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## **With and against the stream** <sup>[1]</sup>

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### **Meandering rivers**

#### **Tuchola Coniferous Forests**

One of the largest forest complexes in Poland is a synonym of leisure. The one we dream about – far away from big city hustle and bustle as well as boredom! One of the region's leading tourist hallmarks has got irrefutable proof. In the year 2013, the Tuchola Coniferous Forersts received the prestigious commendation in the international competition of the Best European Destinations of Excellence (EDEN).

Scenic kayaking trails on the Brda, Wda and other rivers provide a thrill of emotions and coolness on hot days. They will not dissappoint even enthusiasts of extreme experiences. The Tuchola Coniferous Forests can be traversed by kayak, on foot and by bike. There are also lots of places for horse-back riding amateurs. One can also play minigolf in Cekcyn and sail on Koronowskie Reservoir. This Protected Landscape Area, full of bewitching coves and islands, owes its shape to the features of the Brda River valley. By the shore of the reservoir, there are many marinas and holiday resorts. Bikers are delighted by the new route leading via Europe's highest bridge of narrow-gauge railway that used to connect Koronowo and Tuchola.

The Tuchola Coniferous Forests feature a network of over 600 km of hiking and bicycle trails, thanks to which we will find unusual places.

In the years 1845-1849, Poland's largest aquaduct – a water intersection of the Grand Brda River Canal and the Czerska Struga River – was constructed in Fojutowo. A walk amidst a few hundred year old yews in the "Leon Wyczółkowski Old-Polish Yews" Reserve in Wierzchlas, the largest cluster of this tree species in Europe, is almost a mystical experience ...



## **Land of one hundred lakes**

### **Brodnica Lake District**

Amidst forests, lakes and scenic rivers we will find real treasures of the Brodnica Lake District. The Drwęca River – here and there tranquil, as well as meandering, swift and wild – is an excellent place for kayakers. Anglers will get here precious catch – the river's clean water with its swift current is home to fish occurring in mountain streams. The area of the Brodnicki and Górznieńsko-Lidzbarski Landscape Parks are a part of the Green Lungs of Poland – the purest and exceptionally rich natural part of Poland. The swampy Drwęca River Valley is a refuge of waterfowl, belonging to the European Network of Nature Protection Areas "Nature 2000". In the Brodnica Lake District one can relax in

peace and in harmony with nature. On many lakes there is a ban on internal-combustion engines. Attentive nature observers can get to see a white-tailed eagle flying by ...

### **Coordinates for adventure**

Kujawsko-Pomorskie invites treasure hunters to do geocaching. This is an international game consisting in looking for special caches with the use of a GPS receiver. They are hidden in many

interesting places (even in tree tops!) and they present different levels of difficulty. The capital of Polish geocaching is one of the smallest towns in Poland – Górzno, visited by cache enthusiasts from all over Europe.

## **Fill the sails!**

Włocławek

### **Włocławski Reservoir**

Shaped by human imagination and hands, this huge body of water is the result of partitioning the riverbed of the Vistula. It is well worth familiarising with the power of Włocławek dam and admiring from its top the panorama of the queen of Polish rivers. Here, we will surely feel respect for the water element. 58 km long, Włocławski Reservoir is located between Kujawsko-Pomorskie and Mazowieckie

Voivodeships. It looks like a natural finger lake. This is a real paradise for sailing enthusiasts. Sails fluttering in the wind and reflecting in the water are a permanent element of the local scenery. In the modern marina one can moor a boat, rent a motorboat, a kayak, and even a "dragon boat". Each year, the city is the venue of the International Hot Air Balloon Competition of Włocławek.

If you prefer land attractions – Włocławek will impress you with an extended network of bicycle paths leading far beyond the city limits. The nearness of the Gostynińsko-Włocławski Landscape Park is a promise of numerous natural attractions. From the steep slopes around the reservoir one can see excellent views. From the marina one can go on a leisurely riverboat voyage to feel the atmosphere of the cult film "Rejs" (Cruise), and to do different types of fitness exercises, just like the film characters did.



## **The pleasures of beautiful nature**

### **Varieties of Kujawsko-Pomorskie**

While listening to the stories of the Lower Vistula River Valley, it is worthwhile visiting the mysterious cave Bajka (Fairytale) in Gądecz and dwarf birches in the Linie reserve, and in Leosia near Świecie nad Wisłą – pitting oneself against St Adalbert’s stone – Pomerania’s largest erratic boulder.

Our region offers different forms of active leisure. Bird watching requires not only exceptional patience but also traversing vast areas in the search of birds. The Noteć River Valley is an excellent place for bird watching enthusiasts. The best time to come here is spring or autumn, when the sky changes into a real bird highway – an ecological corridor for migratory birds – thousands of geese and cranes. "On the edge of the Noteć River Valley" is a special ecological trail in Minikowo. Terrain steps on a steep slope of the gorge and benches in a beautiful beauty spot have been prepared to provide access to nature’s peculiarities. Kujawsko-Pomorskie is linked with seven other Polish regions by the Vistulan Bicycle Route. In our voivodeship it runs via Grudziądz, Świecie, Chełmno, Bydgoszcz, Toruń, and Włocławek. In many places it runs near and along the river. It leads through landscape parks, reserves and riparian forests.

# Eight nature's gates, behind which nature awaits

## Landscape parks in Kujawsko-Pomorskie

- Brodnicki Landscape Park
- Gostynińsko-Włocławski Landscape Park Górznieńsko-Lidzbarski Landscape Park Krajeński Landscape Park
- Nadgoplański Park of the Millennium Tucholski Landscape Park
- Wdecki Landscape Park
- Group of Chełmiński and Nadwiślański Landscape Parks

[www.parki.kujawsko-pomorskie.pl](http://www.parki.kujawsko-pomorskie.pl) [2]

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[2] <http://www.parki.kujawsko-pomorskie.pl/>