

Suwałki



POGODNE
SUWAŁKI

GUIDEBOOK

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Surwatki

GUIDEBOOK

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Invitation to Suwałki 4

General Information 6

About the city 7

Location 7

How to get to Suwałki 8

History and traditions 12

History of the city at the Czarna Hańcza 13

Suwałki architecture 17

Arts and customs 25

Famous sons and daughters of Suwałki 31

Sightseeing and cultural events 36

Suwałki Cultural Paths 37

Cultural institutions 67

Cultural events 75

Attractions for children 77

Stay Active in Suwałki 79

Sports and recreational facilities 84

Bike paths and trails 94

Around Suwałki 96

Wigry National Park 97

Suwałki Landscape Park 101

Other attractions of the Suwałki Region 107

Practical information 114

Public transport 115

Parking lots 115

Accommodation 115

Food 116

Useful addresses and phone numbers 118

Shopping and souvenirs 120

Events calendar 120

Index 125

Table of content

Invitation to Suwałki

Dear Reader, thank you for choosing our guide. We hope that this concise but very informative publication will help you discover one of the most charming and beautiful regions of Poland. Through this guide, we want to encourage you to take a closer look at Suwałki, its attractions and tourist offering. We would like to show you around our town and the region, and take you to both well- and little-known places. We want this guide to be a pleasant and practical companion both for tourists visiting our region, and for locals taking a stroll through their town - a go-to source of information on all things related to Suwałki.

The first chapter describes Suwałki's unusual location and provides useful tips on convenient ways to get there. On subsequent pages, you will read about the history and architecture of Suwałki, the local traditions and famous people who were born in the city. The chapter on local attractions and cultural offering includes suggested walking routes, description of tourist trails, buildings and facilities, and the most important cultural events. For people preferring to spend their free time exercising, the chapter *Stay Active in Suwałki* provides comprehensive information on the local sports and recreation facilities, as well as a number of interesting places around the city, and the attractions of Wigry National Park and Suwałki Landscape Park. The final chapter of the guide provides practical information, such as the addresses and phone numbers of accommodation facilities, restaurants and bars, and the schedule of events, in order to make your Suwałki experience as convenient and memorable, as possible.

We hope that the information in this guide will make your stay in our scenic region a pleasant and memorable one, and perhaps help you fall in love with it...



General Information

01

About the city 01

About the city

Suwałki is the largest city and informal capital of the Suwałki Region, and the second largest city – after Białystok – of Podlasie Province. It is also the seat of the district authorities. The population of Suwałki is around 70 thousand, with Poles living next door to Lithuanians, Roma and Russian Old Ritualists.

Even if you are just passing through this part of Poland, it is worth making a stop in Suwałki and see the old town, taking one of the Suwałki Cultural Paths (see p. 37) following the town's Classicist architecture, or the many cultures and religions of the region. Suwałki also has a number of art galleries and museums with fascinating exhibitions for visitors of all ages.

Suwałki has a large grid of bike paths and is also located along the Green Velo East of Poland Cycling Trail. Plenty of sports and recreational facilities will keep exercise enthusiasts happily occupied. Every year, the city holds a number of cultural events, the most prominent being the Suwałki Blues Festival.

The city's location makes it the perfect base for trips around our region. Plenty of accommodation options, as well as broad cultural and recreational offering, make Suwałki an important place on the tourist map of Poland.

The city is committed to transborder co-operation with the neighbouring countries, and maintains close contacts with a number of sister cities: Grande-Synthe in France, Alytus and Marijampolė in Lithuania, Waren in Germany, Võru in Estonia, Chernyakhovsk in the Russian Kaliningrad Oblast, and Notodden in Norway. Furthermore, Suwałki partners with the Latvian Amata Municipality, the Belarussian cities of Grodno and Vawkavysk, Poti in Georgia, and Ternopil in the Ukraine.

Location

Suwałki are situated in the Augustów Plain at ca. 170-190 m above mean sea level. The city's area is 65.5 square kilometres, of which 70% is occupied by greenery, including two forest complexes: the Szwałcaria forest (459 hectares) and the Suwałki Forest (323 hectares). The Czarna Hańcza river runs through Suwałki along a 13-km section.

Due to its location near the border of three countries – Belarus, Lithuania and the Russian Kaliningrad Oblast – Suwałki are located at junction of key transport routes connecting Western and Southern Europe with the Baltic states and Scandinavia. The city has been dubbed the gateway to the East and especially in recent years, Suwałki has certainly become one.

How to get to Suwałki

Car

There are two major international transport routes:

- from Berlin through Warsaw to Sankt Petersburg,
- from Warsaw to Helsinki.

The route to Helsinki, known as **Via Baltica**, will eventually connect the Baltic states with Western Europe. Suwałki will be located on the route of **Via Carpatia**, the planned European north-south road connecting Klaipėda, Lithuania, with Thessaloniki, Greece.

Suwałki is also a junction of major national and provincial roads:

- national road no. 8** (part of the international E67 route), which connects the city with Augustów, Białystok and Warsaw to the south, and Szypliszki, Budzisko and Kaunas to the north east;
- provincial road no. 655** connecting Suwałki with Raczek to the south west, and Rutka-Tartak and the Suwałki Landscape Park to the north;
- provincial road no. 652** to Gołdap and the Russian Kaliningrad Oblast;
- provincial road no. 653** to Wigry National Park, Sejny, Ogrodniki, Alytus, Druskininkai and Vilnius to the east, and Olecko, Elk and Olsztyn to the west.

From Warsaw, you can reach Suwałki via the following routes:

- route no. 1 (roads no. E67 and S61): Warsaw – Wyszaków – Ostrów Mazowiecka

– Zambrów – Łomża – Grajewo – Augustów – Suwałki,

- route no. 2 (road no. 61): Warsaw – Legionowo – Pułtusk – Ostrołęka – Łomża – Grajewo – Augustów – Suwałki,
- route no. 3 (roads no. S8, E67 and S61): Warsaw – Wyszaków – Ostrów Mazowiecka – Zambrów – Białystok – Suchowola – Augustów.

BORDER CHECKPOINTS

Suwałki are located near the border of three states: Lithuania, the Russian Kaliningrad Oblast and Belarus.

BORDER CHECKPOINTS NEAR SUWAŁKI

Border checkpoint	Distance from Suwałki
With the Russian Kaliningrad Oblast:	
Gołdap	68 km
With Lithuania:	
Budzisko	28 km
Ogrodniki	43 km
Trakiszek (rail border crossing)	33 km
With Belarus:	
Kuźnica Białostocka	125 km
Rudawka (border crossing on water, Kurzyniec Lock)	56 km

Tips for travellers

- If you are going to **Lithuania**, you need to have a personal identification document. Minors may cross the border using a valid passport or a personal identity card;

- in order to enter the **Russian Kaliningrad Oblast**, you will need valid passport and visa. The visa application may be submitted to the nearest Russia Visa Application Centre (Olsztyn, Gdansk), the Consulate General of Russia in Poland, or via a tourist agency;
- if you are driving from Suwałki to Belarus, the most convenient border crossing is the Raigardas – Privalka Checkpoint near Druskininkai, Lithuania. Travellers must have a valid visa.

Detailed information and visa forms are available at: <http://poland.mfa.gov.by/pl>.

GRODNO REGION WITHOUT A VISA

As of October 26th, 2016, tourists may visit Grodno and its vicinity (on the territory of the “Augustów Canal” Tourist and Recreational Park) without a visa for up to 5 days. In order to enter Belarus, travellers must have:

- a valid passport or another document authorising the holder to cross the state border,
- a document authorising the holder to visit the “Augustów Canal” Park issued by a Belarussian travel agency providing tourist services on the territory of the Park,
- valid medical insurance policy,
- sufficient amount of local currency.

Belarus may be entered from Poland without a visa only through the border checkpoints Rudawka – Lesnaya and Kuźnica Białostocka – Bruzgi. More information available at www.grodnovisafree.by.

How to get to Suwałki 01

In order to travel to other parts of Belarus, you will need a valid passport and a visa.

Bus

Bus connections to Suwałki from the major cities in Poland are serviced mainly by **PKS Nova** (phone no.: +48 875662763, +48 703302505, www.pksnova.pl). **Bus station** in Suwałki is located in the city centre at Utrata 1B street. The ticket office sells tickets for domestic connections.

DIRECT BUS CONNECTIONS

Route	Travel time
Białystok – Suwałki	2.5 hours
Częstochowa – Suwałki	9.5 hours
Elk – Suwałki	1.5 hours
Gdansk – Suwałki	7 hours
Katowice – Suwałki	10.5 hours
Krakow – Suwałki	11 hours
Lublin – Suwałki	6.5 hours
Łódź – Suwałki	8.5 hours
Olsztyn – Suwałki	4 hours
Poznan – Suwałki	10.5 hours
Torun – Suwałki	7.5 hours
Warsaw – Suwałki	5.5 hours
Wroclaw – Suwałki	12 hours

Bus connections from Suwałki to Lithuania (to Marijampolė, Kaunas, Klaipėda, Palanga and Vilnius), Latvia, Estonia and Russia are serviced by international bus lines: **Ecolines** (phone no.: +48 226103366, www.ecolines.net) and **LuxExpress** (phone no.: +48 222095059, www.luxexpress.eu). The coaches of both lines leave from the bus stop Utrata/Dworzec PKS (01) at Utrata 1 street.

International bus tickets can be purchased online using the browsers provided on operators' websites, or in the office of **Polskie Biuro Podróży** (Teofila Noniewicza 48 street, phone no.: +48 875665916, e-mail: pbp.suwalki@pro.onet.pl, suwalki-centrum@wakacyjnyswiat.pl, www.pbpsuwalki.wakacyjnyswiat.pl).

Other operators offering bus connections to and from Suwałki:

- ▶ **SuperPKS** (phone no.: +48 703402800, www.superpks.pl; Suwałki – Warsaw);
- ▶ **ŻakExpress** (phone no.: +48 703202022, www.zakexpress.pl; Suwałki – Warsaw);
- ▶ **Voyager Trans** (phone no.: +48 857445445, +48 513445445, www.voyagertrans.pl; Białystok – Suwałki).

Tickets are also available at www.e-podroznik.pl.

Railway

Train station in Suwałki is located in Kolejowa street, near the city centre. As the ticket office is currently closed; tickets can be purchased online or from the train crew.

Railway access to Suwałki is provided by: **Polregio** trains (phone no.: +48 703202020, www.polregio.pl) and **TLK trains** serviced by PKP Intercity (phone no.: +48 703200200, www.intercity.pl). Tickets for Polregio trains can be purchased at <https://bilety.polregio.pl> and via KOLEO platform (<https://koleo.pl>); tickets for TLK trains can be purchased at www.intercity.pl.

Suwałki has a direct rail connection with Białystok, Warsaw and Krakow, and also with Kaunas in Lithuania (weekends only).

In the future, Suwałki will be one of the stops of the international **Rail Baltica** railway providing fast connection with the Baltic states.

DIRECT RAIL CONNECTIONS

Route	Travel time
Białystok – Suwałki	2 hours
Kaunas (LT) – Suwałki	3 hours
Krakow – Suwałki	7.5 hours
Warsaw – Suwałki	5 hours

Details: www.rozklad-pkp.pl.

Airplane

Within 300 km from Suwałki, there are five international airports: in Kaunas (135 km), Vilnius (196 km), Warsaw (290 km), Modlin (282 km) and Szymany (190 km). Suwałki has a local airfield with a paved 1,320 m long runway, servicing private aircraft. The airfield is managed by the Suwałki Flying School, phone no. +48 602640355, +48 602273255, e-mail: lotnisko.suwalki@gmail.com. Flight tickets can be purchased in **Polskie Biuro Podróży** in Suwałki (see page 10).

Kaunas Airport (KUN), Oro uosto g. 4, Karmėlava 54460 (Lithuania), phone no.: +370 612 44442, www.kaunas-airport.lt. Serviced by WizzAir and Ryanair.

Vilnius Airport (VNO), Rodūnios kl. 1-A, Vilnius 02189 (Lithuania), phone no.: +370 612 44442, www.vilnius-airport.lt.

Chopin Airport (WAW), Żwirki i Wigury 1, 00-001 Warsaw, phone no.: +48 226504220, www.lotnisko-chopina.pl.

Local operators: PKS Nova (see page 9) and Żak Express (phone no.: +48 726103103, +48 887103104, www.zakexpress.com.pl) offer direct transfer from the airport to Suwałki and back.

Warsaw Modlin Airport (WMI), Generała Thomme 1a, 05-102 Nowy Dwór Mazowiecki, phone no.: +48 223151880, www.modlinairport.pl. Local operator Żak Express (see above) provides direct transfer from the airport to Suwałki and back.

Olsztyn-Mazury Airport (SZY), Szyman 150, 12-100 Szczytno, phone no.: +48 895443434, www.mazuryairport.pl. WizzAir and Ryanair provide regular connection with London. Passengers travelling from Suwałki can get to the airport by car (taking provincial roads no. 655 and 661, then national road no. 16 to Elk, national road no. 63 to Pisz, national road no. 58 to Szczytno and national road no. 57 to Szymany).

Tourist Information

In the **Tourist Information Centre** in Suwałki (Księdza Kazimierza Hamerszmia 16 street, phone no.: +48 87 7351059, e-mail: cit@pogodnesuwalki.pl, www.pogodnesuwalki.pl;

I–VI i IX–XII Mon–Fri 8.00 AM – 4.00 PM, VII–VIII Mon–Fri 8.00 AM–6.00 PM, Sat, Sun and holidays 9.00 AM–3.00 PM) you can learn about the local places of interests, recommended restaurants and available accommodation, and leisure options – both indoor and outdoor. The TIC staff will also give you the best options for trips around the region and to Lithuania. They will also advise you on where to spend a lovely night with the music you like, and will tell you the dates and venues of the most interesting events, music concerts, performances, festivals and other cultural attractions in Suwałki and in the region. They will tell you which cycling or hiking trail to choose, advise you on the best kayaking routes in the area and also tell you where to rent a kayak. The Tourist Information Centre offers a broad selection of maps, guides and tourist publications, as well as local souvenirs, postcards and folk handicrafts. The Centre also provides free-of-charge Internet access.

The Centre also organises meetings in Traveller's Club with local adventurers who will share their ways of getting to know the region, but also other countries and cultures.

History and traditions

02

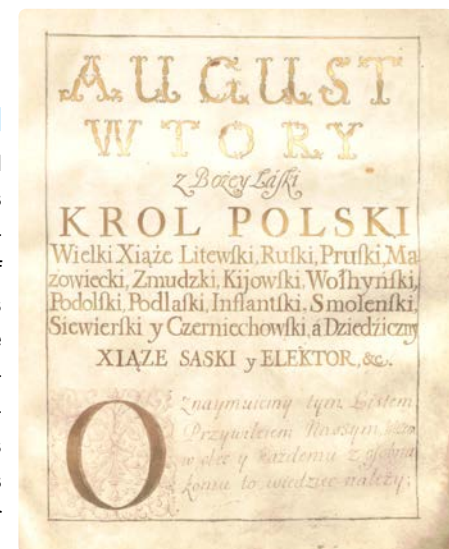
History of the city at the Czarna Hańcza 02

History of the city at the Czarna Hańcza

Centuries ago, the Suwałki region was the land of the Baltic tribe of Yotvingians, also known as Sudovians. When the Teutonic Knights nearly exterminated the Yotvingians at the end of the 13th century, the land would change hands a number of times. After 1422 the area where Suwałki would be eventually founded was incorporated into the Grand Duchy of Lithuania. The ancient, dense forests of these lands were the favourite hunting ground for kings and aristocracy. In 1667, King John II Casimir of Poland bestowed this land on Camaldolese monks who quickly set to work establishing new settlements across their new domain.

Suwałki was founded before 1690; by 1710, Greater Suwałki and Lesser Suwałki had been already established. The town charter, granted to Suwałki in 1715 by the prior of the Monastery in Wigry, was confirmed King Augustus II the Strong in 1720.

Following the third partition of Poland in 1795, Suwałki was incorporated into Prussia. Under the Treaties of Tilsit of 1807, the town found itself in the Duchy of Warsaw, and after the Congress of Vienna in 1815 – in the Kingdom of Poland. Between 1815 and 1915 the town was first made the capital of a province (voivodeship) and then governorate, and became one of the largest cities in the Russian Partition. The population of Suwałki grew steadily; by 1872, the town was the fourth largest city in the Kingdom of Poland. A large portion of the



▲ The Suwałki foundation charter of 2 March 1720, photo: Central Archives of Historical Records in Warsaw.



city's population were Jews; other nationalities included Russians, Germans, Lithuanians and Tatars. The 19th century was a period of growth and expansion for Suwałki, with blooming crafts, trade, services and workshops, and also budding industry. Elementary schools and high schools were established, between printing shops, public reading rooms, bookshops and amateur musical and theatre groups, cultural and artistic life was booming. In 1909, the first museum and the first cinema were opened.

The people of Suwałki actively participated in every attempt to restore Poland's independence, including in the November Uprising of 1830–31, the Martial Law of 1861, the January Uprising of 1863–64, and the Russian Revolution of 1905. During World War I, after Russia's defeat, the city was seized by German troops in 1915. It was not until 24 August 1919 that the Polish troops entered Suwałki and returned the city to the Republic of Poland.

In the so-called interwar period, Suwałki was incorporated into Białystok Province. In 1921, the city had a population of

- ▲ Suwałki seen from the road from Warsaw, lithograph by A. Misierowicz, 1855, photo: Central Archives of Historical Records in Warsaw.
- ▶ The Suwałki brewery in 1960s, photographed by T. Smagacz, photo: Central Archives of Historical Records in Warsaw.
- ▶ Suwałki city plan from 1863, photo: State Archives in Suwałki.
- ▶ Officers of the 2nd Grochow Uhlan Regiment in the barracks in Kawaleryjska street (currently gen. K. Pułaskiego street) around 1930, photo: Archives of the District Museum in Suwałki.

History of the city at the Czarna Hańcza 02



16,780 people, and in 1931 – 21,826. Suwałki was one of the largest garrisons in Poland, with around 6 thousand troops stationing in and around the city, including the 2nd Grochow Uhlan Regiment of General Jozef Dwernicki, the 3rd Chevau-légers Regiment of Colonel Jan Koziatowski, and the 41st Suwałki Infantry Regiment of Marshal Józef Piłsudski.

From 1939 to 1944, Suwałki was under the German occupation. On 23 October 1944, Soviet troops entered the city.

With the administrative reform of 1975, Suwałki was given a second massive growth boost by becoming the capital of the newly created Suwałki Province, the second largest in Poland. In the period of 24 years, Suwałki transformed into

a medium-sized city and its population doubled. However, another administrative reform of 1999 dissolved the Suwałki Province and the city was incorporated as a district into the Podlasie Province. Following the hardships of the economic transformation period and the loss of the provincial capital status, the



▲ Mounting the door sign of the Voivodeship Office in Suwałki in 1975, photo: State Archives in Suwałki.

▼ City anthem and bugle.

economic condition of Suwałki gradually improved, turning the city into a bustling hub of economic, tourist and scientific activities.

SYMBOLS OF SUWAŁKI

Coat of arms of Suwałki

is a red shield with the figures of Saint Roch and Saint Romuald in silver gowns on a yellow base, with three green mountains between them.

On the top of the highest mountain is a golden cross, and at its base, a golden crown. Saint Roch (on the left panel) supports himself on a black staff and has a black dog at his feet.

Flag of Suwałki is a rectangle with a 5:8 width to length ratio. The field of the flag is divided into two bands coloured green and red, with an 8:5 proportion ratio. The coat of arms of Suwałki is placed centrally on the field. The colours of the flag are derived from the colours of the city's coat of arms (i.e. the three mountains and the shield). The flag is two-sided.

The official **bugle call of Suwałki** is *Fanfary suwalskie* (Fanfares of Suwałki), composed by Paweł Łukowiec, who graduated from and now works in the Karol Lipiński Academy of Music in Wrocław. The anthem is a ca. 35-second long composition for trumpets. The **anthem of the city** is the song *Suwałki, moje miasto* (Suwałki, my city). The lyrics were written by Leszek Aleksander Moczulski and the music was composed and arranged by Jacek Zieliński.



be "diverse". The most valuable elements of the historic urban landscape originate from the first half of the 19th century, which was essentially the Golden Age in Suwałki's history. The city's urban development was determined for the next hundred years by the comprehensive regulation plan adopted at the beginning of the century. The responsibility for carrying out the plan fell to acclaimed architects whose accomplishments included representative buildings in Warsaw and elsewhere: Antonio Corazzi, Chrystian Piotr Aigner, Enrico Marconi and Karol Majerski.

The historic downtown of Suwałki, with its largely unchanged 19th-century spatial arrangement, the Classicist Tadeusza

Suwałki architecture

If the architecture of Suwałki was to be summarised with a single word, that word would



Kościuszki street as its main thoroughfare, and the nearby Constitution of 3 May park, is one of the few preserved in Poland to this day. Among the hundred-odd buildings with Classicist architectural elements, there are several dozen of which are true masterpieces. (More information on the historic objects mentioned below, see *Classicist route*, p. 38).



RENOWNED ARCHITECTS IN SUWAŁKI

Antonio Corazzi (born in 1792 in Livorno, died in 1877 in Florence). Corazzi was the preeminent creator of Classicist architecture in the post-Congress of Vienna Kingdom of Poland. He was brought to Warsaw by Stanisław Staszic in 1818 in order to improve Poland's architecture to European standards. Over the next 27 years, Corazzi designed iconic buildings not only in Warsaw, but in other Polish cities as well. His works include, among others: the Staszic Palace in Warsaw, the Grand Theatre in Warsaw, the Palace of the Ministry of Revenues and Treasury in Warsaw, as well as the town hall and the male grammar school in Suwałki.

Chrystian Piotr Aigner (born in 1756 in Puławy, died in 1841 in Florence). Polish architect and architectural theorist, friend and collaborator of Stanisław Kostka Potocki, professor at the University of Warsaw, Aigner's works include the hothouse in the Łańcut Castle, the palace and the Temple of the Sibyl in Puławy, the Radziwiłł Palace in Warsaw (which is currently the official residence of the President of Poland), the church



of St Alexander at Trzech Krzyży square in Warsaw and the church of St Alexander in Suwałki.

