

The **RAWKA**, a tributary of the Bzura River, is a difficult and challenging river. It has the characteristics of a mountain river (riffles, backwash, sills, eddies, fast currents in places, shallows and depths). The river meanders strongly, narrows, or forms floodplains, and the riverbed is littered with an array of obstacles, mainly fallen trees. The route is for advanced kayakers and is not recommended for beginners or families with children. To make it, you need experience, determination and self-discipline, good physical fitness and oarsmanship, as well as the ability to pass obstacles (logs), which can be overcome by going over, under or half submerged. The trip is exciting, and changing weather conditions can move the obstacles around. The *Rawka River is a protected nature reserve*, so **before setting off, you need to obtain a 'Permit** for exemption from restrictions in the nature reserve' from the Regional Directorate for Environmental Protection in Łódź.

Start your adventure from **Rawa Mazowiecka** (worth visiting: the ruins of the Mazovian dukes' castle), leave the town and pass under a historic narrow-gauge railway bridge. In **Żydomice**, watch out for the weir under the bridge (where you could launch if you do not want to set off from Rawa Mazowiecka). After the village, enter the nature reserve section of the river. Pass **Niwna**, then **Kurzeszyn Stary** (viewpoint) and arrive at **Kurzeszyn** (resting place). You will drift past the villages of **Kurzeszynek** and **Wotucza**, pass under a bridge, and see the mouth of the **Białka River**, a floodplain and a picturesque hill. Ahead lies **Nowy Dwór** (shop, resting place), **Stara Rawa** and **Dzwonkowice**. This stage ends in **DOLECK** (shop, possible camping in a meadow – to be agreed with local farmers or at the 'Ranczo nad Rozlewiskiem' farm). Head off towards **Suliszewo** (mill), up ahead stands a high, sandy embankment (view of the river bend), then **Kamion** (hydroelectric power plant), **Samice** and another sandy embankment with a beach (100 m long). After the second railway bridge, you will need to portage the kayaks (**DO NOT PADDLE** – you may possibly harm the kayak or yourself). Turn left into a branch of the river and reach **Ruda** (weir, mill ruins, backwash), carry the kayaks at the bridge (dangerous place), watching out for traffic. Further on, there are slopes with a holiday village and a view of the river meanders. The next cliff is 'Oberwana Góra', followed by the tributary of the Rokita River. You will come to a house with a weir where you will need to **portage** (dangerous spot). End the day in the village of **BUDY GRABSKIE** by the bridge. On the final day, you will pass the tributary of the **Korabiewka River**, the villages of **Prochowy Młynek**, **Grabie**, **Ziemiary** and **Joachimów-Mogiły** (weir, floodplain), and pass under the A2 motorway bridge. Beyond lies the town of **Bolimów** (shops) and **Bolimowska Wieś** (weir, hydroelectric power plant, resting place). In **Podsokołów**, turn left into a branch of the river, pass **Sokołów**, at the weir (opposite the dam), **Jasionna** and in **Kęszyce** you could end the trip at the bridge or reach the mouth of the **Rawka River** (left branch) and finish the day's kayaking in the village of **PATOKI** on the other side of the Bzura River.