and Rehabilitation** in **Koło** is a must-see.



Sulejów Landscape Park

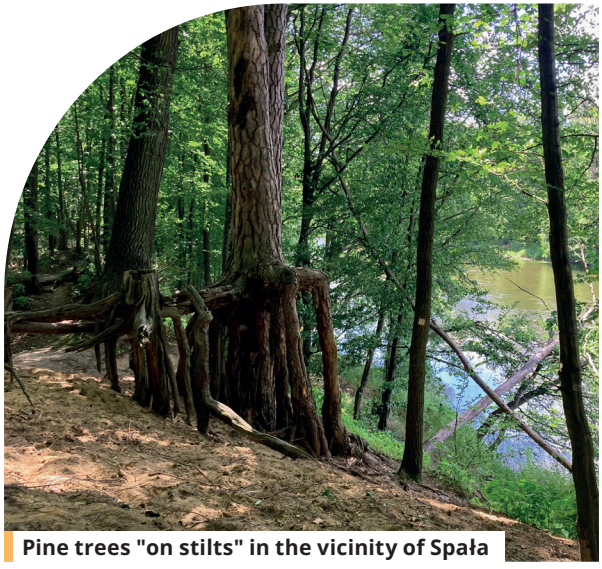
author: Landscape Parks Complex of the Lodzkie Region

PRZEDBÓRZ LANDSCAPE PARK

The greatest asset of the Przedbórz Landscape Park is undoubtedly its terrain. Hiking trails wind up and down the surrounding hills (including the largest natural hill in the Lodzkie Region, **Fajna Ryba**, 347 m above sea level). You should obligatorily also climb the **Bukowa Góra** (Beech Mountain) with its ancient beech trees, protected as a nature reserve.

WARTA AND WIDAWKA LANDSCAPE PARK

Its main protagonists are, of course, the two rivers, particularly Warta, which is the undisputed queen of the area. Whoever dreams of meeting cranes, marsh waders and other water-related birds should direct their steps here.



Pine trees "on stilts" in the vicinity of Spała

ZAŁĘCZE LANDSCAPE PARK

Załęcze Landscape Park is an area where the presence of the Warta River is marked in more than just a natural way. In its valley, we can find remains of prehistoric **barrows**, of which the oldest (in the village of **Przywóz)** are dated to the second century. The park is located on the Wieluń Highlands. Warta flows here in a deeply incised valley, forming the so-called **Grand Bend**. Situated on the **Zelce mountain, the Węże Geological Reserve** contains numerous caves. A visit to the **quarry** in **Lisowice** is also a must: you can find there an excellent cross-section with rocks from successive geological eras, and also easily find different types of fossils.

BOLIMÓW LANDSCAPE PARK

Bolimów Landscape Park's greatest mystery (apart from the Rawka River) are the large (measuring up to several dozen hectares) forest clearings, which are the remnants of the activities of the forest woodbuilders who felled the forest to obtain potash, tar or charcoal. Today, clearings are a veritable storehouse of the forest biodiversity. A third of the plants present in the area can be found here, accompanied by the animals: wetland birds, amphibians and large mammals. However, both for reasons of nature and safety, access to some of the clearings (e.g. the largest called **Siwica**) is only possible after prior notification and together with the park employees.

What can you do in the Lodzkie Region?

on the traces of monuments





Nieborów Palace
author: D. Kwapisiewicz



Cistercian Abbey complex in Sulejów

author: Regional Planning Office of the Lodzkie Region

Over the past few years, as many as five objects from the Lodzkie Region were included on the **list of monuments of history**, i.e. the most valuable national monuments: **the Cathedral Basilica** in **Łowicz,** the **Collegiate Church** in **Tum,** the **Cistercian Abbey** in **Sulejów-Podklasztorze,** the **palace and park complex** in **Nieborów** together with the nearby **Arkadia Romantic Park and** the **multicultural landscape of the industrial city of Łódź**. Lovers of art history will find in the Lodzkie Region objects documenting a thousand years of tradition. There are temples with Romanesque elements, Gothic churches (those in the **Sulejów Abbey** are one of the first examples of this style in Poland) and castles (including the very well-preserved private **castle of the Oporowski family** in **Oporów** near Kutno).

There are also plenty examples of Renaissance architecture, such as the fortified **manor house** in **Pabianice** (now a museum) or churches of the Kalisz-Lublin type with characteristic stucco decorations (e.g. in **Poddębice, Chruślin** and **Sobota**). The period of Renaissance is also represented by the **Chapel of St. Victoria** in the **Cathedral of Łowicz** with the tombstone of Archbishop Jakub Uchański made by Jan Michałowicz of Urzędów (the most outstanding Polish sculptor of that period). Baroque art is also abundantly represented in the Lodzkie Region, both in sacred and secular architecture. The monumental sanctuary of the **Holy Family** in **Studzianna** was one of the most important pilgrimage centres in the 17th and 18th century Poland.



Knight's Castle in Oporów

author: D. Redlicki

The **palace** in **Nieborów**, designed by Tylman of Gameren, today a branch of the National Museum, is one of the best-preserved Baroque residences in Poland. Another interesting example of this style is the Baroque **manor house** in **Ożarów**, today home to the **Museum of Manor Interiors**.

The region also boasts of Classicist buildings, such as the **palace** in **Walewice** or the **palace** and **church of St. James** in **Skierniewice**. The **Romantic park** in **Arkadia** near Nieborów, created by Princess Helena Radziwiłł at the turn of the 18th and 19th centuries, is a unique site.

Neo-style (neo-Romanesque, neo-Gothic, etc.) and eclectic (representing a combination of different styles) architecture from the 19th century is something typical of the cities and towns of the Lodzkie Region, which developed as industrial centres during this period. The exceptional example of this trend is obviously **Łódź** itself, where more than 10,000 tenement houses from the turn of the 19th and 20th centuries, as well as numerous factory owners' residences, churches, public buildings and factories have been preserved in the city centre. The city's architecture also includes interesting examples of Art Nouveau and Modernism from the



Museum of Manor Interiors in Ożarów

first half of the 20th century. Interesting buildings from the same era can, of course, be found in other cities and towns, primarily in **Piotrków Trybunalski, Tomaszów Mazowiecki, Pabianice** and **Zduńska Wola**.

Industrial monuments are one of the region's distinctive features – they can be found not only in the region's capital, but also in smaller towns – above all in **Zgierz, Pabianice, Tomaszów Mazowiecki** and **Piotrków Trybunalski**. Of course, the leader is **Łódź** with some 200 smaller and larger factory complexes surviving to this day. These were often entire complexes of buildings, which included, in addition to production buildings, the owners' residences, as well as workers' housing and social infrastructure such as schools, shops and hospitals. The best examples are the **Księży Młyn** estate, created by the Łódź's richest factory owners, the Scheibler family, and **Manufaktura**, the former empire of the Poznański family.

The Lodzkie Region is a predominantly agricultural area. Examples of traditional rural buildings have survived to this day. The most interesting objects went to open-air museums – the largest in **Maurzyce** near Łowicz, as well as smaller ones in **Łowicz** itself, **Sieradz** or **Kwiatkówek** near Łęczyca.

Lodzkie Region is also one of the richest regions in terms of wooden churches: there are about a hundred of them there. The oldest ones date from the end of the 15th century and the 16th century, including the most interesting ones in **Boguszyce** near Rawa Mazowiecka and **Grębień** near Wieluń, both decorated with Renaissance paintings. Valuable polychromes have also been preserved in the church in **Czerniewice**.

Finally, monuments representing the former multi-culturalism are an important part of the region's heritage. Temples, synagogues, cemeteries, but also palaces, tenement houses, schools and factories remain from the Poles, Jews, Germans, Russians and Czechs who used to live here. The **Jewish cemetery** in **Łódź**, one of the largest and best preserved in Europe, is an exceptional monument.



Fabryka Wełny Hotel in Pabianice

author: Fabryka Wełny Hotel

What can you do in the Lodzkie Region?

on the traces of History





Łęczyca Royal Castle
author: M. Stasiak



Fortified settlement at Tum

Lodzkie Region as a separate administrative unit is "only" 100 years old, as it was established shortly after Poland regained its independence. The history of this area, which lies on the border of the Małopolska, Wielkopolska and Mazovia regions, is much longer. The region includes castellany seats remembering the beginnings of Poland ruled by the Piast dynasty, or **historical castles** such as **Łęczyca, Sieradz, Rawa** and **Wieluń**, which were the seats of medieval principalities, provinces and lands. The walls of the oldest monuments are silent witnesses to significant events. Important decisions were made here (several of the Polish kings were elected to the throne in Sieradz and Piotrków, and the Crown Tribunal for the Małopolska Region sat in **Piotrków** for over 200 years).