Enrico Marconi (born in 1792 in Rome, died in 1863 in Warsaw). Although born in Rome, Marconi considered Poland to be his second homeland. Brought from Tuscany by Count Ludwik Michał Pac, owner of the Dowspuda estate in the Suwałki Region, it took Marconi 20 years to become the most popular and sought-after architects in the Kingdom of Poland. Warsaw owes Marconi such iconic buildings as the Pac Palace in Miodowa street, church of St Charles Borromeo, the Warsaw-Vienna Railway Station, and Europejski Hotel; in Suwałki, Marconi designed the church of the Most Sacred Heart of Jesus.

➤ Male grammar school in Suwałki; postcard from the years 1910–14, photo: Archives of the District Museum in Suwałki.

➤ Church of the Most Sacred Heart of Jesus, photo: Archives of the Municipal Office of Suwałki.

➤ Intersection of Kościuszki, 3 Maja (currently Chłodna) and Piłsudskiego streets; postcard from the interwar period, photo: Archives of the District Museum in Suwałki.

One of them is the building located at the intersection of Tadeusza Kościuszki 84 and Chłodna 2 streets, the former **office of the Provincial Commission and Tribunal**, which was probably built in early 19th century. Equally interesting architecture can be found in the **town hall complex**. Located in the south-eastern corner of the town square, the town hall originally had two buildings: a one-storey **guardhouse** (1834–35) with a 4-column porch supporting a triangular tympanum decorated with a cast-iron eagle sculpture, and the **town hall** proper (1842; Antonio Corazzi was one of the designers) with nine façade axes and a gateway, and a steeple built above the gateway along the axis of symmetry of the buildings.

In the city centre, you cannot miss the building of the **former grammar school for boys** (currently a high school) from the 1840s, designed by the incomparable Antonio Corazzi. Between the 1820s and the 1850s, several



dozen sumptuous houses were built along Suwałki's main street, several of which are definitely worth a closer look. The first one, a one-storey building at Tadeusza Kościuszki 31 street, is currently the seat of the **Maria Konopnicka Museum**. Its architecture is very simple, characteristic for the period of 1820s. We can safely assume that the majority of buildings from that period were in similar style. The Museum building's value is mainly as a historical object, rather than an architectural achievement. For architectural value, take a look at the building of the **Old Post Office** (Tadeusza Kościuszki 45 street) with annexes

in the backyard from the 1820s. Right next to the Old Post Office you can see the **house at number 47** with a long façade with eleven axes and rich Classicist decor.

Another interesting building is the large edifice at Tadeusza Kościuszki 89 street, known as the **Banking House**, with a three-storey façade and a massive tympanum. The owner of this and two neighbouring **houses** (at no. 87 and 91), Antoni Sudnik, built them probably in 1838. The **house at Tadeusza Kościuszki 87** street has retained its Classicist character, while the **house at number 91** was remodelled in eclectic style at the turn of the 19th and 20th century. In the vicinity, take a look at the two nearby buildings which are stylistically different – the **church of the Most Sacred Heart of Jesus** (former Orthodox temple) and the seat of the **District Museum**, which was originally a modernist civic club built in the years 1911 to 1914.



Another group of valuable historic objects in Suwałki are the temples. In the years 1820–25, the Classicist **church of St Alexander** was built, designed by Chrystian Piotr Aigner, which later underwent a number of reconstructions, among others after 1845 according to the design prepared by Enrico Marconi. In the late 1840s, the Classicist **Protestant church of the Holy Trinity** was built (designed by W. Ritschel and K. Majerski).

Other characteristic historical objects in Suwałki include the four **barracks complexes** built in the last quarter of the 19th century in Russian-Byzantine style, and the **cemeteries**: the **Roman Catholic** cemetery with a Gothic Revival chapel (1853–54, designed by

▶ Town Hall in Suwałki; postcard from the interwar period, photo: Archives of the District Museum in Suwałki.

▶ Church of St Alexander; postcard from the interwar period, photo: Archives of the District Museum in Suwałki.

▶ Protestant church of the Holy Trinity. Photo: Archives of the Municipal Office in Suwałki.



▶ Eastern Orthodox cemetery, photo: K. Majerski
▶ Map of the Roman Catholic cemetery from September 1902, photo: State Archives in Suwałki.

▶ View of Targowa and Moskiewska (currently Maria Konopnicka square) streets; postcard from ca. 1912, photo: Archives of the District Museum in Suwałki.



K. Majerski), an old tree stand and numerous historic headstones; the **Orthodox** cemetery with valuable architectural elements from the second half of the 19th century and the adjoining **Old Ritualist** cemetery; the **Jewish cemetery** with several ruined matzevahs; and the **Protestant** and **Tatar** cemeteries.

Suwałki also has plenty of **contemporary architecture** from more recent years, including the seat of the Suwałki Municipal Culture Centre, the aquapark, Suwałki Arena, the buildings of the Science and Technology Park, "Plaza" Shopping Mall, and Loft 1898 Hotel. An interesting example of the changing appearance and function of a public space over the centuries is the current Marii Konopnickiej square.

Arts and customs

Suwałki and the Suwałki Region are well-known for their rich variety of customs and traditions, and diverse arts born from the intermingling of borderland cultures. All nations living in the area have contributed to this unique cultural melting pot.

Culinary traditions

The culinary tradition is an important element of the local heritage. Traditional cuisine served in the restaurants, bars and tourist establishments of the Suwałki Region is

based on fresh local products and acclaimed for its amazing taste. What's important, the local restaurants, butcher's shops and bakeries are preparing their meals and products using traditional recipes and methods.

Kartacze (cepelinaĩ), potato *babka* and Polish potato sausage, *kalduny*, Lithuanian *blini* and lentil buns are served as part of everyday diet, and the recipes are family heirlooms to be passed over from generation to generation. Other local specialties include the *sękacz* (spit pie), the ant hill cake or bread baked on dried calamus leaves. Local cuisine also makes good use of the fish living in the lakes of the region, with smoked vendace and whitefish considered to be the most delicious. Locals also make excellent cow and goat milk cottage cheeses and maturing cheeses.

Music

For almost 70 years, Suwałki is the home of one of Poland's oldest folklore music groups, the "**Suwałszczyzna**" **Song and Dance Ensemble**, popularising the local folk culture through performances on concerts, festivals and tours in Poland and abroad, including in Lithuania, Belarus, the Ukraine, Latvia, Estonia, France, Germany, Russia, Belgium, Georgia and Turkey.

The musical landscape of the city is complemented by the Municipal Concert Band and the Suwałki Chamber Orchestra. The members of **Municipal Concert Band**, established in 1997, are the students and graduated of the local State Music School in Suwałki, as well as musicians from the city and the region. The concert band aims

▶ Suwałki Municipal Culture Centre.
Photo: K. Mierzejewski

▶ The aquapark, photo: K. Mierzejewski



to kindle patriotism of the local youth, reinforce the local identity and popularise the knowledge of history of the city and the region. The band is often invited as the guest of honour to various events organised by Suwałki's partner cities, and provides the musical background for various local occasions, such as national holidays and ceremonies held by the local schools and institutions. The concert band also opens the national and international sports events organised by the city of Suwałki.

The **Suwałki Chamber Orchestra** was created in July 2007 at the initiative of the Mayor of Suwałki, Józef Gajewski, and the local composer and conductor, Grzegorz Bogdan. The orchestra performs at classical music concerts as part of the Suwałki Philharmonic cycle, which showcases selected music genres, periods or creators, while proving that classical music does not always have to be dead serious. The Suwałki Chamber Orchestra accompanies the finest Polish and international soloists, and works, among others, with the Białystok City Choir and the acclaimed Cantilena female choir from Suwałki.

- ▶ Kartacze, a local culinary specialty, photo: Archives of the Municipal Office of Suwałki.
- ▶ „Neighbours at the table” International Culinary Festival, photo: K. Mierzejewski
- ▶ Suwałszczyzna Song and Dance Ensemble, photo: Archives of the Suwałki Municipal Culture Centre



Handcraft and folk art

The handcraft tradition in the Suwałki Region dates back to the times before the dawn of mass production, when the majority of everyday items and appliances had to be made on one's own. Even though today

you can manufacture and buy pretty much everything you need, the handcraft in the region is not going anywhere. The most popular crafts are basket weaving using a variety of materials, such as wicker, roots, straw or slats, and fabric weaving on looms creating decorative cloths, bedspreads and carpets. Pottery and barrel-making are faring somewhat worse, as the tradition of decorating wooden pots and window shutters has all but disappeared. Fortunately, the

- ▶ Handcraft, photo: K. Mierzejewski
- ▶ Suwałki Chamber Orchestra, photo: P. Kopciał
- ▶ The blacksmith's workshop "Szwajcaria" Yotvingian Archaeological Festival. Photo: J. Siemaszko



Famous sons and daughters of Suwałki 02

tradition of egg-painting for the Easter is still alive and strong.

If you want to learn the customs and folk art of the Suwałki Region, head to the local museums and regional chambers. The **District Museum in Suwałki** (Tadeusza Kościuszki 81 street) has a vast collection, including the ethnographic section which contains a large variety of folk textiles and cloths, and other traditional hand-crafted products, as well as ritual items and folk art. The museum organises various events to popularise the customs and history of the Suwałki Region, such as the "Szwajcaria" Yotvingian Archaeological Festival. (More information on the Museum – see p. 67).

Famous sons and daughters of Suwałki

Suwałki has been the hometown for many prominent figures known both in Poland and abroad.

Maria Konopnicka née Wasiłowska (1842–1910). A great poet and novelist, Konopnicka was one of the most important voices in the history of the Polish literature. Born in Suwałki, her family moved to Kalisz when she was seven. She was the

author of the lyrics of the Polish patriotic song *Rota* ("The Oath"), starting with the famous declaration "We shall not forsake the land whence we came from...", widely considered to be the second Polish national anthem. Konopnicka was best known for her works in children's literature which brought her recognition and fame. Maria Konopnicka Museum in Suwałki, opened in 1973, is located in the building she was born in (Tadeusza Kościuszki 31 street). She is also the patron of the High School No. 1, Suwałki Public Library and one of the squares in the city.



▶ District Museum, The Oldest Times exhibition, photo: Archives of the District Museum in Suwałki

▶ "Szwajcaria" Yotvingian Archaeological Festival, photo: W. Arasimowicz

▶ Maria Konopnicka statue, photo: K. Mierzejewski

KONOPNICKA'S CHILDHOOD MEMORY

[...] The first ever cemetery that I came to know was the so-called "Little Graves" in Suwałki. When the bells would toll in town, not those bright and joyful, calling the people to Mass, but those groaning and moaning: „O!... O!... O!...” – we would run as fast as we could through the garden, all the way down to the Hańcza, and we would keep looking until lights would appear on the other bank, moving regularly, one by one, as if somebody strung the stars and was praying the Rosary with them. If there was wind, you could even hear the singing. But not ordinary singing of the variety you could hear at the piano, but other, dark and mournful, which would be saying:

“Oh, how woeful is the grave!... Oh, how woeful is the casket!...

And other voices would respond:

“Lord! Lord! Lord! Have mercy on our souls!

Sometimes, your heart would squeeze listening to those woes.

In the spring and in autumn, when the Hańcza would rise, lights would swarm in the water and flow down the river, and disappear in the reed. Then we would go home, in secret or openly [...]

On spring evenings, white mists would rise from the river and fill the air like white wisps. Marynka the maid used to say that the wisps were “little souls”. Sometimes, they would fill the entire garden. Nothing special, someone might say. Just a little mist, that’s all. But if you peered closely, especially if the Moon was shining, you could clearly see the shadows moving among the trees, lurching, fading away and appearing again, like tall white figures shuffling their feet.

Maria Konopnicka, *Z cmentarzy* (“From the Cemeteries”) [in:] idem, *Trzy nowele* (“Three Novellas”), Suwałki 1992, pp. 71–75.

Andrzej Wajda (1926–2016), an accomplished film director, co-creator of the Polish Film School, recipient of an Honorary Oscar and numerous international film awards, was born in Suwałki and spent his first years here. He returned to the Suwałki Region in late 1990s to shoot some scenes for *Pan Tadeusz*; in 2000, he was awarded Honorary Citizenship of Suwałki. Some of Wajda’s greatest accomplishments are adaptations of Polish literature.

ANDRZEJ WAJDA'S CHILDHOOD IMAGES

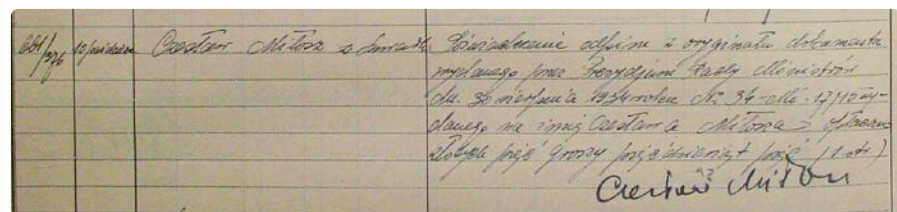
[...] My first childhood memories are related to the garrison in Suwałki... It was a large garrison, combining multiple regiments, including several cavalry regiments. No wonder, then, that my childhood included military parades, the cavalry marching band, a mounted gun squad in full gallop... I am one of the few people who have seen with their own eyes the cavalry training, with sabres and lances, vaulting, the whole regiment skiing back to barracks, funerals with the casket on the gun-carriage – those images were ingrained in me and it would be impossible for them not to percolate my films. But I think I haven't yet made full use of those experiences; maybe, one day, I'll be able to make a film about a remote, backwood garrison [...].

Those weren't the cavalry units you see in London at the changing of the guards; they were true cavalymen, trained to fight and destroy their enemy in combat. They were real people, people I saw, liked and knew, not some re-enactment group. So how could I not have accepted them?

I regret I wasn't able to do them justice in *Lotna*.

Wajda mówi o sobie: wywiady i teksty (“Wajda on himself: interviews and texts”), Kraków 1991, pp. 19, 48.

Famous sons and daughters of Suwałki 02



Czesław Miłosz (1911–2004) was born in Lithuania, but his youth ties with the Suwałki Region were close and significant. Between 1926 and 1937, the parents of the future winner of the Nobel Prize in Literature lived in Suwałki. Miłosz often spent his summer holidays in Krasnogruda with his aunts from the Kunat family; he reflected those experiences in his works and returned to them in many interviews. After winning the Nobel

Prize in Literature for 1980, he visited the Suwałki Region in 1989 and then returned several times.

RETURN

In my old age, I decided to return to the places where my early youth roamed.

I recognised the scents, the lines of the glacial hills, the oval bowls of the lakes.

I ploughed through the thicket where the park once used to be, but I found no trace of the alley.

I stood by the water and just like before, the waves would flake on the water; inconceivable identity, inconceivable separation.

And yet I shall not disown you, wretched young-

▲ Andrzej Wajda, photo: Archives of the Municipal Office in Suwałki

▲ Czesław Miłosz's signature, kept in the State Archives in Suwałki, photo: State Archives in Suwałki

ling, and shall not call the reasons of your torment foolish. [...]

Just for you – I nod and look at the lake – just for you, for millennia now, so the beauty of the earth be praised [...].

Czesław Miłosz, *Dalsze okolice* ("Remote places"), Kraków 1991, pp. 54–55.

Born in Suwałki, **Alfred Wierusz-Kowalski** (1849–1915) became one of the most sought-after Polish artists in Europe and an honorary professor at the Munich Academy of Fine Arts, who set the trends in European painting. You can still see the house he was born in (Tadeusza Kościuszki 16 street), and the District Museum has a number of his paintings on display.

Honorary Citizenship of Suwałki was also awarded to **Professor Edward Franciszek Szczepanik** (1915–2005), born in Suwałki and a graduate of the Suwałki gymnasium, who went on to become the last Prime Minister of the Polish government in exile in London (he is buried in the cemetery in Bakalarzewska street) and **Andrzej Strumiłło** (1927–2020), artist, poet and commentator known in Poland and abroad.

Suwałki was the home of the parents of an acclaimed Polish musician, famous composer and conductor **Emil Młynarski** (1870–1935), who was born in Kybartai, Lithuania.

Jerzy Lalewicz (1875–1951), professor of the Vienna Conservatoire (since 1912) and recipient of multiple awards in international piano competitions, was a graduate of the Suwałki gymnasium. His brother **Marian Lalewicz** (1876–1944) was a professor

of the Academy of Fine Arts and Institute of Communication in Sankt Petersburg, Russia.

Another student of the Suwałki gymnasium, an engineer and friend of the poet Cyprian Kamil Norwid **Mieczysław Geniusz** (1853–1920) was one of the builders of the Suez Canal. **Kazimierz Białaszewicz** (1882–1943), son of a Suwałki barrister, was one of the preeminent Polish experts in comparative biochemistry and physiology.

The "golden book" of the most distinguished graduates of the Suwałki gymnasium includes the name of **Karol Brzozowski** (1821–1904), Polish independence activist, scientist, poet and father of the two notable poets of the Young Poland movement, Stanisław and Wincent Korab-Brzozowski.

Another graduate of the Suwałki gymnasium, **Kazimierz Kulwiec** (1871–1943), was a scientist, teacher co-founder of the Polish Sightseeing Society. The family of the great Polish actor **Jan Ciecierski** (1899–1987) also lived in the city at the Czarna Hańcza, in Tadeusza Kościuszki street (where number 82 is currently located).

Lechosław Marszałek (1922–91), author, screenwriter and director of cartoons, including the legendary Polish series *Reksio*, was born in Suwałki.

Leszek Aleksander Moczulski (1938–2017), an acclaimed poet, playwright and lyrics author, was born in Suwałki and graduated from the local high school. He published a number of books of poems and his *Księga psalmów dla dzieci małych i dużych* ("Book of Psalms for children big and small") with music

Famous sons and daughters of Suwałki 02

composed by Jan Kanty Pawluśkiewicz is a beautiful and moving oratory.

One of the most influential figures in Poland in the first half of the 20th century was the Suwałki-born **Aleksandra Piłsudska** née Szczercińska (1882–1963), the second wife of Marshal Józef Piłsudski. The legendary No. 303 Squadron RAF during the Battle of Britain in 1940 was commanded by **General Witold Urbanowicz** (1908–96), one of the greatest aces in aviation history and also a student of the Suwałki gymnasium. The commanding officer of No. 317 Polish Fighter Squadron, which also fought in the Battle of Britain, was another distinguished aviator from Suwałki, **Mayor Józef Brzeziński** (1909–42).

Another graduate of the Suwałki gymnasium, **Colonel Adam Koc** (1891–1969), fought for Poland's independence and in the Polish-Soviet War, and later went on to become a Sejm deputy, a minister in the Polish government in exile, and after World War II, co-founded and headed Józef Piłsudski Institute of America. **Divisional General Henryk Minkiewicz-Odrowąż** (1880–1940), born in Suwałki, in 1924 was appointed the commanding officer of the Polish Border Protection Corps. **Lieutenant Colonel Zygmunt Ryłski** (1898–1945), who was born in Suwałki and served as the commanding officer of the machine gun company of the 41st Infantry Regiment in Suwałki, went on to become the commander of the Sub-district of Praga of the District of Warsaw of the Home Army (*Armia Krajowa*). He was murdered in the German concentration camp Stutthof.

Suwałki also had a number of distinguished Jewish citizens. In the 19th century, a well-stocked bookshop and printing works was established in Suwałki by **Leon Hollaenderski** (**Leib Ben Dawid**; 1808–78), a friend of Polish independence activist, Joachim Lelewel. Another bookshop and a reading room in the city was created by **Samuel Orgelbrand** (1810–68), a bookseller and printer from Warsaw, who published the famous 28-volume *Encyklopedia powszechna* ("General Encyclopaedia").

Moris Rosenfeld (1862–1923), who left Suwałki in 1886 for the United States, was one of the forefathers of the Yiddish language and the author of the lyrics to the song *My little son*, popular among the English, German and Jewish proletariat in the U.S.

The last rabbi of Suwałki, **Dawid Lipszyc** (1907 or 1906–1993), after World War II became one of the head rabbis in New York City and the headmaster of the most renowned New York yeshiva (Jewish educational institution). Suwałki was the home town of the parents of **Maurice (Moshe) Bokanowski** (1879–1928), a deputy to the French Parliament and the minister in the French government. **Aaron Szejnman** (1886–1937) was born in Suwałki in a wealthy banker's family, and went on to become the director of Gosbank (the central bank of the Soviet Union).

The Minc house at the corner of Tadeusza Kościuszki street and Jatkowa (currently Ludwika Waryńskiego 2 street) was the home of Mordecai (Mordechel) and Hadasa-Leja Stern, parents of **Abraham Stern** (1907–42), a poet who fought and died for the establishment of the State of Israel.

Sightseeing and cultural events

03

Suwałki has plenty of interesting sights and attractions to offer to a broad audience, from architecture lovers and visitors interested in the history of the borderland, to people looking for a good time outdoors and in the local cultural establishments. Suwałki is also a great destination for a family holiday combined with going on quests to solve various puzzles, or... treasure hunting.

Suwałki Cultural Paths

A long street lined with low tenement houses, the magistrate building, the park, the church... Whether you are walking around Suwałki for the first time, or you already know the city like the back of your hand, take a moment and use your imagination to

go two or three centuries back in time, go to the Constitution of May 3 Park, which was once a bustling market square, and follow the history of the people and their cultures, buildings and institutions...

The Suwałki Cultural Paths will take you back in time to the 19th-century city. There is no need to hurry. Time seems to have flowed back then instead of flying anyway... Travelers on the road from Warsaw to Sankt Petersburg changed horses in their carriages in Suwałki and spent the night in one of the city's hotels, went shopping in Jewish shops and stalls, and shared the news of the world with the locals over a pint in one of the 40 alehouses. In the 19th-century Suwałki, there was always time for a walk on the banks of the Czarna Hańcza, to admire the works of the greatest architects of the day, and to enjoy fragrant tea from a samovar.



▲ Tadeusza Kościuszki street, photo: Archives of the Municipal Office in Suwałki.

The routes suggested in this chapter together spin an extraordinary tale of the city. They will help you follow the footsteps of distinguished figures from Suwałki whose importance to the Polish culture cannot be overstated, take you back to the Classicist period in the city's architecture, and perhaps even allow you to experience the echo of the multicultural melting pot that was Suwałki in the past.

