



# OLSZTYN



## THREE DAYS IN OLSZTYN

History and Culture

By Canoe and Horse  
through Olsztyn

On Foot and by Bicycle  
through the Olsztyn Forest



*The statue of Nicolaus Copernicus*

*Whenever you dream of resting by a lake  
In the shade of Gothic castle walls  
And surrounded by greenery  
Think about Olsztyn – a town with a history  
Sparkling lakes, good food,  
Interesting things to see comfortable hotels.  
Pay a visit, and you will see that the spirit of Nicolaus  
Copernicus hovers over the town the whole year round.  
And for a start, let it be Three days in Olsztyn...*



# Three days in Olsztyn

DAY ONE

**History and Culture**

**5**



DAY TWO

**Fun on the Water –  
by Canoe and Horse  
through Olsztyn**

**15**



DAY THREE

**On Foot and by Bicycle  
through the Olsztyn Forest**

**25**





The town of Olsztyn, the capital of Warmia-Mazury province, lies on the rivers Łyna and Wąg in the middle of the Olsztynian Lakeland, which is the part of the wider Mazurian Lakes region.

Through Olsztyn runs Highway No. 16, the region's main east-west route, and Highways No. 51 and 52 which run from Warsaw to the Kaliningrad District via the border crossing at Bezledy. Olsztyn, which lies in the historic region of Warmia, is bordered by the districts of Dywity to the north, Barczewo and Purda to the east, Stawiguda to the south and Giętrzwald and Jonkowo to the east.

Topographically speaking, Olsztyn is a very untypical Polish town in that within its administrative boundaries there lie no less than eleven lakes and over 1800 hectares of forest. Greenery in all its forms constitutes over 50% of the town's surface area. Olsztyn is bisected by the valley of the River Łyna.

The highest point within the town's boundaries lies 155 m above sea level and the lowest 88 m above sea level. These geological variations are a result of the town's location on a chain of terminal moraines left behind by the last Ice Age.

The town's climate is a result of local environmental features – the lie of the land, the substantial areas of forest and the numerous lakes – but it is still one typical of a lakeland location.

During the year as a whole south-west to westerly winds predominate, but during the autumn and winter seasons more southerly winds play their part, as do winds from the north-west in spring and summer.



*The statue of St. James the Greater, the town's patron saint*

#### INTERESTING FACTS

The patron saint of Olsztyn is St. James the Greater, the guardian of wayfarers. His image with a scallop shell in one hand and a staff in the other is the town's coat of arms. Likewise the flag of Olsztyn carries the scallop-shell emblem, which throughout Europe is the symbol of the St. James's Pilgrimage Trail leading to the town of Compostella.

**ON THE LEFT-HAND PAGE:**  
*The Town Hall*

*The panorama over the town, with a view of the Castle, the houses of the Old Town and the Cathedral*





## DAY ONE

# History and Cultural Life of Olsztyn


**DAY'S  
PROGRAMME**

Olsztyn is not only an attractively situated town but also one with a history of more than 650 years. Its legacy remains with us to this day, and the memory of great people and events still lingers in the Old Town.

The military architecture of 14<sup>th</sup> century Warmia, the distinguished Secession buildings from the 19<sup>th</sup> and 20<sup>th</sup> centuries, the interesting shows and concerts all help to ensure that those who have made the decision to visit the town gladly return.

Wandering through the streets of the Old Town we can admire the remains of the medieval town walls, the massive outline of the Castle and the interesting collections of the Museum. The cloisters of the Castle are haunted by the spirit of times gone by, and anyone standing in front of the astronomical table drawn on the walls by Nicolaus Copernicus will feel the presence of history – and perhaps also a desire to look at the stars which can be satisfied under the dome of Olsztyn's Planetarium.


**1. Visit**

a) The Old Town,

Historic Buildings:

- Cathedral Basilica of St. James
- Castle, Museum of Warmia and Mazury
- Old Town Hall
- Upper Gate

b) Cultural Sites:

- BWA Art Gallery
- Planeta 11 Multimedia Centre
- Municipal Cultural Centre
- Planetarium and Astronomical Observatory

**2. Evening at the Theatre or the Philharmonia**

- show at the Stefan Jaracz Theatre (for children at the Puppet Theatre)
- concert at the Philharmonia (Fridays)
- organ concert in the Cathedral (Sundays)

**3. Supper**

- „Karczma Jana” tavern on the River Łyna
- „Różana” Restaurant

**ON THE LEFT-HAND PAGE:**  
*The Upper Gate*

*The Castle*



## VISIT

### a) The Old Town:

- Cathedral Basilica
- Castle, Museum of Warmia and Mazury
- „Gazeta Olsztyńska” newspaper building
- Old Town Hall
- Upper Gate



### USEFUL INFORMATION

#### Cathedral Basilica of Saint James

ul. Staszica 12

Open to visitors Monday to Saturday from 9:00 to 17:00 and on Sundays and holy days from 15:00 to 17:00.

## 1. VISIT – EITHER ON OUR OWN OR WITH A GUIDE WE SET OUT DOWN THE TIME TRAIL

### The Old Town

#### Cathedral Basilica of Saint James

The church was built in the second half of the 14<sup>th</sup> century.

The tower, the upper part of which was originally wooden, was replaced by a brick structure over several decades but in the same Gothic style as the rest of the building. The late-Gothic vaulting of the nave and aisles and the final stage of the tower were completed in the 16<sup>th</sup> century.

The history of the Cathedral is the history of the town in microcosm. Its most important treasure is the altar in the south aisle. When closed, this triptych shows the scene of the Annunciation. The main and side organs were produced by the Terlecki firm of organ-builders in Königsberg (today's Kaliningrad). During the years 1898–1900 the organist was Feliks Nowowiejski, the composer of the Polish patriotic song “Rota” and the opera “The Legend of the Baltic Sea”. From 1945 onwards the parish church of St. James began to fulfil the functions of a procathedral, and in 1973 it became a concathedral; that is to say, the seat of the Bishop of Warmia on a fo-



ON THE RIGHT-HAND PAGE:  
*View of the Castle*

*The Cathedral Basilica*



oting of equality with the ancient cathedral in Frombork.

In 2003 it was raised to the dignity of Minor Basilica by Pope John Paul II.

Over the past two decades organ concerts have taken place here every Sunday during July and August.

