

The Piast Trail is an exceptional tourist endeavour in Poland as it brings back the Polish roots and identity. It joins together not only two historic regions – Wielkopolska and Kujawy, but also two generations; it offers the young and the slightly older two intersecting routes: the North-South and the East-West. You can visit them using your car, bicycle and partially even motorboat.

## Lubiń

The Benedictine Order has been present in this area since 1070. Their monastery was built on a hill. Today's Baroque church had been erected on Romanesque and Gothic foundations. On the neighbouring hill, the Romanesque St Leonard church catches the eye.



## Poznań

The grounds of Ostrów Tumski, the location of the Cathedral, also conceal the city's most ancient history. The Royal-Imperial Route leads the tourists through the city's history. Let's begin the tour at Porta Posnania - an interactive heritage interpretation centre.



## Pobiedziska

The town owes its name to king Casimir I the Restorer and his victory (in old Polish: "pobieda") over the rebels. Do make sure to stop at the Piast Trail Museum of Miniatures as well as see the nearby Gród Pobiedziska with its reconstructed siege engines.



## Ostrów Lednicki

The island is known as Poland's baptismal bowl. It attracts visitors with the remnants of buildings from the reign period of Mieszko the First and Bolesław the Brave: relics of the royal palace with baptismal pools, the remains of the church and bridges.



## Gniezno

At the center of the town there is a hill. There is the queen of Polish cathedral churches – the St Wojciech sanctuary. Today, the uniquely expressive sculptures in the new Tract commemorate the five Polish monarchs crowned in the cathedral.



## Trzemeszno

The patron saint immortalised in the town emblem is St Wojciech. It is supposed that it was the temporary resting place for the saint's remains. The Baroque Assumption of Mary church houses the remains of the Romanesque building from the 12th century.



## Mogilno

One of Poland's oldest abbeys was founded here by Casimir the Restorer. The Benedictines built the monastery and the church. In today's complex there are excellently preserved Romanesque relics: crypts, chapels and the oldest well in the country.



## Strzelno

Two churches are located next to each other, both reminders of the Norbertines' activities: St Prokop church – Poland's largest rotunda, and the Holy Trinity and Blessed Virgin Mary church, the treasury of Romanesque sculptures with precious columns.



## Inowrocław

"The salt town", a town of health resorts with many remnants of the Piast past: the Romanesque Blessed Virgin Mary church from the turn of the 12th and 13th century, the St Nicholas parish church from the 13th century and two fragments of Gothic ramparts.