On historic buildings and around places of interest, look for information plaques in Polish and English, and QR codes which will allow you to read more about the given object, or listen to an audio recording of the information.

Classicist route

Adama Mickiewicza street – Tadeusza Kościuszki street – Marszałka Józefa Piłsudskiego square – Księdza Kazimierza Hamerszmita street

The 2-km long Classicist path will take you through the city centre, following mainly Tadeusza Kościuszki street – the key thoroughfare of the Suwałki old town. The route has 21 stops allowing you to admire the Classicist buildings – churches, the town hall and the quaint houses from the 19th and early 20th century, designed by the most renowned architects of the day, each with its own, unique history. The Classicist path will also take you to places related to famous denizens of Suwałki, such as Maria Konopnicka,

Alfred Wierusz-Kowalski, Edward Szczepanik, Lechosław Marszałek, as well as Czesław Miłosz's family.

CLASSICISM

Classicism was a style in art and architecture based on and emulating the culture of ancient Greece and Rome, which became popular in some European countries in the 18th and 19th century. Classicist architecture was inspired by ancient Greek and Roman buildings, such as the temple of Zeus in Olympia, the Pantheon in Rome, the temples in Tivoli, and the triumphal arches of Rome. Classicism was born during the Enlightenment and was closely associated with the concept of rationalism which strived for harmony, symmetry and rhythm. Classicist architecture was characterised by sparse expression, balanced composition and tranquillity, as opposed to the extravagance of Baroque. The followers of the Classicist art believed it to be an embodiment of perfection.

The key characteristics of Classicist architecture included:

- circular and square plans,
 - using the orders of classical architecture: Doric, Ionic, Corinthian and Tuscan,
 - the abundance of columns, pillars and pilasters,
 - large, square windows,
 - colonnades and porticos crowned by triangular pediments,
 - dominance of straight-lined façades without bends and flourishes, as opposed to Baroque.
- Typical Classicist objects were usually public utility buildings, such as schools and theatres, as well as big city tenement houses. Another characteristic feature of this style are urban arrangements with large squares and wide thoroughfares.



1. CHURCH OF THE MOST SACRED HEART OF JESUS

Adama Mickiewicza street

The church was built in the years 1838 to 1840 according to the design prepared by Enrico Marconi and the guidelines provided by Konstantin Thon (who designed the Cathedral of Christ the Saviour in Moscow). Originally, the temple was the Orthodox church of the Dormition of the Mother of God (*Uspensky sobor*) built on a Greek cross plan, with the main dome located above the intersection of the naves. Due to the growing numbers of parishioners, the church underwent expansion in 1873, losing its original body with four small domes crowning low steeples. The current southern section was added and the domes were replaced with tall steeples. Taken over by Roman Catholics in 1915, the church underwent another reconstruction in 1923.

The temple has retained its outstanding acoustics, typical for Eastern Orthodox churches where multi-voice chanting is the "multiplication of prayer". For many years, the church provided pastoral care to local gymnasium students.

2. FORMER GRAMMAR SCHOOL FOR BOYS

Adama Mickiewicza 3 street

Built in the years 1843–46, the gymnasium was designed by Antonio Corazzi, one of the leading Classicist architects. Initially a grammar school for boys, today it is the seat of **Maria Konopnicka High School No. 1.**



The history of the school dates back to 1835. Its graduates included such prominent figures as Karol Brzozowski, Andrzej Miłosz, Edward Szczepanik, Kazimierz Kulwiec and Mieczysław Geniusz.



The 51-m long front façade is a textbook example of Classicist principles, with visible symmetry and harmony of the building's plan, and great attention to details. The main axis of the building is emphasised by a two-storey, wide *avant-corps* with a triangular pediment. The first storey has three tall, arch windows. The façade is flanked on both sides by smaller *avant-corps*, also with pediments. The main entrance leads to a large, polygonal hall which has retained its historical character. Adjacent to the main building are two one-storey wings, which in turn

lead to the former chapel, now used as the assembly hall.

3. TOWN HALL AND THE OLD GUARDHOUSE

Adama Mickiewicza 1 street

The 19th century was a period of rapid growth for Suwałki, both economic and architectural, symbolised by the new, Classicist town hall. The town hall (built in the years 1843 to 1844 in Tadeusza Kościuszki street) and the guardhouse (1834–35 in Adama Mickiewicza street) were probably designed by Antonio Corazzi and expanded in the years 1855 to 1857 by Karol Majerski. Typically for all state buildings of that period, the façade of the **town hall** was bright yellow with white cornices.

- ▶ Town Hall, photo: K. Mierzejewski
- ▶ Church of the Most Sacred Heart of Jesus, photo: Archives of the Municipal Office in Suwałki
- ▶ Maria Konopnicka High School in Suwałki, photo: Archives of the Municipal Office in Suwałki



The architectural style of the façade is clearly Classicist, with dominant straight lines and details repeated in regular intervals, almost like a rhythm. A characteristic feature of the building is the 4-column entrance portico.

4. FORMER TAX CHAMBER

Tadeusza Kościuszki 47 street

Built in the 1830s, before World War I this building housed the local Tax Chamber and Suwałki's very first weather station.

The building has retained the main characteristics of Classicist style, with a long, symmetrical façade with 11 axes and carefully made details. The centrally located porte-cochère is emphasised with Ionic pilasters.

5. OLD POST OFFICE

Tadeusza Kościuszki 45 street

In the 19th century, the local Post Office was an important stop on the road between Warsaw and Sankt Petersburg. The apartments on the first floor were used by tzars and other travelling dignitaries.

Built around 1830 and remodelled around 1900, the building is an example of the harmony and symmetry of Classicist architecture. The half columns go up two storeys and are crowned with a large tympanum.

In order to emphasise the scale of the building, the façade is flanked by two portes-cochères leading to the courtyard where carriage horses were changed. One of the portes-cochères has been walled-up,



disrupting the symmetry of this otherwise impressive buildings.

mansions and the burgher houses from the early 19th century.

6. MARIA KONOPNICKA'S HOUSE

Tadeusza Kościuszki 31 street

On May 23rd, 1842, Maria Stanisława Konopnicka, née Wasiłowska, was born in this house. One of Poland's greatest poets and writers, author of *The Dwarves and Little Orphan Mary*, lived here with her family until 1848. Today, the house is a museum of Maria Konopnicka.

The architecture of the building, with the entrance located on the axis and flanked by columns, drew inspiration from Polish nobility



- ▶ Maria Konopnicka's house, photo: Archives of the Municipal Office in Suwałki
- ▶ Former Tax Chamber, photo: Archives of the Municipal Office in Suwałki
- ▶ Bench at Maria Konopnicka Museum, photo: Archives of the Municipal Office in Suwałki

7. LECHOSŁAW MARSZAŁEK'S HOUSE

Tadeusza Kościuszki 27a street

The house in the backyard was the family home of Lechosław Marszałek (1922–91), the creator of Bolek and Lolek, and Reksio the dog, the most beloved characters of Polish cartoons. Born in Suwałki, Marszałek was a director, animator and screenwriter, and one of the leading figures of the Animated Film Studio in Bielsko-Biała.

The architecture of the brick annex is similar to that of the late 19th-century Russian barracks in Suwałki.

GLOSSARY OF ARCHITECTURE TERMS

Pediment, triangular gable – an eye-catching finial of the colonnade.

Tympanum – the external part of the pediment, either smooth or decorated with a relief sculpture.

Pilaster – a flat element used to give the appearance of a supporting column and to articulate an extent of wall. A pilaster may have all the elements of a typical column, i.e. the plinth (base), the shaft and the capital. Here, the pilaster is designed in Ionic order, with the so-called volutes or "ram's horns".

Cornice – a horizontal moulding on wall with profiled edges. Aside from its practical function (protecting the walls from dripping rainwater), it is also an important ornament, among others separating the storeys of the building.

Avant-corps – an element of the building jutting out from the façade (here with six columns). The

avant-corps enlivens the façade and provides additional room space.

Rustication (bossage) – decorative finishing of the façade wall made by profiling the edges of the stone slabs lining the walls, creating horizontal or vertical indentures emphasising the arrangement of the slabs. It is often applied to plaster, as it lends gravity and loftiness to the façade.

8. PROTESTANT CHURCH OF THE HOLY TRINITY

Tadeusza Kościuszki 12 street

Designed by Wacław Ritschel, the church was built in the years 1838 to 1841. The interior has retained element characteristic for Protestant churches: a pulpit-altar and a timber frame supporting the galleries.

At the turn of the 18th and 19th century, the Suwałki Region saw a rapid growth of Protestant settlements. Today, the church in Suwałki is the only still functioning historical Protestant temple in Podlasie Province.

9. ALFRED WIERUSZ-KOWALSKI'S HOUSE

Tadeusza Kościuszki 16 street

This house is the childhood home of Alfred Wierusz-Kowalski (1849-1915), an artist, one of the most prominent representatives of the so-called Munich school, and recipient of multiple awards and medals in Vienna, Berlin

➤ Mural of Reksio the Dog, photo: Archives of the Municipal Office in Suwałki

➤ The Banking House with architectural elements, photo: Archives of the Municipal Office in Suwałki





and Paris. In his works, he would always return to the landscapes of the Suwałki Region where he spent the first 16 years of his life.

The building is a typical Suwałki Classicist house – a symmetrical structure with seven façade axes and a porte-cochère.

10. PROFESSOR EDWARD F. SZCZEPANIK'S HOME

Tadeusza Kościuszki 46 street

The childhood home of Edward Franciszek Szczepanik (1915-2005), soldier, economist and politician, who during World War II served in General Władysław Anders' army. Szczepanik was the last Prime Minister of Poland in exile (1986–90); On December 22nd 1990 in Warsaw, he and the President of Poland in exile Ryszard Kaczorowski handed over the insignia of power to the newly elected President of the 3rd Republic of Poland, Lech Wałęsa.

The house is a Classicist structure with two storeys and seven façade axes.

11. HOUSE UNDER THE COLUMNS

Tadeusza Kościuszki 62 street

Built by Lewin Białostocki in the 1830s, this Classicist house has a characteristic receded portico with six Tuscan columns on the second floor.

In the 1830s, Leon Hollaenderski (Leib ben Dawid), a famous bookseller, lithographer and printer from the northern Suwałki Region, opened his shop in the building. In mid-19th century, the backyard annex of the house served as a theatre where travelling troupes performed.

▶ Alfred Wierusz-Kowalski's house, photo: Archives of the Municipal Office in Suwałki

▶ Professor Edward F. Szczepanik's home, photo: Archives of the Municipal Office in Suwałki

▶ House Under the Columns, photo: Archives of the Municipal Office in Suwałki





12. OLD BOOKSHOP

Tadeusza Kościuszki 72 street

In 1841, Samuel Orgelbrand (1810–68), one of the most popular publishers in the Kingdom of Poland and the father of the 28-volume

General Encyclopaedia (1858–68), opened a bookshop and book rental there.

The building is a typical Classicist structure, characterised by symmetry, evenly spaced windows, a gable with a tympanum, and the porte-cochère located on the building axis.



13. OLD PROVINCIAL COMMISSION AND TRIBUNAL BUILDING

Tadeusza Kościuszki 74 street

One of the first masonry buildings in the 19th-century Suwałki, it served as the seat of Provincial and Governorate authorities (1817–1915), but had been built before Suwałki was made the capital of the Augustów Province in 1816.

The 49-m long façade has retained perfect Classicists proportions.

Szwejkowski. Inside, you can still see the original furniture and equipment, as well as photographs from the early 20th century. During the interwar period, the sisters Stefania and Jadwiga Zielonkówna opened their well-known reading room and bookshop in the building.

The building itself is a Classicist structure with nine façade axes and a centrally located porte-cochère.

14. PHARMACY

Tadeusza Kościuszki 78 street

The first pharmacy was opened here in the 1840s when the building was purchased by a young pharmacist, Mikołaj Zawadzki. The pharmacy was then inherited by his son Jan, and later by Bolesław and Romuald

15. OLD HOSPITAL

Tadeusza Kościuszki 101 street

Since mid-19th century, this building complex served as two hospitals: the Roman Catholic and the Jewish one. One of the doctors working here was Teofil Noniewicz (1851–1928),

➤ Former bookshop in T. Kościuszki street, photo: Archives of the Municipal Office in Suwałki

➤ Pharmacy in T. Kościuszki street, photo: Archives of the Municipal Office in Suwałki

➤ Former hospital in T. Kościuszki street, photo: Archives of the Municipal Office in Suwałki



a local activist who in 1918 was appointed the first chairman of Suwałki City Council in the 2nd Republic of Poland. One of the city's main streets is named after him.

The left section of the Classicist building was designed by Józef Górecki, and the right probably by Karol Majerski. Today, the building is used by the restaurant Karczma Polska, which serves excellent regional cuisine.

16. THE BANKING HOUSE

Tadeusza Kościuszki 89 street

This house, built in late 1830s, was originally used as a field hospital by the Russian army. By the beginning of the 20th century, the Russians amassed around 10 thousand

troops in Suwałki – it was the second largest garrison in the Kingdom of Poland, after Warsaw. Before 1839, the building was used by the branch of the Bank of Poland.

One of the more sumptuous Classicist buildings in Suwałki, the Banking House has an ornamental façade with a wide, six-column portico crowned with a tympanum.

17. OLD CIVIC CLUB

Tadeusza Kościuszki 81 street

Funded by a community fundraiser, this building was erected in the years 1912 to 1913 for the local Savings and Credit Union. It also served as the seat of multiple clubs and associations, a reading room, the offices



1955, it was taken over by State Archives which use it to this day.

This two-storey building, with a prominent *avant-corps* crowned with a tympanum, fits the Classicist frontage of the street perfectly.

19. CHURCH OF ST ALEXANDER

Marszałka Józefa Piłsudskiego square

Designed by Chrystian Piotr Aigner and built in the years 1820 to 1829, the church is a typical Classicist structure, symmetrical, with a portico and sparsely ornamented. The temple underwent multiple reconstructions and suffered significant damage during World War II. In 1992, Pope John Paul II raised the church to the position of a co-cathedral in the newly established Elk diocese.

of "Suwalski Weekly", printing works, a restaurant and a civic club, after which it took its customary name. In 1919, the civic club hosted the Chief of State, Józef Piłsudski.

In terms of architecture, the building is a combination of Renaissance Revival, Baroque Revival and Classicist Revival elements. Today, it is the seat of the **District Museum**.

18. STATE ARCHIVES

Tadeusza Kościuszki 69 street

This elegant building was erected in the years 1853 to 1855 (front), and 1876 to 1877 (annexes and pavilion). Before 1939, the building was used as a courthouse. In



- District Museum (former Civic Club), photo: Archives of the Municipal Office in Suwałki
- State Archives in Suwałki, photo: Archives of the Municipal Office in Suwałki
- Church of St Alexander, photo: Archives of the Municipal Office in Suwałki



20. MIŁOSZ FAMILY HOME

ks. K. Hamerszmity 10 street

Between 1926 and 1935, the first floor of this house was the home of the Miłosz family: Aleksander and Weronika, and their son Andrzej, younger brother of Czesław Miłosz, the later Nobel Prize in Literature winner, who visited the Suwałki Region a number of times in the 1990s.

This interesting building has nine façade axes, and a three-storey central *avant-corps*.

21. KAROL MAJERSKI'S HOUSE

Księdza Kazimierza Hamerszmity 5 street

This building was the home of Karol Majerski (1800–70), an architect who defined the Classicist style of Suwałki. In the

years 1838 to 1865, he served as the Chief Builder of the Augustów Governorate. In Suwałki, he was responsible for preparing designs for the construction or reconstruction of over 150 buildings, including churches, city houses and public buildings.



▶ The Miłosz family house, photo: Archives of the Municipal Office in Suwałki

▶ Karol Majerski's house, photo: Archives of the Municipal Office in Suwałki

Suwałki Cultural Paths 03

This modest, one-storey building, has the typical features of Classicist architecture: symmetry and regular spacing of windows.

Walking path

Zarzecz street – Arkadia pond – bridge over the Czarna Hańcza – the path at the Czarna Hańcza – Noniewicz street – Maria Konopnicka square – Chłodna street – Kościuski street – Konstytucji 3 Maja park – Wawrzyńca Gałaja street

The 3-km long walking path will take you through the multitude of cultures, religions and natural beauty of Suwałki. The path has seven stops, including, the “cemetery of seven denominations”, the Arkadia pond,

the bridge over the Czarna Hańcza, Chłodna street and Constitution of May 3 park. This path will allow you to see Suwałki as the multicultural frontier city it is, located in a beautiful landscape, at the scenic Czarna Hańcza river and the Arkadia pond.

1. CEMETERIES OF SEVEN DENOMINATIONS

Roman Catholic cemetery. Established at the turn of the 18th and 19th century, it remains the largest cemetery in Suwałki. In 1853, the Gothic Revival **chapel of Transfiguration of Jesus**, designed by Karol Majerski, was built in the middle of the oldest part of the cemetery. The cemetery has historical headstones from the 19th century, as





well as military monuments and tombs, including the monument of the members of the Polish Military Organisation who fell in 1919 fighting for Poland's independence.

Protestant cemeteries. The cemetery was used jointly by the members of two Protestant churches: the Evangelical Church of



the Augsburg Confession (known as Lutherans) and the Evangelical and Reformed Church (called the Calvinist). The Calvinist tombs take up a small, north-western section of the cemetery,

The Evangelicals arrived in the Suwałki Region in the 18th century from the neighbouring Masuria region. The Evangelical Church of the Augsburg Confession of the Holy Trinity

- ▶ Chapel of Transfiguration of Jesus, photo: Archives of the Municipal Office in Suwałki
- ▶ Eastern Orthodox Church of All Saints, photo: Archives of the Municipal Office in Suwałki
- ▶ Protestant cemetery, photo: Archives of the Municipal Office in Suwałki
- ▶ A matzevah (headstone) in the Jewish cemetery, photo: Archives of the Municipal Office in Suwałki
- ▶ Old Ritualists' cemetery, photo: Archives of the Municipal Office in Suwałki



cross plan (i.e. with all arms of equal length). It is currently the seat of the Eastern Orthodox parish. The Eastern Orthodox parish was established in mid-19th century, when Russian officials and their families, and the troops of the local Imperial garrison arrived in Suwałki.

Old Ritualist cemetery. The south-western section of the Eastern Orthodox church is occupied by Old Ritualist tombs. The Old Ritualists were a religious minority in Russia which rejected the liturgical reform introduced in the Eastern Orthodox church in the years 1652 to 1856. Persecuted, they fled Russia and settled in the Republic of Poland and East Prussia; they arrived in the Suwałki Region in the 18th century. Built in the years 1910 to 1912, the **molennaya (house of prayer)** of the Suwałki Old Ritualists is located in Sejneńska street.

Jewish cemetery. The Jewish cemetery (*kirkut*) in Suwałki was established in early 19th century. During World War II, the Germans devastated the cemetery, using the matzevahs (headstones) for construction material. In the 1970s, the cemetery was cleaned up and the surviving matzevahs were placed on the so-called wailing wall.

Until 1939, Jews made up a significant portion of the Suwałki population. Their Classicist synagogue was located in Teofila Noniewiczka street. After World War II, the synagogue fell into ruin and was eventually dismantled in 1956.

Muslim cemetery. The small Muslim cemetery was established in early 20th century for the Muslim troops serving in the





Russian Imperial army. Between mid-19th century and the outbreak of World War I, Suwałki had a large Russian garrison which has a small group of Muslim officers (mainly of Tatar descent). At the beginning of the 20th century, they were granted permission to bury their dead in Suwałki and thus the cemetery was created. However, no headstones have survived there.

2. ARKADIA POND

This man-made water reservoir was created in the marshy bend of the Czarna Hańcza river in early 18th century to serve the Camaldolese mill. In the 19th century, the pond lost its original function and became a place of leisure and recreation. In 1911, the Arkadia Theatre was built nearby, and in 1927, a sports complex was opened. During World War II, the pond was back-filled by the Germans, but later restored by Polish military engineers.

3. BRIDGE OVER THE CZARNA HAŃCZA RIVER

Originally, the bridge over the Czarna Hańcza welcomed travellers arriving in Suwałki from Warsaw. When Suwałki was made province capital in 1816, the city became an important stop on the railroad



between Warsaw and Sankt Petersburg. Along the compositional axis visible from the bridge, an urban complex with a number of Classicist buildings was developed. Created by the most renowned architects of the post-Congress of Vienna Kingdom of Poland, it is one of the best preserved complexes from that period in Poland.

4. FORMER NEW MARKET SQUARE

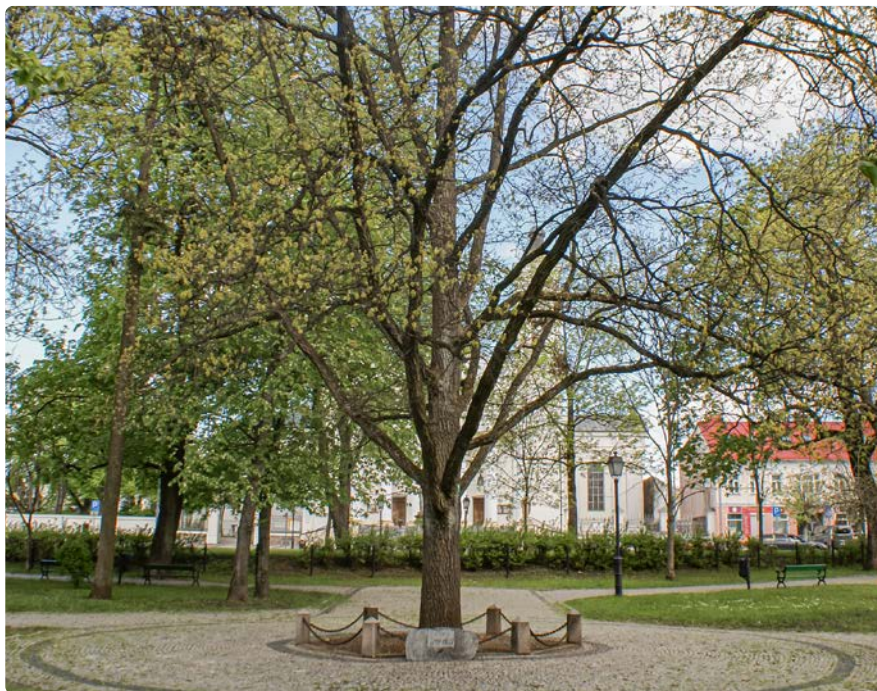
Staked out in early 1820s, the square was referred to as the New Market Square, as it took over the function of the old market square in Tadeusza Kościuszki street, where a municipal park was created. In the 1960s, it was turned into a green area with trees, where in 1963, the sandstone

statue of Maria Konopnicka sculpted by Jan Bohdan Chmielewski was erected. The current bronze statue (by the same author) was uncovered in 2010 to commemorate the great poet's 100th birthday. In 2014, following a reconstruction, the former New Market Square was opened to the public as Maria Konopnicka square.

