

Świnoujście



LAND OF 44 ISLANDS



Świnoujście

ŚWINOUJŚCIE – THE CAPITAL OF ISLAND REGION

Świnoujście has as many faces as there are islands within its borders. The largest of them are Uznam, Wolin and Karsibór. These three islands nestled in the north-western corner of Poland, surrounded by waters of the Baltic Sea, Szczecin Bay and Świna strait as well as a chain of several dozen smaller islands, are the three pillars of Świnoujście, the only town in Poland with such a unique island character. Each of them provides different opportunities for the town.

Part of Świnoujście located on Uznam island, shared with Germany, is a tourist and health-resort, administrative and residential area. This is where the widest beach of the Baltic Sea, a promenade, town's culture and entertainment centre are located. The fragment situated on Wolin island is mainly an industrial part of the town. Services related with sea economy and transport as well as production and storage are concentrated there. On the other hand, Kasibór is an anchor of peace and rest, with unique natural and tourist qualities.

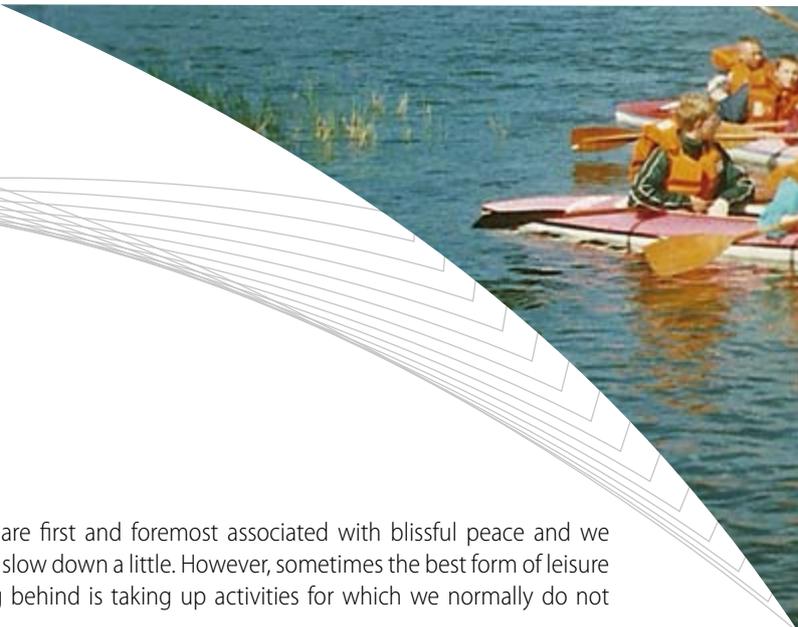
The Land of 44 Islands is a land of many opportunities, and you will never be bored in Świnoujście. With two centuries of health resort and leisure tradition, the town successfully utilises its advantages for good and pleasure of guests coming to this area. Many of them undoubtedly are attracted by the beautiful beach of Świnoujście – the widest at the Baltic Sea, 100-metre long strip of perfectly clean, white sand. Here, waters of the Baltic Sea are warmest, encouraging for sea baths and water sports, such as sailing, windsurfing or kitesurfing. However, it is only one of many faces of the 44 Islands Land.

Everyone will find something for themselves, whether they want to rest in the bosom of nature, abandoning to blissful idleness on the beach, actively spend time or join in a crazy party.

Welcome to the Land of 44 Islands!



ACTIVE ISLANDS



S Seaside health resorts are first and foremost associated with blissful peace and we frequently visit them to slow down a little. However, sometimes the best form of leisure and leaving everything behind is taking up activities for which we normally do not have time.

Świnoujście and its surroundings provide the opportunity to try your hand at various water sports – the most popular due to the proximity of the sea and bay.

A unique geographical location, diversity of land forms and waters surrounding islands, lushness of nature and friendly climate as well as developed tourist infrastructure ensure excellent conditions for active leisure.

A network of trails encourages for bicycle expeditions and Nordic walking, while peaceful waters of Szczecin Bay and the Świna river broads lure sailors, canoeists and anglers, and picturesque terrains of neighbouring nature reserves attract lovers of hiking in the bosom of nature

Then, let's discover the active part of the Land of 44 Islands!





Photo Marek Szukalo



WITH POLES ON THE BEACH

Nordic walking, very trendy recently, came to the Land of 44 Islands from Finland as well. Enthusiasts of this form of recreation may choose in Świnoujście from among several very attractive trails, differing in difficulty, length and, of course, scenery.

Nordic walkers are perfectly comfortable walking with poles along the beach. Starting a walk in Uznam part of Świnoujście, you may go along the seashore to Germany where more persistent ones may continue the hike on one of the seven trails with signage, intended particularly for Nordic walking. One of them leads through the beach in the direction of Świnoujście, and then across border forests stretching between the Polish health resort and Ahlbeck.

This sport may be practised at any age, in any season. The only thing you need is enthusiasm and a pair of poles.

