

# Tourist Attractions of the the Augustów Lake District and the Suwałki Region



AUGUSTÓW

## 1. The Augustów Canal

The cross-border water architecture monument from the first half of the 19<sup>th</sup> century. It was built between 1824 and 1839 according to the design of General Ignacy Prądzyński. The length of the Canal is 103.4 km, of which 80 km is in Poland and the rest in Belarus. It connects two rivers: the Biebrza and the Neman. There are 18 locks on the Canal, enabling watercraft to overcome the differences in water levels (14 on the Polish side, 1 in the border zone and 3 on the Belarusian side). The first lock is the Dębowo lock, whereas the border lock is called Kurzyniec.

## 2. The Marian Sanctuary in Studzieniczna

A wooden church from 1847, as well as a chapel with a painting of Our Lady of Studzieniczna (an 18<sup>th</sup>-century copy of the Jasna Góra painting) are located on the peninsula on Lake Studzieniczne. Near the chapel, there is a well, whose water is famous for its miraculous properties, and a stone monument commemorating the visit of Saint John Paul II in 1999.

## 3. The Paniewo lock (a twin-chamber lock)

Built between 1826 and 1828 by Eng. Michał Horan. It is located on the 60.90 km of the Canal and has wooden gates. It is 44.40 m and 43.60 m long and 5.80 m wide, with a maximum water level difference of 6.69 m. Destroyed during the war, it was reconstructed between 1947 and 1979.

## 4. The Kurzyniec lock

Built in 1828 by Lieutenant Eng. Konstanty Jodko and Eng. Fryderyk Wielhorski. It is located on the 81.75 km of the Canal and has wooden gates. It is 44.80 m long and 6 m wide, with a maximum water level difference of 3.25 m. The border water crossing at the Kurzyniec lock makes it possible to travel on a water route from Augustów to Grodno. The crossing for kayaks, bicycles and pedestrians is open between May and September.

## 5. A Sacred Place on the Rospuda River

An ancient place of religious worship. There is a chapel from 1990, a large wooden carving of a saint, locker chapels and several wooden and stone crosses. According to legend, one of the crosses was erected by the Yotvingians, following their baptism.

## 6. Ruins of the Pac Palace in Dowspuda

The remains of the palace of Louis Michael Pac, built in the early nineteenth century, according to designs of Italian architects. The remains include the archway of the façade, a corner tower called a stork tower, as well as two floors of cellars. The restored guardhouse (the only building that survived as a whole) boasts a scale model presenting the once magnificent building and an exhibition devoted to the owner.

## 7. Open-Air Museum of East Prussia Fortifications in Bakalarzewo

A complex of 13 shelters built by the Germans in 1940 as a part of fortifications running along the former border with Prussia. The two-floor bunker boasts an exhibition that presents bunker's equipment and weapons of soldiers from World War II.

## 8. The Wigry Narrow Gauge Railway in Płociczno

The route of the railway leads through the Wigry National Park and the Augustów Forest. The journey from Płociczno-Tartak to Kruszniki and back, with scenic stops, takes about 2 hours. There is a Railway Museum at the station.

## 9. The Camaldolese Monastery in Wigry

Surrounded on three sides by Lake Wigry, a Baroque-style architectural monument dating back to the 17<sup>th</sup> century. Within the monastery, we can visit Papal

Apartments, the Papal Chapel, the crypts in the Church and the Clock Tower.

## 10. The Wigry Museum in Stary Folwark

The headquarters are located in the building of the former Hydrobiological Station, where, from 1927 to 1939, the pioneer of Polish limnology – Alfred Lityński, worked. In the museum we can see an exhibition presenting the natural world of Lake Wigry, from the depths to its shores. In summer, the lake can be admired from the deck of the 10-seat, glass bottom boat, the „Leptodora II”.

## 11. St. Anne's Church in Giby

The wooden temple was constructed in 1912. Initially, it was an Old Believers orthodox church (molenna), which was moved in 1982 from the village of Pogorzelec. The interior of the church has a typical forest décor, with wood and antlers. The stations of the cross are worth noting; they are bas-reliefs made by an artist from Smolany – Jerzy Szrednicki.

## 12. The Museum of the Sejny Region

The headquarters are housed in a classicistic tenement house from the 19<sup>th</sup> century, called the Episcopal Palace. In the museum, you will learn the history of the beginnings of settlement, education, the former diocese, and the history of the Dominican order that settled in this region.

## 13. The Visitation of the Blessed Virgin Mary Lesser Basilica in Sejny

The Dominican monastery complex, with a brick church built between 1610 and 1619. Inside is a triptych depicting the image of Our Lady of Sejny with Child. A wooden sculpture from the early 15<sup>th</sup> century is the oldest portable historical object in the Suwałki Region. The former monastery is now home to the Diocesan and Ethnographic Museum.