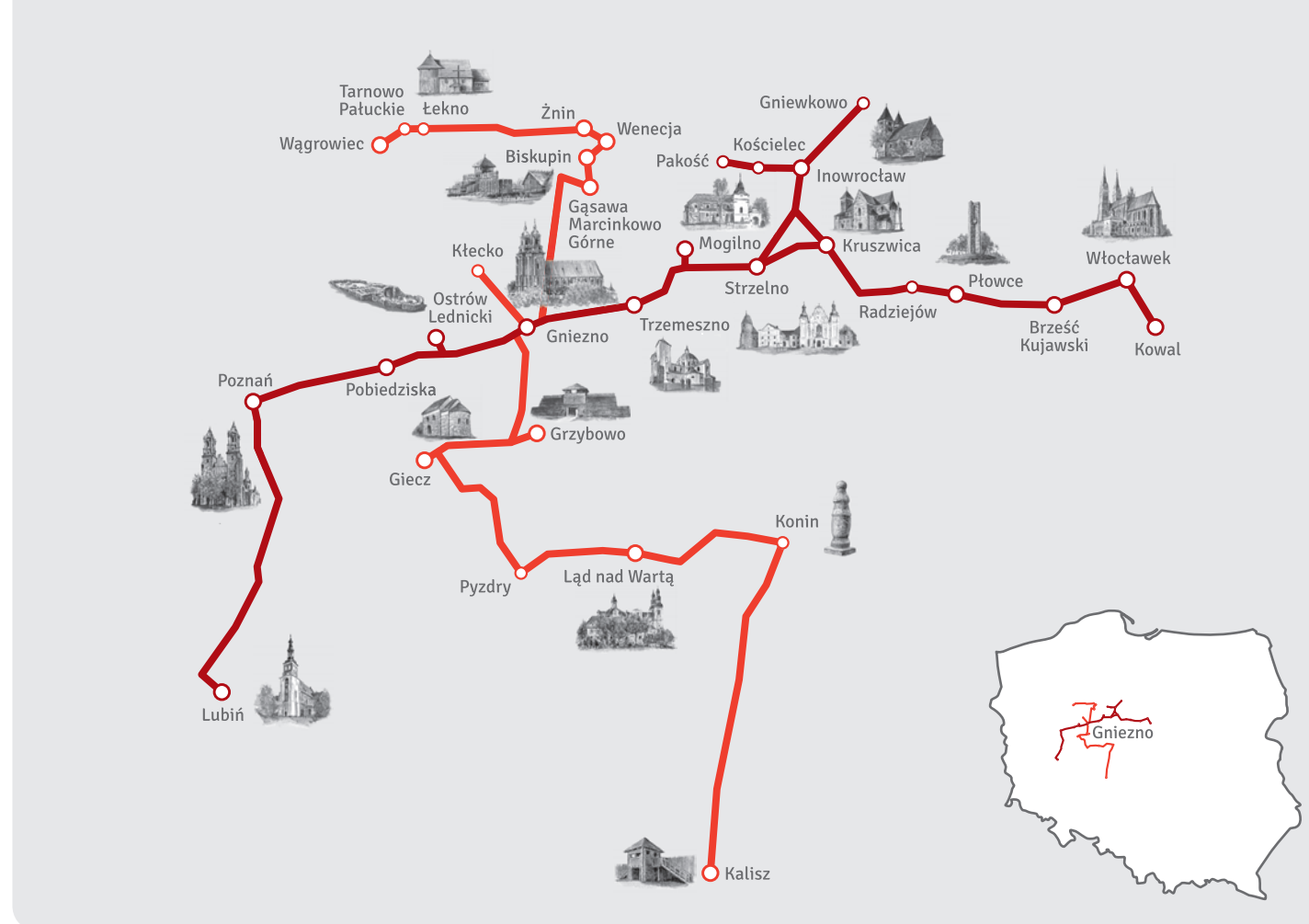
## Pakość

The bricks from the Gothic castle of the Duchy of Kujawy were used to build the 17th century St Bonaventure church. Together with the other 25 chapels, it creates the famous Calvary thanks to which the town is known as the Jerusalem of Kujawy.



## Kruszwica

The Mouse Tower (Mysia Wieża) is the protagonist of the story about the cruel king Popiel and today a delightful vantage point. The St Peter and Paul collegiate church also remembers the Piast times as it is one of the best preserved Romanesque landmarks in Poland.



## Radziejów

The settlement was there in the first Piast era. It owes its township rights to king Władysław I the Elbow-high who founded the Franciscan monastery. Concurrently, the Bishop of Cracow Jan Grot founded the Assumption of the Virgin Mary parish church.



## Płowce

There, on September 27th 1331, king Władysław I the Elbow-high and his army defeated the Knights of the Teutonic Order. Today a statue stands in the former battlefield and every year, re-enactment groups recreate the historic battle.



## Brześć Kujawski

The birthplace of king Władysław I the Elbow-high. The town suffered a lot from the Teutonic Order, and especially affected was the St Stanislaus church, founded in the 13th century. The remains of the Gothic defence walls have blended into the historical buildings.



## Włocławek

The town can boast one of Poland's oldest Gothic cathedrals. It was raised as a votive offering for the victory in the 1410 Battle of Tannenberg during the Polish-Lithuanian-Teutonic war. Centuries-old stained glass can be seen in the cathedral.



## Kowal

This border town for centuries was troubled by wars. Therefore no material remains have survived of its extensive past. Its fame is owed mainly to king Casimir the Great who was born here. Today, an impressive statue of the king commemorates this fact.



## Wągrowiec

The Łekno Cistercians built a monastic complex and managed the town for 400 years. Jakub Wujek, the author of the most important Polish translation of the Bible for centuries, had attended the Cistercian school.



## Żnin

The capital of Patuki has maintained its medieval urban layout, but the most visible sign of its past is the Gothic tower – square in the by-floor, and octagonal in its higher parts. Today, this "tower town hall" houses exhibitions of the Museum of the Patuki Region.



## Wenecja

The former castle construction fell into disarray after the peace treaty with the Teutonic Order was signed. Today the fame of the Venetian Devil and the nearby Narrow-gauge Railway Museum still attract visitors to the remains of the castle.



## Biskupin

An iconic spot for history buffs. It shows the traces of the even earlier Lusatian culture and what an early-Piast village might have looked like. In Biskupin the time does not stand still – the settlement is still teeming with life.



## Gąsawa i Marcinkowo

Gąsawa went down in history as the place of the 1227 Piast ducal convention. Duke Leszek the White was assassinated then, with a statue in his memory located in Marcinkowo Górne.



## Grzybowo

Today an archaeological reserve is located in the place of one of the largest former Piast settlements. In the museum building there is an exhibition showcasing the knife as an everyday object in the Stone Age, the Bronze Age, the Iron Age and the modern age.



## Giecz

This probable Piast ancestral settlement carries proofs of its role from one thousand years ago. The past can be traced here while looking at the palladium foundations, admiring the beauty of the temples and visiting the exhibition in the archaeological reserve.