Expanded network of trails and paths constitute a paradise both for Nordic walking lovers, and for runners and enthusiasts of long walks in the bosom of nature.

It is also worth ferrying to Wolin island where, walking along the coast, through paths leading across a strip of steep cliffs or one of the trails in forests of Wolin, you may reach the most picturesque beauty spots of the Land of 44 Islands. Wzgórze Zielonka with delightful panorama to the backwards of the Świna river delta and Gosań hill near Międzyzdroje from which you can easily return to Świnoujście by train are particularly worthy of attention.

People who have just begun their adventure with Nordic walking may choose less strenuous trails in the vast Spring Park.

CANOEING INTO THE MEANDERS OF THE ŚWINA RIVER

Canoeing in the Land of 44 Islands is a true feast of nature. Swimming among thickets, you may see rare species of water birds and with a bit of luck even beavers at work.

It has become customary to think that it is best to go canoeing in rapid streams, however, broads of the Stara Świna river, covering a group of picturesque islands, also can provide unforgettable experiences. Two canoeing trails with signage are located only several kilometres from the Baltic Sea.

Sightseeing from water starts on Karsibór island where you can rent a canoe if you don't have your own one. A trip with a paddle along the coast of Wydrza Kępa, Koński Smug and Wielki Krzek brings to one's mind the landscapes similar to those in the Polish lake districts.



Canoeing through islands of backward delta of the Świna river may end as soon as after ca. 30-kilometre long trail. However, if you want to extend your adventure you can try your hand at a twice longer section, surrounding the entire Wolin island, whereas appropriately prepared professionals have a unique occasion to expand traditional inland canoeing with elements of sea canoeing and additionally cover a 40-kilometre long section of the Baltic Sea from Dziwnów to Świnoujście.





Wicko Wielkie lake and broads of the Stara Świna river are calm basins, very friendly for beginner sailors. More experienced ones may sail in the waters of Szczecin Bay or test their capabilities in sea waters of Pomeranian Bay.

UNDER SAILS

The title of the island region obliges – Świnoujście is a town of sailors, which is proved by numerous sailing events and races organised in the waters of Świnoujście. The largest and most attended regatta are Sea Day Regatta, Stage Tourist Regatta, Unity Line Regatta and Sail Świnoujście – an event with many sailing ships.

A modern yacht harbour is available for sailors in Northern Pool with sanitary facilities and various amenities. After modernisation, the yacht harbour has a capacity of 400 medium-sized ships (length up to 12m, draught up to 3.5m). Larger yachts, with draught up to 6m, will find place for themselves in external wharf of the basin, from the side of the Świna river.

From the side of the Bay, at Wicko Wielkie lake there is a marina in Łunowo. Scenic location within National Park of Wolin makes it frequently visited by nature and cosy atmosphere lovers.



Photo Mariusz Lokaj

Health resort architecture of German seaside towns, also called Kaiser's, is characterised by columns, towers and ornamented elevations with integrated loggias.



VISITING NEIGHBOURS

The German towns Ahlbeck, Heringsdorf and Bansin are famous for picturesque promenades on which at every turn you see charming small cafés with the view at the sea.

There is also a very convenient ferry connection from Świnoujście to Scandinavia - Ystad. The nearest airport is located in the German Heringsdorf.

Cross-border nature of Świnoujście, one of town's chief assets, provides a unique occasion to discover the German part of Uznam island or venture deeper in the land or visit nearby Scandinavia. You can visit the neighbouring Ahlbeck walking along the beach, town or go by bus or train – Uznam Health Resort Train. Unforgettable hike and bicycle trails as well as an enchanting promenade along the beach are waiting for guests. Beautifully ornamented, eclectic buildings, distinctive for the local health resort architecture from the turn of 19th and 20th century, are particularly attractive.

It is certainly worth visiting Kamminke, a fisherman village, with thatched cottages, a viewing spot where you can admire the broads of Szczecin Bay and Golm hill on which a cemetery of victims of the Allied air raid on Świnoujście in March 1945 is located. Nature lovers must visit the southern part of Uznam island with charming villages, antique churches and wonderful landscapes.



Remember that sport and recreation fishing in the sea, harbour or in waters of Szczecin Bay, the Stara Świna river or Wicko Małe and Wicko Wielkie lakes require purchasing a sport fishing licence.



WITH A FISHING ROD TO BROADS

The broads of the Stara Świna river, stretching between Karsibór, Przytór and Łunowo may certainly be regarded as anglers' heaven. These waters ensure extremely diversified fishing in terms of species.

Świnoujście area is a region where sea waters come into contact with inland waters and penetrate each other allowing fresh water fish to migrate to the sea and sea fish to visit diverse inland basins.

Excellent fishing positions stretch for entire kilometres at both sides of the Świna river, starting from eastern and western breakwater, through shallow broads of the Świna river, terrain at lakes cutting into Wolin island – Wicko Małe and Wicko Wielkie – to Szczecin Bay.