## Castle; Museum of Warmia and Mazury

The Castle is the oldest building in Olsztyn, constructed during the years 1346–1353 and consisting originally of one wing on the north side of the courtyard. The Castle is mentioned in documents dating from October 1353. During 1516–1519 and again in 1520–1521 Nicolaus Copernicus resided here as local administrator of the estates of the Warmia Chapter. Since 1945 the Castle has been the headquarters of the Museum of Warmia and Mazury.

At present the Castle carries on a programme of artistic events independently of any exhibitions or presentations being given by the Museum. These include:

- “Thursdays with Copernicus”
- Concerts by the chamber ensemble “Pro Musica Antiqua”
- Meetings in the cycle “Life Stories”



### USEFUL INFORMATION

Museum of Warmia and Mazury

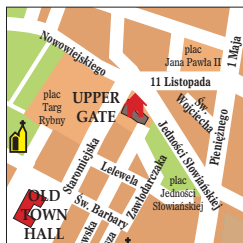
ul Zamkowa 2

[www.muzeum.olsztyn.pl](http://www.muzeum.olsztyn.pl)

tel. 089 527 95 96

Open daily (except Mondays):  
during the season 9:00–17:00;  
out of season 10:00–16:00.





### USEFUL INFORMATION

#### The Upper Gate

ul. Staremijska 1  
tel./fax 089 527 36 75



*The Upper Gate*

**ON THE RIGHT-HAND PAGE:**  
*The Olsztyn Blues Nights – one  
of the concerts*

*The Old Town Hall*

## The Old Town Hall, ul. Stare Miasto

Begun in the mid-14<sup>th</sup> century, the building originally consisted of a single wing on the south-west side of the Market Square. As a result of successive fires it was several times destroyed and rebuilt. Until 1915 the Old Town Hall was the seat of the town administration. It was rebuilt after World War II, but without the original tower. In 2003 the building underwent major restoration, including rebuilding of the tower. It is now the headquarters of the Regional Public Library service and has a reading room.

## The Upper Gate

Like the Cathedral and the Castle, the Upper Gate forms a characteristic part of the Olsztynian skyline. One of the remaining fragments of the medieval town walls, the Upper Gate – known until the mid-19<sup>th</sup> century as the High Gate – is the only survivor from Olsztyn's original three gates.

In 1858 it was rebuilt to serve as a prison, but at present it functions as a tourist hostel.

It was restored in 2003, and in one of the niches there was placed a glazed mosaic of the Mother of God, Queen of Peace, donated by Pope John Paul II and produced by one of Rome's leading ceramic workshops. On the wall there is also a bronze head of the Pope



unveiled on the first anniversary of his death, along with a plaque commemorating the gift of the mosaic.

Today the Upper Gate is a symbol of Olsztyn's openness to all who come to the town in the spirit of peace.



## VISIT

## CULTURAL INSTITUTIONS

### BWA Art Gallery

The BWA Art Gallery shares the building with Olsztyn Planetarium and is a significant site on the Polish art map.

It organises shows by well-known artists and also hosts exhibitions of work from the collections of other major art galleries in Poland and elsewhere in Europe.

### Multimedia Centre – Planeta 11

The Planeta 11 multimedia centre was set up within the Planetarium complex thanks to European funding and the help of the Bertelsman Foundation. It is one of only six such centres in the world, of which two are in Poland.

By the end of 2007 the Centre's collection is expected to reach 15,000 books and traditional media items, along with 50 magazine titles and 15,000 "non-book" items like CDs, cassettes, DVDs, video cassettes and computer games.



### b) Cultural Institutions

- BWA Art Gallery
- „Planeta 11” Multimedia Centre
- Municipal Cultural Centre
- Planetarium and Astronomical Observatory

## USEFUL INFORMATION

### BWA Art Gallery

al. Piłsudskiego 38  
tel. 089 527 94 66  
[www.bwa.olsztyn.pl](http://www.bwa.olsztyn.pl)  
Open daily (except Mondays)  
9:00–17:00

### Multimedia Centre – Planeta 11

al. Piłsudskiego 38  
[www.planeta11.pl](http://www.planeta11.pl)  
tel. 089 535 44 88

### „Gazety Olsztyńska” newspaper building

Targ Rybny  
tel. 089 534 01 19  
[www.muzeum.olsztyn.pl](http://www.muzeum.olsztyn.pl)  
Open daily (except Mondays)  
9.00–16.00

### MOK Municipal Cultural Centre

ul. Rodziewiczówny  
tel. 089 52739  
[www.mok.olsztyn.pl](http://www.mok.olsztyn.pl)



*One of the events organised by MOK – the Folklore Festival*

#### USEFUL INFORMATION

##### Natural History Museum

ul. Metalowa 5  
tel. 089 533 47 80  
[www.muzeum.olsztyn.pl](http://www.muzeum.olsztyn.pl)  
Open daily (except Mondays)  
9:00–16:00

##### Museum of Sport

ul. Piłsudskiego 69 a  
tel. 089 533 59 68  
Open Mondays, Wednesdays  
and Fridays 12:00–16:00

##### Planetarium and Astronomical Observatory

al. Piłsudskiego 38  
[www.planetarium.olsztyn.pl](http://www.planetarium.olsztyn.pl)  
tel. 089 533 49 51

### MOK Municipal Cultural Centre

MOK is the organiser of many interesting meetings, concerts and spectacles both inside the Centre for connoisseurs and in the open air of the Old Town for the general public. The most important and widely known of these is Olsztyn's Summer of the Arts; a festival of music and entertainment lasting from June to September each year and voted "best tourist product of 2005" by the Polish Tourist Organisation. It includes, among many other attractions, the Olsztyn Blues Nights, the Folk Festival, sea-shanty concerts, organ recitals and a three-day theatre festival.

### Planetarium and Astronomical Observatory

The Planetarium was opened in February 1973 on the 500<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the birth of Nicolaus Copernicus. Astronomical displays are projected onto a hemispherical screen or "artificial sky" which reveals the wealth of the heavens and the phenomena which take place there. Astronomical displays for the general public take place daily during the season (June to September) at 10:00, 11:00, 12:00, 13:00, 15:00 and



*The Telescope beneath the dome of the Astronomical Observatory*

16:30 and out of season (October to May) at 12:00. The Astronomical Observatory, located nearby in a former water tower, gives visitors the opportunity to observe the heavenly bodies through a telescope.