In the 19th century, the area of the today's region became one of the main industrial regions of the then Kingdom of Poland. Even before Łódź grew into the country's largest textile industry centre, Ozorków and then Zgierz had been reigning supreme. To this day, in both of these locations (as well as, among others, in Pabianice, Aleksandrów Łódzki, Konstantynów Łódzki or Tomaszów Mazowiecki), many traces of economic history have been preserved. These include factories, factory owners' residences and former weavers' houses. **Zgierz** with its **Town of Weavers Cultural Park** located in the centre of the town is unique in this respect. Dozens of traditional houses from the 19th century have been preserved in this town. In Zduńska Wola, on the other hand, we can find a historic district for settlers engaged in the development of local crafts and, later, manufactures and industry.

The 20th century brought a series of tragic events related to World War I and World War II. The area of today's region was repeatedly crossed by the front of World War I (from mid-1914 to mid-1915), when the Russian army clashed with the German and Austrian armies. It's worth remembering that in all the partitioned armies, many of the soldiers were Poles. The particularly intense fighting in the autumn of 1914 went down in history as the Battle or Operation Łódź – in just a few weeks, half a million soldiers took part in the clashes, of whom as many as 200,000 fell in battle. Today this is reminded by numerous war cemeteries, scattered throughout almost the entire province.



City hall with a city gate in Wieluń



Old Town in Piotrków Trybunalski

author: CO in Piotrków Tryb.

In turn, in the **vicinity of Bolimów**, in 1915, Germans for the first time ever used battle gases.

Autumn 1939 and the defensive war of that time in the vicinity of Łódź was marked above all by the Battle of the Bzura, one of the few successful military actions of the Polish army at that time. In this case the dramatic history is also remembered today mainly by **cemeteries with quarters of the fallen in the vicinity of Kutno, Łowicz** and **Łęczyca**. The history of this battle was until recently commemorated by the Museum of the Battle of the Bzura in the former mausoleum of the Mniewski family in Kutno; today the exhibition is moved to the **Saxon Palace Museum**. A tragic page of history was also written in **Wieluń**, which was the first victim of German bombing on the morning of September 1.



War cemetery in Joachimów Mogiły



Military exhibition at the Saxon Palace Museum in Kutno

author: Saxon Palace Museum

A separate story related to World War II is the creation of ghettos for the Jewish population by the German occupiers, including Poland's first ghetto in Piotrków, or the second largest (after Warsaw) ghetto in Łódź.

Among historical figures, two prominent writers, **Julian Tuwim** and **Władysław Reymont**, were strongly associated with the Lodzkie Region. The former, born in Łódź, is commemorated here by several monuments, including the most famous **Tuwim's Bench**, located in front of the Łódź City Hall on Piotrkowska Street. The second, born in Kobiele Wielkie near Radomsko, lived in Łódź (while collecting material for *The Promised Land*), but also in the vicinity of Lipce Reymontowskie, which became the inspiration for his epic dedicated to the Polish countryside: *The Peasants*.

Today, there is a **museum** in **Lipce** collecting memorabilia of the writer, as well as a private **Gallery of Antiquities and Regional Memorabilia** with a huge collection of editions of *The Peasants*, as well as exhibits dedicated to the television series based on the novel.



Radegast Station in Łódź


Regional Museum in Lipce Reymontowskie

What can you do in the Lodzkie Region?

in family manner





Mandoria - City of Adventures
author: Mandoria

Is Łódź a parent-child friendly region? Absolutely. There are attractions for little ones and slightly older tourists. And what's very important: these attractions will work well both in the sunshine and on rainy days. There's no shortage of water parks in Poland. But outdoor hot pools are far less numerous.

It's no coincidence that the local water park in **Uniejów** is called **Termy** – the hot water from the interior of the earth makes it possible to bathe in the outdoor pool all year round. Regardless of the outside temperature, the water in the pool has a constant temperature of around 30 degrees Celsius. And if we're looking for slightly more intimate thermal pools, there's another park waiting for us nearby: the **Poddębice Termy Park**. Of course, there's also the **Fala Aquapark** in **Łódź**, where, although there are no thermal waters, you can enjoy many other attractions such as slides, saunas or a pool with artificial waves.



Dinopark Kołacinek

author: Dinopark Kołacinek

From Uniejów you can easily get to **Borysew** and the local **ZOO Borysew**. As many as 500 animals representing 90 species live in an area of 25 hectares adapted as close to natural conditions as possible. Highlights include white lions and white Bengal tigers, both of which are very rare and threatened withextinct. Tigers can also be observed while swimming in the pool – the only one of its kind in Europe.

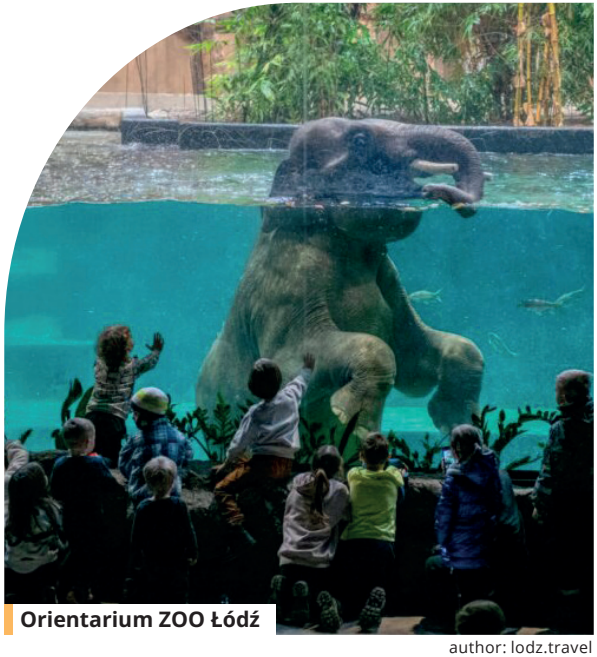
By far the most impressive animal-related facility today is the **Orientarium**, part of the **Łódź ZOO**. In this modern pavilion you can learn about animals typical of Asia. Undoubtedly the biggest (literally and figuratively) attraction is the herd of elephants. Thanks to the specific design of the enclosure, visitors to the zoo can watch these powerful animals bathing. In recent years, farms offering contact with alpacas, a species of the camel family, which resemble sheep in body structure, are more and more popular. Due to their gentle nature, these animals are very suitable for contact with children.

More and more minizoos are being built around Łódź, and one of the largest facilities of its kind is the **Dobronianka** in **Dobroń.** In addition to the animals (alpacas, camels, peacocks), the site is famous for the **Pumpkin Farm**, which is launched in autumn. One of the biggest attractions there is the competition for the largest pumpkin – the record-breaking one from 2024 weighed nearly 800 kg!



ZOO Borysew

author: ZOO Borysew



Orientarium ZOO Łódź

author: lodz.travel

Another year-round attraction is the indoor amusement park **Mandoria City of Adventures** located in **Rzgów**. This means that attractions can be enjoyed independently of weather conditions. The park is maintained in the atmosphere of a Renaissance market town. It's being expanded on a regular basis, with the latest attraction being the Aquila roller-coaster. The Nowa Sukcesja shopping and entertainment centre in Łódź is home to another indoor amusement park: **Hopa Lupa**. The entertainment park **Sady Klemensa**, operating in **Komorów** near Rawa Mazowiecka, is of a completely different nature. It's situated in an agricultural area, full of fruit orchards – no wonder fruit became the trademark of this place.

Another attraction dedicated to the youngest is the facility located in **Kołacinek** - the **Dinopark**, where visitors can get to know the inhabitants of the Earth from millions of years ago. In addition, there's also the **Santa Claus Land** (open during the winter), and the latest attraction is the Safety and Rescue Academy, which offers professional first aid training.

Another fairytale attraction is the **Valley of the Gnomes** in **Chociszew** near Ozorków, where you can learn about the history of the Slavic gnomes, as well as take a walk through the Valley of the Gnomes. In the nearby **Solca Mała**, on the other hand, there's the **Indian Village "Tatanka"**. It's a place where you can not only learn about Native American traditions and customs, but also

test yourself in a variety of fitness competitions, such as duels on the Cheyenne balance beam. Speaking of the Łęczyca area, the **fortified settlement** at **Tum** is worth a visit. Parts of its buildings (tower and gate) were reconstructed to recreate the atmosphere of an early medieval settlement.

The **Nagórzyckie Grottoes** and a local sand pit, located in the **Tomaszów Mazowiecki** area, have a different host. According to a legend, the robber Madej lived here. You probably won't be able to meet him on the underground tourist route, but there will still be plenty of excitement.
One more unique place in the vicinity of Tomaszów is worth visiting: the **Mikrokosmos Park** in **Ujazd** with lots of insect, microbial and fungal models collected. Whoever wants to come face to face with a larger-than-human ladybird, mosquito or bee has a chance to do so here.

In turn, in **Lipka** near Łódź, you can also meet the bees, but this time the real, buzzing creatures. Educational classes are organised at the local **apiary**, where you can learn the secrets of these fascinating animals. Thanks to the glass-enclosed beehive, you can take a peek inside the bee house and taste different varieties of honey for dessert.