The Piast Channel, cutting Karsibór off Uznam, every year gathers along its coasts dozens of anglers competing for the float championships trophy.

Perches and roaches, living in large numbers in harbour's channels, ensure good catch throughout the season. Expert anglers sometimes find beams, flatfish and pikeperches and even noble pikes and eels. In the end of autumn you may catch burbot and in favourable conditions even herring. The Świna Strait offers tenches and crucians.





EXTREME ADVENTURES

Strong winds appearing at the meeting point of land and sea air mass circulation are one of the chief assets of the Land of 44 Islands for sea sports lovers. In combination with water surrounding from all directions, they provide perfect conditions for windsurfing and kitesurfing. Beach near windmill on Uznam or Wolin island (Warszów district) are extreme surfing places well-known by windsurfers and kitesurfers.

Near the southern windmills, it is worth going to Szczecin Bay or the German part of Uznam island, for instance to Kamminke, Pudagla or Ückeritz towns located near Świnoujcie, where in the shallow waters of Achterwasser there are excellent learning conditions for beginners.

ISLANDS BY BIKE

A developed network of bicycle trails with good signage covers both Polish, and German part of Uznam island as well as Wolin island. Only within the borders of Świnoujście there is over 100 km of trails. Bicycle lanes connect the most important points of the health resort – downtown, harbour, seaside district and border crossings with German towns: Ahlbeck and Kamminke, making bicycle the most convenient mode of traveling in the town and its surroundings



Diverse terrain allow adapting bicycle journeys to your interests, available time and fitness.



It is not necessary to have your own bicycle to travel freely across the island. The modern cross-border bicycle renting system, UsebomRad, allows renting a bicycle in one of 40 self-service points located on the entire Uznam island which later may be left in other, either Polish or German part of the island.

An attractive trip along the seaside is possible through the longest in Europe cross-border promenade connecting Świnoujście with towns on the German side of the island. Bicycle lovers have at their disposal pleasant and relatively not strenuous town trails enabling to sightsee enchanting seaside districts of the town on both sides of the island. It is worth venturing to leisure and health resort parts of Świnoujście or neighbouring German towns to admire interesting health resort architecture from the turn of 19th and 20th century.

Guests who would like to escape from the buzz of the promenade and look for close contact with nature are invited by the Land of 44 Islands to its southern edge where bicycle trails, especially charming in terms of scenery, lead. The first of them, 25 kilometre long trail called "Świdny Las", leads along the most south-western tip of Uznam island, near "Karsiborskie Paprocie" nature reserve, and then to a breakwater



cutting almost half a kilometre into Szczecin Bay. The second trail is a 23 kilometre long trail around Karsibór island on which you can sightsee, among others, German submarine pool from the times of World War II, "Karsiborska Kępa" bird reserve, 19th century country evangelical cemetery and an antique church.

The German part of Uznam island, and Wolin island with heavily rolling terrain and plethora of rises pose a considerable challenge for mountain cycling enthusiasts. Picturesque trails in the forest stretching between Świnoujście and Bansin or reaching several dozen metres above sea level rises in Wapnica and Zalesie will ensure intense experiences for more demanding.

The Baltic Cycling Trail R-10 leads through Świnoujście which is the fragment of international Hanseatic Seaside Trail.



ISLANDS OF HEALTH AND BEAUTY



Uznam island on which the leisure and health resort part of the town is located is famous for calm, sea climate and fresh air, rich in iodine, wide sandy beach, warm waters of Pomeranian Bay and large amount of green areas. These natural conditions determined as soon as in the first half of the 19th century first clients started coming to the Land of 44 Islands for sea baths which were very trendy in those times. Later discovery of rich brine springs with curative qualities and considerable deposits of cowberry only strengthened position of the town as the most popular spa in this part of Europe.

It is on the verge of 19th and 20th century when its most intense growth occurred. A spa district was constructed at the very coast then, encouraging for walks on the promenade, separated by Spring Park from the noise of the town. A new Health Resort House, Nature Treatment Centre, modern baths were opened, and numerous sanatoriums and hotels were constructed.

Today, Świnoujście has one of the best spa services in Poland. The health resort constantly and consequently develops its array of services, adapting it to clients' needs and expectations.





Beneficial microclimate, deposits of brine and cowberry, highly specialised staff and well-equipped treatment facilities are certainly chief assets of the spa which attract clients from the entire Poland and abroad.

Świnoujście Health Resort specialises in treatment of respiratory tract, heart, dermatologic, motor and cardiovascular system diseases. Highly specialised personnel cares for patients' health, furthermore, modern equipment is used in treatment and rehabilitation. The most beneficial season for clients is spring and autumn since at this time Świnoujście provides the most favourable conditions for rehabilitation due to the increased iodine contents in air.