## 2. EVENING AT THE THEATRE OR THE PHILHARMONIA

### Teatr im. Stefana Jaracza

Today's Stefan Jaracz Theatre was built on the site of a large Italianate villa. The – for its time – ultra-modern building was opened in 1925. It reopened as a Polish theatre after World War II, in November 1945, with a company drawn from pre-war Warsaw actors: among them Mieczysława Ćwiklińska and Ludwik Solski. Since then it has functioned continuously under a succession of notable managers: at present Janusz Kijowski who has run the theatre since 2004. In 2005 it won the status of national theatre. The Stefan Jaracz Theatre is noted for its annual Olsztyn Theatrical Encounters which it has put on for many years past.

Every day except Mondays visitors can enjoy the theatre's rich and varied repertoire; not just on the main stage and in the side-auditorium but also the performances offered by the studio theatre "Margines". Each summer its cycle of open-air presentations "On the Waterfront" attracts a large following.



### USEFUL INFORMATION

#### Stefana Jaracza Theatre

ul 1 Maja 4  
tel. 089 527 59 59  
[www.teatr.olsztyn.pl](http://www.teatr.olsztyn.pl)

#### Puppet Theatre

ul. Głowackiego 17  
tel. 089 533 66 51  
[www.tetrlalek.olsztyn.pl](http://www.tetrlalek.olsztyn.pl)



Bronze statue by J. Walawski in front of the Puppet Theatre, "The Little Spectator"

The festival "On the Waterfront" – one of the events





*The Puppet Theatre's shows always charm the audience with their colours and shapes*

#### USEFUL INFORMATION

**Feliks Nowowiejski  
Philharmonia**

ul Kościuszki 39  
tel. 089 5272302  
[www.filharmonia.olsztyn.pl](http://www.filharmonia.olsztyn.pl)

### Puppet Theatre

The very youngest, older children – and sometimes grown-ups as well – will find something interesting in the spectacles offered by the Puppet Theatre, which do not always include puppets. The Theatre co-operates with young theatrical enthusiasts to put on its Festival of Children's Theatre every May – a review of school theatre productions – and it also supplements its own repertoire by inviting the best puppet theatres from around the country to take part in the Olsztyn Puppet Theatre Week "ANIMA" every November and by organising a Week of Student Theatre every March.

### Feliks Nowowiejski Philharmonia

An interesting repertoire, outstanding musicians and a symphony orchestra make the Philharmonia's Musical Fridays a must for music lovers. In summer the Olsztyn Philharmonia's performers often provide the musical backing for open-air concerts in the Amphitheatre, and also accompany many noted soloists like the famous tenor Bogusław Morka, with whom they have recorded an album. They frequently appear with Olsztyn choirs at concerts in the Cathedral.



## Olsztyn Organ Concerts

St. James's Cathedral, 20:00, tel. 089 533 01 59

Every Sunday during July and August the Cathedral of St. James is the setting for a feast of organ music under the patronage of the Union of Polish Musicians, which has organised organ concerts for many years past. These Sunday recitals give the opportunity of hearing many renowned soloists from Poland and abroad.

## 3. SUPPER

After a day immersed in history and culture and surrounded by its treasures, the evening needs to be rounded off with a good meal eaten in welcoming, stylish surroundings: flavoursome traditional Polish cuisine more or less toned down to suit modern tastes. There is no shortage of such places in the Old Town, where alongside good restaurants there are some excellent clubs where you can listen to fine jazz music until the small hours or dance to the choices of a DJ. Except that it had better not be until dawn, because we have another heavy day in front of us – and if you finish up with the sea-shantymen there'll be no end to it. The Sea-Shanty Encounters take place on the Łyna every Thursday from the beginning of July to the end of August.

### USEFUL INFORMATION

#### Where to eat:

Tavern "Karczma Jana" on the River Łyna

ul. Kołataja 11/12

tel. 089 522 29 46

- wonderful atmosphere, traditional fare beautifully prepared, "Old Polish" cuisine

Restaurant "Różana"

Targ Rybny 15

tel. 089 523 50 39

open 11.00–24.00

- exquisite traditional Polish dishes

#### ON THE LEFT-HAND PAGE:

*Muzycy orkiestry symfonicznej w trakcie koncertu*

*The two worlds of Olsztyn's gastronomy: on the left the "Karczma Jana" tavern and on the right the restaurant "Różana"*





## DAY TWO

# Fun on the water – by Canoe and Horse through Olsztyn

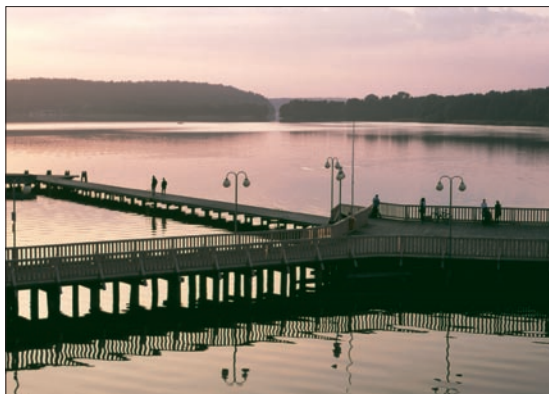


## DAY'S PROGRAMME

### Olsztyn – a magnet for activity holidaymakers

The growing number of holidaymakers who want to do something active with their vacation will find a great deal to attract them in and around Olsztyn: hiking routes, trail biking or travelling by canoe. Supper and accomodation in Olsztyn; taking part in Olsztyn's Summer of the Arts; wandering from morning to night among the beauties of nature; these are the summer vacation ideas which we propose to our visitors.

Before we set out though, let us make a short trip around the town. The 18 square kilometres of town forest. the eleven lakes and the valley of the River Łyna all invite you to spend your activity holiday here and nowhere else.



