

LISEWO

SHORT GUIDE

LISEWO

HISTORY The earliest mention of Lisewo (Lyssewen), one of the oldest settlements near Etłk, dates back to 1472. It lays out fishing rights in Lake Przepiórka (Wachteldorfer See) for the inhabitants of the Teutonic Castle in Etłk. In 1481, the village saw its first buildings and a church constructed on the initiative of the Teutonic Order. The first wave of settlers had mostly come from Mazovia. By the year 1540, Lisewo had 45 farms.

In 1625, Lisewo was afflicted by an outbreak of cholera. The disease had taken the lives of many villagers, including pastor Jan Osarecki.



In 1656, the Tatars burned the village. A number of inhabitants were killed and others were taken captive. Pastor Christophe Kozik was eventually freed and returned to Lisewo.

In 1664, the village was brought under the rule of Alexander Koblynski and later – Hans von Langheim.

During the rule of Frederick Wilhelm II (1786-1797, the village received town status. Thanks to its location on the eastern border of Prussia, Lisewo became an important centre of trade, together with the nearby Rajgród.

The church on the shores of Lake Przepiórka, already rebuilt once in the second half of the 17th century, burned down in 1803 and was never again restored. Upon construction of a new church in Borzomy (Borschimmen), Lisewo's flock had been reallocated to that parish.

By the year 1895, Lisewo had 51 farms spread over 924 hectares. The inhabitants numbered 324, including 301 Evangelicals, 9 Catholics and 14 faithful from other Christian denominations. The people spoke mostly Masurian dialect (281), as well as German (21). By 1910, population had dropped to 299.

In accordance with articles of the Treaty of Versailles, which brought World War I to an end, a plebiscite was conducted on July 11, 1920 to determine whether the regions of Masuria, Warmia and Powiśle would become part of the newly-formed Polish state, or remain under East Prussian rule. Vast majority of voters (97,48%) selected the Weimar Republic over Poland (in Ełk County: 99,88% voted for Germany and 0,12% for Poland).

The interwar period was the time of Hitler's rise to power. The National Socialist German Workers' Party (NSDAP) was extremely popular in East Prussia, getting as much as 60% popular support in Ełk County. Hitler himself had visited East Prussia several times – in 1932 he visited Ełk. The Nazi Party's popularity stemmed primarily from social reasons, but also from Hitler's appreciation and recognition of the local popula-

tion as 'true Germans.' Large-scale public works were organized in Masuria and young people were offered scholarships.

In 1933, Lisewo had a population of 324. As part of the Germanisation process, in July 1938 the village was renamed Lissau. By the year 1939, it had 294 inhabitants (45 farms and 68 households).

MASURIANS are typical frontier, borderland folk, lacking clear-cut national identity. Initially, the inhabitants of Mazovia were referred to as Masurians, or Mazurs. The region of today's Masuria had been settled in several waves by an influx of settlers, not only from Mazovia, but also Prussia, German Reich and Western European states. Unlike the Catholic Masovians and Warmiaks, Masurians were primarily Lutheran. In fact, Lutheranism had become one of the fundamental distinguishing features of Prussian Masurians, reinforcing their cultural and ethnic independence. They spoke a local dialect that was an amalgamation of Masovian Polish, since mid-19th century supplanted by German. The Masurian-Prussian ethnolect contains a number of words of Baltic (Prussian) and German origin. However, Polish had been the





language of education and scripture for the Prussian Masurians up until 1870s. The Masurian Polish gentry had been germanised very early – by the end of the 18th century.

Andrzej Grabowski, a Polish explorer, wrote the following in 1844: „The Masurians are a pious, hard-working and gifted folk. They are unburdened by slyness, negligence, recklessness, sluggishness and other flaws afflicting other Polish tribes.” On the other hand, many East Prussian towns had sayings like: „Where culture ends, Masuria begins,” indicating the population’s predilection for superstition, alcohol and disorder.

In the 2011 census, 1376 people identified themselves as Masurian, including 1125 as secondary nationality and 1027 declaring both Masurian and Polish nationality.