When body regains health it is also worth restoring its beauty. Świnoujście has in its all-year-round range of services a vast array of beauty and relaxing procedures and therapies which are popular not only among women. Every year new centres specialising in this type of stay are opened. Massages, peelings and poultices with best quality cosmetics as well as mud therapies and hydrotherapy offered in them improve skin condition and revitalise it. These procedures in combination with exceptionally beneficial microclimate and wonderful nature of the Land of 44 Island allow for even better regeneration and energise for several months.

ISLANDS OF NATURE



What does the Land of 44 Islands owe its richness of nature? It is the mild, coastal climate, abundance of waters, diversity of terrain and soil forms which allowed the flora to grow so vigorously, providing at the same time living space for many species of birds and other animals.

Diverse landform features enable everyone to draw pleasure from the stay on the islands. Soaring, steep cliffs and high moraine hills give them slightly mountainous character – when climbing them at a fast pace, you may be short of breath. However, amazing panorama stretching away from the top is certainly worth it.

A relatively large area of islands is covered by vast forests with flat forest tracks, marshy meadows and peat bogs. Each of these environments constitutes living space for all sorts of fauna and flora species. Forests are inhabited mostly by boars, roe deer, foxes, squirrels. Among trees, beeches dominate and there are small clusters of oaks, as well.





On a sunny day, take a walk through a shaded maple plane tree avenue along Stanisław Moniuszko street in Świnoujście at which purple varieties of maples and sycamore grow.

In Świnoujście, particularly in the Spring Park, there are many trees and bushes registered as nature monuments as well as a high number of rare and exotic ornamentals. Many of them came to the islands in the beginning of the 19th century brought by rich townsmen and holiday centre owners who wanted to decorate their gardens in this luxurious way.

A refuge of unique flora are strips of coastal dunes on Przytorski peninsula or in Świnoujście itself. Pine forests feel best there, and with a bit of luck you may find rare sea holly. Uznam island has within its borders a unique Karsiborskie Paprocie reserve where lush fern bushes grow, reaching over 2 metres.



When staying on Karsibór island with children, visit the nature education square located at a branch of Town Community Centre. The square is public and consists of three zones: natural education, fitness plays and leisure.

Waters surrounding the islands from all sides ensure extraordinary wealth of fish and other water animals, both sea – in the Baltic Sea, and fresh water – in Szczecin Bay, rivers and broads. On the other hand, abundance of fish and diverse fauna stimulates settling of various bird species. Nature of the Land of 44 Islands attracts so many rare varieties that Polish Bird Protection Association, a social organisation protecting wild birds, decided to establish a reserve on Karsiborska Kępa which is one of the largest islands of the Świna river delta. It is undoubtedly the best place for watching rare bird species in their natural environment.

Among boggy pastures and coastal flora, you may find many species under strict protection, including rare endangered species. It is estimated that close to 150 nesting species live or have their breeding grounds there. Several hundred others travel through air corridors migrating over the Land of 44 Islands in spring and autumn.

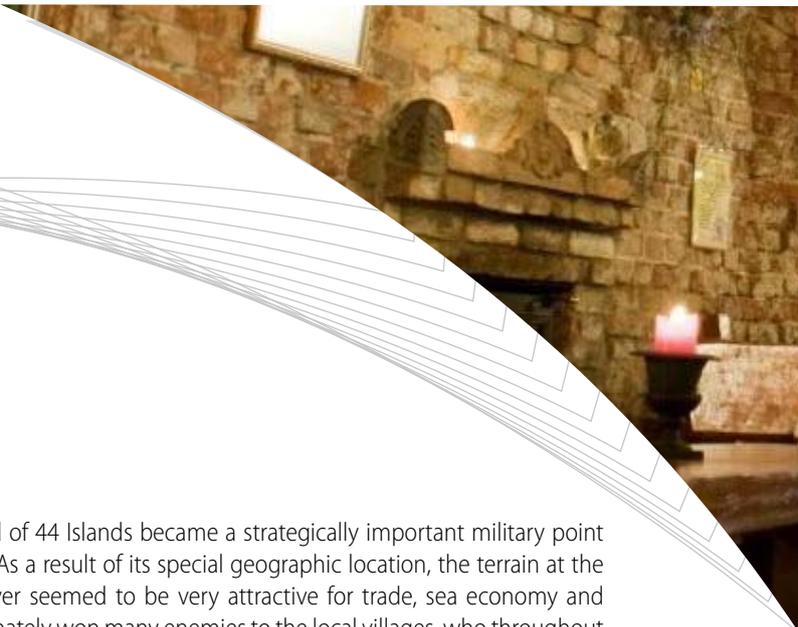
When walking silently through thickets with binoculars, you may see, among others, a cornflake, kite, ruff or Montagu's harrier. Perhaps you will be lucky to catch up with a dunlin moving with lightning speed on its thin legs or see a white-tailed eagle or osprey in the sky. However, the true highlight of Karsiborska Kępa is endangered Aquatic Warbler, the rarest European migratory singing bird. A visit in the reserve is also an occasion to see Polish horses nibbling young reed sprouts, bred by Polish Bird Protection Association.