There's also a place in the Lodzkie Region where you can learn about animals from millions of years ago. The **Owadów-Brzezinki Geopark**, near Opoczno, a site created in the vicinity of a vast quarry, is one of the richest palaeontological sites. Numerous species of marine animals were discovered here, often unknown from other locations.

Young communication fans won't be bored in the Lodzkie Region either. In the weekend, it's worth taking a trip on the **Rogów Narrow-Gauge Railway**. On selected days, you can also visit the historic steam **locomotive depot** in **Skierniewice** equipped with, among other things, a former training steam locomotive where you can take a look inside the boiler. In Łódź, on the other hand, in the historic **depot** at **Brus** (open by appointment only), we can see vintage trams. Fortunately, on summer weekends it's also possible to take a trip around Łódź in an old tram that our grandparents used to take in their youth.



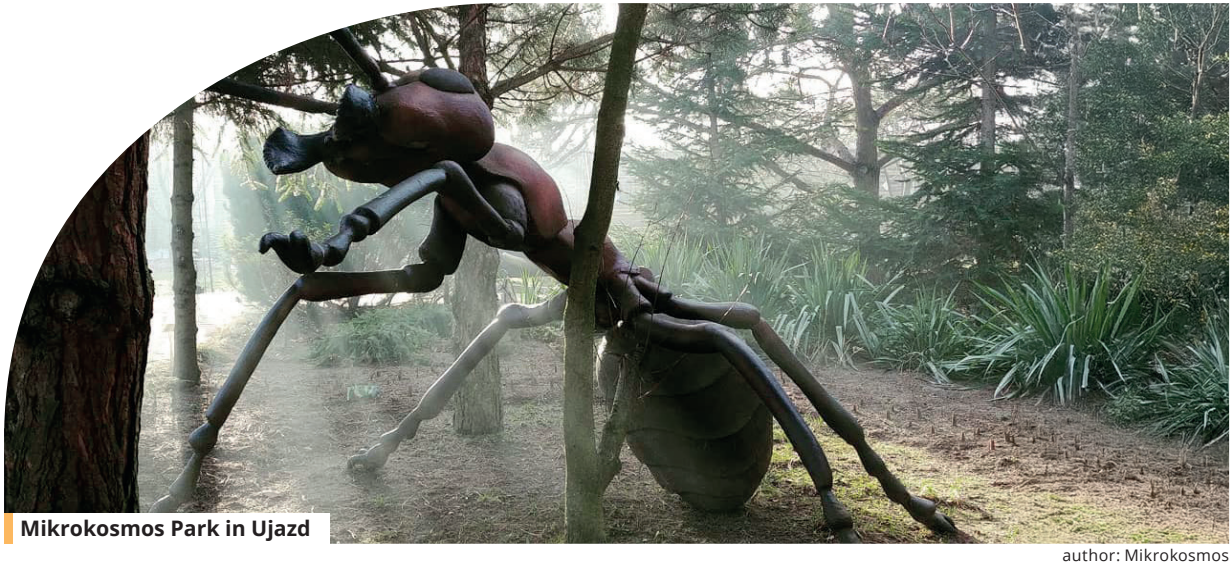
EC1 Łódź - Street of Elements

author: EC1 Łódź

Not enough? For dessert, you can enjoy three places related to learning, combined with fun, of course.

In **Bełchatów**, it's worth taking a look at the interactive **PGE Giants of Power exhibition** explaining how lignite was formed in the Bełchatów deposit and how electricity is produced from coal today. **Łódź**, in turn, has one of the largest attractions of this kind in the country: the **EC1 Science and Technology Centre**. Here you can trace the energy production process (almost complete equipment of the power station from nearly 90 years ago has been preserved), but also learn about the secrets of physics, chemistry, biology or learn more about climate change. There's also a **3D spherical cinema**, a **planetarium**, and a **Street of Elements** for children. Parallel to the science centre, two more unique exhibitions operate in the EC1 complexe: **The National Film Culture Centre** (where, in the "Matter of Film-making" exhibition, you can become a director or producer and create your own film), or the **Comics and Interactive Narrative Centre** (where you can learn about the history of comics, travel back in time to an arcade with video games of the 1990s or go down the path of computer game developers).

We've already mentioned the planetarium at EC1? Let's add the **Energosfera**, located in **Konarzew** near Piątek, also linked to the cosmos. The entire facility is built to resemble a spiral galactic, you can use an astronomical observatory and workshop domes on site.



Mikrokosmos Park in Ujazd

author: Mikrokosmos

What can you do in the Lodzkie Region?

in the entertainment way





Łódź Summer Festival
author: lodz.pl

Concerts, festivals, entertainment and cultural events, historical re-enactments – all of this can be found in the Lodzkie Region. The offer is extensive and, importantly, involves events taking place throughout almost the whole year.

The festival that most strongly integrates the entire region is the Wandering Łódź Philharmonic Festival **"Colours of Poland".** It's a series of concerts taking place in various towns and villages, in various indoor and open-air venues (church interiors, castle courtyards, parks and museums), with a full range of musical genres. Throughout the summer, music resounds every weekend from a different place, encouraging not only to listen to music, but also to explore the entire region.

Speaking of music, **Kutno** hosts the **Jeremi Przybora "Kutno Station" National Festival** (dedicated to the co-founder of the Elderly Gentlemen's Cabaret, who immortalised Kutno in song and was an honorary starost of Kutno). Fans of heavy metal music shouldn't miss the **Summer Dying Loud** in **Aleksandrów Łódzki**.

Łódź is home to one of the largest indoor arenas in Poland, the **Atlas Arena**, with a capacity of several thousand people. It's no wonder that it hosted concertsof the world's biggest music stars, including Rihanna, Shakira, Depeche Mode and Rod Steward. Top-level sporting events – world or European championships, including volleyball, basketball or enduro – also take place here.

It's in Łódź that the largest number of events take place. The one that attracts the widest audience for several years now is **Light Move Festival**. Festival of Light with accompanying installations, shows and mappings change the centre of Łódź in a magical way during one weekend. Another event that attracts crowds is the **Łódź Summer Festival**, which takes place on the last weekend of July and is accompanied by numerous concerts.

Other events also have their loyal festival audiences: the **Triennale of Textiles**, the **Ballet Encounters**, the **Łódź of Many Cultures Festival** and the **Design Festival** are examples of events that are very much linked to the city and its culture.



Light Move Festival in Łódź

author: R.Żydowicz/lodz.pl

There's no shortage of interesting events in other sites of the region either. Importantly, they make reference to local history and famous residents associated with the region. In **Sieradz**, there's a unique festival dedicated to the art of hairdressing: the **Open Hair Festival**, referring to Antoni 'Antoine' Cierplikowski, an internationally renowned Polish hairdresser; in **Kutno**, we have the **Festival of Szalom Asz**, who was born here, and in **Radomsko** the **3 x Różewicz Festival** takes place every year, dedicated to the work of the Różewicz brothers who originated from this town. In **Piotrków**, on the other hand, the Interakcje – **International Art Festival** and the **Tribunes of the Smile** (formerly the Cabaret Tribunes) have a long tradition.

Two unique festivals are linked to the local 'plant' history - the **Rose Festival** in **Kutno** and the **Flower, Fruit and Vegetable Festival** in **Skierniewice**. There's something for those who enjoy the picnic atmosphere and outdoor concerts, but also for the lovers of floristry and gardening.

How about something more active? **Grabów** near Łęczyca boasts of a long tradition of **playing rounders**. But beware – the matches only take place once a year, on the Tuesday after Easter (this is how the Grabów inhabitants extend the holidays!). In the summer, on the other hand, the **All-Polish Handcar Racing Competition** is held in **Wieruszów**.

Lodzkie Region also has a rich offer for lovers of historical re-enactment. Every summer, the **Open-Air Museum of the Pilica River** in **Tomaszów** hosts the **Military Picnic**, while the **Independence Picnic** takes place in **Łódź** in November. Similar atmosphere, although with a completely different era in the background, is offered at **knightly tournaments**, as well as demonstrations of medieval crafts, which take place at the castles in **Łęczyca, Uniejów** or **Inowłódz**. Another event related to the early Middle Ages is **Mokoszowisko**, held on the site of a reconstructed settlement in **Rzeczyca**. There are no tournaments or knightly battles here, but you can see the recreation of historical crafts, customs and beliefs. In **Leszczynek** near Kutno, on the other hand, where the Historic Odyssey was held for a number of years, you can now take part in the **Napoleonic Odyssey**, which, in to the surroundings of a renovated **manor house** and **park**, brings you closer to the reality of the early 19th century.