RAJGRODZKIE LAKE

RAJGRODZKIE LAKE comprises the following lakes: Rajgrodzkie, Stackie, Przepiórka (on whose shores sits Lisewo) and Czarnowiejskie. The lake covers an area of 15,1 km², has average depth of 9,4 m and maximum depth of 52 m.

Located 19 km from Ełk and 25 km from Augustów, Rajgrodzkie Lake is the largest body of water in the Ełk Lake District and one of the most beautiful lakes in Poland. It is a ribbon lake, consisting of four interconnected finger-shaped strips: north-west (Lake Stackie) – 4,4 km long and 800 m wide,



north-east (Lake Quail) – 3,6 km long and around 600 m wide, south (Lake Czarnowiejskie) – 5 km long and from 0,3 km (in the narrowest point) to 1,2 km wide, and finally east – 3 km long and around 600 wide. Rajgrodzkie Lake itself is close to 2,5 km in length and about 1,5 km in width, whereas the entire district is nearly 12 km long. The coast line is very well developed (56 km), the shores are high and surrounded by lush glades, fields and pine forests.

Jerzgnia River flows out of Rajgrodzkie, through Lake Drętwo, becomes the right tributary of Biebrza and snakes across the Kuwasy Peatland and the Augustów Canal, all the way to Augustów. Incidentally, the aforementioned route is part of a water trail from Olecko to Augustów – the longest paddling trail in the Ełk Region.



Rajgrodzkie Lake has excellent conditions for the development of tourism and recreation. A large body of water, tranquility, unspoilt nature, vicinity of Biebrza National Park and



Augustów Primeval Forest – all this draws large numbers of tourists every year. Until 2010, the entire lakeland had been a zone of silence. Currently, the body of water within Grajewo County permits the use of boats with up to 5 HP outboard motors, but in Ełk County’s part of the lake the zone of silence’s noise restrictions are still in place.

Source: www.tawernaskipperow.pl/kompleks-jezior-rajgrodzkich,3519,artykul.html

LISEWO STUD FARM – breeding of Thoroughbreds and Polish Warmbloods; horseback riding lessons for beginners (also for children), but also jumping classes for experienced equestrians, individual manège training and countryside rides; rates: PLN 30 – 45 minutes of manege riding; PLN 40 – 1 hour of countryside ride; PLN 30 – 30 minutes of longeing. Services by appointment only; tel. +48 501 612 434, +48 780 070 791.

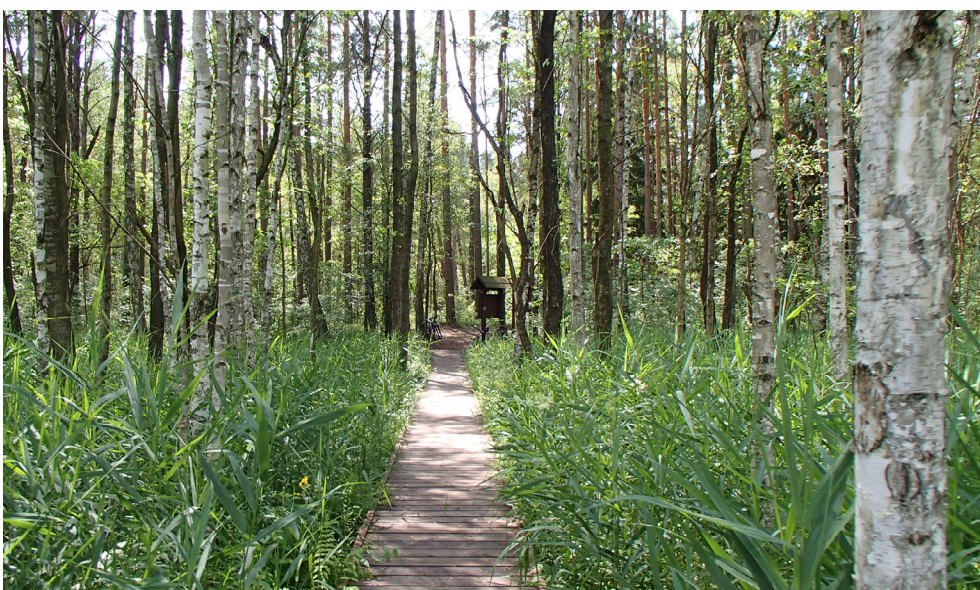


RAJGRÓD (20 km) – The stronghold Raj (Paradise) of Jacwing origin sits on top of 15m-high Castle Hill, which over centuries had become the town Rajgród. The Hill overlooks Lake Rajgrodzkie and the surrounding area. The town retains a distinctive 16th century triangular market square encircled by classical tenement houses, part of which represents typical Jewish architecture.