#### 1. Lakes

- jetties, beaches, restaurants
- attractions:
- boat trip
- possibility of travelling by motor boat, sailing boat, or canoe

#### 2. River Łyna, Wadąg:

- Attractions:
- Trip down the Łyna
- Possibility of travelling on horseback or by carriage through the Olsztyn forests

#### 3. Evening – banquet

- Janczary riding stables: barbecue, dancing and community singing
- Strusiolandia ostrich farm (ostrich-meat specialties)

**ON THE LEFT-HAND PAGE:**  
*Sailing dinghies on Lake Ukiel. With so many lakes around Olsztyn it is no wonder that sailing is such a popular form of recreation*

*The jetty of the Municipal Bathing Beach*

## USEFUL INFORMATION

**Around the lake are:**

Hotel Orbis Nowotel  
ul. Sielska 4a  
tel. 089 522 05 00

**Campsites:**

„Słoneczna Polana”  
ul. Lotnicza 1a  
tel 089 527 12 03

„Przy Tawernie Pirat”  
ul. Bałtycka 95  
tel. 089 523 90 85

„Ukiel”  
ul. Poranna  
tel. 089 523 82 45

Campsite No. 173 Dywity  
tel. 089 512 06 46

**Guest Houses:**

„U Sąsiada”  
ul. Dębowa 6  
tel. 089 527 68 91

„Krys-Tad”  
Gutkowo, ul. Żurawia  
tel. 089 523 85 21

Noclegi u Anny  
ul. Bałtycka 58  
tel. 089 523 84 99

Tawerna Pirat  
ul Bałtycka 95  
tel. 089 523 90 85

Farm holidays „Paradise”  
ul. Głogowa 2  
tel. 089 523 91 23

**1. OLSZTYN'S LAKES**

Within the town's boundaries are eleven lakes: Ukiel, Długie, Kortowskie, Sukiel, Redykajny, Żbik (Tyrsko), Skanda, Podkówka, Track, Starodworskie and Czarne.

Each of the above is a magnet for swimmers, anglers and water-sports enthusiasts, but the best known and most accessible are the three largest lakes Ukiel, Kortowskie and Długie.

**Lake Ukiel (or Krzywe)**

Surface area 412 hectares; maximum depth 43 m; Grade II water purity; bottom soft silt; accessibility good; shores mostly low-lying but high and steep in places; southern shore wooded.

**Bathing beaches:**

- Municipal beach – free entry, (lifeguard, long jetty, water slide, volleyball pitch)
- Unguarded beach at the back of the “Novotel” Hotel
- numerous small, secluded beaches

**Hire:**

- Sailing dinghies, canoes, rowing boats, pedalos (municipal beach)

Lake Ukiel offers outstanding conditions for such watersports as sailing, scuba diving, canoeing, motorboating and water-scooting. It also allows for other passions such as angling (pike, bream, eel, whitefish, roach and perch) and excursions on foot or by water around the lake.



*The Municipal Bathing Beach*





One of the numerous jetties on Lake Ukiel (Krzywe), the "Juvenia"

## Lake Kortowskie

Surface area 89.7 hectares; maximum depth 7.2 m; Grade III water purity; bottom sand and silt with waterweed; accessibility good from the southern side but restricted on the north; shores mostly low-lying but high and steep in places. The lake is 1.6 km long by 0.7 km across, with a sizeable area of marshes and a number of feeder streams. The Leśny and Starodworski streams empty into the lake, and the Kortówka stream links it with Lake Ukiel and the River Łyna.

The campus of the University of Warmia and Mazury lies on the southern shore of the lake.

- Bathing beaches:
  - on the site of the University of Warmia and Mazury at the southern end (unguarded)
  - military camp (closed to civilians)
  - numerous secluded small beaches
- Hire:
  - Jetty of the University of Warmia and Mazury (ul. Heweliusza 28, tel. 089 523 42 11).

Outstanding opportunities for sailing and for angling (bream, roach, pike and perch) and also for walks along the forested shores. The cycle trails around the lake are particularly peaceful and attractive.

### USEFUL INFORMATION

#### Jetties:

KKS Warmia, ul. Żeglarska,  
tel. 089 527 64 25

Yacht Club Akwen  
ul. Jeziorna 6  
tel. 089 527 64 25

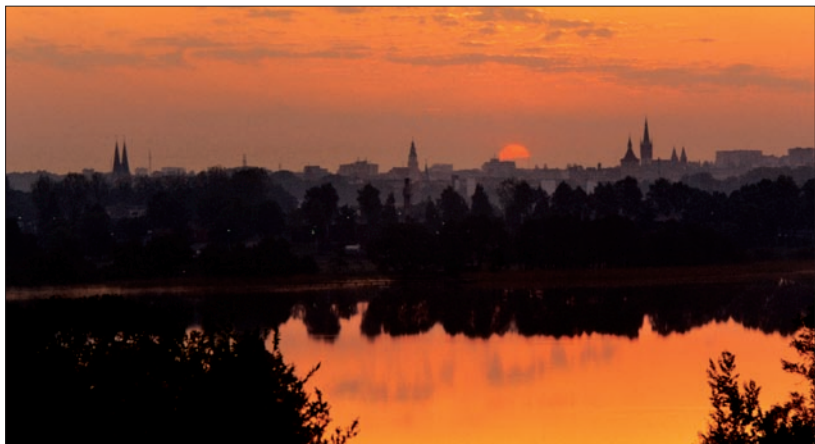
Juvenia  
Śloneczna Polna  
tel. 089 527 12 03

Scout and Guides Watersports  
Centre „Bryza”, ul. Jodłowa 9b  
tel. 089 527 00 30

Olsztyn Canoeing Club  
ul. Jodłowa 9b  
tel. 089 527 01 42

Municipal beach, ul. Jeziorna 8

**Boat trips aboard the MV  
„Cyranka”** 15 May to 15 Sep-  
tember, tel. 089 535 37 22,  
603 855 447



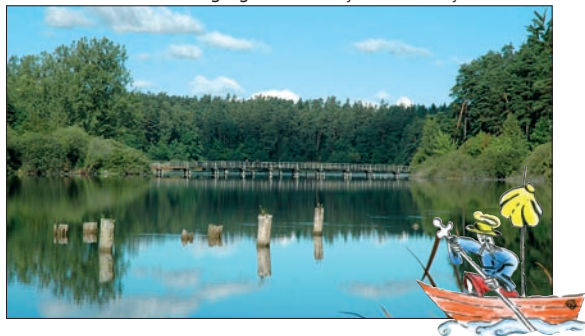
*Lake Kortowo at dawn – the beautiful view extending from Kortowo to Olsztyn is an exceptional gift of nature*

### **Lake Długie**

Surface area 27 hectares, maximum depth 17.2 m; Grade II water purity; accessibility very good; shores wooded with continuous path around the entire lake. At the narrowest point the shores of the lake are linked by a picturesque footbridge.

After many decades of pollution the lake has been brought back to life over the past ten years by the University of Warmia and Mazury, who have re-oxygenated the water and reintroduced the original plant and animal species.