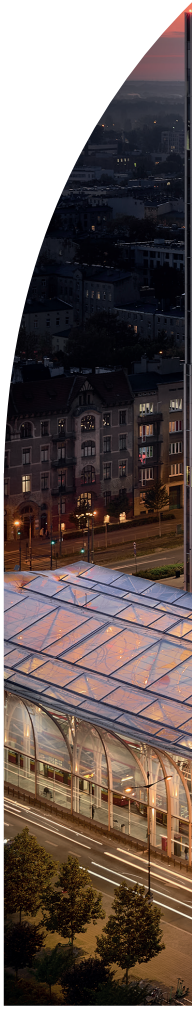


Knights' tournament at the castle in Łęczyca

author: Museum in Łęczyca

Trip suggestions

1-2-3 days in Łódź





Center of Łódź
author: P. Augustyniak/lodz.travel

It's best to start getting to know the Lodzkie Region from the region's capital. It is the fourth most populous city in Poland; for years underestimated by tourists, it's now changing very rapidly and attracts more and more visitors. Monuments of factory and worker history, multiculturalism and film are the hallmarks of Łódź, appreciated even by the *National Geographic*.

1ST DAY IN ŁÓDŹ

If you have one day to visit Łódź, it's best to start with a stroll along the **Piotrkowska Street**. In most districts, the central point is the market square, while in Łódź, it's a street as long as four kilometres. Magnificent town houses showcasing the full wealth of the 19th century architecture, plus city palaces, original statues in the courtyards, further unique places to discover – gardens, factories and, more recently, art installations such as the **Rose Passage** at no. 3, the **Crystal Chandeliers** at no. 118 or the **Birth of a Day** at no. 4 Więckowskiego Street. You can't miss the courtyard at no. 136 either, at **OFF Piotrkowska**. The historic factory was transformed into a centre for metropolitan entertainment a few years ago. A stroll along the northern, pedestrianised part of Piotrkowska Street is best extended with a walk through the **Staromiejski Park**, leading to **Manufaktura**. The former factory complex of the Poznański family was opened to the public in 2006. The historic buildings are used for museums (the **ms2 Art Museum** and the **Factory Museum**), a theatre, a cinema, and a full spectrum of different catering sites. The monumental spinning mill houses the Vienna House by Wyndham Andel's Łódź hotel and the whole is complemented by a contemporary mall. The palace adjacent to the factory, on the other hand, houses the **Museum of the City of Łódź**, an ideal place to learn about the history of Łódź, as well as a palatial residence with beautiful interiors.

Since Łódź is a city developed thanks to industry, a visit to **Księży Młyn** is a must. This is the former empire of the Scheibler family, where, apart from the factories, you can find the residence of the owners, an estate of workers' houses, known in Łódź as famuły, as well as a school, a shop, a hospital or a fire station. The place has a unique atmosphere and, thanks to the systematically renovated buildings, is gaining in splendour. One of the newest attractions on the estate is the **Cat Trail** with statues of cats showing the activities of the former inhabitants of Księży Młyn. The land that belonged to the Scheiblers in the past extends to the Piotrowska Street. One of the latest developments in Łódź to give former industrial sites a new lease of life is the **Fusion** and the **Anna's Gardens**. This is the space around the former factory power station, now adapted into residential and cultural-entertainment space.

Finally, it's worth taking a look at another special place: the **Jewish cemetery** at the Bracka Street. This necropolis testifies to the power of 19th-century Łódź. The towering mausoleum of the Poznańskis is described as the largest Jewish tombstone in the world. The monuments to other factory families are almost equally impressive. Be sure to also take a look at the pre-burial house from the late 19th century and the Ghetto Field, a place marked by the tragic history of World War II and the Łódź Ghetto.



Manufaktura

author: S. Glapiński



Jewish Cemetery



EC1 Łódź

author: EC1 Łódź

2ND DAY IN ŁÓDŹ

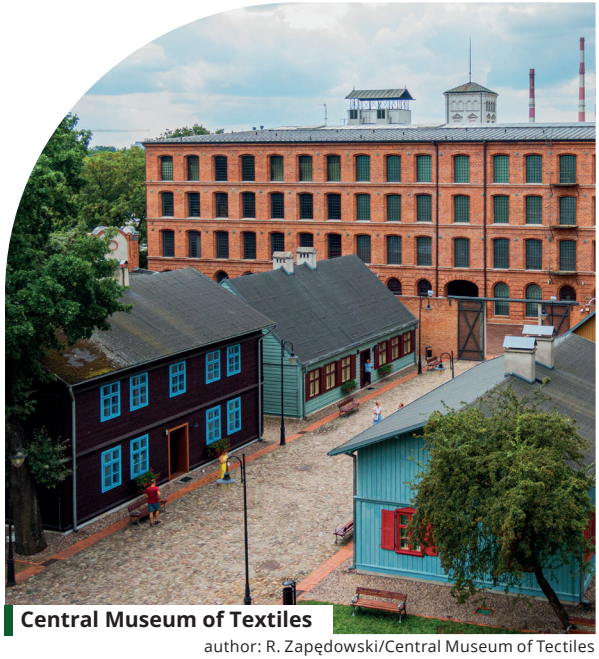
Continuing to explore Łódź, it's worth wandering around the city along two routes: the film route and the industrial route. In the first case, you can't miss the **Film Museum**, located in the former palace of the Scheibler family. The interiors themselves are impressive, especially when one recalls the stills from "The Promised Land" directed by Andrzej Wajda: when Müller shows Borowiecki around his palace, the Scheiblers' salons are visible in the background. In the museum, visitors can see relics of film technology such as cameras, projectors, but also an original photoplasticon from the late 19th century. The main part of the exhibition shows the achievements of the film-related Łódź: the studios, the Film School and the Łódź cinemas. This is complemented by the *Palace Full of Fairy Tales* exhibition on Polish animation. In addition, when leaving the museum we 'bump into' Filemon and Bonifacy, characters from one of the cult Polish cartoons. We can continue our walk along the **Fairy Tale Łódź** right away, visiting such characters as Uszatek Bear, Pik-Pok Penguin and Colargol Bear. Quite nearby, in the former **EC1** thermal power station, there's another film institution with very interesting exhibitions. In the **National Film Culture Centre** you can learn about the history of Polish film at the *Polonia Cinema* exhibition, and learn about the film-making process at the *Matter of Film-making* exhibition. Whoever, while strolling along the **Piotrkowska Street**, didn't have time to take a look at the **Avenue of Stars** in the vicinity of the Traugutta and Moniuszki Streets, should now make up for it. The already-mentioned **Museum of the City of Łódź** exhibits the original Oscar, which was awarded to the Łódź-born pianist Artur Rubinstein.

If the day isn't over yet, it's worth continuing the tour along the trail of technical monuments. In addition to **Księży Młyn** and **Manufaktura** (with its **Factory Museum**), the **Central Museum of Textiles** and the **Dętka Canal Museum** are a must-see. The former, located in the oldest factory in Łódź, collects all kinds of souvenirs history associated with the textile industry. The exhibits here include not only a huge collection of textile machinery (including working machines, which are launched), but also the historic boiler room, with its original steam engine, and exhibitions devoted to clothing and artistic textiles. The museum is complemented by the **Łódź City Culture Park**, where a Łódź street from the 19th century was recreated and where individual flats from the 19th century to the 1980s were reconstructed. On the Piotrkowska Street, opposite the museum, it's worth visit a further part of Ludwik Geyer's industrial empire. Today, the post-industrial spaces operate as the **Geyer Gardens** entertainment and catering space.

At the end of the day, it's still worth taking a look underground, or more precisely to the canal. **Dętka** is a former tank for rainwater, later used to clean the sewage network. Today, the site operates as a museum, giving tourists a unique opportunity to discover Łódź's underground.

3RD DAY IN ŁÓDŹ

After an intensive two days of sightseeing, everyone deserves a a moment to breathe. A big surprise for those who associate Łódź with greyness may be the fact that there are more than 30 parks here, plus, in the northern part of the city, one of the largest urban forests in Europe – **Łagiewnicki Forest**. One of the most interesting green areas is the oldest park in Łódź – **Źródliska**. The centuries-old oak trees still remember the Łódź Forest which covered the area two hundred years ago. A completely different kind of vegetation can be found in the park's **Palm House**. Another good place for a walk is the **Botanical Garden**, occupying more than 70 hectares. It adjoins Józef Piłsudski Park, the city's largest park, which features an extensive family recreation zone.



Central Museum of Textiles
author: R. Zapędowski/Central Museum of Tectiles

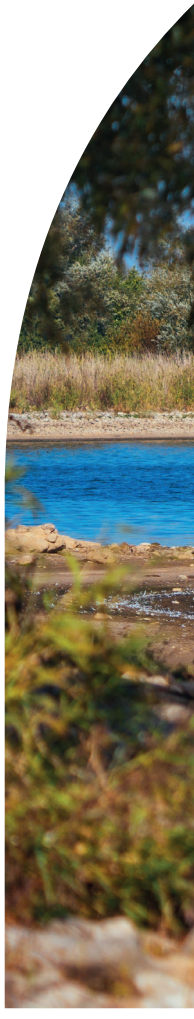
And if tourists still can't get enough of culture and history, it's worth returning to **EC1** to visit the **Science and Technology Centre** (whose background is the historical equipment of the power station from the 1930s) or the **Comics and Interactive Narrative Centre**. After all, Łódź is known as the capital of Polish comics – every year at the turn of September and October, the largest festival dedicated to comics in Poland takes place here. It's also possible to go to the nearby **Włókiennicza Street**. Until recently considered as the Łódź's forsaken neighbourhood, today it's a symbol of revitalisation, the pearl of which is the Hilary Majewski tenement house. This Łódź architect was a co-creator of the dynamic development of the city in the 19th century, and today a visit to his tenement gives you the chance to admire one of the most interesting interiors.