5. CHŁODNA STREET

Suwałki are often dubbed Poland's Pole of Cold. Even though the summers are often hot (with temperatures rising to 35°C), the winter holds the city in its cold grip from late November to early April. Chłodna (Cold) street owes its name not only to the air temperature – because it is shaded and located along an air corridor, with winds blowing usually from the West, it is often simply... cold there. The promenade street is lined by atmospheric, historical houses, particularly

- Arkadia Pond, photo: Archives of the Municipal Office in Suwałki
- The Czarna Hańcza river, photo: Archives of the Municipal Office in Suwałki
- Maria Konopnicka square, formerly New Market Square, photo: K. Mierzejewski



One of the most interesting features of the park is the **Freedom Oak**, planted in 1923 to commemorate the 132nd anniversary of the Constitution of May 3. Other places of interest in the park include: the **sundial** made in Karol Brzostowski's foundry in the nearby Sztabin, and the **figurine of St Hedwig** from 1862.

THE TEMPLES OF SUWAŁKI

Suwałki has temples of a number of denominations. If you are interested in sacred architecture and religious diversity, you can take the 4.5-km long theme route around with five stops around the city.

In the Eastern Orthodox cemetery (Zarzecz 6 street), you can find the wooden **Eastern Orthodox church of All Saints** (1891–92) built in Russian-Byzantine style. (See p. 55). At Tadeusza Kościuszki 19 street, you will see the **Protestant church** (1839–41) designed by Wacław Ritschel. (See p. 44).

Another interesting historic wooden place of worship is the **molennaya (house of prayer)** (1910–12), the largest Old Ritualist temple in Poland located in Sejneńska street.

Do not miss the two Roman Catholic churches in the city centre. The first one is the **church of the Most Sacred Heart of Jesus** (1838–40) at Adama Mickiewicza 3 street, originally built according to the designs of Enrico Marconi as the Eastern Orthodox church of Dormition of the Virgin Mary. (See p. 40). The second one is the **co-cathedral of St Alexander** (1820–29) in Marszałka Józefa Piłsudskiego square, a Classicist temple designed by Chrystian Piotr Aigner. (See p. 51).

the building at number 16 with its Classicist façade. Chłodna also doubles as the Blues Walk of Fame with benches dedicated to the biggest names of the genre.

6. CONSTITUTION OF MAY 3 PARK

Originally, the park was the town square of Suwałki, with the city's first wooden Roman Catholic church of the Feast of the Cross and a cemetery. Established in the 1820s, the park is a typical example of early 19th-century European municipal park project. It was opened to the public all year: in the summer, it served as a musical concert venue, and in the winter, the alleys were turned into slides.

- ▶ Freedom Oak in the Constitution of May 3 Park, photo: Archives of the Municipal Office in Suwałki
- ▶ Chłodna street, photo: Archives of the Municipal Office in Suwałki
- ▶ Sundial in the Constitution of May 3 Park, photo: Archives of the Municipal Office in Suwałki

The Jewish route

Zarzecze street – Adama Mickiewicza street – Tadeusza Kościuszki street – Wigierska street – Teofila Noniewicz street – Gen. Józefa Dwernickiego street – Tadeusza Kościuszki street

This route will take you to the places important in the history of the Jewish citizens of Suwałki. Unfortunately, not much of the Jewish heritage has survived the turbulent 20th century – the only remains include the historical cemetery in Zarzecze street and a number of houses. Elsewhere on the route, you will have to rely on your imagination. Along the route, there is a number of information boards.

The history of the Suwałki Jews is inextricably connected to the history of the city itself. The first Jewish community was founded in 1821. The Great Synagogue in what is

now Teofila Noniewicz street was built at that time. Regrettably, it was demolished in 1956. The Jewish cemetery was established in the 1920s. Houses of prayer and religious schools were located in the current Teofila Noniewicz street.

The Jewish citizens of Suwałki worked mainly in trade and commerce. They founded the first small factories in the city, such as Ejzyk Lichtensztejn's hat factory, Abram Goldbroch's vinegar factory, or Leopold Kronenberg's tobacco and snuff factories. The Jews in Suwałki ran breweries, tanneries, the mill and many shops.

Their cultural activities were equally impressive – publishing houses, bookshops and reading rooms, as well as photographic studios and the first cinemas in Suwałki: Edison and Momus. The Jewish community had its own schools, a hospital, a senior home, and two athletic clubs – Maccabi and Haszachar.

According to various sources, the Jews made up around one third of Suwałki's population. In 1827, 32% of the citizens were



Seal of the Board of the Jewish Religious Community in Suwałki of 20 June 1925, photo: State Archives in Suwałki, photo: State Archives in Suwałki



MAP LEGEND

1 Jewish Route

1. Jewish cemetery – Zarzecze street
2. Abraham Stern's family house – corner of T. Kościuszki and F. Waryńskiego streets
3. Jewish middle school – T. Kościuszki 47 street
4. Adelson's mill – T. Noniewicz street and the old brewery – Wigierska street
5. Houses of prayer: Beit Jakob and Chewra Midrash – T. Noniewicz street (former Jerolimskie street)
6. Synagogue – corner of T. Noniewicz and L. Waryńskiego streets
7. Stone of Memory – T. Noniewicz street
8. Jewish senior home – T. Noniewicz 42 street
9. Old Jewish hospital – T. Kościuszki 101 street
10. Samuel Orgelbrand's house – T. Kościuszki 72 street
11. Hollander family house – T. Kościuszki 62 street

- Tourist information point
- State Archives
- Museum
- Art galleries, culture centres
- Statues and monuments
- Hotels and guest houses
- Restaurants, bars, cafes
- Cinema
- Parking lot
- Post Office
- Fuel station
- Hospital
- Fire brigade
- Church



Jewish; in 1934, it was around 31% of the overall population. However, after the deportations conducted by the Germans in late 1939, the Jewish community in Suwałki virtually ceased to exist.

1. JEWISH CEMETERY

Zarzecze street

The Jewish cemetery was established in early 1820s as a part of a complex of cemeteries of various denominations. However, only a handful of headstones have



survived World War II. In 1941, the cemetery was destroyed by the Germans who used the stone matzevahs (headstones) as construction material for firefighting water tanks and road kerbs. Around 20 matzevahs still exist, with the oldest dated 1856. In the 1970s, the surviving matzevahs were used to build a lapidarium – the so-called wailing wall commemorating the Jews of Suwałki.

The Jewish cemetery has a separate entrance gate with the Star of David. The large area of the cemetery (3.8 hectares) is a testament to the size of the Jewish population in Suwałki. The cemetery is currently under the care of the Foundation for the Preservation of Jewish Heritage in Poland.

2. ABRAHAM STERN'S FAMILY HOME

corner of Tadeusza Kościuszki and
Ludwika Waryńskiego street

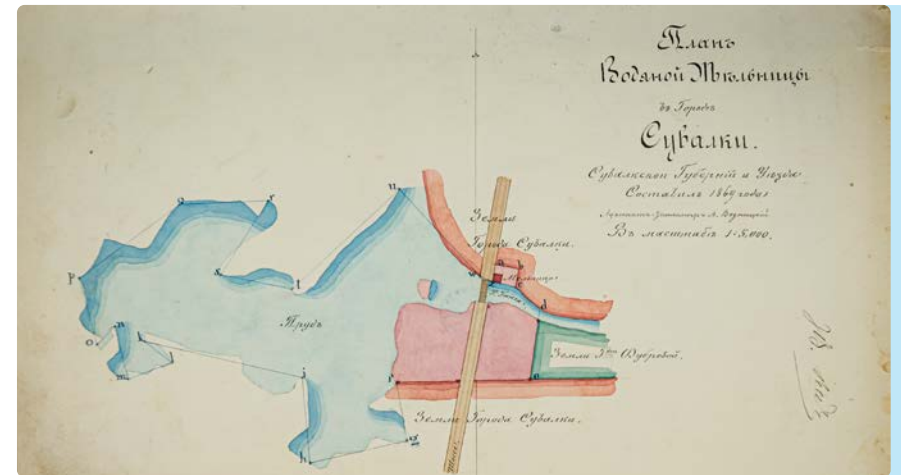
Mordechaj and Hadasa Leja Stern lived in the city house owned by the Minc family. In December 1907, they had their son Abraham who would go on to become a poet, linguist and a fighter for the independent State

➤ Ketubah – a marriage contract between the fiances Mowsza Arie, son of Izrael, and Miss Ita Rejza, daughter of Abraham Izaak, Suwałki, December 1932, photo: State Archives in Suwałki

➤ Jewish cemetery, photo: Archives of the Municipal Office in Suwałki

➤ Plans of the water mill on the Czarna Hańcza river in Suwałki from 1869, photo: State Archives in Suwałki

➤ Excerpt from the share register of Suwalski Browar Udziałowy (Suwałki Equity Brewery) of 14 April 1939, photo: State Archives in Suwałki



of Israel. He died in 1942 in Tel Aviv, killed by the British Police. Dawid Stern, Abraham's brother, was a civil engineer, a government official and the chairman of the Engineers Association. On the wall of the house in Tadeusza Kościuszki street (on the side of

Ludwika Waryńskiego street), you can see a plaque dedicated to Abraham Stern.

3. JEWISH GYMNASIUM

Tadeusza Kościuszki 47 street

Built in the years 1836 to 1839 according to the design prepared by Karol Majerski, in the interwar period this building was used by the local Jewish gymnasium. One of the co-founders of the school was Samuel Mohylawer, the rabbi of Suwałki, and the teaching staff included Szmul Aaron Liberman – published of "Ho-Emes" ("The Truth") magazine.

4. ADELSON'S MILL AND THE OLD BREWERY

Teofila Noniewicz street and Wigierska street

Other remains of the Jewish community in Suwałki include the old brewery, once known as Mr Kunc's brewery, and the water mill owned by the Adelson family.

BROWAR I FABRYKA WÓD GAZOWYCH
„Suwalski Browar Udziałowy“
Spółka z ograniczoną odpowiedzialnością
w SUWAŁKACH.

Adres telegraficzny: „BROWAR UDZIAŁOWY“ SUWAŁKI. Telefon Nr. 15.
Rachunkowy Księgowa w Banku Polskim Nr. 2888. Kanto P. K. G. Nr. 81.746.

Suwałki, dnia 14. kwietnia 1939 r.
Wzrostu Nr 28

Odpis z księgi udziałów spółki z ograniczoną odpowiedzialnością
SUWAŁSKI BROWAR UDZIAŁOWY w Suwałkach

Lp.	Nazwisko i imię	Adres	Wzrostu	Wzrostu
1.	Adelson Josef	Suwałki, Wigierska 45	2	11466,00
2.	Agel Oniej	* Kościuski 16	3	28655,15
3.	Ariewicz Aron	* Piłkowskiego 25	7	40131,00
4.	Kisencowa Rachela	Gorlice	1	5733,03
5.	Pinkisławski I. s-ny	Suwałki, Wigierska 55	7	40131,00
6.	Prydzman I. s-ny	* Kościuski 3	2	11466,00
7.	Prydzman Wiera	* 3 Haja 1	2	11466,00
8.	Non Wacław	* Wigierska 85	4	28930,12
9.	Lipszycowa Helena	* 3 Haja 1	1	5733,03
10.	Suchowalski Cheneł	* Kościuski 36	7	40131,00
11.	Wiesznerek Antoni	Karaczana	2	11466,00

Razem 40 229301,17

SUWAŁSKI BROWAR UDZIAŁOWY
Spółka z ograniczoną odpowiedzialnością
w Suwałkach

Antoni Kunc



5. HOUSES OF PRAYER: BEIT JAKOW AND CHEWRA MIDRASH

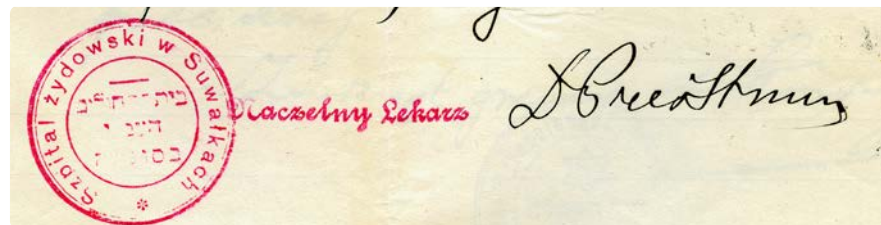
Teofila Noniewiczza street

The houses of prayer were located near the synagogue in Jerozolimska street (currently Teofila Noniewiczza street).

6. SYNAGOGUE

corner of Teofila Noniewiczza and Ludwika
Waryńskiego streets

The Classicist Main Synagogue was built in 1821 in the heart of the old Jewish quarter



known as Małe Raczki. The synagogue, built on a rectangular 30 x 16 m plan, had some very interesting architectural solutions and was one of the most valuable historic objects in Suwałki. After the outbreak of World War II, the Nazis deported the Jews of Suwałki to Lithuania and devastated the synagogue. After the war, the temple fell into ruin and was eventually demolished in 1956.

7. STONE OF MEMORY

Teofila Noniewiczza street

The site of the old synagogue is marked by a stone commemorating the Jewish community of Suwałki. On the stone, there is a plaque in Polish, English and Hebrew saying: "In the memory of around 5,5 thousand Jewish citizens of Suwałki who were murdered during World War II by the German occupants. This is the site of the synagogue

- ▶ Main Synagogue in Suwałki, postcard from World War II period, photo: Archives of the District Museum in Suwałki
- ▶ Doctors and staff of the Suwałki hospital, 1930s, photo: State Archives in Suwałki
- ▶ Seal of the Jewish hospital in Suwałki of 24 July 1925 with the signature of the Head Physician, photo: State Archives in Suwałki

which was devastated by the Germans." The Stone of Memory was officially uncovered on 21 January 2016. The monument was designed by a local architect, Bartosz Żyliński.

8. JEWISH SENIOR HOME

Teofila Noniewiczza 42 street

The senior home was funded in the second half of the 19th century by the Suwałki Jew and philanthropist, Jozsua Burak.

9. OLD JEWISH HOSPITAL

Tadeusza Kościuszki 101 street

The building was the first public hospital in Suwałki, opened in 1842. In 1860, it was handed over to the local Jewish community.

10. SAMUEL ORGELBRAND'S HOUSE

Tadeusza Kościuszki 72 street

In 1841, Samuel Orgelbrand, a well-known Suwałki bookseller and publisher, opened a bookshop and library on the ground floor of his house. Orgelbrand was a Polish Jew and a proponent of cultural assimilation of the Jewish population with Poles. He published books in Polish and Hebrew. In 1858,

he commenced what would become a 10-year long work on publishing Poland's first *General Encyclopaedia*. As a publisher, he was able to skilfully navigate the reefs of the Imperial censorship.

11. HOLLAENDER FAMILY HOUSE

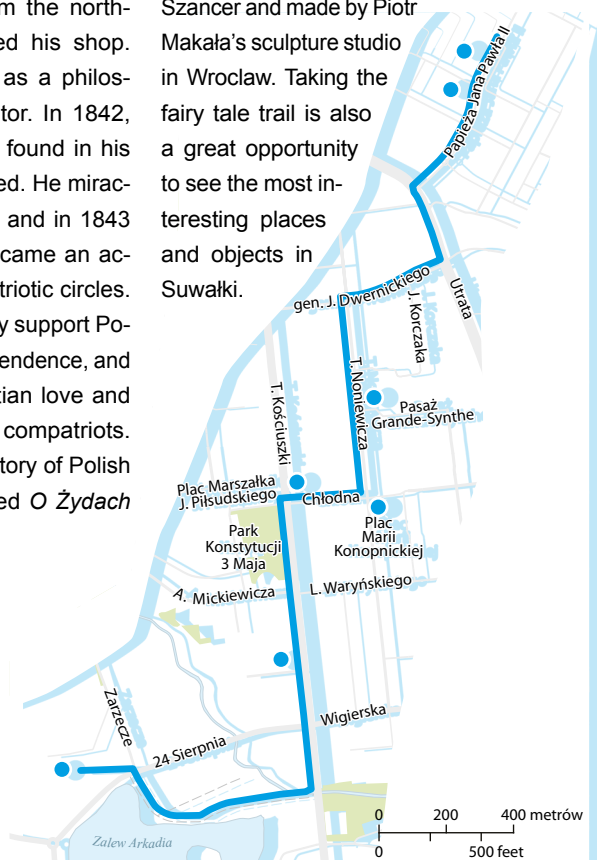
Tadeusza Kościuszki 62 street

In the 1830s, in the building known as the House Under the Columns, Leon Hollaenderski (Leib ben Dawid), a bookseller, lithographer and printer from the northern Suwałki Region, opened his shop. Hollaenderski won acclaim as a philosopher, historian and translator. In 1842, forbidden publications were found in his bookshop and he was arrested. He miraculously escaped from prison and in 1843 fled to France, where he became an active member of the Polish patriotic circles. He convinced Jews to actively support Poland's struggle to regain independence, and urged Poles to show "Christian love and open heart" to their Jewish compatriots. In 1846, he published the history of Polish Jews over the centuries, titled *O Żydach polskich* ("On Polish Jews").

"Dwarves are out there" – Maria Konopnicka memorial tourist trail

To meet ten characters from Maria Konopnicka's seminal fairy tale *On Dwarves and the Little Orphan Mary* in Suwałki, take the "Dwarves are out there" tourist trail.

The dwarves' figures were based on the ethereal illustrations made by Jan Marcin Szancer and made by Piotr Makala's sculpture studio in Wrocław. Taking the fairy tale trail is also a great opportunity to see the most interesting places and objects in Suwałki.



Where to look for the dwarves:

1. **Firebrand**, the consummate herbalist – in front of the administrative building on the football stadium.
2. **Paco and Maco**, the guardians – in front of the entrance to the Maria Konopnicka Museum.
3. **Larkey**, a bird lover – around the fountain in the Constitution of May 3 park.
4. **Underberry**, who above all loves eating – on the street light post in Chłódna street.
5. **King Blink and Cat's Eye** – at the Maria Konopnicka statue, in the heart of the Maria Konopnicka square.
6. **Knot Wood**, the chronicler – Grande-Synthe passage, opposite the "Arkadia" Department Store.
7. **Ceruly**, who loves music and flowers – near the fountain in front of the Suwałki Municipal Culture Centre, at the intersection of Karola Brzostowskiego and Papieża Jana Pawła II streets.
8. **Peyter**, the athlete – in front of the entrance to the aquapark (Papieża Jana Pawła II 7 street).
9. **Puckey** with an ebook reader – in front of the entrance to the Maria Konopnicka Public Library.

Cultural institutions

For a complete Suwałki experience, visit the local museums and art galleries, or go to one of the events organised by the Suwałki Municipal Culture Centre.

District Museum in Suwałki

The museum building dates back to early 20th century and was originally a civic club. Until the outbreak of World War II, the club was the hub of Suwałki's social and cultural life. Between September 12th and 13th, it hosted the Chief of State, Józef Piłsudski.

Since 1975, the building has been the seat of the District Museum. In front of the museum, you can see the obelisk commemorating the great scholar and lover of the Suwałki Region, the Swedish Slavist Knut-Olof Falk (1906–90) and the Swedish Jatvingian Expedition.

The museum's collection is divided between the following departments: Archaeology, Ethnography, History, Documentation of Contemporary History, Geology, Art History, and Literary Culture.

The Archaeology Department, which conducts broad studies of the prehistory of the Suwałki Region and eastern Masuria, has a vast collection of historical items from the Stone Age, as well as items left by Baltic cultures from the early Iron Age to the early Middle Ages. The Ethnography Department collects and studies folk culture artefacts from the Suwałki–Augustów Lake District. The most interesting items in the department's collection include folk textiles and art pieces, ritual items and traditional folk craft. The collection of the Geology Department, much of which has been donated to the museum, includes glacial erratics and fossils from across the Suwałki Region. The History Department gathers items documenting the history of the region, focusing in particular on the 19th



century and the interwar period. The postwar history of the city and the region is the domain of the Department of Documentation of Contemporary History.

The collection of the Art Department includes paintings, sculptures and functional art from the 18th to 20th century. The museum in Suwałki has one of Poland's largest collections of Alfred Wierusz-Kowalski's paintings and sketches, as well as works by Jacek Malczewski, Julian Fałat, Christian Breslauer, Teodor Axentowicz, Leon Wyczółkowski, Stanisław Ignacy Witkiewicz, and a collection of the Meissen porcelain and Art Nouveau glasswork by Émile Gallé. The tasks of the Department of Literary Culture of the Suwałki Region is to preserve the heritage and memorabilia related to literature, writers and the broadly defined literary life of the region and north-eastern Poland in general.

Aside from managing the exhibitions, the Promotion and Popularisation Department organises museum lessons in archaeology, ethnography, art and history of the region which always find a receptive audience among the local children and youth. The museum also publishes various scientific papers and volumes, and hosts scientific seminars.

Apart from various temporary exhibitions, the District Museum in Suwałki also has **permanent exhibitions**: *The Oldest Times* and *Following the paths of history*, and *Alfred Wierusz-Kowalski 1849–1915*.

The exhibition *The Oldest Times. The Suwałki Region and Eastern Masuria from the end of the ice age to the downfall of Sudovia* is a journey through the thousands of years which passed since our region turned from icy desert into tundra where animals and humans could live. The exhibition will take



you through the growth of the rich and unique culture of Western Balts, and the early Middle Ages when the Yotvingians were conquered by the Order of Teutonic Knights.