The lake has no bathing beaches or jetties, but makes up for this with its excellent facilities for angling and its many foot and bicycle trails.



*A stroll around Lake Długie is a nice way of going on a long walk – and it can be shortened by crossing the wooden bridge which joins the two shores at the lake's narrowest point*

## 2. RIVERS

The area's surface water is an important element in making up Olsztyn's varied scenery, and also has a considerable social and economic importance. The drainage pattern of the town of Olsztyn is largely made up of the Rivers Łyna and Wadąg and the Kortówka stream.

### River Łyna

The Łyna is classed as a secondary river since it constitutes a left-bank tributary of the River Pregoł. It is 263.7 km long, of which 190 km is on Polish territory.

The Łyna's catchment area within Poland is 5,700 square kilometres. Within the boundaries of Olsztyn the Łyna has one left-bank tributary, the Kortówka, and one right-bank, the Wadąg.

The Łyna rises near the village of Łyna, 160 m above sea level on the Olsztynian Lakeland plateau.

The area around the river's source has been made a nature reserve on account of its boggy springs and its back-erosion. The river is the hydrographic axis of the town, dividing it into western and eastern halves.



*Members of the University Scuba-Diving Club "Skorpena" prepare to plunge beneath the waters of the Łyna*

*The tranquil Łyna in Castle Park*



**USEFUL INFORMATION****Organisers of canoe trips  
down the Łyna:**

Szarpie Travel  
tel. 089 527 47 67

Janczary Riding Stables  
tel. 089 514 82 22

Flowing through the town the river changes its character, making it possible to distinguish three successive sectors:

- southern, extending some 4 km from the southern boundary of the town. The river narrows here to 400–600 m with a marshy valley bottom divided up by many dykes built over the years to regulate the flow. In this sector the Kortówka stream joins the river's left bank.
- central – a large part of this sector is in the most built-up part of Olsztyn. The banks are steeper here and have been reinforced in many places as well as having several bridges and a regulatory weir.
- northern – extending from the edge of Olsztyn's built-up area to the confluence with the River Wadąg, the river flows down a narrow, steep-sided, winding valley in wooded terrain.

**A Trip Down the Łyna**

The Łyna is an attractive river all the way from the southern boundary of the town to the northern. Even in the town centre you can float through settings which are more characteristic of the open co-

*The beginning of the canoe  
trip down the Łyna*

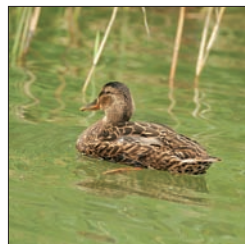




untryside than of a built-up area. Organised canoe trips take place along the sector of the river which flows through a ravine in the Town Forest, starting at the weir just below the Warmia Chapter's Castle where there once stood a watermill. The trip starts in the very heart of the town and continues down the gorge among the surrounding forest until it reaches the artificial lake above the dam of the hydro-electric power station.

The canoe journey downstream is easy and not at all physically demanding. The scenery on either side is quite wild and the river banks often appear untouched by human presence so that it is sometimes difficult to believe that you are in fact in the middle of a large town. The journey ends at the lake created in 1907 by the damming of the Łyna to drive a hydro-electric power station. At this point you can make your way back to the town centre along a sign-posted hiking trail or by catching a bus. However, the organisers of the trip usually lay on transport for you.

Struggling with the river usually takes about 1 1/2 hours, so the entire trip lasts around 3 hours inclusive of a picnic and the return journey to the town centre. A very pleasant way of relaxing.



*A canoe trip is not only the pleasure of paddling in company but also the chance of some close-up encounters with nature*

*The end of the canoe trip at the hydro-electric power station (the confluence of the rivers Łyna and Wdaq)*







Most people think that the trip ends all too soon. So for this reason the adventure has now been extended with horse transport, either riding astride the animals or with them harnessed to a Warmian farm cart.

The 11 km route winds alongside rivers and Lake Wadąg all the way to the Janczary Riding Stables where there waits a Mazurian banquet: splendid fare and entertainment until the small hours of the morning.

### River Wadąg

The Wadąg is classed as a tertiary river, being a right-bank tributary of the Łyna. 68 km long, its catchment area is 1194.6 square kilometres. The river's upper reaches are known as the Dymarski Canal and the River Dymer. From Lake Dadaj to Lake Pisz it is called the River Dadaj, and from Lake Pisz to Lake Wadąg the River Pisa. Below Lake Wadąg the last 8.8 km of its course is called the River Wadąg.

At the start of the 14<sup>th</sup> century a watermill was built on the site of the present hydro-electric sub-station "Wadąg". In April 2002 a new sub-station "Kieźliny" was opened about 1.18 km downstream.

*The unforgettable experience of riding on horseback along the forest trails*



In 2002 the purity of water in the Wadąg just above its confluence with the Łyna was rated Grade III by the WIOS environmental authority. Below the village of Wadąg the river runs in a deeply cut valley surrounded by forest, for much of its course forming the northern administrative boundary of the town of Olsztyn.

### 3. EVENING – BANQUET

After a strenuous day on the water everyone will certainly want to sit down by the fireside in the company of guitarists and acordeonists to sing their favourite songs. And if this is accompanied by good food then so much the better. Roast wild boar, dumplings, dripping and pickled cucumbers are a guarantee of good cheer and will build us up for the following day.

The poet Konstanty Gálczyński wrote about the beauty of these parts:

“And in these Olsztyn woods

It is good to wander with your dogs.

In Olsztyn’s deep valleys

Among pine and oak”



*The reward for the exertions of the day's journey is a good meal along with entertainment*



#### USEFUL INFORMATION

##### Banquet:

**Janczary riding stables:**  
barbecue, dancing and community singing  
tel. 089 514 82 22  
[www.janczary.pl](http://www.janczary.pl)

**Strusiolandia ostrich farm**  
(ostrich-meat specialties)  
Łukwałd near Olsztyna  
tel 089 514 07 09  
[www.strusiolandia.olsztyn.pl](http://www.strusiolandia.olsztyn.pl)





## DAY THREE

# On Foot and by Bicycle through the Olsztyn Forests


**DAY'S  
PROGRAMME**
**1. Hiking Trails in Olsztyn and its Vicinity**

- green
- black
- yellow
- blue

**2. Cycling Trails**

- Cycle paths
- Cycle trails

**3. Supper**

- Jetty on Lake Krzywe
- Jetty a Kortowo

The large area of the Town Forest, which represents some 22.7% of Olsztyn's total land surface, offers outstanding opportunities for activity holidays on foot and by bicycle. A number of marked trails exist in and around Olsztyn, and most of these are suitable for cyclists unencumbered by baggage.