## 14. The Miłosz Manor House in Krasnogruda

The manor house complex from the 17<sup>th</sup> century, belonged to the family of Czesław Miłosz. In his youth, the poet spent his holidays in his aunts' estate. The International Dialogue Centre and the museum dedicated to the Miłosz family are located here.

## 15. The Maria Konopnicka Museum in Suwałki

The headquarters are housed in a building from the 19<sup>th</sup> century, whose architecture is related to the noble manor house. Maria Konopnicka spent the first seven years of her life here. In front of the museum there is a bench with a sitting figure of the famous poet. At the back of the building you will find the Nook of Dwarfs, where you may look at your image in a crooked mirror or sit at a giant's table.

## 16. Church in Jeleniewo

The historic wooden church from 1878. The interior in rococo style probably came from the church in Magdalenowo, near Wigry, which ceased to exist. The tower of the church, which is the only monument of this importance in the category of religious wooden architecture in the Suwałki Region, is home to the largest bat colony in Poland, the bats are pond bats.

## 17. The Yotvingian-Prussian Settlement in the village of Oszkinie

A stone and wood complex of buildings, reproducing the former Yotvingians settlement. The wooden houses in the settlement were built on the model of houses of former inhabitants. An interesting attraction is the „sacred grove”, where pagan rites were once performed.

## 18. Cisowa (Yew Tree) Mountain

The highest elevation in the Suwałki Region (256 m), formed by a terminal moraine, has a regular conical shape. It is also referred to as Scattered Mountain - according to a legend, it was made by the local population from the soil taken from the area of Lake Kopane (Dug). The mountain takes its name after the mighty yew tree that reportedly once grew at the top of it.

## 19. The meeting point of three border “Wisztyniec” in the village of Bolcie

The borders of Poland, Lithuania, and Russia (the Kaliningrad Region) converge here. The meeting point is designated by a special granite border marker with the names and emblems of the three neighbouring countries.

## 20. The Old Believers Orthodox Church in Gabowe Grądy

The church was built in 1948, based on the projection of a rectangle, and having a wooden structure. A bell tower has been added to the church. Inside, icons are placed on the shelves. In 1989, the church was entered into the register of monuments.

## 21. The Blessed Virgin Mary Annunciation Church in Krasnybór

Originally built as an orthodox church in 1589, following the initiative of Adam Chreptowicz. The main altar depicts a painting of Our Lady of Krasnybór, from the 17<sup>th</sup> century, and according to legend, it is impossible to copy.

## 22. The Footbridge on the River Biebrza

A tourist footbridge in the area of Jałowo and Nowy Lipsk, with a hand-operated cable ferry crossing (a floating pier) via the Biebrza. The footbridge is located on the „Szuszałewo-Nowy Lipsk” educational path, which leads through moss fields and swamp forests.

## 23. The Lipsk Easter Egg Museum

Lipsk is a town which is a hub for Easter egg art, with traditions dating back to the 19<sup>th</sup> century, that are still cultivated today. In the museum, you will find Easter eggs created using the technique of pin Batik and decorated with characteristic ornamentation for the region.

## 24. The Regional Chamber of the Sztabin Region

It brings the daily life of previous generations of inhabitants of the Sztabin region closer. Here, you will see tools useful in farming, home furnishings, handicrafts, products of the glass and iron works in Sztabin and exhibits related to Count Brzostowski.

## 25. The Family home of Bl. Fr. Jerzy Popiełuszko in the village of Okopy

On the opposite side of the road, you will see a chapel, and next to it, a boulder commemorating the death of the chaplain. Plans are to build a museum dedicated to the memory of Popiełuszko.

## 26. The Chamber of Remembrance of Fr. Jerzy Popiełuszko in Suchowola

Opened in 1986, in the rectory of St. Paul and Peter the Apostles Parish. It houses a collection of photographs and memorabilia related to the priest murdered by the State Security Police in 1984.

## 27. The Geographical Centre of Europe in Suchowola

In the public park you will find a plaque symbolizing the centre of Europe, designated in 1775 by astronomer Szymon Sobiekranski.





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1:540 000 (1 cm - 5,4 km)

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|--|--|--|---|--|--------------------------|
|  | Fairy-Tale Trail of the Suwałki Region |  | Historic Roman Catholic church, chapel    |  | Tourist Information      |
|  | Podlaskie Stork Trail                  |  | Historic Orthodox   Old Believers' church |  | Border crossing          |
|  | Papal Trail                            |  | Historic Muslim   Jewish landmark         |  | Airport   ferry crossing |
|  | Green Velo Trail                       |  | Another heritage site                     |  | Accommodation            |
|  | August Velo Trail                      |  | Indoor or open-air museum                 |  | Another attraction       |
|  | Natural attraction                     |  | Narrow-gauge railway                      |  | Viewing point            |
|  | Health resort                          |  |   |  |                          |

