

Miracle of nature

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Jacek Protas Chairman of Warmia and Mazury Province takes us around his region famous for numerous lakes, forests and unspoilt scenery.

Warmia and Mazury is a region with enormous tourist attributes. Nearly five million tourists visit the region each year. Main activities include active, cultural and weekend tourism. Often called the Land of a Thousand Lakes, in fact there are more than double the number here. Because they are joined by canals, locks and spillways you can select a route over several days without going through the same area twice. Every year thousands of enthusiasts go kayaking on the Krutynia. Pope John Paul II had also been here.

The facilities here will suit the needs of every tourist. There are several hundred agrotourist pensions and bed and breakfast hotels, where apart from getting a good night's sleep and delicious meals, tourists can learn about folk art and old crafts. High class accommodation is suitable for business tourism, where nature and water are congenial to organising seminars, conferences and integrating meetings.

The region's most distinguished figure is undoubtedly Mikołaj Kopernik (Nicolaus Copernicus) , who for 46 years was a member of the Warmia Chapter. He was in Lidzbark Warmiński (as the bishop's personal physician), in Olsztyn (where he administered the Chapter's estates) and in Frombork (where he drew up the maps of Warmia, the western borders of Royal Prussia, The Vistula Lagoon, wrote the "De Revolutionibus" work and his grave was found here in 2005). The Elbląg Canal is a world class heritage, which unchanged, has been functioning for 150 years. A Gothic Castle Route runs throughout the whole region, which today is home to museums, galleries and tourist accommodation. Various events are held there, such as exhibitions, feasts, festive gatherings and concerts.

The biggest battle in Europe of the Middle Ages took place in Grunwald in 1410. Its reconstruction each year draws nearly 100,000 spectators from all around the world, and nearly 1,500 knights take part in the battles.

More tourists have started to come to Warmia and Mazury in winter. One can rest here from the city noise, and enjoy various winter sports, including skiing.

It is worth having a good meal after various recreational activities. Regional style cuisine

specials are to be found in interesting taverns and inns, and the best establishments are marked with special plaques "Culinary heritage - Warmia, Mazury, Powiśle". Culinary heritage is an idea to promote the production and sale of local and regional foods.

Warmia and Mazury however, is not only tourism. There are many firms processing agricultural produce and producing machinery and equipment for the food processing industry. There is also a significant wood and furniture industry. There are many companies here that produce furniture for the European market. There are also other industries here, such as clothing, chemical (tyres) and machinery. All companies here have to be ecologically sound. There are no businesses in Warmia, Mazury and Powiśle which are a hazard to the environment. That is the region's priority.

Warmia and Mazury is a region that is still full of surprises and that is why it is worth coming here, relaxing and investing. It is a real miracle of nature.