Fans of technical monuments can visit **Monopolis**, the site of the former Spirits Monopoly. This is another monumental red-brick building complex in Łódź that was extensively renovated. It currently houses offices, as well as a number of catering establishments; an ice rink is also opened there in winter. In order to learn more about the history of the factories and the people who used to work here, it's worth visiting a small museum of the Monopol Wódczany Museum.

While in Łódź, the **Black World** is well worth exploring. Assisted by guides – blind people – we visit an exhibition that we can't see. Instead, we experience it with all our other senses.

Trip suggestions

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





On the Jeziorsko Reservoir
author: D. Kwapisiewicz

1ST DAY: SIERADZ + UNIEJÓW

With one day to explore the western part of the Lodzkie Region, it's best to start with **Sieradz**, the main urban centre in the area, a city with a thousand-year history. Today its importance can be seen in the large **Gothic collegiate** basilica (and the nearby, also **Gothic, Dominican church** and monastery complex) with the **Market Square** and its **historic town houses** located between the two temples. Prominent among them is the so-called Jagiellonian Tenement dating from the 16th century, which is now the seat of the **District Museum**. From the Market Square, it's also worth walking to the historic **castle hill**. The foundations of the castle, together with fragments of the Romanesque rotunda are still awaiting archaeological and preservation work. For the moment, you have to use the imagination to see the outline of the walls. However, you can still visit a **mini open-air museum**.

Sieradz is located by the rivers Warta and Żeglina. Following the Warta River northwards, you can reach Uniejów, and on the way you will pass the largest reservoir in the region: the **Sieradz See** or **Jeziorsko**. The southern part of the reservoir is protected as a faunal reserve due to the water and wetland birds present there. This is one of the best ornithology sites in Poland.

Uniejów itself is one of the smallest town in the region, but at the same time one of the most dynamically developing in the recent years. The local geothermal waters serve both the health resort patients and all those wishing to visit the **Termy Uniejów** water park. Next to the park, we can see the medieval **castle of the Archbishops of Gniezno**, today used as a hotel but also as a venue for **knightly tournaments**.

When considering a visit to Uniejów on the Corpus Christi feast, a visit to the neighbouring village of **Spycimierz** is a must. This small village with a rich history is distinguished by its so-called **flower carpets**. The local residents prepare peculiar carpets of flower petals to provide a unique setting for the Corpus Christi procession. This tradition was inscribed on the UNESCO Intangible Cultural Heritage List in 2021. If you can't make it there on this special day, fortunately, the **Spycimierz Corpus Christi Centre** operates all year round, bringing local history to life.



Knights' tournament in Uniejów

author: P. Gołąb



District Museum in Sieradz

author: Museum in Sieradz



Termy Uniejów with the castle

author: P. Sowiecki



Spycimierz Corpus Christi Centre

author: Spycimierz Corpus Christi Centre

2ND DAY: WIELUŃ AND SURROUNDINGS

Another day in the western part of the region should be spent in the vicinity of Wieluń. There's no shortage of historic buildings here, and the beautiful Warta River landscape is an additional attraction. **Wieluń** itself is one of the most interesting towns in the region in terms of urban planning. Apart from a number of historic religious buildings and fragments of the **town walls**, the local **Museum of Wieluń Land** is also worth a visit. One of the exhibitions is devoted to history, including its most dramatic fragment, i.e. the German air raids on the city on 1 September 1939. One could say it was here that the Word War II started – the first bombs fell on the city even before Westerplatte was shelled. Today, in addition to the exhibition, reminders of this include the foundations of the collegiate church, preserved in ruins. It's here that annual commemorations take place to remember these tragic eventsevents.

In the vicinity of Wieluń, it's worth visiting at least a few historical towns. In **Ruda** (the former seat of the castellany) there is a **church with Romanesque elements** (including very interesting paintings from the epoch showing the baptism of Mieszko I and his warriors), and in **Krzyworzeka**, a **Romanesque bell tower** still stands next to the temple, where, according to local legend, Ladislaus the Short once hid.



Museum of Wieluń Land in Wieluń

Regarding the sacred monuments, it's also impossible to miss the **wooden churches of the Wieluń type**. These are very characteristic buildings from the 16th and 17th centuries. The most interesting example is the **church** in **Grębień**, where the rich Renaissance polychromes are an additional asset. Not far from Grębień, there's **Ożarów** with its manor house (now the **Museum of Manor Interiors**, which also includes a historic **windmill** in nearby **Kocilew**).

From Wieluń, we can easily reach the Warta River. Its picturesque section (the so-called **Grand Bend of the Warta River**) is protected in the form of the **Załęcze Landscape Park**. You can go canoeing, hiking and cycling here. One of the most interesting trails is the just a few kilometres long **route of the Ducal Barrows** near the village of **Przywóz**, with several barrows dating back almost two thousand years. Traces of human presence in the area also include **historical lime kilns** (especially near **Działoszyn** and **Lisowice**), as well as the **quarry in Lisowice**. Here you can have a great lesson in geology by looking at exposed cross-sections of successive rock layers. The fact that the Wieluń region is the northernmost part of the Polish Jura is evidenced by the presence of limestone monadnocks and **Mount Zelce** with several caves, protected as the **Węże Nature Reserve**.



Windmill in Kocilew



Quarry in Lisowice

author: K. Kierniakiewicz

3RD DAY: PODDĘBICE + ZDUŃSKA WOLA

Near Uniejów, it's also worth visiting **Poddębice**, also associated with geothermal waters (as in Uniejów, there's a **water park** with thermal waters). A must-see is the **Renaissance palace** built by the Grudziński family, where a cultural centre now operates. The surrounding **park** has two unique attractions. The former Evangelical church was converted into a **Thermal Water Pump Room**. The local water is not only hot, but above all has healing properties. The second facility is the **Garden of the Senses**, whose various elements allow us to sensitise all our senses. At the Poddębice market square you can still take a look at the **Renaissance church** and its beautiful interiors.

Located between Łódź and Sieradz, **Zduńska Wola** is worth a look. This town developed into one of the major industrial centres in the 19th century; this tradition, by the way, continues to this day. In the centre, a number of wooden **weavers' houses** can still be seen today, forming a historic quarter, a place dedicated to the development of manufacturing activities. One of these houses is the seat of the **the Birthplace of St. Maksymilian Kolbe** – the future saint was born right here, into a working-class family. The neighbourhood includes **brewery buildings** (there's also a retail outlet), which still remember the 19th century.

While in Zduńska Wola, one should also remember to see two exceptional monuments. The first is the **Jewish cemetery**, one of the largest and better preserved in the region – there are as many as 3,000 tombstones. The second unique place is the **Karsznice estate**, built in the inter-war period together with a railway line connecting the Silesian mines with the port of Gdynia. You can see here a very large historic railway estate (designed for several thousand people); an additional railway-related highlight is the **Locomotive Open-Air Museum** with its extensive collection of rolling stock. Currently, the museum is a branch of the **Museum of the History of the City of Zduńska Wola**.



Grudziński Palace in Poddębice



Locomotive Open-Air Museum in Karsznice



Water Park in Poddębice

author: Water Park in Poddębice

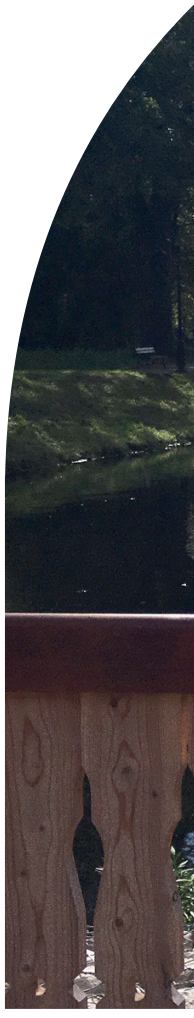


Museum - Birthplace of St. Maksymilian Kolbe

author: CO in Zduńska Wola

Trip suggestions

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





Reservoir in Spała

1ST DAY: NADPILICZE (TOMASZÓW MAZOWIECKI, SPAŁA, INOWŁÓDZ, STUDZIANNA-POŚWIĘTNE)

With one day to spare in the area, it's best to get to know the area along the Pilica River at the height of **Tomaszów Mazowiecki**. It's worth starting in the **Nagórzyckie Grottoes** located within the city limits (there's an underground tourist route) and the **Open-Air Museum of the Pilica River** – a complex of historic buildings from the area of the Pilica River, as well as a unique collection of military vehicles found... at the bottom of Pilica. It's a reminder of the dramatic events that took place in this area in January 1945. While at the Open-air Museum, a walk to the nearby **Blue Springs Nature Reserve** is a must.