## Pyzdry

Picturesquely located at the Warta River and with an impressive post-Franciscan monastic complex, the town still remembers the time when the last Piasts merged the Polish state. An exhibition in the cellars of arcaded house informs about Pyzdry's Piast roots.



## Łąd nad Wartą

Founded in the 12th century, the Cistercian monastic complex still enchants with its Baroque beauty. Among the Gothic traces the precious St James oratory can be distinguished. This place becomes lively each year during the Slavic and Cistercian Culture Festival.



## Konin

Mid-way between Kalisz and Kruszwica, in the 12th century a road sign was placed which to this day informs of this exceptionally exact measurement. The Konin Pole is the oldest landmark of its kind in the Eastern-Central part of Europe.



## Kalisz

The town considered to be Poland's oldest also prides itself in the Piast chapter of its history: the archaeological reserve in Zawodzie, the Regional Museum, the St Nicholas cathedral and the Dorotka Tower all invite on a journey into a world of legends.





## The Piast Trail: for an outing, for a weekend, for a holiday

- ✓ over **600 km** of historical adventure
- ✓ around **60 facilities**: 1000-year-old landmarks and multimedia exhibitions
- ✓ outdoor events **from spring till late autumn**
- ✓ stage productions, re-enactments and festivals **for the entire family**
- ✓ excellent **road signage**

[szlakpiastowski.pl](http://szlakpiastowski.pl)

[wielkopolska.travel](http://wielkopolska.travel)

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## Events on Piast Trail

### March

**Grzybowo**, Marzanna: folk traditions (a procession and burning the Marzanna – a straw effigy representing winter), outdoor games and activities, workshops, the best Marzanna contest.

### April

**Pobiedziska**, Piast Rally and Season Opener: siege engine and miniature exhibitions, training, tournaments, workshops, animal pen, horse shows and medieval cuisine.

**Kalisz-Zawodzie**, Archaeological Festival: knight jousts, meeting a medieval executioner, borough inn and kid's archeological sandbox.

### May

**Biskupin**, Archaeological spring – May Day Picnic in Biskupin: crafts and weaponry shows, knights' jousts, lake cruises and outdoor games.

**Inowrocław – Kruszwica**, Piast Running Festival, Piast Run: half-marathon.

**Museum Night**: most museums are open in the evening and at night, organising unusual forms of presenting their collections.

### June

#### Piast Trail Weekend

For three days most facilities organise various events: walks and guided tours, outdoor games, concerts, stage productions, lectures and workshops, tastings and rallies. Every year the events are connected by a different common theme.

**Ostrów Lednicki**, Noc Kupały: an outdoor event celebrating the Slavic ritual of fertility during the summer solstice (stage productions, seeking the elusive fern flower, making wreaths to adorn the participants' heads, dancing and singing).

**Łąd nad Wartą**, National Slavic and Cistercian Culture Festival: stage productions by re-enactment groups (including the battle of Łąd), ethnic and early music concerts, medieval spectacles for children, craft shows, academic lectures and workshops.

**Mogilno**, Benedictine Days: a family festival with a funfair, a scavenger hunt, games for children, refreshments.

### July

**Biskupin**, Biskupin Traditional Archery Tournament: archery craft shows (spearhead-, arrow- and bow-making), workshops, tournaments, lectures.

**Giecz**, Letnie o Piastach bajanie: evening historical stage productions, popular science lectures, early medieval crafts shows, games and activities.

**Gniezno**, Royal Coronation – Slavic Culture Festival: re-enactments, stalls, tournaments, battles, medieval tastes, crafts shows, kiddie zone.

**Wągrowiec**, Wągrowiec Cistercian Festival: ceremonial handing over of the town power, old crafts and medieval machinery shows, concerts, theater productions, a tour of the monastery.

### August

**Radziejów**, Royal Bazaar: presentation of knights' traditions, tournaments, competitions, games and activities from the olden days, a procession with torches, fire shows.

**Płowce**, Re-enactment of the battle of Płowce: historical picnic, a performance with many brotherhoods of knights, folk concerts, a dance.

**Grzybowo**, Grzybowo Knights' Tournament: armaments and battle displays, meetings with archaeologists and historians, lectures, theater productions, educational activities for children.

**Kalisz-Zawodzie**, Piast Feast: historical re-enactments, displays of clothing, armaments and battles.



Crafts show,  
Museum of the Origin of Polish Statehood  
photo: fotostube



Summer Solstice,  
Museum of the First Piast in Lednica  
photo: Karol Budziński



Knights' Tournament,  
Gród Pobiedziska  
photo: Bartosz Styszyński



Slavic and Cistercian Culture Festival in Łąd  
photo: Jerzy Orchowski



photo: Sebastian Uciński/  
Gniezno Town Council



The Trail Piast  
for everyone