Classes in nature education are organised for schools and high schools during the year within bird reserve in Karsiborska Kępa. Those who visit the Land of 44 Islands in the beginning of October may take part in a trip through the most interesting areas of the reserve organised annually on the occasion of Bird Days



Who among nature lovers would not want to meet a shoveller, an extraordinarily looking ruff or a black stork? In Świnoujście it is enough to have binoculars and willies to make such great discoveries.

FORTRESS ON ISLANDS



Centuries ago, the Land of 44 Islands became a strategically important military point on the map of Europe. As a result of its special geographic location, the terrain at the mouth of the Świna river seemed to be very attractive for trade, sea economy and defence, which unfortunately won many enemies to the local villages, who throughout centuries constantly attempted to conquer this area. The villages had to defend from invaders, therefore, already in the early Middle Ages first, a slightly provisional fortifications were built.

Gradually, the host of the Land of 44 Islands made it a true stronghold on the islands. Nowadays, people visiting these parts may make a specific time travel, following military history of West Pomerania due to excellently preserved fortifications from the beginning of the 19th century.

It is worldwide unique complex of historical military structures, perfectly integrated into picturesque scenery of Odra delta. Assuming the name of island fortress, it was distinguished as an extraordinary tourist product of West Pomerania.

Come and meet the military face of Świnoujście.



COASTAL STRONGHOLD AT THE BALTIC SEA

Before the terrain at the mouth of the Świna river fell within the borders of Pomerania Duchy, the main trade routes of Slavic, German and Scandinavian people already crossed there. Swine, a village of these times, had merchants from the farthest parts of Europe staying in it, who grew rich and became a tasty morsel for neighbouring nations.

In 2005 “Island Fortress” was granted a certificate of Polish Tourist Organisation for the best tourist product in Poland.

The walls of forts had such noble visitors as King Frederick Wilhelm IV, Emperor Wilhelm I and Wilhelm II. It is in Świnoujście Stronghold where a meeting of three emperors: German, Austrian and Russian tsar was arranged. Unconquered forts became a focus of interest of the first spy-woman, the famous Mata Hari, who visited them during World War I.

Pomerania dukes as the first ones begun construction of fortified towns at Swina to fend off frequent attacks of Dutch. However, it was Prussia, on the initiative of Prince Adalbert von Preussen, which commenced in the 18th century construction of permanent fortification complex, at the same time transforming Świnoujście into an unconquered coastal stronghold. A fortified harbour successfully stopped consecutive rides of Dutch and French fleets and became the main base of Prussian navy. On the verge of 19th and 20th century the fortress of Świnoujście already consisted of four expanded and armed forts. In the interwar period and during World War II the harbour of Swinoujście was the largest Baltic base of the German Kriegsmarine. Military and strategic significance of forts of Świnoujście vanished with the end of Cold War.

Nowadays, the complex of three forts located at both sides of the Świna river is an invaluable testimony of history and a special tourist attraction. Having rich collection of exhibits from various ages, Western Fort and Angel Fort on Uznam island and Gerhard Fort beginning “Fortification Trail” on Wolin island, enable to make a specific time travel and discover the military heritage of this part of Europe.



ANGEL'S FORT

Angel's Fort may be visited with a guide, while campfires, conferences, integration meetings are organised on request in the facility, and occasionally knight's tournaments and other events are held. Those willing to may try their hand at archery, pneumatic rifles, pneumatic gun as well as axe and spear throwing.

Numerous exhibitions, vernissages, concerts, meetings with poetry and with interesting people take place throughout a year in Angel Fort. Sale of souvenirs related with the fort and the town is conducted inside the facility. Furthermore, in fort rooms exhibitions were also arranged showing the life of Slav and Vikings.

It is the oldest from three structures of fortification complex in Swinoujście. It was erected in 1854-1858. It owes its name to similarity to Roman mausoleum of Caesar Hadrian, later seat of the papacy. The building has the shape of three-storey rotunda topped with a terrace and observation tower. External walls have embrasures for light cannons and rifles.

Until 1863, the fort was surrounded by a double moat, and a causeway with fortified gate, with additional shooting and artillery positions, lead to the inside. Electricity and telegraphic communications reached the fort in the end of the 19th century. During World War I the facility was connected by narrow-gauge railway with other fortifications of the western complex. Machine gun and mortar positions were then erected around the fort, yet the fort begun to gradually lose its significance as a military outpost.

In the interwar period it fell into the possession of the German navy which adapted the facility to chemical warfare, assembling gas resistant door and armoured window covers. After the war Russians rebuilt the concrete bunker on the tower and erected the contemporary radio and radiolocation antenna mast. They left the fort in the December 1992. Today, it operates as a café open all year, connected with an art gallery and artistic jewellery exhibition.



WESTERN FORT

Presently in Western Fort (Polish: Port Zachodni) stronghold history museum and open-air military museum operate. The exhibition consists of, among others, old weaponry, uniforms, archive photos and plans. In the summer you may purchase souvenirs and historical publications.