Basilica of the Holy Family in Studzianna

Wandering along the course of the Pilica River (or perhaps canoeing downstream?), after a few kilometres you reach **Spała**. The town was made famous by visits of several crowned heads. Today, this past is reminded by a whole **complex of buildings** once serving the guests of the Russian tsars (most are still used as accommodation and restaurants), as well as a stately **European bison monument**. Amateurs of active leisure can additionally visit the **Central Sports Centre for Olympic Preparations** in Spała. With a bit of luck, you can meet some of Poland's best athletes on the track, in the pool or in one of the halls, preparing for the next competition.

After another few kilometres along the Pilica River in **Inowłódz**, the distinctive tower of the Romanesque **Church of St. Giles**, towering over the surrounding area, appears on the horizon. It's also worth taking a look at the recently rebuilt **Royal Castle**, as well as the **former synagogue** located in the centre.

Being here, it's worth driving another dozen or so kilometres to reach the monumental Baroque **basilica in Studzianna**. It's not only a pilgrimage centre with an image of the Holy Family, but also one of the most popular film locations in the region. You can see here the gate that Grigorij opened in the 'tank style' in the TV series Four Tank-Men and a Dog, and the bell tower where Franek Dolas parachuted in the film How I Unleashed World War II.



European bison monument in Spała



Ruins of the Royal Castle in Inowłódz

author: DO in Tomaszów Maz.



Water tower in Spała

author: DO in Tomaszowie Maz.

2ND DAY: SKIERNIEWICE + RAWKA RIVER + BOLIMÓW + ROGÓW

Another day in the eastern part of the region? Great, there will be an opportunity to visit some very special places. Anyone who travelled through **Skierniewice** by train will certainly be familiar with the monumental shape of the **railway station**. Seeing it from all sides will make you fully appreciate its architecture. Moreover, the interior retains a unique decoration from the 1950s. On the other hand, travellers are greeted on the platform by Stanisław Wokulski himself, the hero of Bolesław Prus's novel "The Doll".

Railway enthusiasts will find another unique monument in Skierniewice – a **steam locomotive depot** from the 19th century. Today, you can see not only the historic buildings, but above all the extensive collection of rolling stock. Of course, it's also worth taking a longer walk around the town itself, especially in the picturesque **park** surrounding the historic seat of the **Archbishops of Gniezno**. The **palace** today serves as the headquarters of the Institute of Horticulture and is open to the public on selected Sundays in the summer.

A dozen or so kilometres north of Skierniewice lies the former town of **Bolimów**. Both sites are linked by the River Rawka, which flows through the **Bolimów Landscape Park**. Experienced canoeist can excel here.



Railway station in Skierniewice

author: CO in Skierniewice

The rich pottery traditions of Bolimów is continued to this day by the **Konopczyński family workshop**, which is open to the public. Here, you can not only learn the secrets of this craft, but also try working with the potter's wheel by yourself. You can learn about the tragic history of World War I by visiting the nearby war **cemeteries** in **Bolimowska Wieś** and **Joachimów-Mogiły**.

To complement a day full of attractions, a visit to the **Arboretum in Rogów** can be a good idea. It can be used as a pretext for a walk in a beautiful forest, but it can also be a great opportunity to learn more about plants, including exotic ones.



Steam Locomotive Depot in Skierniewice

author: CO in Skierniewice



Arboretum in Rogów

author: D. Kwapisiewicz



Archbishop's Palace in Skierniewice

3RD DAY: RAWA MAZOWIECKA + BOGUSZYCE + BRZEZINY

The castle in Rawa Mazowiecka is today a small structure, consisting of a tower and a fragment of walls. However, it has its own dark legend and... its White Lady. The tragic story from centuries ago is said to have been the inspiration for William Shakespeare himself in creating The Winter's Tale. When visiting Rawa, it's also worth taking some time to walk around the market square and its surroundings, or visit the **town's former stalls**, where the atmosphere of the old marketplace was recreated. Among other things, there's the **station** of the **Rogów Narrow-Gauge Railway**, which runs from Rogów via Rawa to Biała Rawska. There are currently courses available on the route from Rogów to Jeżów. In **Rogów** itself, there's a small **open-air museum of narrow-gauge** rolling stock next to the station.

Just a few kilometres west of Rawa is the village of **Boguszyce**, where one of the region's most valuable wooden monuments can be seen: the **Church of St. Stanislaus the Bishop** from the 16th century. The Renaissance paintings, which decorate the entire interior, are unique.

Between Rawa and Łódź, it's worth making one more stop in **Brzeziny**. In the **Church of the Exaltation of the Holy Cross**, a very interesting chapel of the former owners of the town, the Lasocki family, has been preserved. Most noteworthy here are the Renaissance tombstones, including one made by Jan Michałowicz of Urzędów himself. In the neighbourhood you can find the **Regional Museum** with the largest Polish collection of... irons. At the turn of the 19th and 20th centuries, Brzeziny was one of the largest tailoring centres in Poland, which is reminded by the local textile and tailoring exhibition.



Wooden church in Boguszyce

author: MO in Rawa Maz.



Castle of the Dukes of Masovia in Rawa Mazowiecka

author: Regional Planning Office of the Lodzkie Region



Regional Museum in Brzeziny



Rogów Narrow-Gauge Railway: Rogów - Rawa - Biała

Trip suggestions

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





Sulejów Reservoir
author: P. Ptak / DO in Piotrków Tryb.

1ST DAY: PIOTRKÓW TRYBUNALSKI + SULEJÓW

Which of the cities in the region (apart from Łódź, of course) is the most 'cinematic'? **Piotrków Trybunalski**! Nearly 50 films and series were shot here, and even the American star Robin Williams was once a guest here, working on Jacob the Liar directed by Peter Kassovitz. It's no coincidence that film-makers have taken a liking to the Piotrków centre. It's one of the best-preserved **old towns** in Poland, largely renovated in recent years. From the period of the partitions, when Piotrków was the seat of a Russian guberniya, comes a whole complex of magnificent buildings for tsarist officials, including the monumental early 20th century **Palace of Justice**. There is also an interesting **royal castle** (in the form of a tenement house), which today **houses a museum**, a **railway station** from the time of the Warsaw-Vienna Railway, a **synagogue**, an **Orthodox church** and a **complex of historic multi-faith cemeteries**. Not enough? After visiting all the sights, you can still take a walk along the designated **film trail** and sit on Kwinto's bench (Kramer's bank house in the film Vabank was also located in Piotrków). And for dessert – this time literally – the ideal choice is to visit to the **Marzipan Museum**, where you can make your own sweet paste, or the **Ice Cream Museum**, where you can try the traditional Pingwin ice cream.

In the past, it was possible to travel from Piotrków to the next point on the trip, namely **Sulejów**, by the narrow-gauge railway. Today, the only remnants of this connection are the former station buildings along the road between the two towns. Sulejów is worth a visit mainly because of the former **Cistercian Abbey** in **Podklasztorze**. Built in the 13th century, it was a defensive structure, with a Romanesque church at the heart of the whole complex. The complex of buildings has been preserved to this day almost in entirety – some of the historic buildings are currently turned into a hotel, but there's also an **incrediblemuseum**. The interior of the temple is definitely worth a look. The austere Romanesque architecture is complemented by Baroque furnishings with some of the oldest active organ prospectuses. Since you're already here, it's certainly worthwhile to take a stroll along the nearby **Pilica River**, or perhaps also a few kilometres further on, to the **Sulejów Reservoir.**



Kayaking on the Pilica River

author: A. Grad / NGO Dolina Pilicy



Old Town in Piotrków Trybunalski

author: P. Szczepański / CO in Piotrków Tryb.



St. Thomas's Church in Sulejów



Palace of Justice in Piotrków Trybunalski

2ND DAY: BEŁCHATÓW + MOSZCZENICA + PABIANICE

A visit to the richest municipality in Poland? Why not? For a number of years at the turn of the 20th and 21st centuries, Kleszczów, located south of Bełchatów, was leader of the ranking of the municipalities with the highest income. It's in this municipality that the largest **open-cast mine** in Poland, the **Bełchatów Mine**, is located. The best way to view the entire excavation is to use the **viewing terrace** located by the school in **Kleszczów**. Coal mining is slowly coming to an end here and, at the same time, the process of land reclamation began. In less than... 40 to 50 years, the site of the biggest hole in Poland will be turned into the deepest reservoir in the country.

Having visited Kleszczów, it's certainly worth heading to **Bełchatów** to see the **PGE Giants of Power exhibition** in Bełchatów. Here you can find out where the lignite came from in this area, and how it is extracted and burned to produce electricity.