The exhibition *Following the paths of history* presents the history of Suwałki from the Camaldolese period to modern day, showing various aspects of the region and city, including its multicultural population, the citizens' social, economic, cultural and educational activities, everyday life, the struggle to restore Poland's independence, and the role of the military in the city's history.

The exhibition *Alfred Wierusz-Kowalski 1849–1915* presents the life and works of this great artist in three museum rooms.

▶ Józef Piłsudski's visit in Suwałki, photo: Archives of the District Museum in Suwałki
▶ Exhibition: Alfred Wierusz-Kowalski 1849–1915, photo: Archives of the District Museum in Suwałki

District Museum in Suwałki, Tadeusza Kościuszki 81 street, 16-400 Suwałki; phone no.: +48 875665750; www.muzeum.suwalki.pl; IX–VI Tue–Fri 8.00 AM – 4.00 PM (first entrance at 8.15 AM, last entrance at 3.15 PM), Sat–Sun 9.00 AM – 5.00 PM (first entrance at 9.15 AM, last entrance at 4.15 PM), VII–VIII Tue–Sun 9.00 AM – 5.00 PM (first entrance at 9.15 AM, last entrance at 4.15 PM).

Maria Konopnicka Museum

The house in which the museum is located, was the family home of Maria Konopnicka née Wasiłowska, a well-known Polish poet, novelist and commentator, and one of the greatest authors of children's literature. In the 1970s, her childhood home was turned into her museum. The permanent exhibition *Maria Konopnicka 1842–1910. Behind closed doors* presents the life of Maria Konopnicka and the most important themes of her works.



The museum also organises Q and A sessions with writers, lectures, museum lessons and workshops for children and youth. In the garden at the museum, you can find the fairy-tale Dwarves' Corner (see p. 77).

Maria Konopnicka Museum, branch of the District Museum in Suwałki, Tadeusza Kościuszki 31 street, 16-400 Suwałki; phone no.: +48 875664133; www.mk.muzeum.suwalki.pl; Tue–Fri 8.00 AM – 4.00 PM, Sat–Sun 9.00 AM – 5.00 PM, during summer holidays Tue–Sun 9.00 AM – 5.00 PM.

Military Club

The museum gathers memorabilia of the army units stationed in Suwałki, mainly of the troops of the Suwałki Cavalry Brigade which fought in the Invasion of Poland in September 1939. The collection includes firearms and melee weapons, uniforms and banners. Outside, you can see artillery guns and tanks.

Military Club of the 14th Anti-Tank Regiment, Wojska Polskiego 40 street, 16-400 Suwałki; phone no.: +48 261347382, +48 261347380; <https://14pppanc.wp.mil.pl>; visits must be arranged by phone beforehand.

Maria Konopnicka Public Library

The Maria Konopnicka Public Library in Suwałki gathers, catalogues, stores and makes available its collection, focusing in particular on publications related to Suwałki and the region. The library has around 200 thousand volumes and over 12 thousand registered readers, and also conducts various activities promoting the knowledge of the region, the culture of the written word and the history of books, and cultural education of the local community. The library provides free-of-charge Wi-Fi connection. It is accessible



to the elderly and visitors with disabilities – there is a wheelchair ramp and a lift.

In 2015, a new branch of the library was opened, called **Midicentrum – Creative Centre for Science and Technology**. Midicentrum is an educational facility using state-of-the-art IT technology to organise various workshops and courses for schools, kindergartens, children's clubs and individual guests. These include language courses, computer graphics courses and various workshops, including on robotics and automation, technology, natural sciences, music



and arts, and animation. From Monday to Friday, Midicentrum is used by organised groups; individual visitors can come on afternoons and weekends.

Maria Konopnicka Public Library in Suwałki, Emili Plater 33a street, 16-400 Suwałki; phone no.: +48 875656246; <http://bpsuwalki.pl>.

Library Branch no. 1, Szpitalna 60 street, phone no.: +48 875629474.

Library Branch no. 2, Klonowa 41 street; phone no.: +48 875671109.

Long Night of Museums - Maria Konopnicka Museum, photo: Archives of the District Museum in Suwałki

Maria Konopnicka Public Library, photo: Archives of the Maria Konopnicka Public Library in Suwałki

Midicentrum – a meeting in the library, photo: Archives of Midicentrum in Suwałki



Library Branch no. 3, Północna 26 street; phone no.: +48 875674815.

Midicentrum, Wincentego Witosa 4a street; phone no.: +48 875656247; www.midicentrum.pl.

Suwałki Municipal Culture Centre

The Suwałki Municipal Culture Centre was created in November 2012 by combining the Youth Culture Centre and the Regional Centre for Culture and Arts. It is currently the largest cultural institution in the Suwałki Region and a hub of cultural life of Suwałki.

The culture centre has three floors of workrooms and workshops for cultural and artistic education, including classes in music, dance, amateur theatre and visual arts, the Andrzej Wajda Hall with a two-storey audience with around 650 seats and a large foyer, as well as the Chamber Hall for smaller-scale musical and theatre performances, film screenings and meetings, with a modular stage and a mobile audience with around 100 seats. Both halls are equipped with

cutting-edge sound and lighting systems, and multimedia devices.

Suwałki Municipal Culture Centre, Papieża Jana Pawła II 5 street, 16-400 Suwałki; phone: +48 875638510; www.soksuwalki.eu.

"Chłodna 20" Modern Art Gallery

"Chłodna 20" is an established address on the cultural map of Poland. Founded in 1990, the art gallery has been the venue of numerous excellent exhibitions of acclaimed Polish and foreign artists, as well as debuts of the new generation. The gallery mainly displays paintings, but also welcomes sculpture, graphics, sketches, photography and new media. After the Art Exhibitions Bureau in Suwałki was dissolved, "Chłodna 20" took over and has been the city's modern art venue ever since. The gallery organises individual and collective exhibitions, open air exhibitions, Q and A sessions with artists, performances and workshops, always ensuring outstanding artistic level.

"Chłodna 20" Modern Art Gallery, Suwałki Municipal Culture Centre, Teofila Noniewicza 71 street, 16-400 Suwałki; phone no: +48 875664211; www.soksuwalki.eu/galerie.

Stara Łaźnia Art Gallery

The Stara Łaźnia Art Gallery of The Suwałki Municipal Culture Centre is located right next to the promenade at the Czarna Hańcza river, in a renovated building of the former town bath house. The art gallery is a multifunctional space for culture, sports and leisure, organising workshops and classes on arts, culture, environment protection and sports, and also serves as a streetworking hub and a venue for meetings, debates, performances and concerts. There is a leisure equipment rental and a cafe in the buildings.

Stara Łaźnia Art Gallery, Suwałki Municipal Culture Centre, ul. A. Wajdy 3, phone no.: +48 8756511 30, e-mail: staralaznia@soksuwalki.eu

The One Painting Gallery

The One Painting Gallery (*Galeria Jednego Obrazu*) can be found in a small building on the corner of Tadeusza Kościuszki street and Józef Piłsudski square. Originally, the building was a city toll-gate, but changed its function a number of times over the years. In 2008, the decrepit



building underwent renovation and now serves as an art gallery showing the works of artists from the region, Poland and abroad.

The One Painting Gallery, Suwałki Municipal Culture Centre, Józefa Piłsudskiego square at the Constitution of May 3 park, 16-400 Suwałki; www.soksuwalki.eu/galerie.

Patio Gallery, Suwałki Municipal Culture Centre (foyer), Papieża Jana Pawła II 5 street, 16-400 Suwałki; phone no.: +48 875638500; www.soksuwalki.eu/galerie.

▶ Suwałki Municipal Culture Centre, photo: Archives of the District Museum in Suwałki

▶ The One Painting Gallery, photo: Archives of the District Museum in Suwałki

▶ Stara Łaźnia Art Gallery, photo: Archives of the District Museum in Suwałki



Cultural events

The calendar of cultural events held in Suwałki is quite rich and diverse, especially in the spring and in the summer, ensuring that everyone will find something to their taste. The most popular recurring events include: Suwałki Blues Festival, the Camaldolese Fair, the Cavalry Picnic and Sunny Suwałki Station. (For a detailed calendar of events, see p. 120).

Sunny Suwałki Station (Stacja Pogodne Suwałki)

Held in January, this festival promotes Suwałki as Poland's "Pole of Cold". The programme includes winter runs, nordic walking, polar bear plunges, dog sled races, as well as fun and games with UśMich the Bear. The festival also includes meetings with famous adventurers and polar explorers, screenings of films on polar exploration, music concerts, and culinary shows and tasting of the local winter cuisine. One of the main attractions of the Sunny Suwałki Station is the dog sled village.

- ▶ The Cavalry Picnic, photo: K. Mierzejewski
- ▶ Sunny Suwałki Station (Stacja Pogodne Suwałki), photo: Archives of the Municipal Office in Suwałki
- ▶ Suwałki Blues Festival, photo: "Dwutygodnik Suwalski"



The Cavalry Picnic (Piknik Kawaleryjski)

Held in June, the Cavalry Picnic is an open-air event promoting the cavalry traditions of Suwałki. The programme includes a parade of cavalry units through the city streets, cavalry contests and performances, as well as re-enactments, horsemanship competition and the open competition in light carriage driving for the museum director prize. The picnic is accompanied by the presentation of the military equipment of the 14th Anti-Tank Regiment, a collectors' exchange and horseback riding. It is the largest cavalry festival east of the Vistula river.

Suwałki Blues Festival

One of the largest and most important blues festivals in Poland and Europe, held always in the first half of July. Four days of live concerts, three professional open-air stages plus

a number of smaller stages in the city centre, blues breakfasts, acoustic performances, and late night club concerts and jam sessions – a dream come true for any blues music fan. The festival welcomes international blues stars and newcomers alike, creating an unforgettable atmosphere enjoyed by thousands of guests from around the world. For more information, go to www.suwalkiblues.com.

Camaldolese Fair

The market is organised every August as part of the celebration of the city festival. Mouth-watering breads, sausages and cold meats, fragrant honeys, as well as folk handcraft, such as lace or sculptures – all that and more is waiting for you at the Camaldolese Fair.

▲ Camaldolese Fair, Suwałki Gospel Choir, photo: Archives of the Suwałki Municipal Culture Centre

▶ Children's Day in the Suwałki Municipal Culture Centre, photo: Archives of the Suwałki Municipal Culture Centre

Attractions for children

Suwałki was the childhood home of Lechosław Marszałek – the co-creator of the legendary Polish cartoons about Reksio the dog and Bol-ek and Lolek. The city was also the birthplace of Maria Konopnicka, whose books became an inspiration to create the Suwałki Dwarves' Corner and the tourist route named "Dwarves are out there" intended for (but not limited to) younger visitors, offering a great opportunity for some quality family time.

The city has plenty of other attractions for children, from various events and festivals through city quests to places such as the aquapark.

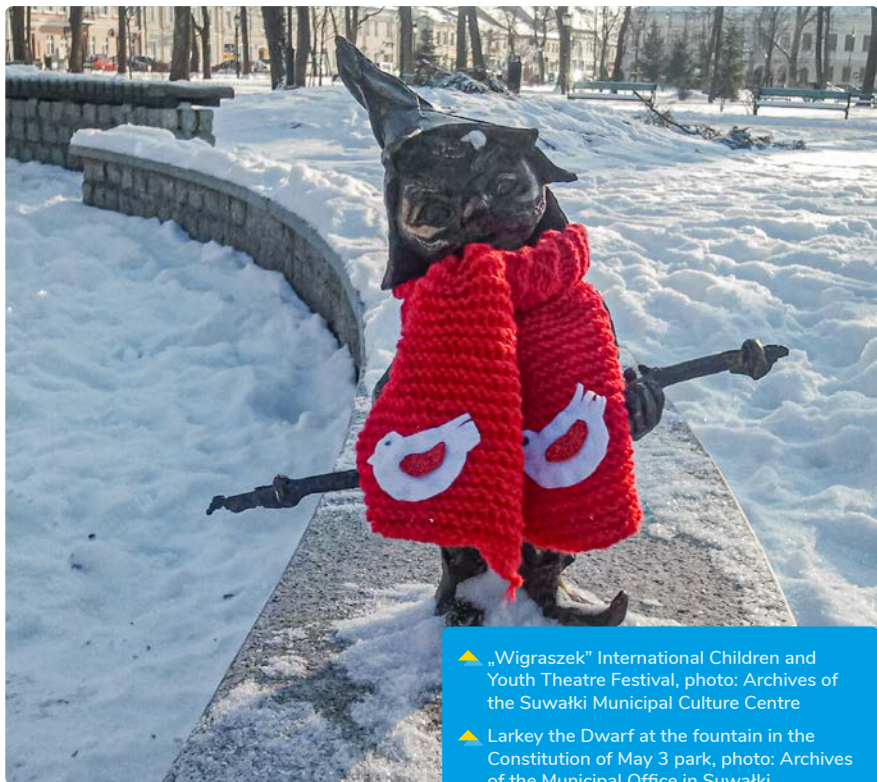
Dwarves' Corner

In the book *The Dwarves and the Little Orphan Mary*, Maria Konopnicka assures the

readers that dwarves are indeed out there. But where to find them? In Suwałki, young explorers should head to the Dwarves' Corner at Maria Konopnicka's home where she was born and spent her early childhood. In the scenic garden in the backyard of the Maria Konopnicka Museum, the hosts of the Dwarves' Corner, King Blink with his entourage and Annie the Nanny will take their guests for an unforgettable adventure in the fairy-tale world created by Konopnicka.

The magical guides have prepared special quests for young adventurers. You will need to help Little Orphan Mary find her lost geese which scattered around the garden. The explorers will also try their hand at hunting for the treasure of the seven dwarves – King Blink's key, crown and jewels. Next to the magic well, Annie the Nanny and King Blink will tell the young adventurers the legend of the origins of Suwałki, and then take part in a game on a most unusual board with huge pawns!





- ▲ „Wigraszek” International Children and Youth Theatre Festival, photo: Archives of the Suwałki Municipal Culture Centre
- ▲ Larkey the Dwarf at the fountain in the Constitution of May 3 park, photo: Archives of the Municipal Office in Suwałki
- ▼ Classes in Midicentrum, photo: Archives of the Maria Konopnicka Public Library in Suwałki



DWARVES ARE OUT THERE

Be it fairy-tale or be it real
What you think, I do not care.

But tell you this I will

Dwarves are out there!

Maria Konopnicka, *On Dwarves and the Little Orphan Mary*

Other attractions for children

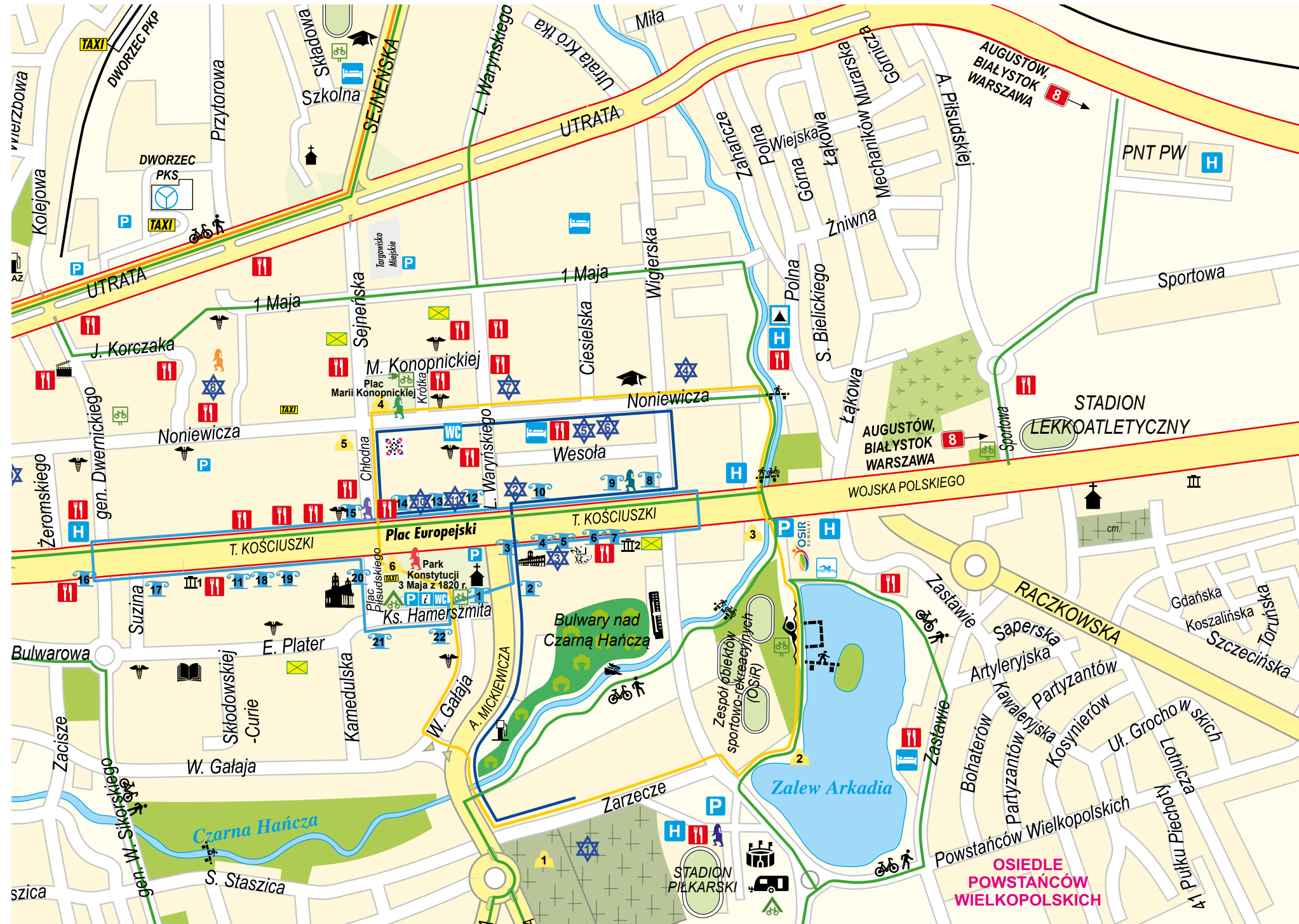
Other attractions for families with children visiting Suwałki include:

- **cultural events**, such as: “Wigraszek” International Festival of Children and Youths Theatres, or “Muszelki Wigier” International Song and Dance Festival, as well as Sunday morning children’s theatre.
- **museum lessons and exhibitions**, including the archaeological exhibition *The Oldest Times* in the District Museum and the historical exhibition *Following the paths of history*, as well as the open-air exhibition of military equipment at the Military Club;
- **workshops and classes** in Midicentrum, an interactive educational facility which helps children develop skills in using new technologies for studying and pursuing their interests;
- the **aquapark** and the children’s playground;
- the skatepark, the children’s playground, the parkour park and the tennis court at the **Arkadia Pond**;
- **city quests** – a great way to bring more fun to family walks which combines sight-seeing with solving puzzles and uncovering mysteries. And in Suwałki, there are mysteries aplenty...

But that is not all! In the Corner, the children will also find a small theatre, the chairs and tables of both dwarves and giants, magical mirrors and a merry-go-round taken straight from the times of Maria Konopnicka. The sounds of the barrel organ will help them go back in time. Finally, the young adventurers will have the opportunity to have their photo taken... on a royal throne.

The Dwarves’ Corner is the first stop on the **Suwałki Region Fairy-tale Trail** (if you want to know more, go to www.basniowyszlak.pl).

Dwarves’ Corner, garden at the Maria Konopnicka Museum, Tadeusza Kościuszki 31 street, 16-400 Suwałki; phone: +48 875664133; Tue–Fri 8.30 AM – 3.30 PM (last entrance at 2.30 PM), Sat–Sun 9.30 AM – 4.30 PM (last entrance at 3.30 PM), during the summer holidays Tue–Sun 9.00 AM – 5.00 PM (first entrance to the garden at 9.30 AM, last entrance at 3.30 PM).



Active in Suwałki

04

In Suwałki, you can stay active regardless of the time of year. The Czarna Hańcza river cuts through the city and in its bend, you can find the man-made Arkadia pond complete with sports and recreation infrastructure. In the northern part of the city, you can enjoy one of Poland's largest aquaparks, and on the outskirts of Suwałki, just 3 km north-east of the city centre, winter sports lovers can enjoy themselves on the Dąbrówka ski lift, which also has skiing and snowboarding equipment rental. If you are looking for more serious skiing or riding, head to the winter sports resort in Szelment, around 15 km north of Suwałki (see p. 108). Cyclists will definitely enjoy the city's large network of bike paths and the cycling trails outside Suwałki, leading to the Augustów Landscape Park, the Wigry National Park, the Augustów Forest and to the town of Sejny, located around 30 km from Suwałki (more about the areas around Suwałki in chapter 5 *Around Suwałki*, p. 96).

SUWAŁKI'S ATHLETES

Suwałki has always been a home of sports and accomplished athletes have brought recognition to the city already in the first decades of the previous century. Before World War II, Suwałki was known for outstanding results achieved by its equestrians and ice skaters. In the recent decades, badminton has become the local specialty. Michał Logosz and Robert Mateusiak, world-class **badminton** players representing the local Litpol-Malow Suwałki Badminton Club were ranked in the top 16 at the 2000 Olympic Games in Sydney, and at the 2004 Olympic Games in Athens, and also won medals in European Championships. The best-known active female athlete from Suwałki is Maria Andrejczyk, representing LUKS Hańcza Suwałki athletic club, who was ranked fourth in **javelin throw** at the 2016 Olympic Games in Rio de Janeiro. Marek Krejpcio won two Polish Championships titles in kyokushin **karate**, and the Suwałki Kyokushin Karate Club is widely known for honing



▲ A bike trip, photo: K. Mierzejewski



new talents in this discipline. The **sailors** from Suwałki have achieved considerable success in Cadet class, including winning World Champions titles. Suwałki are also the home of Tomasz Warakowski, a **chess** Grandmaster. **Swimming** is another discipline in which Suwałki athletes excel – Joanna Mendak, a local talent, won multiple Paralympic medals and world titles. Among the active athletic and sports clubs in Suwałki, by far the most successful is the men's volleyball club **Ślepsk Malow Suwałki** which plays in Poland's top division (PlusLiga), the **Litpol-Malow Suwałki Badminton Club**, and the **Wigry Suwałki** football club competing in Polish second division league. Wojciech Kowalewski, Wigry's former goalkeeper, went on to play in the first division for Legia Warsaw and a host of foreign clubs; he was also the starting goalkeeper for Poland at the Euro 2008 tournament in Austria and Switzerland.