Sightseeing of the fort is made on one's own and includes museum room and trail marked out through the entire facility. Upon request and after agreeing the date, it is possible to sightsee with a guide.

Together with Angel's Fort, it belongs to the western fortification complex located on Uznam island. Prussians built Western Fort in the neighbourhood of a beach and western breakwater in 1856-1861. It was an excellent observation point of the entrance to the harbour and waters of Pomeranian Bay.

The construction was expanded and modernised for several dozen years. From a small, one-storey redoubt on a square plan it grew to an impressive redoubt fort, surrounded with a moat and embankments. A terrace with artillery positions was built along the building, magazines were underground, whereas the weaponry included 4 heavy coastal cannons and several field cannons.

After World War I the fort was disarmed, but in 1922 coastal cannons were mounted again. In 1939 a part of sailors from the fort crew took part in the attack on Westerplatte. End of World War II meant evacuation of the fort and destroying the cannons. In the beginning of 1960s the facility was transferred to the town.

GERHARD'S FORT

It is the only preserved Prussian fort from the eastern fortification complex. It was erected in 1856-1863, by combining two smaller fortification facilities. At first, its purpose was to defend the entrance to the harbour, and later also combat with warships at the sea.

Throughout a year several attractions are organised in Gerhard Fort, such as the night fort sightseeing, tournament for commandant sabre, searching for treasures.

The fort has never directly participated in battles, therefore, it is well-preserved to this day. Its oldest part is a two-storey oval redoubt surrounded by a moat and high embankment. With time, the gunpowder magazines, artillery depots, casemates and redoubts integrated in embankments were considerably expanded. The most interesting architectural elements of the fort are caponiers, i.e. merlons protruding into the moat and connected by corridors with underground casemates.



All these mysterious corners of Gerard Fort may be sightseen in the company of Prussian soldiers lead by Fort Commandant. Everyone has to learn the obligatory drill supervised by the commander and intrusive, extremely gluttonous Goat Regiment. The drill is crowned by granting a certificate to the visitors and shooting from 19th century cannon.

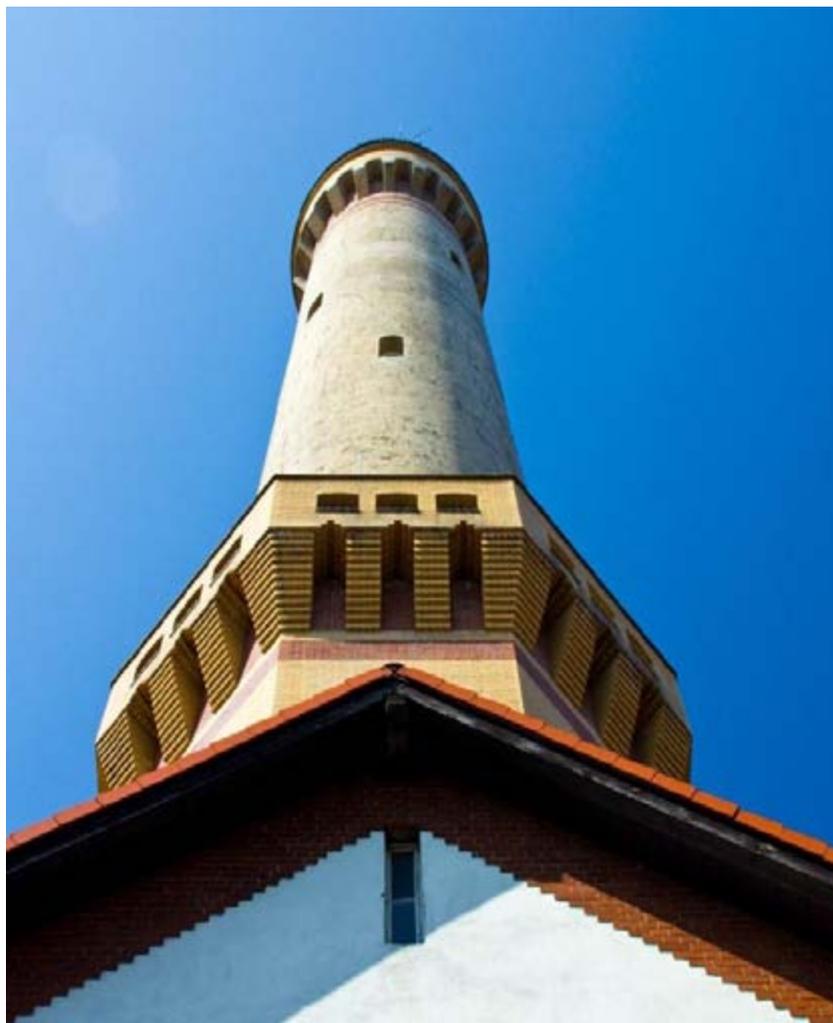
Upon request, parties, picnics, integration meetings at a campfire or in one of furnished fort rooms are held on the territory of the fort. Several times a year thrill enthusiasts may visit the forts at night.