Spend the rest of the day visiting two more industrial sites, but this time in a more historic setting. A large **Ender's textile factory** was established in **Moszczenica** at the turn of the 19th and 20th centuries. The most interesting site here is the **workers' housing estate** accompanying the plant. It looks very similar to the Łódź estates in the Księży Młyn district or similar estates in the Silesia region.

Pabianice, on the other hand, is worth a visit primarily because of its **historic factories**. On the banks of the Dobrzynka River, a whole complex of former buildings can be found, nowadays converted into a hotel, among other things. The **Krusche and Ender factory** at the Zamkowa Street is accompanied by a **palace** and a magnificent administration building. In addition, a whole complex of residential buildings from the 19th and 20th centuries, including an **Evangelical church**, has been preserved here. A reminder of Pabianice's former history can be found in the **Old Town**: the **Renaissance church** and the **fortified manor house of the bishops of Kraków**, now housing a **museum**.

Pabianice was undergoing a major metamorphosis in recent years: take a stroll through the renovated **Old Market Square** or the Lipowa Street, you can go for a walk in the **Aflopark**, and for a concert to the Pawelana hall, located in the **post-industrial Krusche and Ender complex**. The concert hall operates at the **Fabryka Wełny Hotel**, arranged in the former Baruch Brothers wool factory.



Pabianice City Museum

author: CO in Pabianice



PGE Giants of Power exhibition in Bełchatów

autgor: PGE Titans of Power



K-43 excavator from the Bełchatów Mine

author: MO in Kleszczów



Aflopark in Pabianice

author: Aflopark

3RD DAY: VICINITY OF PRZEDBÓRZ AND RADOMSKO

Przedbórz is one of the smaller towns in the region, which can be regarded as a gateway to the so-called **Przedbórz-Małogoszcz Range,** a range of hills that is an extension of the Świętokrzyskie Mountains. Mountain hikers can conquer here the region's highest natural elevation – **Fajna Ryba**. It's admittedly 'only' 347 metres above sea level, but offers truly impressive views of the surrounding area. The slightly lower **Mount Chełmo** (323 m a.s.l.), located on the other bank of the Pilica River, is also worth a trip. The hill is protected as a **nature reserve**, and on addition to an old stand of trees, its summit preserves traces of a medieval **stronghold**. To the north of Mount Chełmo another single hill can be found: **Bąkowa Góra** (282 m a.s.l.). Here, in addition to the picturesque views, you can see the ruins of the **castle** and the **manor house of the Małachowski family**.

A visit to **Gidle**, located south of Radomsko, will provide a different experience. It's an important pilgrimage centre with a small statue of the Virgin Mary being the object of particular veneration. In addition to the **Baroque sanctuary**, it's also worth to see one of the few **churches** in central Poland **with the so-called sobotas**.

Fans of the work of Tadeusz and Stanisław Różewicz should visit **Radomsko**, where the poet and director were born (a must-see is the former Kinema cinema, which they both remembered with fondness, as evidenced by a documentary film about it). Of course, it's best to plan such a visit during the **3 x Różewicz festival**. Additionally, in Radomsko, the Jewish cemetery, one of the better preserved in the region, is worth a look.

In turn, lovers of the works of **Władysław Reymont** can visit **Kobiele Wielkie**, the **writer's birthplace**, located nearby.



Reymont's Bench in Kobiele Wielkie



Baroque sanctuary in Gidle

author: DO in Radomsko



Castle and manor house of the Małachowski family in Bąkowa Góra

Trip suggestions

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





Park in Arkadia
author: D. Kwapisiewicz

1ST DAY: ŁOWICZ + MAURZYCE + SROMÓW + NIEBORÓW + ARKADIA

First association with Łowicz the surrounding area? Certainly **folklore with colourful costumes, cut-outs** and **traditional customs**, such as the **Corpus Christi procession**. It's best to start exploring the region from the historical **Łowicz** itself, which used to be referred to as the second capital of Poland. As many as 12 primates are buried in the local **cathedral**, and the church itself is a beautiful combination of Gothic and Baroque. Since you're here, it's worth going to the towers: one houses the **Diocesan Museum**, while at the top of the other, there's a viewpoint over the entire town. Then you can go underground to visit the **crypts connected by an underground tourist route**. The building of the former missionary college, now a **museum**, is located on the **Old Market Square**. It offers a historical and ethnographic exposition, but a must-see is the chapel of St. Carlo Borromeo, considered one of the best examples of Baroque in Poland. And since we're dealing with ethnography, the museum's courtyard houses a **small open-air museum**. Returning to the market, it's worth finding the local boulevard of fame known as **"Aleja Gwiozd"**. Whoever wants more, can see the unusual **triangular market (New Market)** and the only **Button Museum** in Poland. A good opportunity to visit Łowicz is the Corpus Christi feast, when a solemn procession passes through the town centre and most of its participants wear traditional Łowicz costumes.

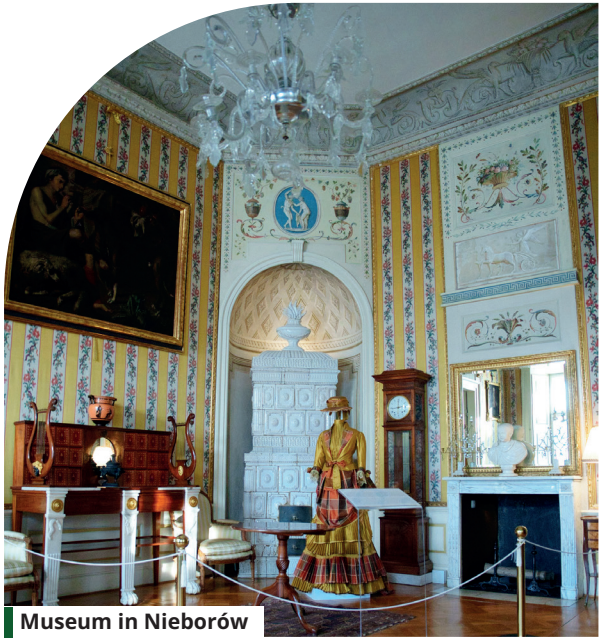


Folk Museum in Sromów

author: P. Brzozowska

Those interested in folklore should visit the **Open-Air Museum** in **Maurzyce**, located a few kilometres from Łowicz, and the **Folk Museum of the Brzozowski Family** in **Sromów**, with its huge collection of movable sculptures, both religious and secular. They are used in scenes from village life, but also refer to, among others, figures of famous athletes.

While in Łowicz, one should definitely see the two towns located nearby: **Nieborów** and **Arkadia**. In the former we can find the **palace of the Radziwiłł family,** one of the few such well-preserved magnate residences in Poland. Today it houses a branch of the National Museum, and you may be most impressed by the staircase lined with Dutch tiles (each one different!), or the majestic library with two globes from the 17th century. The building of the former palace brewery houses a **majolica manufacture**, where you can admire unique ceramic designs. In **Arkadia**, on the other hand, a **Romantic park** full of mysterious buildings in a beautiful park setting has survived.



Museum in Nieborów



Arkadia Park - Temple of Diana

author: D. Kwapisiewicz



Cathedral Basilica in Łowicz

2ND DAY: ŁĘCZYCA + TUM + OZORKÓW + ZGIERZ

Łęczyca is a town with a long history. In its very centre, we'll find the **castle** built by Casimir III the Great, today turned into a **museum**. It's also worth climbing the castle tower, from which you can see the panorama of the entire town, including two heaps and the tower of the... a mine shaft. It's a reminder of the local **iron ore mine**. The monumental Romanesque **collegiate church** in **Tum** can also be seen from there. After a walk in the centre of Łęczyca (don't miss standing in front of the **gate of the former prison** – it was here where the shots with Henryk Kwinto leaving the penitentiary in "Vabank" were taken), it's worth heading east to Tum. In the collegiate church, one of the most important details is the beautiful, richly carved portal. Lovers of legends will find a real treat here: the trace of a devil's paw on one of the walls. In the vicinity of the temple, it's also worth seeing a very well-preserved **fortified settlement**, where fragments of buildings were reconstructed (this is the place where the history of present-day Łęczyca began several centuries ago), as well as the **open-air museum** in **Kwiatkówek**. Technology-lovers, in particular, will enjoy the windmill and the oil mill.

On the way from Łęczyca to Łódź lies **Ozorków**, a town rarely associated with tourism. however, it's worth making a stop here and explore the local sights. Ozorków developed in the early 19th century as one of the first industrial settlements in Poland. Today you can see several factory owners' **palaces**, **factories**, as well as an interesting **Protestant church** and a **cemetery** of this denomination. For all interested in the history of Łódź, it'll be interesting to note that the richest Łódź factory owner, Karol Scheibler, began his Polish career in Ozorków, and it was here that he met his future wife. Today, many traces of this family can be found here.