RAJGRÓD HARBOUR (www.ycarcus.pl)
(20 km) – Yacht Club Arcus operates from the harbour in Rajgród. It rents out water sports equipment – from kayaks and pedal boats to small sailing boats and large cabin yachts. There are even iceboats available for rental in the winter. Please note that the equipment rented in the Club has to be returned the same day, although one may of course try to negotiate a more long-term deal. Contact details: ul. Szkolna 7, 19-206 Rajgród, tel/fax: +48 86 272 19 01, boatswain Jarosław Jabłoński, mobile +48 664 358 073.



BIEBRZA NATIONAL PARK – within the National Park is the Red Marsh Nature Reserve, a primeval swampy peatland, wild and sparsely populated – unique on the European scale. The Red Marsh Nature Reserve is the main refuge of the rare and protected moose; it has five marked hiking trails running through it, as well as an educational trail ending in a scenic viewpoint, which offers a stunning panorama of the entire reserve.

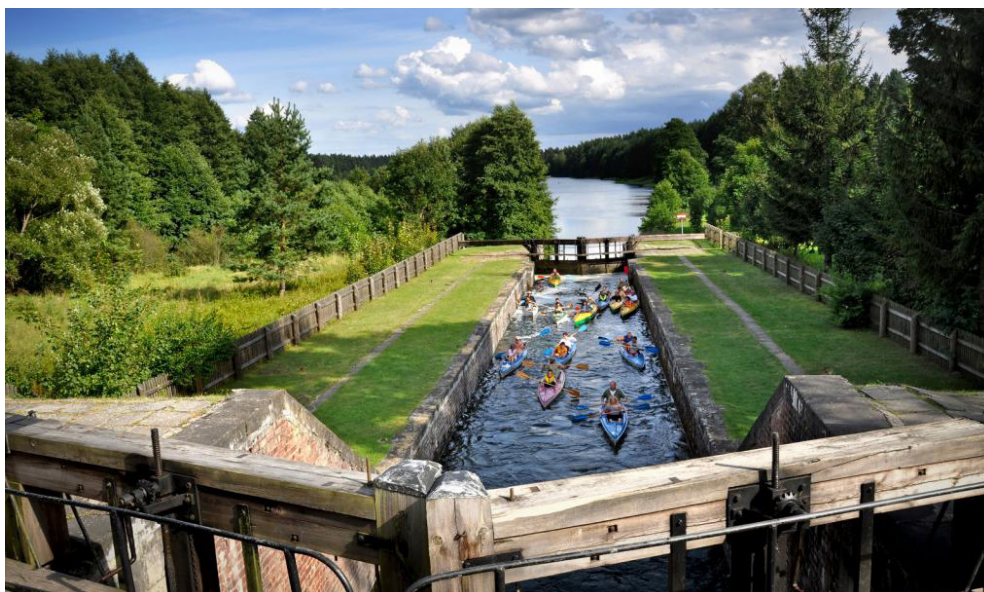


AUGUSTÓW CANAL, often considered a marvel of water engineering, dates back to the first half of the 19th century. The Augustów Canal was constructed to provide a direct link between the tributaries of the Vistula – Narew and Biebrza – and the Neman River, while another waterway (Windawski Canal) had been designed to run from the Neman to the Baltic Sea, in order to bypass Prussian territory.

In 1823, work on the Augustów Canal was initiated by Ignacy Prądzyński, an engineer and general in the Polish army; construction commenced one year later, in 1824. 35 km of the Netta and Czarna Hancza's river beds had been dredged and excavated. The Canal covers over 40 km of cuts, 18 locks and 23 sluices. The locks of stone and brick in national colors contribute to the Canal's aesthetic appeal. The locks also had stone plaques placed in walls, marking construction dates and managers – to this day all locks except for Gorczyca and Niemnowo retain these commemorative plates.