Sports and recreational facilities

Suwałki has ranked third among district cities in the "Leader in supporting mass sports activities" contest. The distinction was awarded in recognition of Suwałki's efforts to support various sports activities, but also to develop convenient and accessible sports and recreational infrastructure for locals and tourists alike.

Suwałki Aquapark

The Aquapark is one of the largest sports investment projects in Suwałki in recent years. It is also one of the largest and most advanced water parks in north-eastern

Poland. The complex includes a recreational area, a professional swimming pool, baths, saunas and a salt therapy grotto. The water park has a number of pools for swimming, splashing and wading, water jets, cascades, geysers, spray mushrooms, massage jets and three whirlpools. If you are looking for some quiet relaxation, try the underwater massage decks. If it's adrenaline you're after, head to the 56-m long open water slide and two enclosed slides which are over 100-m long and have plenty of twists and turns.

Aside from the slides and pools, the park also has a number of bars, a conference room, a rehabilitation clinic, a fitness club,

a hairdressing salon, and a sports equipment shop. The water park is a part of the leisure and entertainment centre in Suwałki, which also includes the nearby Suwałki Municipal Culture Centre and Loft 1898 Hotel.

Aquapark Suwałki, Papieża Jana
Pawła II 7 street, 16-400 Suwałki; phone no.: +48 875626222; e-mail: info@aquapark.suwalki.pl, www.aquapark.suwalki.pl.

Eurocamping

Eurocamping no. 133, which belongs to the Auto Camper Service International (ACSI) network, is one of the top campervan sites in the Podlasie Province. The



- ▶ The aquapark, photo: K. Mierzejewski
- ▶ Eurocamping camp site, photo: Archives of the Municipal Office in Suwałki



camping site is fenced off, with grass and gravel surface, offering 42 convenient parking places with access to water and electricity for campervans and motor homes, as well as tent places. The following facilities are made available to the guests: washroom, showers and toilets (accessible to persons with disabilities), chemical toilet, washing machine, dryer, meal preparation and dish washing site, landline phone, Wi-Fi connection, safety deposit box and a large car park. Catering is also available. Credit cards are accepted. The camping site also has facilities for emptying chemical toilets and grey water tanks, and refilling potable water tanks. Animals are also welcome.

Eurocamping 133, Zarzecze 26 street, 16-400 Suwałki; phone no.: +48 875673307; e-mail: hostelwigry@osir.suwalki.pl, www.osir.suwalki.pl.

Municipal stadium

An all-year football stadium with under-soil heating and all the necessary utilities and facilities, including changing rooms for players and referees, medical rooms and rooms for team personnel, pitch management staff, VIPs and the media, a conference room, sanitary facilities, and training facilities (gym, athletic recovery). The stadium has commentator booths and electronic scoreboard. Next to the pitch, there is a parking lot for production trucks. There are also two practice pitches.

Municipal stadium, Zarzecze 26 street.

- ▲ Wigry Suwałki stadium, photo: K. Mierzejewski
- ▲ Municipal Sports and Recreation Centre (OSiR) arena, photo: Archives of OSiR
- ▲ Wigry Hostel, photo: Archives of OSiR



Wigry Hostel

Located near the football stadium, at the Arkadia Pond, Wigry Hostel is a popular destination among individual visitors, as well as sports teams and summer camps. The hostel has 24 rooms (singles, doubles and triples, and 4- and 5-person rooms) offering a total of 54 comfortable beds. Guests can also book one of the three professional football pitches for practice, football matches or children's events. The hostel has a large, guarded parking lot.

Wigry Hostel, Zarzecze 26 street, 16-400 Suwałki; phone no.: +48 875667220; e-mail: hostelwigry@osir.suwalki.pl, <https://hostelwigry.pl>.

Climbing wall, swimming pool and gym

The Suwałki Sports and Recreation Centre offers a number of sports activities. One of

them is the **climbing wall** built with rock-imitating panels which has climbing routes with different difficulty levels. The wall is quite large, 18 × 9 metres and with the surface area of 165 square metres, which means that it can accommodate up to 20 persons at a time (climbers and belayers). Instructors are available on site for beginners to provide all the necessary information and show safe belaying techniques. Basic training is free of charge and mandatory for beginner climbers.

In the adjacent building, you will find a short course (25 × 12.5 m) **swimming pool** with six lanes, the minimum depth of 1.20 m and the maximum depth of 3.80 m. There is also an audience stand which can accommodate up to 250 people. The swimming pool is sometimes used for diving practice. It is also the training pool for the swimmers of Olimpijczyk Suwałki student athletic club, and is also used for PE lessons for school children from Suwałki and the region.

The **gym** in the swimming pool building has two rooms. The first room has the cardio equipment: treadmills, rowing machine, elliptical, steppers and bikes. You will also

find equipment for back, legs, chest and abdominal exercises, as well as medicine balls, mattresses, jump ropes and tapes for stretching. The second room has equipment for weight, bodybuilding and rehabilitation exercises, including machines for exercising chest, back muscles, pectoral girdle, thighs, calves, and triceps and biceps muscles. The room has barbells (12 to 35 kgs), dumbbells (1 to 10 kgs), weight plates up to 300 kgs, and workout benches.

Climbing wall, swimming pool and gym, Wojska Polskiego 2 street, 16-400 Suwałki; phone no.: +48 875650236; www.osir.suwalki.pl.

Track & field stadium

The Suwałki track & field stadium has been the venue of a number of athletics events,

including Polish Junior Athletics Championships and Polish Championships in combined events and relays. The stadium has the following facilities:

- ▶ an 8-lane 400-m long circular running track with MondoTrack surface,
- ▶ an 8-lane straight running track for 100 m and 110 m events, hurdling and steeplechase.
- ▶ a 4-lane long jump and triple jump runway,
- ▶ a high jump pad,
- ▶ a pole vault pit,
- ▶ two shot put circles,
- ▶ a cage for discus and hammer throw,
- ▶ a javelin throw runway,
- ▶ a professional warm-up area,
- ▶ roofed stands for 1,040 spectators and electronic time measurement (photo finish) facilities.



The stadium also has accommodation with 30 beds, changing rooms and showers, parking lots with designated spaces for persons with disabilities and coaches, as well as tennis courts and a practice football pitch. The complex is a perfect venue for a sports camp.

Track & field stadium, Wojska Polskiego 17 street, 16-400 Suwałki; phone no.: + 48 875664187, 501805285; www.osir.suwalki.pl.

Street workout and parkour park

The park is designed to ensure the safety of all users regardless of their level and

experience, with top-quality bars, rails, walls and other obstacles to work out and improve your parkour skills. The street workout and parkour park is an excellent spot for outdoor exercise and getting into shape.

Street workout and parkour park, Zastawie 35 street, 16-400 Suwałki; www.osir.suwalki.pl.

Suwałki Beach Arena

Suwałki Beach Arena is a beach sports facility with a full-sized beach soccer pitch and three full-sized beach volleyball courts, and an audience stand with over 300 seats. Immensely popular from the moment it was opened, the Beach Arena hosts the annual Pogodne Suwałki Cup tournament which brings top beach volleyballers to the city, as well as a number of other beach volleyball and beach soccer competitions.

- ▶ Track & field stadium, photo: Archives of the Municipal Office in Suwałki
- ▶ Street Workout & Parkour Park, photo: Archives of 1Move Street Workout & Parkout



Suwałki Beach Arena at the Arkadia pond, Wojska Polskiego 2 street, 16-400 Suwałki; www.osir.suwalki.pl.

Lawn tennis courts

The recently renovated tennis courts with synthetic turf are located at the Arkadia Pond. Courts are booked for 50-minute periods; the price depends on the day and time.

Lawn tennis courts, Zastawie street, 16-400 Suwałki; phone no.: +48 875650236; www.osir.suwalki.pl.

Clay tennis courts

Clay tennis courts are located in Wojska Polskiego street, next to the track & field stadium. The courts are booked for 50-minute periods; the price depends on the day and time.

Clay tennis courts, Wojska Polskiego 17 street, 16-400 Suwałki; phone no.: +87 5664187; www.osir.suwalki.pl.

Suwałki Arena

Suwałki Arena, located next to the municipal stadium in Zarzecze street, is the largest and most advanced sports and entertainment arena in the Podlasie Province, with the usable area of over 6 thousand square metres. The sports hall is 12.80 m high and has volleyball courts, basketball and handball courts, as well as audience stands for 2,121 spectators. There is also an 8-m high training hall. The arena is used by schools, individuals and businesses for sports practice and events. It also doubles as a concert hall.

Suwałki Arena, Zarzecze 26 street, 16-400 Suwałki; www.osir.suwalki.pl.

MK Bowling Entertainment Centre

MK Bowling is an entertainment centre located on the second floor of Suwałki Plaza



Shopping Mall with six bowling lanes and pool tables, and a restaurant serving pizza from a wood-fired oven.

MK Bowling Entertainment Centre, Generała Józefa Dwernickiego 15 street, 16-400 Suwałki; phone no.: +48 876182200; www.mkbowling.pl.

Dąbrówka ski lift

The winter ski lift located around 3 km from the city centre, in the vicinity of the Wigry National Park, with a 300-m long slope with snow machines and lighting. The button lift

has the capacity of around 900 people per hour. There is a skiing and snowboarding school, ski and snowboard rental, a bar, a sauna and free parking.

Dąbrówka ski lift, Dąbrówka 10, 16-400 Suwałki; phone no.: +48 875630978, +48 722310688, +48 509690925, +48 501269888; www.dabrowka.suwalki.pl.

Stary Folwark Marina

The marina is located at the scenic Lake Wigry, around 12 km from Suwałki city centre. The vicinity of the Wigry National Park creates a unique atmosphere and the facility offers excellent options for relaxation and active leisure. Stary Folwark Marina has 20 beds and a conference room for 30 persons. Guests can use a large terrace with a view of Lake Wigry, water equipment and bicycle

▶ Suwałki Beach Arena, photo: Archives of OSiR

▶ Lawn tennis courts, photo: Archives of OSiR

▶ Suwałki Arena, photo: Archives of the Municipal Office in Suwałki



rental, a bonfire site, a barbecue shed, as well as a sauna which is very popular on autumn and winter evenings. There is a host of sights and places of interest nearby, especially the old Camaldolese monastery.

Stary Folwark Marina, Stary Folwark 55d, 16-412 Suwałki, phone no.: +48 602230106, e-mail: przystan@strefasport.pl, www.przystanstaryfolwark.pl.

The Czarna Hańcza river

The Czarna Hańcza is the longest river of the Suwałki Region, winding along 141.70 km, of which 107.80 runs on the Polish side of the border; the section of the river in the city of Suwałki is 13 km long. The river originates in the moraine hills of the northern Suwałki Region and flows through areas of unique landscape,

geological, historic and ethnographic value, among others the Suwałki Landscape Park, Lake Hańcza and Lake Wigry, the Wigry National Park, and the Augustów Forest. At the village of Rygol, the Czarna Hańcza joins the Augustów Canal and flows towards the Belarusian border, and drains into the Neman river on the Lithuanian-Belarusian border. The river has a very diverse character, changing from a small stream into almost a white-water river. On the section from Lake Wigry to Augustów Canal, the Czarna Hańcza becomes one of Poland's most beautiful kayaking trails. In 2016, the Czarna Hańcza was awarded the title of the River of the Year, with the Bydgoszcz section of the Vistula and the Bzura as runners-up.



Arkadia Pond with municipal beach

The Arkadia pond is a picturesque man-made reservoir fed by the Czarna Hańcza river. It was created in the early 18th century as a pond at the water mill. It has a charming little island in the middle. The clean waters of the pond are home to various aquatic and amphibious species, among them mallards, gulls, coots and swans. The area of the pond is 11 hectares, the maximum depth is 5 metres; it is around 700 m long and 400 m wide.

In the summer, the municipal beach has lifeguards on duty. The beach has designated zones for children (up to 30 cm in depth), non-swimmers (up to 1.20 m in depth), and for those who can swim (up to 2.50 m in depth).

You can also rent various water equipment, such as rowing boats, kayaks and water bikes. In the vicinity of the beach, you will find a cafe and a children's playground, as well as tennis courts, a skate park, an outdoor gym, and the street workout and parkour park.

Suwałki riverside promenade

The promenade at the Czarna Hańcza river, located between 24 Sierpnia and Adama

▶ Stary Folwark marina, photo: K. Mierzejewski

▶ The promenade at the Czarna Hańcza river - Stara Kąźnia Art Gallery, photo: Archives of the Municipal Office in Suwałki



Mickiewicza streets, is a unique place with foot and bike paths, parking lots, lawns and flower meadows, and recreational infrastructure. On the promenade, there is a renovated historic bath house, which is now used by Stara Łaźnia Art Gallery, and also has a leisure equipment rental point and a cafe.

Bike paths and trails

Cyclists in Suwałki can use a large network of bike paths, most of which are shared use paths. The most interesting path runs along Tadeusza Kościuszki street and the Czarna Hańcza river, and around the Arkadia Pond. You can also try the two longest bike paths in the city: one leads along Generała Kazimierza Pułaskiego and Mikołaja Reja streets,

and the second along Sejneńska, Filipowska, Ignacego Krasickiego and 1 Maja streets. Next to the bus station in Utrata street you will find a Biker Service Area.

Suwałki is located on the **Green Velo East of Poland Cycling Trail** which runs across Eastern Poland. To learn more about Green Velo, head to the Tourist Information Centre in Suwałki (Księdza Kazimierza Hamerszmity 16 street). The Centre is recognised as a **Biker Friendly Place** on the Green Velo trail, providing bikers with safe, free-of-charge place for parking their bicycles and resting, as well as information on bicycle rental, the nearby bicycle shops and repair services, and the available bike

▲ Arkadia Pond, photo: Archives of the Municipal Office in Suwałki

▼ Car Free Day, photo: Archives of the Municipal Office in Suwałki

trips, as well as information and assistance in finding and booking accommodation in biker-friendly hotels and guest houses.

Other Biker Friendly Places around Suwałki can be found at the Municipal Sports and Recreation Centre, the District Museum, Maria Konopnicka Museum, on the Maria Konopnicka square, in the water park, on Eurocamping 133, in Loft 1898 Hotel and Tatarak restaurant, in Logos Hotel, on Orlen fuel station, in the Hańcza Hotel and Restaurant, and at the Dąbrówka ski lift.



Around Suwałki

05

Wigry National Park 05

Suwałki is a great starting point for a trip to the Wigry National Park and the Suwałki Landscape Park. Both parks are located close to the city and have plenty of attractions, offering excellent infrastructure for active leisure: hiking, biking, kayaking, horseback riding, sailing, angling or diving, as well as tourist trails and discovery paths where you can learn more about the unique character of our region.

Wigry National Park

Located just east of Suwałki, the Wigry National Park (WNP) has 42 natural water reservoirs which take 19% of the Park's overall area. In the heart of the Park, you will find the beautiful **Lake Wigry** (average depth 15 m, maximum depth 74.20 m),

the largest and second deepest lake in the Suwałki Region. The northern part of the Park, which overlaps with the Eastern Augustów Lake District, is hilly, while the southern part, located on the Augustów Plain, is more flat. The forests, which are part of the Augustów Forest, cover 60% of the Park's area, which also includes open fields, meadows and villages.

The main roads in the Park are open for traffic, but we strongly recommend using a bike (there is a bike trail from Suwałki to the Park), your own feet or a kayak, and cross-country skis in the winter. The Park has plenty of tourist trails and paths with the necessary infrastructure. The total length of **marked land trails** for hiking and biking, as well as discovery paths in the Wigry National Park is around 300 km. Where the trails lead through valuable and sensitive ecosystems, wooden walkways, bridges and



Wigry National Park, Lake Suchar, photo: P. Pajer-Giełażys



gangways have been built which make it easier to move through those areas, but also serve as a tourist attraction. In the Park, you will also find **observational towers and lookout platforms** offering excellent vistas, as well as sheds with tables and benches where you can rest.

Park attractions

Aside from the wild nature and beautiful scenery, the Wigry National Park also has plenty of cultural heritage sites, with its crown jewel, the former Camaldolese monastery.

WILDLIFE

The Park has been a safe refuge for a number of endangered species which were saved through the appropriate protection programmes. The most notable example is the **European beaver** which has since become the symbol of the Park. Other interesting wildlife species in the Park include white-tailed eagles, wolves, lynxes and mountain hares. The lakes are abundant with vendace and schelly.

DISCOVERY PATHS

One of the most peculiar elements of the Park are small, dystrophic lakes found in the middle of the forest. You can reach them by taking the **"Suchary" discovery path**, which runs through the forest and peat bogs with plenty of characteristic flora and fauna. On the **Forest (Las) discovery path** you will see different types of forests. The Park has a number of discovery paths which will allow you to uncover the secrets of this unique place: "Amphibians" (Płazy), "Lakes" (Jeziora), "The Woods" (Puszcza), "The Forest Resources" (Eksploracja dóbr puszczańskich) and "The Gifts of Nature" (Dary Natury).

EXHIBITIONS

There is a number of exhibitions in the Wigry National Park. In Krzywe, where the Tourist Information Centre and Park Headquarters are located, you can see the nature exhibition **At Lake Wigry (Nad Wigrami)** and the ethnographic exhibition **Saving from oblivion (Ocalić od zapomnienia)**. The latter exhibition, which includes 800 items, has been put on display in the forest lodge, in an adapted storage building from the 1920s.

In Czerwony Folwark, you will find another exhibition, **The History and Traditions of Fishing at Lake Wigry (Dzieje i tradycje rybołówstwa nad Wigrami)**. Aside from

➤ Sleigh ride in the Wigry National Park, photo: B. Perkowska

➤ Former Camaldolese monastery in Wigry, photo: K. Mierzejewski



posters, the exhibition also has a number of interesting items, such as a dug-out boat, a timber boat, a fish cutter, an ice crusher, a model of the roe incubation system, and the equipment used for fishing and gathering crayfish. You can also see a number of taxidermy animals and watch educational films on fishing.

WNP Tourist Information Centre, Krzywe 82, 16-400 Suwałki; phone no.: +48 875632562, +87 5632540, +48 510992672; www.wigry.org.pl.

FORMER CAMALDOLESE MONASTERY IN WIGRY

Built on a peninsula, the monastery complex is the most prominent landmark around Lake Wigry. It was founded by King John II Casimir in 1667, but after the downfall of the Republic of Poland and the partitions, the Camaldolese monks were forced to abandon the monastery.

Today, it is the seat of Wigry Pro Foundation and **Pope John Paul II Museum**, which has the memorabilia of Pope John Paul II's visit when he stopped here during his 1999 pilgrimage to Poland. Visitors can see the **crypts** and **monastery gardens**, there is also a number of **exhibitions**.

Former Camaldolese monastery in Wigry – Wigry Pro Foundation, Wigry 11, 16-402 Suwałki; phone no.: +48 875662499; www.wigry.pro.

LAKE CRUISE

Near the monastery in Wigry, you will find a small harbour offering cruises on Lake Wigry, often touted as Poland's most beautiful lake. The cruise covers several dozen kilometres, crossing the flow of the Czarna Hańcza river which runs through the lake and offering magnificent views of the astonishingly diverse landscape around Lake Wigry.



WIGRY MUSEUM IN STARY FOLWARK

In Stary Folwark in the Wigry National Park, you can visit the Wigry Museum, which displays the natural and cultural values of this protected area. The museum is located in an old hydrobiological station which in the years 1927 to 1939 was the workplace of the pioneer of the science of limnology in Poland, Alfred Lityński. In the museum, you can learn a lot about Lake Wigry, from the depths and the organisms living deep beneath the surface to the nature on the banks. The museum shows educational films and presentations, and also serves as an educational facility, organising classes for children and youth.

In the summer, you can go on a trip on a **glass-bottom boat** named "Leptodora II". The boat takes nine passengers and



offers a glimpse into the underwater world of Lake Wigry.

Alfred Lityński Wigry Museum, Stary Folwark 50,
16-402 Stary Folwark; phone no.: +48 875630152;
www.wigry.org.pl/mw.

- ▶ Lake Wigry seen from the village of Bryzgiel, photo: P. Pajer-Giełazys
- ▶ The Wigry Museum, photo: Archives of the Wigry National Park
- ▶ Góra Cisowa (Yew Hill) in the Suwałki Landscape Park, photo: Archives of the Municipal Office in Suwałki

Suwałki Landscape Park 05

GREEN VELO TRAIL

The Wigry National Park is located along the **Green Velo East of Poland Cycling Trail** with designated Biker Service Areas and Biker Friendly Places. To enter the Park, you will need an entrance ticket.

Suwałki Landscape Park

The Suwałki Landscape Park (SLP) was established in 1976 as the first landscape park in Poland. With its **unique terrain relief** and unique natural environment,

the Landscape Park is one of the most picturesque corners of Poland. Although it is relatively small, taking only 6,284 hectares, the Suwałki Landscape Park is surprisingly rich in unique and diverse **post-glacial formations**, boasting some of the most beautiful moraines, kames and eskars in the country. Only in the Suwałki Landscape Park will you be able to see the hanging valley and massive boulder deposits.

SLP is a land of tall hills and deep valleys which are often filled with lakes. Such height differences and steep slopes, which seem more suitable to a submontane



region, are seldom found on lowlands. Nearly 65% of the Landscape Park are farming areas, mainly fields and meadows, making the unusual terrain relief clearly visible.

Park attractions

In order to experience the unique atmosphere of the SLP, take one of the discovery paths or hiking or biking trails which will take you through the natural and cultural treasures of the area. (For detailed information on the routes of the paths and trails, go to the Suwałki Landscape Park website at www.spk.org.pl and the "Turystryka" [Tourism] tab).

YEW HILL

The most characteristic elevation in the Suwałki Landscape Park, known as the Yew Hill (Góra Cisowa), can be spotted from nearly every part of the Park. This 256-m high conical hill is sometimes dubbed the **Fuji of Suwałki**. It is also known under the names of Gulbienie Hill (Góra Gulbieńska) or Poured Hill (Góra Sypana). The local legend associates the latter name with the small lake at its foot known as the Dug Lake (Jezioro Kopane).