The last stop before Łódź should be **Zgierz**. It's home to one of only three cultural parks in the province: the **Town of Weavers**. Several dozen historic weavers' houses have been preserved in the centre of Zgierz. A dozen of them form a compact development at the Narutowicza and Rembowskiego Streets, representing the atmosphere of an industrial settlement from nearly 200 years ago. One of them houses a branch of the **Zgierz Municipal Museum**, where you can learn the secrets of the 19th century weaving. While in Zgierz, a visit to the local bathing establishment is also a must. It's one of Poland's oldest **indoor swimming pool**, dating back nearly 100 years. It's best to bring your swimming equipment with you, as the pool is still open today.



Open-Air Museum in Kwiatkówek

author: P. Sowiecki



Castle in Łęczyca

author: P. Wojtyczka



Indoor swimming pool in Zgierz



Schlosser Palace in Ozorków

author: CO in Ozorków

3RD DAY: KROŚNIEWICE + KUTNO + OPORÓW + DOBRZELIN

Until a dozen years ago, one of the most important road intersections in the Poland was located in **Krośniewice** with national roads no. 1 and no. 2 meeting here. Today, it's well worth a visit to discover the local sights and history. The country's largest **narrow-gauge railway station** has been preserved here, with extensive technical facilities and a collection of rolling stock. One can only regret that trains no longer run here. In Krośniewice, there is also a historic **palace** that once belonged to Rajmund Rembieliński, one of the founding fathers of the industrial Łódź. The list of sights also include a **museum** and a **synagogue**.

Like Krośniewice, **Kutno** also can offer tourists a lot, e.g. the **Saxon Palace** preserved by the market square. For many years, the building was subject to devastation; fortunately, it has recently been thoroughly restored and can now be visited. And it's definitely worth it, as it's the only surviving postal palace connecting Warsaw with Dresden during the reign of the kings of the Saxon dynasty. Other places worth visiting in Kutno are: the **historic railway station**, the **former seat of the fire brigade** from the early 20th century or the **Gierałty park** and **palace** – in the park, there's a former **burial chapel of the Mniewski family**, former owners of the town. The best time to visit Kutno is the annual **Rose Festival** held in September.

From Kutno, you can easily reach **Oporów** with one of the best-preserved medieval **private castles** in Poland. The building houses a museum with a wealth of original furnishings. Next to the castle stands a **historic monastery**, and the two sites are linked by a certain legend about the White Lady...



Museum - Castle in Oporów



Saxon Palace Museum in Kutno

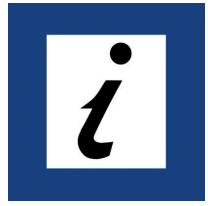
author: Ł. Stasiak

The Kutno area used to be one of the 'sweetest' regions in the country with up to 10 sugar factories once operating in the poviat. Today, most of their buildings have different functions; the original production profile is continued only in **Dobrzelin**. The best time to visit this area is during the so-called beet campaign, which runs from September to early December. Just a few kilometres from the village, the characteristic smell of sugar production can be sensed (it results from mixing boiling beetroot juice with... lime stone). The historic buildings of the **sugar factory** itself have been preserved here, together with the entire estate accompanying the factory: houses for the workers and a school.



Museum in Krośniewice

LIST OF CERTIFIED TOURIST INFORMATION CENTERS AND POINTS



****

Łódź Tourist Information
Łódź Tourist Organisation
28/2U Piotrkowska Street
90-269 Łódź
phone: 42 208 81 81
phone: 722 005 314
e-mail: it@lodz.travel
http://www.lodz.travel

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Tourist Information Centre
in Piotrków Trybunalski
11 Zamurowa Street
97-300 Piotrków Trybunalski
phone: 44 732 60 50
e-mail: cit@piotrkow.pl
http://www.cit.piotrkow.pl

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Tourist Information Point
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66A Klińskiego Street
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e-mail: informacja@lodzkie.travel
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Tourist Information
in Tomaszów Mazowiecki
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97-200 Tomaszów Mazowiecki
phone: 44 710 03 29
e-mail: informacjaturystyczna@mck-tm.pl
http://www.kochamtomaszow.pl

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Tourist Information Point
in Inowłódz
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phone: 44 726 01 34
e-mail: promocja@inowlodz.pl
http://www.gckinowlodz.naszgok.pl/punkt-informacji-turystycznej

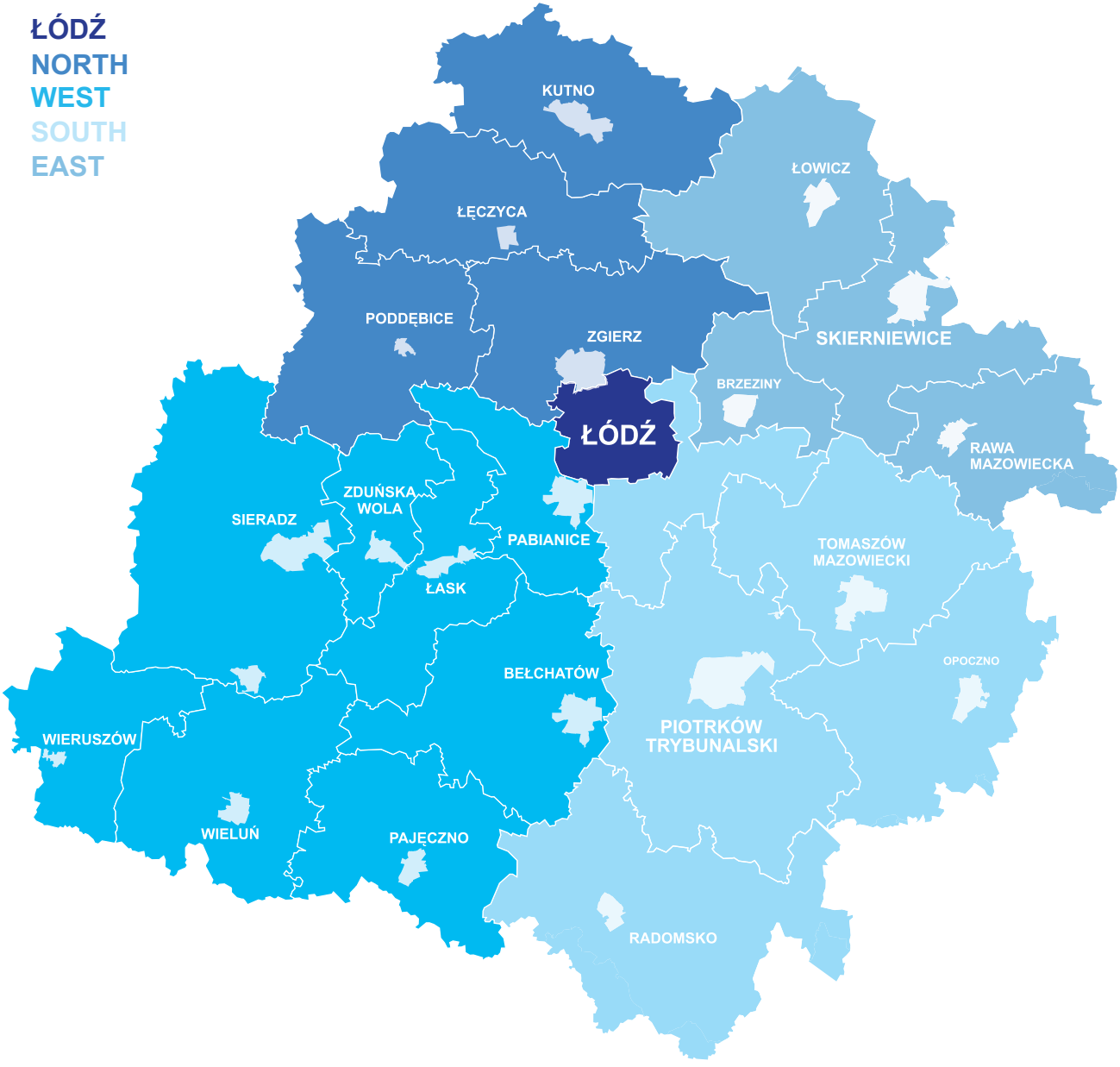
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Tourist Information Point
of the Łowicz Municipal Office
10 Stary Rynek Square
99-400 Łowicz
phone: 46 830 91 59
e-mail: turystyka@um.lowicz.pl
https://www.lowicz.eu

*

Tourist Information Point
in Wieruszów
Poviat Public Library in Wieruszów
14 Waryński Street
98-400 Wieruszów
phone: 62 783 11 88
e-mail: kontakt@pbp-wieruszow.pl
http://www.pbp-wieruszow.pl

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Substantive report
Marshal's Office of Lodzkie Region
Department of Sport and Tourism

Graphic report
Marshal's Office of Lodzkie Region

Photos
Archives of Marshal's Office
of Lodzkie Region

Publisher
Marshal's Office of Lodzkie Region
Department of Sport and Tourism

Translation
Lingua Lab c.p.,
ATOMINIUM Specialist Translations

UNPAID PUBLICATION
Lodz 2026

ISBN:
978-83-974796-5-4

www.lodzkie.pl/turystyka

www.lodzkie360.pl