Construction was interrupted due to unrest caused by the November Uprising, resumed in 1838 and the Canal was eventually finished and opened for maritime traffic in 1839.

These days, the Augustów Canal is used as a picturesque waterway and one of the most charming canoeing trails in Po-



land; it is also sailed by inland waterway vessels. In 1968, the Augustów Canal was entered in the register of monuments, whereas in 2007 by Regulation of the Polish President it was recognised as a Monument of History.

More information on the Canal can be found in the relevant section of the Augustów History Museum, located in a 19th century building called Prądzyński's House (ul. 29 Listopada 5a, Augustów). Boat cruises prices: PLN 30-45, children under 6 – PLN 5, children 7-10 – PLN 10. For more information go to: www.zeglugaaugustowska.pl

Source: www.augustow.pl/pl/kanal-augustowski



BEACHES

LISEWO – village beach; unattended, located on the outskirts of the village behind the old schoolhouse;

JĘDRZEJKI (4 km) – communal beach opened in 2012: shallow spot for kids, bridge, lookout tower, gazebos, barbecue area, football pitch and volleyball court;

SHOPPING

BORZYMYS (8,3 km) – 2 village stores: general goods, basic foodstuffs, cleaning products, newsstand;

KALINOWO (13 km) – food stores, pharmacy;

BARGÓW KOŚCIELNY (19 km) – small food stores, pharmacy;

RAJGRÓD (20,7 km) – Biedronka supermarket (ul. Warszawska 13, opening hours: Monday-Saturday 7.00-21.00, Sunday 9.00-20.00);

AUGUSTÓW (31 km) – Kaufland ul. Wojska Polskiego 50, opening hours Monday-Saturday 7.00-22.00, Sunday 9.00-20.00), MediaExpert (ul. Wojska Polskiego 42, opening hours: Monday-Friday 9.00-19.00, Saturday 9.00-17.00, Sunday 11.00-26.00);

EŁK (30 km) – shopping center Brama Mazur (ul. Plac Miejski 1, near the Railway Station, opening hours: Monday-Saturday 9.00-21.00, Sunday 10.00-20.00); anchor outlets: H&M, Carry, Reserved, SMYK, EMPIK, KFC; supermarkets: TESCO

(ul. Suwalska 8/10, opening hours: Monday-Saturday 6.00-24.00, Sunday 7.00-24.00), Kaufland (ul. Targowa 30, opening hours: Monday-Saturday 7.00-22.00, Sunday 7.00-20.00), LIDL (ul. Gen. W. Sikorskiego 13, opening hours: Monday-Saturday 8.00-21.00, Sunday 9.00-18.00); DIY retailers: CASTORAMA (ul. Ciepła 2, opening hours: Monday-Friday 7.00-21.00, Saturday 8.00-20.00, Sunday 8.00-19.00); marketplace on Targowa street – fruit and vegetables, clothes, flea market, etc. (open daily, broadest offer available on Sunday morning).

FRESH AND SMOKED FISH

SĘDKI, next to the fish and chip shop REKIN (22 km), tel. +48 87 621 11 31, opening hours: Monday-Saturday 7.00-17.00, closed on Sundays; perch fillet in particular is excellent.

FISH FARM IN EŁK (34 km), tel. +48 87 610 21 71, opening hours: Monday-Friday 7.00-17.00, Saturday 8.00-17.00, Sunday 8.00-16.00; fresh fish from pond: common carp, pike, catfish, grass carp, silver carp, Crucian carp, Prussian carp, tench, smoked fish.

FISH FARM IN AUGUSTÓW (32 km), tel. +48 698 121 590, ul. Hoża, opening hours: Monday-Friday 7.00-17.00, closed on Saturdays and Sundays; fresh fish: pike, tench, vendace, common whitefish, pikeperch, perch, bream, minnow.

RECOMMENDED RESTAURANTS

ZAJAZD ZAŚCIANEK (19 km), Barszcze 30, www.zajazdzascianek.pl; menu: a satisfying selection of fish, including Masurian perch, tench, pikeperch and vendace; a wide choice of meat and flour dishes, regional dishes, home-made desserts; lunches available on week days; prices of main dishes: PLN 20-35; a large play area with bouncy castle, springboard, etc.