A MEETING WITH HISTORY

Three perfectly preserved forts are not the only remains of the military heritage of the Land of 44 Islands. On Wolin island you still can find several other fascinating monuments of this type – all you need to do is follow the established in 2005 4 kilometre long didactic path called Fortification Trail.

The trail starts in the oldest facility, Western Fort, also known as Gerhard Fort, and leads along the eastern coast of the mouth of the Świna river showing visitors the most interesting left-bank fortifications – from built in the beginning of the 20th century bunkers, through anti-aircraft guns from the times of World War II to anti-landing fortifications from ca. half a century.

During the meeting with history of the Land of 44 Islands it is worth venturing a bit deeper into Wolin island to feel at least for a moment the atmosphere of strictly confidential military experiment of German army. In Zalesie there are remains of V-3 rocket launcher which in 1943-1945 was used as testing ground for research of extremely effective retaliatory long-range weapon which Germans intended to use to destroy London.



Among historical objects within the boundaries of Swinoujście, a submarine pool on Karsibór island built in 1944 for the needs of Kriegsmarine, the old town hall, today a seat of Sea Fishing Museum, and the building of Harbour Master's Office from 1870 or observation tower, remains of the Lutheran church from 1904, located in the downtown, are undoubtedly noteworthy. Breakwaters built from 1818 to 1923 also have high historical value: eastern which is the longest stone breakwater in Europe and western, crowned by the symbol of Świnoujście – Stawa Młyny.

In the area of Eastern Fort there is also a lighthouse built in 1854-1857 – the tallest on the Polish coast and one of the tallest in Europe. 308 stairs lead to the top of 65m building, but the effort necessary to climb it is certainly worth breath-taking view which stretches out to Świnoujście and its surroundings..

EVENTS ON ISLANDS



A culture and entertainment offer of Świnoujście is so diversified that it will certainly satisfy the needs of both guests looking for wild fun, and eager for high culture experiences.

Most of the events and attractions take place in summer season when the health resort is visited by the highest number of tourists from Poland and abroad, nevertheless, off season the town also does not forget about intellectual nourishment. It is worth visiting local galleries and clubs to learn island diverse culture in the interpretation of local artists.

Culture Carousel, Sail Świnoujście or famous festivals Windmill and FAMA – it is only necessary to mention several of these events, attracting artists and guests from the whole of Poland, to encourage guests to visit the Land of 44 Islands. There are many more interesting events in the calendar of Świnoujście.



Photo: UM Świnoujście (M.Wilczek)

SEA DAYS

Sea days traditionally are celebrated at the end of June. At this time the king of seas and oceans, Neptune, assumes power over the town for three days, holding for his subjects a family fair with exhibitions, market, concerts of local artists and widely known stars. An inherent element of Sea Days is the Navy Holiday



CULTURE CAROUSEL

Lasting three days, Culture Carousel attracts in July to Świnoujście the most outstanding personages from all spheres of culture and politics to involve them in meetings and discussions with guests visiting the festival. During numerous concerts, theatre shows, exhibitions, street performances, happenings, workshops, classes for children and debates you can meet famous people of art and culture, TV artists, politicians, writers, actors, journalists and sportsmen



SAIL ŚWINOUJŚCIE

In August small and large sailing ships come to Świnoujście to participate in Sail Świnoujście sea event. Cruises to open sea by sailings ships, sightseeing ships, impressive sailing ship parade are the greatest attractions of this event. Sail Świnoujście is accompanied by sounds of sea songs which have kept sailors company for centuries.



WIATRAK SEA SONG SWIMMING FESTIVAL

One of the oldest sea song festivals in Poland, has been held for over 20 years. The only swimming festival in Poland as a part of the concerts takes place on boards of ships. Through time many famous artists of this genre performed on Windmill, among others, Andrzej Korycki, Ryszard Muzaj, Marek Szurawski, groups – Stare Dzwony, Ryczące Dwudziestki or Zejman and Garkumpel. It is in Świnoujście where Jurek Porębski lives and composes, a co-organiser of the festival, a renowned sea ballad creator and performer.





FAMA FESTIWAL

Another interdisciplinary event is certainly the associated with Świnoujście Artistic Festival of Academic Youth held for several years under the changed name of International Artistic Campus FAMA. For nearly half a century the stage of FAMA has been used by young beginner artists to present their attempts and achievements in any field of art to choose gems from among them and open them road to success. It is on FAMA where Marek Grechuta, Maryla Rodowicz, Magda Umer, Andrzej Mleczko, Henryk Sawka, Renata Przemyk, Mariusz Lubomski, Maciej Stuhr, Grzegorz Ciechowski, Adam Nowak with "Raz, Dwa, Trzy" band, "Nocna Zmiana Bluesa" with Sławek Wierzcholski, T.Love band, Teatr Ósmego Dnia from Poznań, STU Theatre from Cracow, Władysław Sikora and Potem cabaret, Kamil Bednarek and many other artists and stage stars began.