The trails allow rambling by hikers of varying degrees of physical fitness. Olsztyn can also be used as a base for further explorations by lovers of active tourism – the choice is up to you!


**ON THE LEFT-HAND PAGE:**

*The Town Hall – a frequent starting point for cycle excursions*



*The Town Forest*



*The barrage on the Łyna at Brąswald*



*One of the many coves on Lake Krzywe*

*Brąswald*

## 1. HIKING TRAILS IN OLSZTYN AND ITS VICINITY

### **Green: Maria Zientara-Malewska Trail**

The trail was inaugurated on the 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the birth of the Warmian poet and Polish-language activist Maria Zientara-Malewska. It follows the path of the journeys which she used to make when she was young from her native village to the home of her grandparents in Likusy. Route: Brąswald – Lake Kraśnik – village and lake of Redykajny – Lake Tyrsko – Likusy (suburb of Olsztyn). Total length 10 km.

### **Black: Alojzy Śliwa Trail**

This picturesque trail allows walkers to become acquainted with the attractive outskirts of Olsztyn: the Town Forest, Gutkowo and the shores of Lake Ukiel. It is named after a Warmian national activist, folk-poet and sketch-writer.

Route: Upper Gate – Town Forest – nature reserve “Redykajny” – Lake Tyrsko – Gutkowo – Łupstych – shores of Lake Ukiel – Dajtki (hotel “No-votel”). Total length 19 km.

### **Yellow – rambler's trail**

An attractive woodland trail which gives access to the northern part of the Town Forest and the River Wadąg.

Route: Jakubowo – Summer Stadium – confluence of the Łyna and the Wadąg – banks of the River Wadąg – ul. Piotra Diernowa – ul. Jagiellońska (“Sanatorium” bus terminus). Total length 10 km.

### **Blue – Rambler's trail**

A short walking route through the Town Forest, with the possibility of venturing further along the various hiking trails which intersect with it. Route: Jakubowo – Summer Stadium – banks of the River Łyna – Lake Długie – ul. Bałtycka. Total length 4 km.





## 2. CYCLE TRAILS

An alternative to an excursion outside the town on foot is to follow one of the cycle trails which wind their way among the many attractions on the outskirts of Olsztyn – Warmian wayside chapels, natural monuments, reserves containing all the cultural treasures of the region. But before we pedal out of town let us take a look at the cycle trails within its boundaries. In Olsztyn cycle tracks form a separate part of the pavement, marked off by a painted strip or by a line of different-coloured paving blocks.

### Cycle Trails:

#### 1. along ul. Bałtycka – Length: 2.8 km

The trail runs along the left-side pavement of the road as far as Lake Krzywe.

#### 2. along al. Wojska Polskiego – Length: 2.6 km

Begins at the road sign beyond the CEiIK Cultural Centre bus terminus and then intersects with a granite-paved roadway. The road to the left leads to the hydro-electric power station on the Łyna and the intersection of a number of hiking trails while that to the right crosses the main road, then runs alongside the River Wadąg to the Sanatorium (Yellow hiking trail).

#### 3. along al. gen. Władysława Sikorskiego – Length: 3.1 km

Begins at the intersection with ul. W. Pstrowskiego.

#### 4. along ul. Synów Pułku – Length: 1.7 km

Runs between the intersections with ul. W. Pstrowskiego and al. gen. Władysława Sikorskiego.

#### 5. along al. Obrońców Tobruku – Length: 1.8 km

Runs between the intersections with al. gen. Władysława Sikorskiego and al. Warszawska/ul. Armii Krajowej.

Time to get out of doors! Olsztyn's forests and the surrounding lakes are wonderfully suited to cycle trips. In this guide we concentrate on the nearer ones which can be covered in a single day's outing

### Cycling Trail I (Length: 8 km)

Olsztyn (Jakubowo suburb) – Łyna hydro-electric station – bridge over the Łyna – ul. Bałtycka. The trail runs through the Town Forest, along the River Łyna and beside Lake Długie.

The trail begins at the CEiIK Cultural Centre at the far end of ul. Woj-



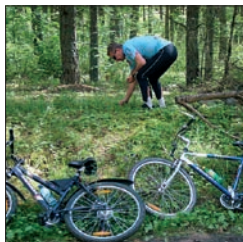
*You need to keep an eye open for signs like this...*



*The cycle path along ulica Sikorskiego*

*On Lake Długie*





*You can always take a break from pedalling to rest a while, and perhaps eat a few berries...*



*A wayside shrine – a typical feature of the Warmian landscape*

ska Polskiego. We ride along the cycle track on the left-hand side of the main road from Olsztyn to Dobrze Miasto (please note that cycling on the road itself is forbidden as far as the bridge over the Łyna).

Alongside the road on the left just beyond the Cultural Centre is a cemetery of some 800 German soldiers from the First World War. It was opened in 1915 and restored in 1992. Further on we pass a forest parking and picnic site with a gazebo and benches. The trail then intersects with a granite-paved roadway. To the left this leads down to a bridge across the River Wadąg. Beyond this is the confluence of the Wadąg and the Łyna, which forms a sizeable artificial lake above the power-station dam. The high banks hereabouts are covered with spruce and pine. 200 m beyond the bridge is the Łyna hydro-electric power station. We return to the bridge and climb up a steep bank. Legend has it that a castle once stood here, but sank into a hole in the ground. We then follow the red trail through tall forest along the picturesque banks of the Łyna – and if we are quiet we may see a woodpecker or a red squirrel. When we reach a wide road we turn left, and in front of us is a bridge over the Łyna. From here the Blue trail takes us back to Jakubowo (CEiIK) from where we started. Beyond the bridge we have the choice of three different trails:

- to the left, the Red trail leading to the Upper Gate – 3 km
- straight ahead, the road leading to ul. Bałtycka – 2.2 km
- to the right, the Blue trail leading to Lake Długie and ul. Bałtycka – about 2.8 km

If we go straight ahead the trail leads us along a gravel trackway which turns into a concrete-block road further along. Lake Długie lies to the right. At the crossroads we are at the townward end of the lake with ul. Bałtycka and the bus stop for routes 1, 6, 11 and 26 in front of us. On the left is the barracks in which the composer Feliks Nowowiejski – the composer of the patriotic song “Rota” and the opera “The Legend of the Baltic Sea” – did his military service, and ahead is the railway viaduct and Olsztyn Zachodni station. From here on we can go wherever we please: along ul. Bałtycka under the viaduct to the town centre and the Old Town or turn right towards the beach on Lake Krzywe where we can swim and sunbathe while thinking about our next cycle excursion!