OGRÓDEK POD JABŁONIAMI IN AUGUSTÓW (33 km), ul. Rybacka 3, on the Netta boulevard, www.podjabloniami.pl, menu: grilled dishes, fried fish, burgers, salads; prices of main dishes: PLN 25-45; the restaurant offers mostly open-air roofed tables; additional attractions include a play area and catamaran rides – Rospuda Valley makes for a great destination.

REGIONALNE CENTRUM REKREACJI „KAKTUSIK” IN AUGUSTÓW (33 km), ul. 29 Listopada 2, www.kaktusik.augustow.pl; this is a perfect venue for families with children – a playground, animal enclosure and varied menu: freshbake pizza, fish, duck, desserts, ice cream , etc.

STOŁÓWKA „EŁCZANKA,” IN EŁK (29 km), ul. Suwalska 69, www.elczanka.eu/elczanka; open Monday to Friday, simple but savory home-made meals, weekday lunch specials at around PLN 10; particularly recommended come meat stuffed potato dumplings, served on Tuesdays and Thursdays.

PUB „SMĘTEK” IN EŁK (35 km), ul. Pułaskiego 19, www.smetek.pl; a floating dock restaurant, with an enclosed play area and water equipment rental; plain menu: meats, fish, salads, thin-crust pizza, meads, Kociółek Smętka as the restaurant’s specialty dish; prices of main dishes: PLN 18-30.

„MIĘDZY WIERSZAMI” IN EŁK (35 km), ul. Nadgeziorna 2g, www.miedzywierszami.net; a restaurant with quite an

unconventional menu, including original soups, steak, cod, risotto and collard; the venue sits on the shore of Ełk Lake and a boasts comfy interior with sofas, armchairs and children's corner; there is even a special menu for the little ones, featuring turkey breast schnitzel and spaghetti; prices of main dishes: PLN 25-45.

„JAZZ CLUB PAPAJA” IN EŁK (35 km), ul. Pułaskiego 26, www.jazzclubpapaja.pl; another restaurant by the lake, complete with a downstairs cafe serving ice cream; summer season menu: cold soup, duck, cod in pumpkin puree, pasta, kids menu; prices of main dishes: PLN 15-28.

ENTERTAINMENT IDEAS TRIED AND TESTED

Ełcka Kolej Wąskotorowa (Narrow Gauge Railway) – developed in the years 1912-1918 and nowadays regarded as a technical monument – it was entered in the register of monuments in 1991. The train runs from Ełk (departure from ul. Wąski Track 1 at 10:00) to Sypitki (departure from Sypitki at 12.45) and back to Ełk; ticket prices: adults – PLN 20, children of school age – PLN 10; children under 5 – no charge. For more details inquire +48 87 610 00 00;

Swimming pool in Ełk, ul. Piłsudskiego 29, opening hours: Monday-Friday 6.00-22.00, Saturday-Sunday 8.00-22.00; exercise and recreation pool; elaborate recreational area equipped with hydromassage, artificial waterfalls, fountains, water jets, 12 hydrotherapy beds, water gym – including aqua spinning bikes and underwater treadmills – 5 kiddie slides, jungle gym, hoops for aqua basketball, an adult slide 106 m

long, 5-person jacuzzi, 2 dry saunas and 2 steam rooms, plus an infrared therapy sauna – up to 55°C, ice cave – ca. 15°C.

Swimming pool in Augustów, ul. Sucharskiego 15, open daily 6.00-22.00; exercise and recreation pool; hydromassage equipment, kiddie pool with water mushroom and a small slide, regular slide 96 m long, two jacuzzis, dry sauna and steam room.

Cinemas in Ełk – Planet Cinema, Brama Mazur Shopping Mall, ul. Plac Miejski 1, next to the Railway Station, schedule: www.planetcinema.pl/elk; Ełckie Centrum Kultury (ul. Wojska Polskiego 47, schedule: www.eck.elk.pl/index.php/kino/repertuar.

Cinema in Augustów – Kino Iskra, ul. 3 Maja 38, schedule: www.kino-iskra.pl.