SEA TENNIS TOURNAMENT OF STARS

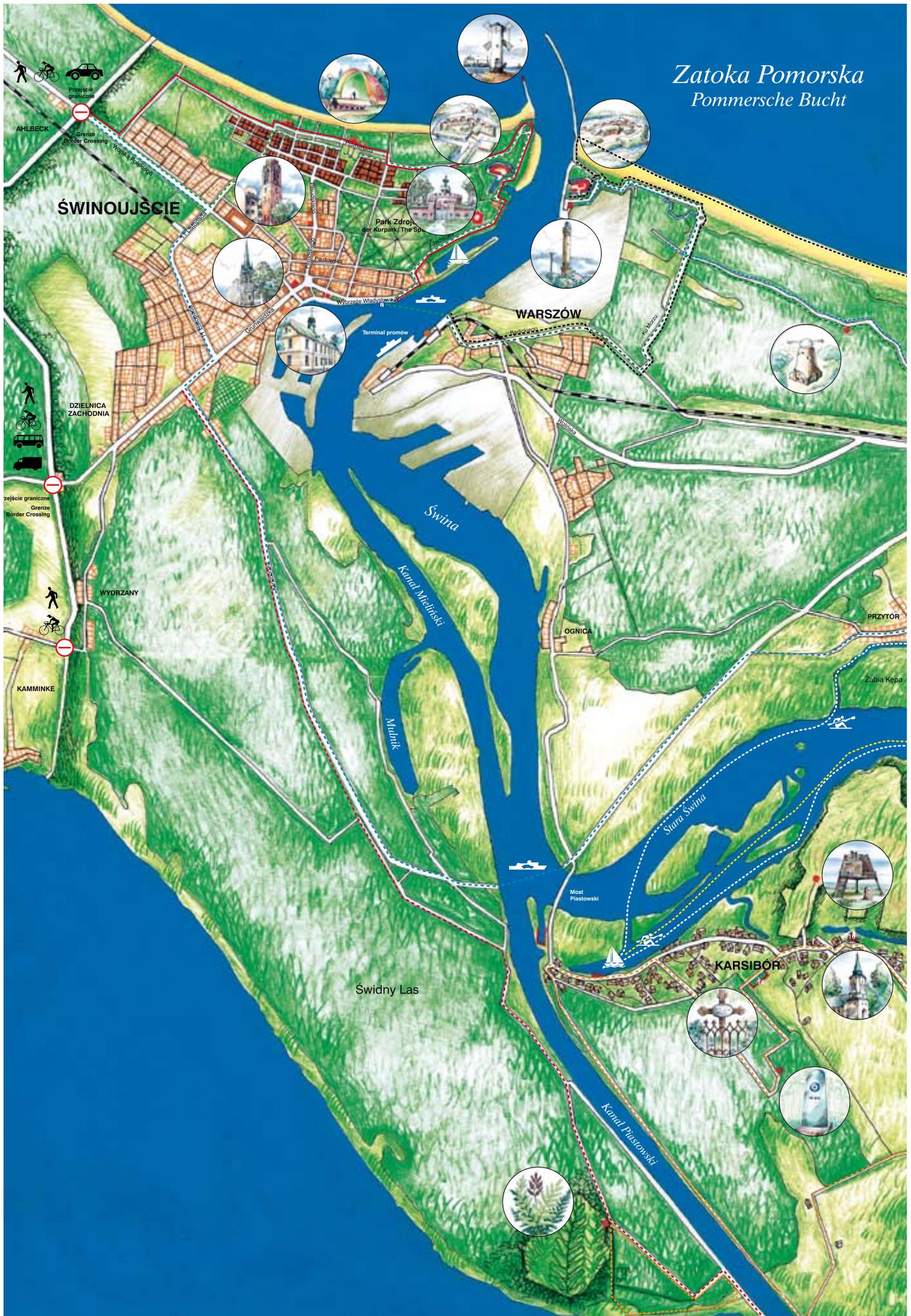
Among many theme events in the calendar of Świnoujście you can also find sports events, e.g. Sea Tennis Tournament of Stars in which famous actors and stage stars play in tennis matches. The matches are always spectated by a large group of fans. For over 30 years, in the first Saturday of September, Świnoujście has hosted running enthusiasts from the whole country as well as competitors from Germany who come here in order to participate in Świnoujście – Wolgast marathon.



ŚWINOUJŚCIE ORGAN NIGHTS

Those who look for refuge in music should go to International Music Festival Organ Evenings of Świnoujście already held for over a dozen years. From June to the end of August the most eminent virtuosos of this instrument from Poland and abroad present their art. Beautifully sounding antique organs from 1927 in the King Christ Church in Świnoujście are always the true star. In September sounds of Uznam Music Festival are heard on Uznam island during which in churches and concert halls on the German side of Uznam island music from one of Baltic countries is presented. Two concerts of the festival are staged in Świnoujście.

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