## Cycle Trail II (Length: 20 km)

Olsztyn (Town Hall) – Gutkowo – Łupstych – Dajtki – Olsztyn (Town Hall).  
The trail runs around Lakes Długie and Krzywe.

We start out from near the Town Hall in the centre of Olsztyn. Going down ul. Nowowiejskiego we cross the Mill Bridge over the Łyna. At Olsztyn Zachodni railway station we turn right to reach ul. Grunwaldzka, then turn right again to pass under the viaduct of the Olsztyn-Warsaw railway line. Beyond the viaduct we go over the first crossroads with traffic lights, then take the second turning on the right (ul. Leśna) which runs along the shore of Lake Długie with the military barracks on the right. From there a road paved with concrete blocks runs all the way to the sewage treatment works, then into the Town Forest. At the crossroads the right-hand route leads to the bridge over the Łyna (a shortcut to the Olsztyn-Dobre Miasto road), but we take the left-hand route along which the concrete-block road runs up a gentle hill. When we can see the waters of the lake on our left we need to keep a look out for the first waymark of the Black trail, which is painted on a tree where the road intersects with a forest trackway. Here we turn left, and after about 50 metres a signboard informs us that we are on the edge of the Redykajny nature reserve (to the right of the road).

We continue along the edge of the nature reserve, then turn right at a boggy pond to the left of the roadway. If we stop to inspect this we can see the process by which lakes gradually fill up with vegetation to become bogs, providing habitats for entirely new species of plants, bushes and trees. We pass large, gnarled pine trees, then emerge from the forest onto ul. Narcyzowej with the village of Redykajny in front of us. We are now in the middle of a development of detached houses. We reach ul. kard. St. Hozjusza, and in front of us is the Warmian Theological Seminary the Hosianium, which is now also a department of the University of Warmia and Mazury. Here we turn left and travel along the road for about 1 km. Before the railway level crossing we turn right along ul. Żbicza, where there are waymarks for the Black and the Green trails. The road changes from tarmac to sand, and we start to climb up another hill while admiring Lake Krzywe on the left hand side of the road. The downhill slope on the other side of the hill is steep.

Lake Tyrsko was until recently a nature reserve for water plants. We

### INTERESTING FACTS

The Redykajny nature reserve was established in 1907 on an area of 10.38 hectares. The reserve protects cotton grass, sundew, common marsh, rope-root sedge, bog rosemary and bog blueberry.

**Alojzy Śliwa (1885–1969)**

– folk-poet, writer, activist in the 1920 Olsztyn plebiscite, editor of “Słowa na Warmii i Mazurach”, first post-1945 village bailiff in Gutkowo. He is buried in the cemetery on the edge of Gutkowo village.



*Sometimes you have to get off and push, where there are cobbles or where the road goes uphill*



*A well-earned rest, though not the end of the outing*



ride along the road beside the lake, with an agrotourism farm on the right where you can go horse-riding. Alongside is an unfinished hotel complex, and further up the hill is the bridge over the railway line which we passed at the beginning of our excursion. At this point a beautiful view of Gutkowo village with Olsztyn beyond it opens out in front of us. We cross the bridge and ride down into Gutkowo (now a suburb of Olsztyn) where the main road is in front of us: the right hand up towards Gutkowo village and the left leading down to Olsztyn. The road climbs steeply uphill among the buildings, and at the top of the hill is a historic church which is well worth visiting. Avoiding riding on the carriageway itself we take the road on the left past the wayside chapel, past an old house constructed from logs on the left-hand side which is well worth looking at. Further down still is the village cemetery where the local writer Alojzy Śliwa is buried.

The road from Gutkowo leads over the ridge of a post-glacial moraine. In the distance on the left we see the buildings of Olsztyn and the waters of Lake Krzywe. At the bottom of the hill is the former fishing village of Łupstych, some of which dates from the end of the 19<sup>th</sup> century. In the centre of the village is a bus stop, at which we turn left onto a field trackway leading past old wooden houses, then uphill amid fields and meadows. On the left there extends Lake Krzywe, and on the edge of the forest there is a picnic field on the edge of the lake with a place for lighting campfires. We can either take a rest here or travel further along the Black trail, which turns sharply to the left here. We continue straight ahead though, amid tall trees, until we rejoin the trail a bit further along where the forest ends and we emerge onto wide meadows. To the left is the lake with the bathing beach, jetty and boathouses of a holiday centre. Riding straight ahead, on a sandy trackway leading uphill, we come onto the road leading past the airfield to the village of Dajtki. About 1 km further on is the Olsztyn-Ostróda main road. The Black trail continues here alongside a barbed-wire fence. On the right is the motor-cross track, then a sharp-angled junction, then the road continues along the edge of the Zatoka Miła Bay on Lake Krzywe. The forest ends here, and the field trackway takes us to an intersection where we turn right onto the main road, then cross it to ride on the pavement on the

left-hand side as far as the Novotel Hotel where the trail ends. From here we can travel on to the town centre and visit the Old Town.

### Cycle trail III (Length: 18 km)

Olsztyn (Town Hall) – municipal beach – Lake Krzywe – Gutkowo – Łupstych – Dajtki – municipal beach. The trail runs around Lake Krzywe.

We depart from the square in front of Olsztyn Town Hall. Following ul. 11 Listopada and ul. Nowowiejskiego we come to Olsztyn Zachodni railway station and turn right into ul. Konopnickiej. We then turn right again under the Olsztyn-Warsaw railway-line viaduct and carry straight on along ul. Bałtycka before turning left into ul. Jeziorna where we cross the track of the Olsztyn-Orneta railway line. Lake Krzywe is now in front of us, with the road leading to the municipal bathing beach and the post of the WOPR. Here we turn right into ul. Żeglarska where we pass the restaurant “Przystań” and numerous sailing clubs. At ul. Dębowa we turn right into a housing development pleasantly situated on the edge of the lake, then follow ul. Kasztanowa to its end where we turn right into ul. Grabowa. We carry on straight down ul. Świerkowa to the end, then turn into ul. Brzozowa and after 30 m into ul. Bałtycka. After turning left we then travel along the cycle track on the roadside pavement in the direction of Gutkowo. On ul. Bałtycka we pass the house (opposite the chemist’s shop) where the renowned poet and Warmian Polish-language activist Maria Zientara-Malewska once lived. It is here that the Green hiking trail begins which leads to the village of Brąszwald 10 km away. This can also be followed by bicycle.