MAGNETIC ANOMALY

The Suwałki Landscape Park is known not only for its stunning scenery, but also by the polymetallic ore deposits located at 800–2,000 m below ground, which create a local magnetic anomaly, causing the needle to deviate from the north.

BOULDER DEPOSITS AND DEAD-ICE

One of the greatest attractions of the Landscape Park are the **boulder deposits**. There is no other place in Poland which would have as many boulders on such a small area.

The central part of the SLP is a deep basin with steep slopes on all sides, named the Szeszupa Deep after the river flowing on its bottom. Head there to see the most beautiful **dead-ice formations** in Poland.

LAKES

Fed by underground springs and free of any surface pollution, the lakes in the Suwałki Landscape Park are among the cleanest in Poland. In the western part of the park, there is a deep tunnel valley and on its bottom, Poland's deepest lake – **Lake Hańcza** (108.50 m in depth).

Kleszczowieckie Lakes (near the village of Smolniki) are often considered the most beautiful lowland lakes group in Poland. The most stunning is **Lake Jaczno**, surrounded by hills rising around 120 m above the water table. Equally beautiful are the **Szurpiłskie Lakes with Lake Szurpiły** and the Castle Hill (Góra Zamkowa) rising between them (see p. 104).

SMOLNIKI

Smolniki is a large holiday village in the Suwałki Landscape Park, named after the pitch burners (Polish *smolarze*) who in the

- ▶ Lake Kleszczowieckie, photo: Archives of the Suwałki Landscape Park
- ▶ Suwałki Landscape Park. Photo: H. Stojanowski



16th century established the first pitch-burn-ing hamlets, known as *budy*, in the region. In Smolniki, you will find a **lookout point** on the most beautiful landscapes of the Su-wałki Region. Near the village, Andrzej Waj-da shot some scenes for his 1999 film *Pan Tadeusz*, including the Napoleon's army march on Moscow.

MOLENNAYA IN WODZIŁKI

The Suwałki Landscape Park is also a trove of material culture treasure. One of the most notable sacred objects in the Park is the wooden Old Ritualist *molen-naya* (house of prayer) in the village of Wodziłki, built in 1921.

YOTVINGIAN REMAINS

One of the most interesting archaeological monuments in the SLP is the **Yotvin-gian fortified settlement** located among the Szurpilskie Lakes. On the three nearby hills: the Castle Hill (Góra Zamkowa), the Church Hill (Góra Kościelna) and the Cem-etery Hill (Góra Cmentarna), you can find the remains of fortifications built in the 8th to 13th century by the Baltic tribe of Yotvin-gians. From the flat top of the highest one, the **Castle Hill** (228.10 m), you can enjoy a magnificent vista of the lakes at the foot of the hill: Lake Szurpiły, Lake Kluczysko and Lake Jegłówek. It was one of the hubs of the Yotvingians, who in the early Middle Ages lived in Sudovia, which included the contemporary Suwałki Region and the ar-eas spreading all the way from the Great Masurian Lakes in the west to the Neman



river in the east, and from the Szeszupa river basin in the north to the Biebrza river in the south.

Near the Castle Hill, in the village of **SZURPIŁY**, there is a **Yotvingian Memo-rial Chamber**, where you can see a di-orama of the Castle Hill and the nearby lakes, showing a Ruthenian attack on the Yotvingian fortified settlement. Other items include copies of artefacts uncovered by archaeologists around the Castle Hill, in-cluding Yotvingian jewellery, weapons and everyday items from the 12th to 13th centu-ry, found in the "Mosiężysko" excavation site in Szurpiły.

From Szurpiły, you can take the 3.2-km **Tracking Sziurpa (Tropem Sziurpy)**

Yotvingian Memorial Chamber in Szurpiły, photo: Archives of the Suwałki Landscape Park



tourist trail to the Castle Hill (the trail starts on the parking lot in Szurpiły, 350 m from the Yotvingian Memorial Chamber). Along the trail, there are eight information boards, each describing a dif-ferent aspect of Yotvingian history. The first board can be found on the parking lot at the entrance to the Yotvingian Memorial

Chamber. The trail complements the **Castle Hill (Na Górę Zamkową) discovery path** (6 km) and the **Castle Hill (Na Górę Zamkową) bike trail** (Malesowizna – Wodziłki; 15.10 km),

Yotvingian Memorial Chamber, Szurpiły 32, 16-404 Jeleniewo; phone no.: +48 504775660; www.spk.org.pl.

RUINED MANSION IN STARA HAŃCZA

In the hamlet of Stara Hańcza in the SLP, you can see a ruined mansion from the turn of the 18th and 19th century. The mansion



was the property of Duke Tomasz Bogumił Światopełk-Mirski, a Polish patriot, senator of the post-Congress of Vienna Kingdom of Poland, November insurgent and entrepreneur who fell from grace in later life due to accusations of treason and fraud. In the 19th century, the mansion changed hands frequently, but managed to survive in good condition until the end of World War II. It was destroyed after 1945.

SUWAŁKI LANDSCAPE PARK HEADQUARTERS

In the SLP headquarters in the hamlet of Turtul near the village of Malesowizna, you



Other attractions of the Suwałki Region 05



can get tourist information, buy maps and guides, and visit the **Regional Chamber** with an exhibition on the rural areas of the Suwałki Region. The exhibition displays historical everyday objects, such as loom, spinning wheel, wooden trays for making pastry (*kopańka*), churn or cheese press, as well as other household items. There is also an interesting **discovery path named Turtul's Tales (Opowieści Turtula)**.

Suwałki Landscape Park, Malesowizna 24, 16-404 Jeleniewo; phone no.: +48 875691801; <https://www.spk.org.pl>.

Other attractions of the Suwałki Region

Yotvingian Cemetery Nature Reserve

Around 5 km to the north-east of Suwałki city centre, there is a forest nature reserve named the Yotvingian Cemetery (Cmentarzysko Jaćwingów). It is located in the Sz wajcaria district (which used to be a separate village) within the administrative borders of Suwałki. The nature reserve was established in 1959 to protect the local fresh pine forest and the old Yotvingian cemetery discovered in the area. The cemetery was examined in the years 1955 to 1956 by the

- ▶ Suwałki Landscape Park, photo: Archives of the Municipal Office in Suwałki
- ▶ The Szczupia river basin, photo: Archives of the Suwałki Landscape Park
- ▶ Yotvingian Cemetery Nature Reserve, photo: District Museum in Suwałki



Sudovian Expedition. In the forest, you can see the *kurgans* – round stone mounds with 6 to 21 m in diameter. There are also cremation tombs and inhumation tombs. In the inhumation tombs, the archaeologists discovered numerous trinkets, jewellery, tools, pots and weapons, depending on the deceased's social status.

Szelment Sports and Recreation Centre

In the northern part of the Suwałki Region, at the beautiful Lake Szelment Wielki, you can find the 252-m Ash Hill (Góra Jesionowa), where the Szelment Sports and Recreation Centre is located – one of the most popular year-round centres in the region. In the winter, there are seven drag lifts and a magic carpet, cross-country skiing trails,

a snow park and ski rental. In the summer, Szelment offers a 1,000-m wakeboard lift and bicycle rental. You can also try your hand on the rope course (three routes with different difficulty levels), an outstanding paintball field, and an 18-hole mini golf course. There is also a restaurant, and the Sports and Recreation Centre offers accommodation.

In the interwar period, the Ash Hill was used as the launching point for gliders. In the recent years, gliding has returned to Szelment.

WOSiR Szelment Sp. z o.o., Szelment 2, 16-404 Jeleniewo; phone no.: +48 875683007; <https://wosir-szelment.pl>.

"Dąbrówka" Ski Resort

Located just 3 km from the city centre of Suwałki, "Dąbrówka" is a great spot for all wintersports enthusiasts. In the winter, there is a 300 m groomed ski slope with snow-making guns and lights, and a t-bar lift with the capacity of 900 persons/hour. The ski resort has skiing and snowboarding equipment rental, a bar, a suna and free parking. There is also a ski & snowboard school.

The resort is open all year round. In the summer, visitors can rent a kayak, a water bike or a rowing boat. You can also use a sauna or organise a bonfire or a family or business event. Accommodation is available all year.

"Dąbrówka" Ski Resort, ul. Dąbrówka 10, 16-400 Suwałki, phone no.: +48 87 5630978; www.dabrowka.suwalki.pl

Other attractions of the Suwałki Region 05



Wizajny

North of Suwałki, near the state border, there is a village of Wizajny with the **church of St Teresa of Ávila** from 1825 and the **wooden bell tower** from 1862. The hill

where the church and the bell tower are located was probably the site of a Yotvingian fortified settlement.

Wizajny is considered to be **Poland's Pole of Cold**, since it has the lowest average monthly temperatures in January (below -4°C) and the lowest annual average temperatures (below 6°C , with the average for Poland above 7°C). The snow cover

▶ Szelment Sports & Recreation Centre in winter, photo: Archives of Szelment Sports & Recreation Centre

▶ Szelment Sports & Recreation centre - water-ski lift and rope course, photo: Archives of Szelment Sports & Recreation Centre



here lasts very long (in 1928, winter in the area lasted until... June), making Wiżajny a good place for winter sports.

The village is also known for its **excellent cheeses**. Wiżajny has a very long cheese-making tradition, upheld by "Macierzanka" Association. Some households still have cheese molds originating from the 19th century. Before World War II, a large cheese dairy in the Sudawskie estate, owned by the Rekosz family, supplied its products to Gdańsk and Poznań. In 2005, the Wiżajny cheese was entered into the *List of Traditional Products* as aged rennet cheese.

From Wiżajny, you can head to **Sudawskie Hills** – a beautiful moraine upland at the Lithuanian border, and to the hump-shaped **Rowelska Hill** (299 m) which is the highest point in the Suwałki Region. From the top of the hill, you can see Wiżajny, Lake Wistuć valley, as well as the nearby meadows and lakes. On a clear day, you can see the Romnicka Forest, the

Sudawskie Hills and the Rowelska Valley. There is a **wind farm** on the hill.

"Macierzanka" Association, Suwalska 17A street, 16-407 Wiżajny; phone no.: +48 516107004; <http://serywizajny.org.pl>.

Tripoint in Bolcie

The village of Bolcie is located at the conjunction of the state borders of Poland, Lithuania and the Russian Kaliningrad Oblast. It is one of the six such conjunctions in Poland (there are two tripoints in the Suwałki Region, with the other located on the junction of the Polish, Belarusian and Lithuanian borders. The tripoint in Bolcie is easily accessible, located around 100 m from the road.

Wigry Narrow-Gauge Railway

The Wigry Narrow-Gauge Railway in Płociczno is one of the greatest tourist attractions of the region. The railway runs through the

▲ "Dąbrówka" Ski Resort, photo: Archives of the Municipal Office in Suwałki

Other attractions of the Suwałki Region 05

Wigry National Park and the Augustów Forest. The stops – Binduga, Bartny Dół, Krusznik and Powaly – are located in places with the most spectacular views. At the starting station of the historical railway, there is a **museum** displaying items related to narrow-gauge railways. You can listen to the history of the "Forest Narrow-Gauge Railway" here.

Wigry Narrow-Gauge Railway, Płociczno-Tartak 40, 16-402 Suwałki; phone no.: +48 875639263, +48 697075906, +48 603165390; <http://augustow-ska.pl>.

Ruined palace in Dowspuda

In Dowspuda, located in the Rospuda river valley, you can see the ruins of Count Ludwik Michał Pac's palace, built in the years 1820 to 1827 and surrounded by a park. The palace is an important element of the landscape and history of the Suwałki Region. It was the only true aristocratic residence in the region. In 1830, the palace was confiscated by the Russian Imperial authorities as punishment for Count Pac's participation in the November Uprising, and a systematic devastation began. The only remains of this once grand building are the arched façade portico, a corner steeple known as the Stork Tower, and two storeys of cellars under the former west wing of the palace. The only building that survived intact was the guardhouse, which now serves as a tourist service point and also offers accommodation. In the guardhouse, you can also see an **exhibition** on General Ludwik Michał Pac.

In the park, you will find a 1.6-km, well-marked **path named "The park in**

Dowspuda – nature and history" (Park w Dowspudzie – natura i historia).

Kordegarda Tourist Service Point in Dowspuda, Dowspuda 9a, 16-420 Raczek; phone no.: +48 875671219, +48 887318000; www.kordegarda.dowspuda.pl.

Augustów Canal

The Augustów Canal is an outstanding achievement of 19th-century engineering, connecting the Vistula and the Neman rivers through the postglacial valleys of the Augustów Lake District and the river valleys of the Biebrza, the Netta, the Czarna Hańcza and the Neman. Natural water reservoirs and water courses, connected with man-made canals and hydraulic structures, including 18 locks, form a 103.60 km water way. Built over 170 years ago, the Augustów Canal was of tremendous importance for the local economy and the environment. Under the Regulation of the President of Poland of 2007, it has been granted the status of a historic monument.

In a reconstructed building known as Prądziński's mansion, you will find the Augustów Canal Museum. Near the building, you can see the water authorities building, the lock and the harbour.

Augustów Canal Museum, 29 Listopada 5a street, 16-300 Augustów; tel.: +48 876432360.

Dominican monastery in Sejny

One of the most valuable pieces of historic architecture in the Suwałki Region is the former Dominican monastery in Sejny. The church, built in early 17th century in Late



Other attractions of the Suwałki Region 05

Renaissance style, underwent reconstruction in the second half of the 18th century which gave it Late Baroque style. The adjacent monumental monastery with cylindrical corner towers, resembles a castle. Originally a Renaissance building, the monastery has Baroque elements in the form of the corner tower tents.

Former Dominican monastery in Sejny, Świętej Agaty 6 square, 16-500 Sejny; phone no.: +48 875621755.

Eysmont mansion in Krasnogruda

The Eysmont mansion in Krasnogruda was an important place in the life of the poet and Nobel Prize in Literature winner, Czesław Miłosz. From the entire estate, a wooden building known as the mansion has survived, surrounded by a landscape park. As a high school and later university student, Czesław Miłosz spent his summer holidays in Krasnogruda. The village is also mentioned in his memoirs and works, for instance in the novel *The Issa Valley*. The will of the Miłosz family, the last heirs of Krasnogruda, has been to create the Small Homelands of Central and Eastern Europe Centre under the patronage of the "Borderland of Arts, Cultures and Nations" Centre and the Borderland Foundation.

International Centre for Dialogue in Krasnogruda, Krasnogruda 14, 16-500 Sejny; phone no.: +48 875650369; www.pogranicze.sejny.pl.

Puńsk

Puńsk, located around 30 km from Suwałki, is often called the capital of Lithuanians living in Poland. Entering the town, you may think that you've actually crossed the border to Lithuania, because you can hear Lithuanian being spoken all around, and the road and streets signs are also written in this language.

Places of interest in Puńsk include the **historic church**, the **Regional Museum** with an exhibition of folk handcraft and attire, and the **open-air museum**.

"Old Vicarage" (Stara Plebania) Regional Museum, Mickiewicza 57 street, 16-515 Puńsk; phone no.: +48 875161324, +48 5161505, +48 5161406.

Ethnographic Museum, Szkolna 67 street, 16-515 Puńsk; to arrange a visit, please call the Lithuanian Culture Centre (phone no.: +48 875161032).

Yotvingian-Old Prussian settlement in Oszkinie

If you find yourself in Puńsk, head to the Yotvingian-Old Prussian settlement in Oszkinie. It is an old ritual site of the peoples who once lived here, the Yotvingians and the Old Prussians. The stone and wood complex modelled after an old Yotvingian fortified settlement will take you back in time and let you experience the life as it was over a thousand years ago.

▶ Białobrzegi lock, photo: J. Koniecko

◀ Przewięż lock, photo: 3dpanorama.pl

Practical information

Public transport

The Suwałki public transport network connects the districts of the city and the suburban areas, providing an excellent solution to visitors without cars. From the bus stop in Maria Konopnicka square, you can reach some of the major attractions in the region: the headquarters of the Wigry National Park in Krzywe (bus line no. 2) and the narrow-gauge railway station in Płociczno (bus line no. 4).

You can find the **bus timetable** on the bus stops and at www.pgk.suwalki.pl. Alternatively, you can use the myBus online app, which will allow you to locate the nearest bus stop and also provides the timetable.

Tickets for public transport are available in vending kiosks, shops located around the bus stops, and in the ticket machine (at the bus stop in Maria Konopnicka square). You can purchase the ticket using one of the following mobile apps: GoPay (<https://go-pay24.pl>), mPay (www.mpay.pl), SkyCash (www.skycash.com) and moBiLET (www.mobilet.pl). You can also purchase the ticket from the driver when the bus is stopped (the drivers sell "packages" of four reduced-fare single-route tickets).

Luggage larger than 20 x 40 x 60 cm and dogs require a reduced-fare ticket. Transporting bicycles on city buses is not possible. If you want to travel outside the Suwałki borders, you will need to purchase a zone A or zone B ticket – the price list is available at www.pgk.suwalki.pl.

For more information, visit the **Municipal Transport Customer Service Centre in Suwałki** (in the market administration building at Sejneńska 6 street).

Parking lots

The city centre is a **pay parking zone** which covers the following streets:

- ▶ Tadeusza Kościuszki street – from the intersection with Wigierska street to the intersection with Generała Józefa Dwer-nickiego street;
- ▶ Adama Mickiewicza street – from the intersection with Tadeusza Kościuszki street to the intersection with ks. Kazimierza Hamerszmita street;
- ▶ Marszałka Józefa Piłsudskiego square.

The pay parking zone is in effect from Monday to Friday between 8.00 AM and 4.00 PM, with the exception of statutory holidays. Parking tickets can be purchased from parking meters located around the pay parking zone, and via the moBiLET app.

For more information, please contact the **Pay Parking Zone Office in Suwałki** (Tadeusza Kościuszki street 78b/15, phone no.: +48 505464457; Mon–Fri 8.00 AM – 4.00 PM).

Accommodation

Apartamenty Europejska, Wojska Polskiego 102 st., phone no.: +48 875642626, +48 515213993

Dom Studenta (Dormitory), Szkolna 2 st., phone no.: +48 875663129, +48 875172500

Fresco Hostel & Food, Ks. J. Zawadzkiego 7 st., phone no.: 501370899, www.fresco-hostel.pl

Wigry Hostel, Zarzecze 26 st., phone no.: +48 875667220, www.hostelwigry.pl

Akvilon * Hotel**, T. Kościuszki 4 st., phone no.: +48 875635940, www.akvilon.pl

Velvet * Hotel**, T. Kościuszki 128 st., phone no.: +87 5635252, www.hotelvelvet.pl

Loft 1898 * Hotel**, gen. K. Pułaskiego 24k st., phone no.: +48 877395900, www.hotelloft.pl

Logos ** Hotel, T. Kościuszki 120, phone no.: +48 875666900, www.logos-hotel.pl

Szysko * Hotel**, Innowacyjna 3 st., phone no.: +48 875654646, +48 504467467, www.hotel-szysko.pl

Villa Eden * Hotel**, Noniewicza 37 st., phone no.: +48 877377796, www.hotelvillaeden.pl

PKS Nova – Guest Rooms, Wojska Polskiego 100 st., phone no.: +48 875665241, +48 503675099, <https://www.pksnova.pl/pl/uslugi-dodatkowe/hotel/suwalki-pokoje-noclegowe>

Private Inn, Polna 9 st., phone no.: +48 875665362, +48 875632335, www.private.firmy.suwalki.pl

Food

RESTAURANTS

Browar Północny, T. Noniewicza 42/1 st., phone no.: +48 502699399, www.browarpo-lnocny.pl

Fantazja Nad Zalewem, Zastawie 42 st., phone no.: +48 512601588, www.fantazja.suwalki.pl/fantazja-nad-zalewem.html

Galeria ze Smakiem, T. Kościuszki 82 st., phone no.: +48 509094183

Karczma Polska, T. Kościuszki 101a st., phone no.: +48 875664860, www.karczma-suwalki.pl

Kuchnia Tatarska u Alik, T. Kościuszki 98 st., phone no.: +48 885385723, www.kuchniaualika.pl

Laguna, Zastawie 6 st., phone no.: +48 509155154, <https://laguna-restauracja-wesela-hotel.business.site>

Ludowa, Sportowa 8 st., phone no.: +48 503079087, www.restauracjaludowa.com.pl

Nova Restaurant, T. Kościuszki 128 st., phone no.: +48 875635225

Piwiarnia Warki Suwałki, Chłodna 2 st., phone no.: +48 666468842

Rozmarino, T. Kościuszki 75 st., phone no.: +48 875632400, www.rozmarino.pl

Tatarak, gen. K. Pułaskiego 24k st., phone no.: +48 877395900, www.hotelloft.pl/restauracja_suwalki

ASIAN CUISINE

Azumi Sushi By Izumi, Chłodna 3a st., phone no.: +48 511600277, www.azumi-sushi.pl

Kamai Sushi & Thai, M. Konopnickiej 6 st., phone no.: +48 534364000, www.kamai-sushi.pl

Sajgon, Utrata 4a st., phone no.: +48 518373473,

Sayuri Sushi, T. Noniewicza 35 st., phone no.: +48 798842599, www.sayurisushi.pl

PIZZA RESTAURANTS

Al Capone Pizza Suwałki, T. Kościuszki 76 st. (entrance from Chłodna st.), phone no.: +48 875640209, +48 539447744, www.alcaponepizza.pl

Amaro Pizza & Bistro, Papieża Jana Pawła II 7 st. (water park building), phone no.: +48 875655776

Chilli Pizza, M. Reja 2 st. (Circle K fuel station), phone no.: +48 875671515, www.chillipizza.pl

Da Grasso, gen. K. Pułaskiego 30 st., phone no.: +48 875678223, +48 877331785, +48 504907918, +48 664041848, www.da-grasso.pl

Fantazja, L. Waryńskiego 21 st., phone no.: +48 875653749, www.fantazja-suwalki.pl

Gruby Benek, T. Kościuszki 78 st., phone no.: +48 875662896, www.grubybenek.pl

Pinokio, A. Wierusza-Kowalskiego 17 st., phone no.: +48 877319842, +48 515596982, www.kawiarniapinokio.pl