ACTIVE LEISURE

Water-ski and wakeboard lift in Augustów – the first facility of this type in Poland, operating since 1999; located on ul. Zarzeczcie by Lake Necko; open for business in a summer season from July till August, opening hours: 10.00-19.45, for more information inquire at +48 519 421 897.

Ropes course in Ełk, ul. Grunwaldzka 10, tel. +48 665 682 280; different courses tailored to the age of participants: basic layout for children 3 to 13, medium layout for children over 8 and advanced layout for young people and adults.

Tennis court in Augustów, ul. Tytoniowa 1, opening hours in the season: 8.00-20.00, reservations and service: tel. +48 519 421 898; prices: 1 hour – PLN 10, 10-hour pass – PLN 120.

Tennis court in Ełk, ul. Piłsudskiego 27, opening hours: Monday-Friday 7.00-22.00, Saturday-Sunday 9.00-21.00; reservations: tel. 87 610 38 38 ext. 142; prices: 1 hour – PLN 5-11.

RECOMMENDED DAY TRIPS

HISTORIC BRIDGES IN STAŃCZYKI (82 km): the two viaducts on the now unused railway line were built between 1907 and 1923. Their shape resembles that of the Roman aqueduct of Pont du Gard, hence they are often referred to as the Aqueducts of Romincka Forest. The viaducts, about 180 metres long and 36 metres high, are among the highest and most recognisable pieces of architecture in Masuria. Open to visitors from 8:00 till dusk.

KADZIDŁOWO (110 km): the Wild Animals Park in the Pisz Forest is the undisputed highlight of the place, especially attractive for children, as special food can be purchased to feed the animals. Tours are guided and the guide reveals interesting facts about the various species of animals, their biology, habits and the need to protect them, which can make a trip compelling and enlightening for adults as well. In a summer season, the Park is open from 9:30 to 18:00, for more information inquire at +48 87 425 73 65. After a stroll through the Park, you can sit down for a delectable meal in Oberża Pod Psem, located in a hundred-year-old historic wooden building. There is also a museum in the settlement, in an arcaded cabin from early 19th century („Mazurska chata podcieniowa z początku XIX wieku”). The tavern’s cuisine revolves around locally grown organic foods. Reservations at the following number: +48 601 094 641). While you enjoy the trip to Kadzidłowo, you can drop by the Forester’s Lodge in Pranie (8 km from Ruciane-Nida), see a museum devoted

to Konstanty Ildefons Gałczyński and perhaps catch one of the numerous concerts and other cultural events held there in the summer (tel. +48 87 425 62 48).

TYKOCIN (104 km): a small atmospheric town, which in centuries past had served as a retreat and one of the most favourite properties of Polish kings and princes. It is known for its distinctive spatial layout and a Jewish district with the baroque Synagogue on ul. Kozia 2 – the second-largest and one of the oldest synagogues in Poland (tel. +48 509 336 597). The town's recommended is Tejsza, which serves regional dishes, including showpiece specialty Jewish cuisine, such as Tzimmes with buckwheat groats and kugel, or Kreplach – small dumplings filled with ground meat (tel. +48 728 374 728).

HOSPITALS / DOCTORS

EMERGENCY NUMBER 112 (directions for ambulance: from Ełk > Pisanica > Borzomy > Skrzypki > Lisewo 7);

General Hospital in Ełk (34 km), ul. Baranki 24;

Hospital in Augustów (34 km), ul. Szpitalna 12;

General practitioner in Borzomy (8 km), Borzomy 5: Thursday 13.00-15.00, tel. +48 87 629 82 22;

NZOZ (Non-Public Healthcare Institution) MEDYK in Kalinowo (13 km), ul. Szkolna 1 – general practitioner, treatment room, etc., Monday-Wednesday and Friday 8.00-15.00, Thursday 8.00-13.00, tel. +48 87 629 84 28, house calls can be arranged;

Dentist in Kalinowo (13 km), ul. Szkolna 1 – Krzysztof Sacharzewski: Monday-Wednesday 8.00-13.00, Thursday 13.00-18.00, tel. +48 87 629 86 52;

Paediatrician in Ełk – Uwelinali Hirsztritt, tel. +48 601 35 11 25.