We climb up the hill at the top of which is the church of the Blessed Virgin Mary, Helper of the Faithful. On the left is a bay of Lake Krzywe, which is where we reach the lake’s end. From here on the trail leads along the shores of the lake. We turn into ul. Szpakowa (just at the restaurant in an old smithy) and climb uphill to the end of the road. We turn right into ul. Poranna and then into ul. Bałtycka, then up a hill at the top of which is a church dedicated to St. Lawrence. We are now in the centre of Gutkowo, and from here on we follow the road on the left past the church and the Black Alojzy Śliwa trail in the direction of the village. On the left is the cemetery. The road winds its way among clumps of woodland with Lake Krzywe on the left and Olsztyn

#### INTERESTING FACTS

The first aeroplane landed at Dajtki airfield on 18 June 1913. In 1926 Olsztyn had a regular air service connecting it with Gdańsk. Pope John Paul II landed here in 1991 when visiting Olsztyn.

**Gutkowo** village is a year older than Olsztyn, having been founded in 1352, but has now become an Olsztyn suburb.

It was on top of Gutkowo church tower that Napoleon Bonaparte stood one winter’s night in February 1807 planning an impending battle with the Prussians. Around the church are wrought-iron crucifixes forming the Stations of the Cross, and in front of the church is a memorial to the dead of World War I. There are many Polish names among them.



*The attractions of the Municipal Bathing Beach invite us to take another break from pedalling*





*Gietrzwałd – the Marian Sanctuary*

visible in the distance. We then descend into the Warmian village of Łupstych, in the centre of which is a bus stop. To the west, on top of a wooded hill, is an ancient hill fort. In the village it is worth looking at the wooden houses, many of which are almost a century old.

New cycle trails are opened every year in order to make it easier to get around the town by bicycle and make journeys outside its boundaries. Waymarked trails lead out of Olsztyn, and getting to know these will certainly make you want to stay longer in the town.

• **Red Cycling Trail I – Length: 45 km**

Olsztyn Zachodni railway station – Dajtki – Sząbruk – Gietrzwałd – Stare Jabłonki.

• **Red Cycling Trail II – Length: 21 km**

Olsztyn (Osiedle Mazurskie suburb) – Klewki – Kaborno – Nowa Wieś – Łąjs. The first section of the trail follows the busy road to Szczytno. Beyond the village of Klewki it leads along quiet country lanes through the picturesque Purda Forest.

• **Black Cycling Trail – Length: 24 km + 15 km = 39 km**

Olsztyn – Klebark Wielki – Patryki – Prejłowo – Gąsiorowo, then a further unmarked 15 km to Pasym. The trail follows minor roads in the section nearest to Olsztyn, mostly through open countryside.

• **Yellow Cycling Trail – Length: 24 km**

Olsztyn – Butryny – Zgniłocha. The trail follows the main road No. 598 from Olsztyn to Wielbark through the most beautiful landscapes of the Purda and Napiwoda Forests, passing by the Warmian Forest and Lake Kośno nature reserves.

**USEFUL INFORMATION**

**Supper:**

**Jetty on Lake Krzywe**

ul. Żeglarska 3

tel. 089 535 01 81

- floating restaurant, motor-boat trips, possibility of eating meals in a summerhouse on the water or on a raft
- light meals with lots of fish and vegetables

**Jetty at Kortowo**

ul. Heweliusza 28

tel. 089 523 39 53

czynna 10.00–22.00

- European cuisine

**SUPPER**

Time for a fish supper or some other light meal alongside the lake. In Olsztyn there are at least two places where we can enjoy the fruits of the sea and the lakes and the fresh taste of new vegetables while admiring the view out over the water. We can order our meal on a floating restaurant out in the middle of the lake, which is not only a culinary experience. Who could resist watching the sun go down while sitting at such a beautiful and tasty table? You will leave only after resolving to come back again, regardless of the time of year.

*Translated by: John Biggins*

*Cycling routes I, II and III developed by Aleksander Szeklicki*

## WE INVITE YOU TO OLSZTYN!

Department of Culture, Promotions and Tourism,  
Municipality of Olsztyn  
[www.um.olsztyn.pl](http://www.um.olsztyn.pl)  
[promocja@um.olsztyn.pl](mailto:promocja@um.olsztyn.pl)

### INFORMATION:

TP directory enquiries.....	118 913	Emergency:	
TP local information .....	94 91	Ambulance.....	999
PKP rail services .....	94 36	Police .....	997
	089 538 58 11	Fire brigade .....	998
PKS bus services .....	089 539 17 76	Confidential police	
Tourist information.....	089 535 35 65	line.....	089 522 33 99
Health information.....	089 527 68 10	Breakdown lifting.....	92 82
24-hour chemists in "Dukat"		Electricity .....	991
shopping centre,		Gas.....	992
al. Piłsudskiego 10/14 .....	089 521 86 40	Water and drains .....	994
Dental emergencies,		Town watch.....	089 522 24 11
ul. Ratuszowa 4,			089 522 24 12
open 19:00-07:00 .....	089 533 65 14	Municipal police.....	986
24-hour emergency clinic,		Animal shelter	
Szpital Miejski (Town Hospital),		ul. Turystyczna 2.....	089 526 82 15
al. Niepodległości 44.....	089 532 61 11	Veterinary emergencies:	
Tourist guide agency		24-hour clinic in the	
"Warmia" .....	089 533 38 94	University Department	
Guides around the Castle of		of Veterinary Medicine	
the Warmia Chapter		at Kortowo,	
(Museum of Warmia		ul. Oczapowskiego 14.....	089 523 43 34
and Mazury).....	089 527 95 96	ul. Lubelska 16 (24h).....	089 533 55 73
	w. 31		089 533 55 85
Warmia and Mazury			
Flying Club .....	089 527 52 40		



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