Planeta Pizzy, P. Suzina 12 st., phone no.: +48 888810610, www.planetapizzy.pl

CAFES AND CAKE SHOPS

Cukiernia Jana, Sejneńska 7 st., T. Kościuszki 52 st., phone no.: +48 875650056, www.cukierniajana.com.pl

Delissa, Chłodna 18 st., phone no.: +48 608707791, www.delissa.pl

EMMI Suwalska Manufaktura Lodów i Czekolady, T. Kościuszki 82 st., phone no.: +48 601492818

Grycan, Suwałki Plaza Shopping Mall, gen. J. Dwernickiego 15 st., phone no.:

+48 795529181, www.grycan.pl/lodziarnie/suwalki

Sugar, T. Kościuszki 76 st., phone no.: +48 875682707, www.sugar.com.pl

CREPES AND PIEROGIES

Naleśnikarnia Lemon, T. Noniewicza 37/1 st., phone no.: +48 515388172, www.lemon.suwalki.pl

Naleśnikarnia Pod Chmurką, T. Kościuszki 86 st., phone no.: +48 690464285, www.nalesnikarniapodchmurka.eatbu.com

Pierogarnia Rita, T. Noniewicza 85b st., phone no.: +48 664561136, <http://ritapirogarnia.pl>

BISTROS

Bar mleczny Pod Śliwą, ks. K. Hamerszmista 8 st., phone no.: +48 519847556, www.podsliva.suwalki.pl

Bar Ratuszowy in the City Council, A. Mickiewicza 1 st., phone no.: +48 875628040

Bar Suwalski, A. Mickiewicza 5 st., phone no.: +48 514632830

Fabryka Smaku, R. Minkiewicza 1 st., phone no.: +48 500808086, www.fabryka-smaku.com.pl

Na Chłodnej, Chłodna 16 st., phone no.: +48 875650054

Na Rogu, Krótka 10 st., phone no.: +48 875640118

Obiadkowo, Krótka 6a st., Sejneńska 7b st., phone no.: +48 500333737, +48 572614053

CLUBS AND PUBS

Black Pub Komin, E. Plater 1 st., phone no.: +48 508995364
Klub Brama, L. Waryńskiego 7 st., phone no.: +48 875631039, www.pubbrama.pl
Metro Shot Bar, Konopnickiej 4 st., phone no.: +48 698860364
Retro Pub, Chłodna 2 st., phone no.: +48 539447744
Wesoła Wiśnia, Krótka 4/2 st., phone no.: +48 728493551

FAST FOOD AND KEBAB

Gigant Kebab, Suwałki Plaza Shopping Mall, gen. J. Dwernickiego 15 st., phone no.: +48 514206178, www.gigants.pl
Kebab Super King, L. Waryńskiego 12 st., phone no.: +48 875687750
KFC, Suwałki Plaza Shopping Mall, gen. J. Dwernickiego 15 st., phone no.: +48 713861924, www.kfc.pl/restauracje/suwalki/kfc-suwalki-plaza
King Kebab, L. Waryńskiego 14 st., phone no.: +48 515036180
McDonald's, gen. J. Dwernickiego 10 st., phone no.: +48 694495991, www.mcdonalds.pl
Sano Sicilian Street Food, T. Noniewicza 26 st., phone no.: +48 882272418
Szama Kebab, T. Noniewicza 26 st., phone no.: +48 791022650
Wół i Buła, T. Noniewicza 33 st., phone no.: +48 733947331, www.wolibula.pl
Zapieksy, T. Noniewicza 28 st., phone no.: +48 512850056

Useful addresses and phone numbers

PKS Nova Bus Station in Suwałki, Ułtata 1b st., phone no.: +48 875662763, +48 703302505, www.pksnova.pl
Railway station in Suwałki, Kolejowa st.
Suwałki City Council, A. Mickiewicza 1 st., phone no.: +48 875628000, www.um.suwalki.pl
Suwałki City Police Headquarters, Pułaskiego 26 st., phone no.: +48 875641503, www.suwalki.policja.gov.pl
Suwałki City Guard, T. Noniewicza 71a st., phone no.: +48 875635620
Regional Ambulance Station, A. Mickiewicza 11 st., phone no.: +48 875662268

EMERGENCY PHONE NUMBERS

Emergency phone number – 112
 Police – 997
 Fire Brigade – 998
 Emergency ambulance service – 999
 City Guard – 986

Hospitals

Doctor Ludwik Rydygier Provincial Hospital in Suwałki, Szpitalna 60 st., phone no.: +48 875629421, www.szpital.suwalki.pl
Medica-Vision Suwałki, Nowomiejska 15 st., phone no.: +48 875647444, T. Noniewicza 93 st., phone no.: +48 875632060, www.medicavision.pl

Useful addresses and phone numbers 06

Specialist Psychiatric Hospital, Szpitalna 62 st., phone no.: +48 875626400, 875626401, www.spspoz.pl
Rehabilitation Centre, L. Waryńskiego 22 st., phone no.: +48 875662233, www.spzozor.pl

Pharmacies

Pharmacy in the Doctor Ludwik Rydygier Provincial Hospital in Suwałki, Szpitalna 60 street.
Pharmacy, E. Plater 45 st.
CEF@RM 36,6, E. Młynarskiego 9 st.
CEF@RM 36,6, M. Konopnickiej 2 st.
CEF@RM 36,6, T. Noniewicza 48 st.
Dbam o Zdrowie (homeopathic), W. Witosza 13 st.
Dbam o Zdrowie im. św. Kingi, Nowomiejska 4 st.
Dbam o Zdrowie, A. Wierusza-Kowalskiego 2 st.
Dbam o Zdrowie, T. Noniewicza 85d st.
DR.MAX, T. Kościuszki 103 st.
Gemini, 1 Maja 6 st.
Gemini, Noniewicza 93a st.
Św. Kosmy i Damiana, W. Gałaja 4 st.
Nowa Farmacja – pharmacy in Krótka street, Arkadia II, Krótka 4 st.
Nowa Farmacja – pharmacy in Noniewicza street, Arkadia, T. Noniewicza 42 st.
Nowa Farmacja – pharmacy in Waryńskiego street, 1 Maja 21 st.
General pharmacy, Kościuszki 78 st.
General pharmacy, Szpitalna 71/5 st.
Pod Złotym Lwem pharmacy, L. Waryńskiego 19 st.
Pharmacy, A. Lityńskiego 10 st.

Pharmacy, A. Patli 6 st.
Wigierska pharmacy, Wojska Polskiego 23abc/u4a st.
Z Różą pharmacy, Klonowa 40 st.
Perkowscy Sp. j. pharmacy, E. Plater 20b st.

Post Offices

gen. J. Dwernickiego 15/206 st., phone no.: +48 507164551
 Klonowa 41A st., phone no.: +48 875673435
 L. Waryńskiego 24 st., phone no.: +48 875653581
 Północna 27a st., phone no.: +48 875673400
 gen. K. Pułaskiego 52 st., phone no.: +48 875650670
 Sejneńska 13 st., phone no.: +48 875651772
 T. Kościuszki 25 st., phone no.: +48 875656613
 T. Noniewicza 10 st., phone no.: +48 875651773

Taxi service

EuroTaxi, phone no.: 19662, +48 800219662
iTaxi Taxi, phone no.: +48 660429134
Radio Taxi Suwałki Express, phone no.: +48 87 5679000, 19626, 19623
Radio-Taxi, phone no.: 19622, +48 800202020
Taxi Club Suwałki – JartaxTrans, phone no.: +48 570604570
Taxi Euro Hańcza Suwałki, phone no.: +48 800219664

Taxi Okey Suwałki, phone no.:
+48 875652277
Taxi Suwałki, phone no.: +48 662079745
Tele-Taxi, phone no.: 19624,
+48 800400400

Currency exchange

Boss, T. Noniewicz 44a st.
Exchange, T. Kościuszki 60 st.
Non Stop, K. Pułaskiego 40 st.
Non Stop, T. Kościuszki 71 st.
Panama, E. Plater 9a/3 st.
Zenit, Sejneńska 6 st.
Currency exchange, A. Wierusza-Kowalskiego 2 st. (Kaufland)
Currency exchange, gen. J. Dwernickiego 15 st. (Suwałki Plaza Shopping Mall)
Currency exchange, T. Kościuszki 78 st.
Currency exchange, gen. K. Pułaskiego 107 st.
Currency exchange, Wojska Polskiego 77 st.

Shopping and souvenirs

Shopping malls and supermarkets

Suwałki Plaza Shopping Mall, gen. J. Dwernickiego 15 st., www.suwalkiplaza.com.pl
Kaufland, A. Wierusza-Kowalskiego 2 st., phone no.: +48 875627300, www.kaufland.pl
Multishop Suwałki, Armii Krajowej 33 st., phone no.: +48 222439962, www.multishopswalki.pl

Souvenirs

Tourist Information Centre,
ks. K. Hamerszmity 16 st., phone no.:
+48 875662079

Events calendar

January

SUNNY SUWAŁKI STATION (STACJA POGODNE SUWAŁKI)

This winter festival aimed at showing Suwałki as a great winter sports and events destination, has become a fixture in the city events calendar. See p. 75

Organizers: Suwałki Municipal Culture Centre (www.soksuwalki.eu), Suwałki Sports & Recreation Centre (www.osir.suwalki.pl), the City of Suwałki (www.um.suwalki.pl)

February

THE "YOTVINGIAN SPEAR" PRESIDENT OF SUWAŁKI AWARD CEREMONY

The annual President of Suwałki award for distinguished service for the city in all aspects of public life is given to individuals and entities. Several years ago, a separate award was created for entrepreneurs conducting their businesses in Suwałki for outstanding products or services acclaimed by the consumers. The ceremony is accompanied by a carnival ball.

Organizers: City of Suwałki, Suwałki Municipal Culture Centre (www.soksuwalki.eu)
Location: The Sports & Recreation Centre Arena

March

THE SUWAŁKI CHURCH FAIR (KAZIUK SUWAŁSKI)

Kaziuk Suwałski is a church fair originating from the common Polish and Lithuanian tradition, held in the vicinity of the church of Saint Casimir Jagiellon in Suwałki. On the stalls with the handcraft and folk art from the Suwałki Region and the neighbouring Lithuania, you can buy traditional Easter eggs, Easter palms from the Vilnius region, traditional folk toys, pottery and much more. The fair also includes old folk crafts shows and performances by folk artists and bands presenting the traditional musical culture of the region.

Organiser: Suwałki Municipal Culture Centre, (www.soksuwalki.eu)

Location: Patli street, Witosa street, St Casimir Jagiellon church

SBF WARM-UP

The warm-up before the Suwałki Blues Festival has become a local tradition. Every year, blues musicians from Poland and abroad serve a venerable musical feast.

Organiser: Suwałki Municipal Culture Centre, (www.soksuwalki.eu)

Location: Suwałki Municipal Culture Centre

May

SUWAŁKI MISS RUN

Suwałki Miss Run is a fixture in the running festivals calendar. The all-female run was initially organised on Women's Day. The main event of the festival is a 5-km

run around the Arkadia pond. There is also a 100-m high-heels run. During the festival, the Fashion Run Miss and the Photogenic Miss are crowned.

Organiser: Sports and Recreation Centre (www.osir.suwalki.pl)

Location: Arkadia pond

STATE HIGHER SCHOOL OF VOCATIONAL EDUCATION STUDENT FESTIVAL

As per the tradition, for the duration of the student festival (*juwenalia*), the city is taken over by the students. The first day of *juwenalia* is marked by open-air concerts, while on the second day, the festivities move to the clubs.

Organiser: State Higher School of Vocational Education in Suwałki (www.pwsz.suwalki.pl)

Location: Constitution of May 3 park

"SZWAJCARIA" YOTVINGIAN ARCHAEOLOGICAL FESTIVAL

Since 1999, the District Museum in Suwałki holds a two-day archaeological festival in the middle of the year. The festival takes place in the former village of Szwajcaria (now a district of Suwałki), in the vicinity of the famous kurgan graveyard dating back to Ancient Rome and the pre-modern mass migrations, studied in the 1950s and the 1960s by the Sudovian Expedition. The festival is held on the site of the former camp of the Expedition.

Organiser: District Museum in Suwałki (www.muzeum.suwalki.pl)

Location: former village of Szwajcaria, currently on the northern outskirts of Suwałki; Studzieniczne street at the national road no. 8 to Budzisko.

June

THE CAVALRY PICNIC IN SUWAŁKI

One of the main events of this annual picnic is the Cavalry Dexterity Competition, which involves cross-country riding, sabre and lance competition, historical re-enactments, marches, a cavalry evening and show jumping. See p. 76

Organiser: District Museum in Suwałki (www.muzeum.suwalki.pl)

Location: Arkadia pond, the square between Świerkowa and Nowomiejska streets

WELCOMING SUMMER

An annual event organised on the last day of the school year with the participation of the Suwałki youth who take a survey vote to select the musicians and bands performing at the event.

Organizers: City of Suwałki (www.um.suwalki.pl), Suwałki Municipal Culture Centre (www.soksuwalki.eu)

Location: Constitution of May 3 park

July

RESO SUWAŁKI HALF MARATHON

The night half-marathon in Suwałki is one of the major running events in north-eastern Poland. Its unique and consistently upheld formula has attracted over 4,500 runners from 11 countries to Suwałki since the event started in 2016. The second day of the event is the Island Run, which promotes amateur running and ends with a breakfast on the charming island on the Arkadia pond.

Organiser: Sports and Recreation Centre (www.osir.suwalki.pl)

Location: Arkadia pond

SUWAŁKI BLUES FESTIVAL

Held since 2008 on the second weekend of July, each edition of the Suwałki Blues Festival brings hundreds of blues fans to the city. The festival has since become an important fixture on the European blues scene and features performances of blues musicians from all around the world. See p. 76

Organiser: Suwałki Municipal Culture Centre (www.soksuwalki.eu)

Location: Tadeusza Kościuszki street, Constitution of May 3 park, Chłodna street, various clubs around the city

Website: www.suwalkiblues.com

SUWAŁKI FOLK FAIR

A major annual folk event promoting the folk traditions of the multicultural Suwałki Region and the Polish-Lithuanian borderlands. The main goal of the fair is to protect and promote the folklore and handcraft of the communities living in the region. During the fair, auditions are held for a number of national folk festivals, including the Folk Bands and Singers Festival in Kazimierz Dolny.

Organiser: Suwałki Municipal Culture Centre (www.soksuwalki.eu)

Location: Constitution of May 3 park

August

MAJSTER FESTIWAL SIŁY

A strongman festival which every August brings the strongest men from around Poland to Suwałki to participate in a number of events, including the farmer's walk, log lift, deadlift or keg toss, which, aside from the physical strength, also require technique and general agility.

Organiser: Sports and Recreation Centre (www.osir.suwalki.pl)

Location: Track & field stadium, Wojska Polskiego 17 st.

CAMALDOLESE FAIR

The fair offers not only the regional culinary specialties, amazing handcraft and local crafts, but also performances by local artists and concerts of the biggest names of the Polish pop scene. See p. 76

Organizers: City of Suwałki (www.um.suwalki.pl), Sports & Recreation Centre (www.osir.suwalki.pl), Suwałki Municipal Culture Centre (www.soksuwalki.eu)

Location: The promenade at the Czarna Hańcza river, Constitution of May 3 park, Tadeusza Kościuszki street, former Camaldolese monastery in Wigry, Suwałki Municipal Culture Centre

THE FOLK AND SHANTY MARATHON

The Shanty Marathon is a festival of shanties and folk music, each year attracting a devoted audience and featuring the best Polish shanty and folk music performers.

Organizers: Suwałki Municipal Culture Centre (www.soksuwalki.eu)

Location: The promenade at the Czarna Hańcza river

September

"NEIGHBOURS AT THE TABLE" INTERNATIONAL CULINARY FESTIVAL AND PICNIC

Each year, chefs from Suwałki's partner cities arrive to face a different culinary challenge. The festival includes culinary shows, tastings and competitions, as well as musical performances. The festival also marks the end of the season for Suwałki allotment gardeners who present their produce on their stalls.

Organiser: City of Suwałki (www.um.suwalki.pl)

Location: Constitution of May 3 park

WORLD CAR FREE DAY

Every year on September 22nd motorists are encouraged to leave their cars at home for the day. The people of Suwałki actively participate in activities and initiatives aimed at promoting environmentalism and reducing the exhaust emissions from cars driving around the city.

Organiser: City of Suwałki (www.um.suwalki.pl)

Location: parking lot in front of the Kaufland supermarket, Constitution of May 3 park

November

SUWAŁKI FOR INDEPENDENT POLAND

The people of Suwałki have their own way of celebrating the National Independence Day on November 11th, including the 1-km Little Patriots' Run for children, and the 5-km Patriots' Run for youth and adults.

Organiser: City of Suwałki (www.um-suwalki.pl)

Location: Suwałki

December

THE CITY CHRISTMAS TREE LIGHTING

The annual Christmas tree lighting marks the beginning of the holiday season in Suwałki. The event is accompanied by musical performances and children traditionally receive small gifts.

Organizers: City of Suwałki, Suwałki Municipal Culture Centre (www.soksuwalki.eu), the Roads and Greenery Authority in Suwałki

Location: Marii Konopnickiej square

CHRISTMAS FAIR AND CITY CHRISTMAS EVE

The Christmas fair is held each year in the holiday season, giving the people of Suwałki the opportunity to buy unique Christmas presents and delicacies, enjoy live music and participate in gingerbread decoration workshops, as well as sing Christmas carols together and meet Father Christmas.

Organiser: Suwałki Municipal Culture Centre (www.soksuwalki.eu)

Location: Marii Konopnickiej square

CITY NEW YEAR'S EVE CELEBRATION

Each year, the people of Suwałki crowd the city's main square to welcome the New Year and listen to the biggest names of the Polish musical scene.

Organiser: City of Suwałki

Location: Marii Konopnickiej square

Index

A

Abraham Stern's family home 62
Adelson's mill 63
Alfred Wierusz-Kowalski's home 44
Arkadia pond with municipal beach 56, 93
Augustów Canal 111

B

Banking House 21, 50
Barracks complexes 21
Bridge over the Czarna Hańcza river 56
Bus station 9

C

Cemeteries 21
Chapel of Transfiguration of Jesus 53
"Chłodna 20" Modern Art Gallery 72
Chłodna street 57
Church (co-cathedral) of St Alexander 21, 51, 59
Church of the Most Sacred Heart of Jesus 21, 40, 59
Climbing wall 87
Constitution of May 3 park 59
Czarna Hańcza river 92

D

Dąbrówka ski resort 91, 108
District Museum in Suwałki 21, 50, 67
Dominican monastery in Sejny 111
Dwarves' Corner 77

E

Eastern Orthodox cemetery 55
Eastern Orthodox church of All Saints 55, 59
Eurocamping 85
Eysmont mansion in Krasnogruda 113

F

Figurine of St Hedwig 59
Former Camaldolese monastery in Wigry 99

Former grammar school for boys 19, 40
Former New Market Square 57
Former Tax Chamber 42
Freedom Oak 59

H

Hollaender family house 66
House at number 91 21
House under the Columns 46
Houses of Prayer: Beit Jakow and Chewra Midrash 64

J

Jewish cemetery 55, 62
Jewish gymnasium 63
Jewish hospital 49, 65
Jewish senior home 65

K

Karol Majerski's house 52
Kleszczowieckie Lakes 102

L

Lake Hańcza 102
Lake Szurpily 102
Lake Wigry 97
Lechosław Marszałek's house 44

M

Maria Konopnicka High School 40
Maria Konopnicka Museum 21, 69
Maria Konopnicka Public Library 70
Maria Konopnicka's house 43
Military Club 70
Miłosz family home 52
MK Bowling Entertainment Centre 90
Molennaya (house of prayer) in Suwałki 55, 59
Molennaya (house of prayer) in Wodзилki 104
Municipal stadium 86
Muslim cemetery 55

O

Old bookshop **48**
Old brewery **63**
Old civic club **50**
Old guardhouse **41**
Old hospital **49**
Old Post Office **42**
Old Provincial Commission and Tribunal building **19, 49**
Old Ritualist cemetery **55**
One Painting Gallery **73**

P

Patio Gallery **73**
Pharmacy **49**
Professor Edward F. Szczepanik's home **46**
Protestant cemeteries **54**
Protestant church of the Holy Trinity **21, 44, 59**
Puńsk **113**

R

Regional Chamber **107**
Roman Catholic cemetery **53**
Rowelska Hill **110**
Ruined mansion in Stara Hańcza **106**
Ruined palace in Dowspuda **111**

S

Samuel Orgelbrand's house **65**
Smolniki **102**
Stara Łaźnia Art Gallery **73**
Stary Folwark Marina **91**
State Archives **51**
Statue of Maria Konopnicka **57**
Stone of Memory **65**
Street workout and parkour park **89**

Sudawskie Hills **110**
Sundial **59**
Suwałki Aquapark **84**
Suwałki Arena **90**
Suwałki Beach Arena **89**
Suwałki Landscape Park **101**
Suwałki Municipal Culture Centre **72**
Suwałki riverside promenade **93**
Swimming pool and gym **87**
Synagogue **64**
Szelment Sports and Recreation Centre **108**
Szurpilskie Lakes **102**

T

Tennis courts (clay) **90**
Tennis courts (lawn) **90**
Tourist Information Centre **11**
Town hall **19, 41**
Track & field stadium **88**
Train station **10**
Tripoint in Bolcie **110**

W

Wigry Hostel **87**
Wigry Museum in Stary Folwark **100**
Wigry Narrow-Gauge Railway **110**
Wigry National Park **97**
Wiżajny **109**

Y

Yew Hill **102**
Yotvingian Cemetery Nature Reserve **107**
Yotvingian fortified settlement **104**
Yotvingian Memorial Chamber **104**
Yotvingian-Old Prussian settlement in Oszkinie **113**



POGODNE
SUWAŁKI

Suwałki

GUIDEBOOK

Dear Reader, thank you for choosing our guide. We hope that this concise but very informative publication will help you discover one of the most charming and beautiful regions of Poland. Through this guide, we want to encourage you to take a closer look at Suwałki, its attractions and tourist offering.



In cooperation
with the District
Museum in Suwałki