

A scenic landscape photograph of Druskininkai, Lithuania. In the foreground, a large fountain sprays water into the air, creating a misty spray. The water is reflected in the calm surface of a lake. In the middle ground, a large, white, classical-style building with a prominent tower and columns is visible, surrounded by green lawns and trees. The sky is a soft, hazy blue, suggesting late afternoon or early morning light.

DRUSKININKAI



DRUSKININKAI

THE NAME OF THE AREA IS ASSOCIATED WITH SALT

THE LITHUANIAN WORD DRUSKININKAS MEANS "SALTER" - A PERSON INVOLVED IN THE PRODUCTION, SALE, OR DELIVERY OF SALT. FOR A VERY LONG TIME, MINERAL SPRINGS RICH IN SALTS HAVE BEEN BUBBLING UP HERE.

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„DISCOVERING AND PROMOTING THE TOURIST
TREASURES OF THE HEALTH RESORTS OF SUPRASL
AND DRUSKININKAI“

In the vicinity of Druskininkai, in the village of Mizarai, there is a meteorite crater which was discovered in 1969–1971. Research has shown that 500–600 million years ago, a cosmic catastrophe occurred here – a celestial body approximately 200 m in diameter struck the Earth's surface. The result is an almost perfectly round depression, approximately 5 km in diameter and 230 m deep. Its centre is near the village of Mizarai, and its eastern edge is near Meilės sala (Love Island) in the River Nemunas. Mineral water springs gush from the depths of the crater, although it is unclear how important the crater is to their formation.

The settlement itself has been known since ancient times. Mesolithic and Neolithic archaeological finds have been discovered in the territory. It is believed that as early as the 13th century, there was a defensive castle at the confluence of the Nemunas and Ratnyčia rivers.

The earliest written source known to mention Druskininkai is the Lithuanian Metrica. It states that in 1596, the village of Druskininkai was given to the nobleman Voropajus, the proprietor of the Pervalkas estate. The healing power of the springs was first discovered by local villagers. They noticed that after wading through some of the springs on the banks of the Nemunas, their wounded legs healed faster. As a result, some of the more enterprising residents of Druskininkai began to offer "healing" services in the 17th–19th centuries. The local dynasty of folk healers known as the Sūručiai became particularly famous.

In 1789, members of the Seimas (Parliament) in Grodno took an interest in Druskininkai. At their initiative, the King of the Polish–Lithuanian Commonwealth, Stanisław August Poniatowski, visited the area. Around 1790, on his orders, the royal physician began examining the healing properties of Druskininkai's mineral water and, by decree of 20 June 1794, formally designated Druskininkai as a health resort.

Druskininkai truly became a spa town after Professor Ignacy Fonberg of Vilnius University published his research on the chemical composition of the Druskininkai mineral springs in 1835. In 1838, a treatment facility with 14

baths was built; in 1840–1841 it was expanded to accommodate 50 patients. It was destroyed by fire in 1894. A larger brick balneological clinic with 150 treatment places was built in its place. In 1841, the Druskininkai Medical Society was founded. Through the efforts of physician Ksawery Wolfgang, a journal titled "Druskininkų šaltinių undinė" ("The Mermaid of the Druskininkai Springs") began circulation in Grodno in 1844. By the end of the 19th century, Druskininkai was famous even beyond the borders of the country.

Druskininkai suffered greatly during World War I. The first resort season after the war was opened in 1923. In 1930 several new boreholes were drilled, patient numbers rose rapidly (to 11,000 in 1937), and many new villas were built. Between 1924 and 1939, physician Eugenia Lewicka's park for treatment with sun, air, and exercise was particularly popular. The park had separate sections for men, women, and children. After World War II, restoration works in the park were undertaken and therapeutic physical culture methods were further developed by Karolis Dineika. Later, the resort's infrastructure expanded. Ten sanatoriums were operating; mineral water, therapeutic mud, and physiotherapy clinics were built, and around 400,000 people were coming each year.

Since 2004, a new stage of prosperity of the resort has begun in independent Lithuania. The treatment base has been rebuilt to include nine sanatoriums and SPA centres offering spa treatment services, a water park, and other key facilities. At present, Druskininkai can accommodate almost 9,000 guests at one time.

Druskininkai is famous not only for its unique natural springs, but also for its world-renowned artists. The artist and composer Mikalojus Konstantinas Čiurlionis created his works here, and the famous cubist sculptor Jacques Lipchitz was born in Druskininkai.



One of the theories about how the underground mineral water basins formed connects them to a meteorite impact.

NATURAL HEALING SPRINGS

Druskininkai is a year-round resort dedicated to health, relaxation, an active lifestyle, and exceptional leisure experiences. Here, centuries-old healing traditions are harmoniously combined with the latest technologies; peaceful rest coexists with vibrant entertainment. But do you know what strength and power lie hidden in Druskininkai's remarkable nature?

Druskininkai emerged and became famous thanks to its natural healing resources. At all times, the resort's popularity has been based on its health-promoting climate, mineral water, and therapeutic mud.

THERAPEUTIC MUD - A SOURCE OF HEALTH

Mud treatments (known as peloidotherapy) are among the most popular procedures in Druskininkai. Long-standing traditions and the latest technologies have made these treatments unique and remarkably effective for the body. Mud treatments improve blood and lymph circulation, increase oxygen uptake, reduce inflammatory processes and pain, have an antibacterial effect, remove toxins from the body, strengthen the immune system, have a positive effect on the functioning of the central nervous system, and have other healing properties, including enhancing mood.

Specially prepared mud enriched with minerals and microelements is used for treatments – making the procedures beneficial both for your health and your overall appearance.

Druskininkai's therapeutic mud is extracted from pits located in the Druskininkai surroundings, near the villages of Mašnyčiai and Jovaišiai. It is thought that the area from which mud is taken was once covered by the sea, and when the sea receded, a lake remained. As sediments accumulated on the lakebed, sapropelic mud formed. Later, as the lake gradually turned into a bog and various plants and animals developed, peat mud also formed. Peat (black) mud is taken from the upper layers, while sapropelic mud is extracted from a depth of about 3–4 metres.

The mud is specially prepared: it is crushed, sieved and mixed with mineral water. Therapeutic mud heated to 36–39 °C opens the pores of the skin, helps remove metabolic waste products, improves circulation, relieves pain and promotes healing processes.

Mud baths are effective in treating chronic inflammatory conditions, allergic autoimmune diseases, disorders of the joints and muscles, digestive system ailments, peripheral nervous system disorders, and many other illnesses.

MINERAL WATERS - THE FOUNTAIN OF YOUTH

The healing properties of Druskininkai's mineral water have been known for several centuries. Each year, about 32.8 million litres of water are bottled here and used both for treatment and for beauty procedures.

One of the most famous is "Grožio šaltinis" ("Beauty Spring"), drawn from a borehole more than 300 metres deep. It is the saltiest mineral water in Lithuania, exceptionally rich in minerals: chloride, sodium, calcium, magnesium, potassium, and iron.

The first borehole in Druskininkai was drilled in 1930; today, the town has around 50 springs that supply water directly to baths, pools, and mineral-water pavilions, called buvettes.

Balneotherapy is a natural treatment that helps strengthen the immune system, promote tissue

MINERALISATION LEVELS AND THEIR EFFECTS:

Up to 10 g/l for drinking, digestion, mineral balance.

10-20 g/l for the digestive system.

20-30 g/l for the spine, joints, and blood circulation.

~30 g/l for the nervous system and brain function.

~40 g/l and above – for the immune system, bronchitis, diabetes, and obesity.

Druskininkai stands out for having the widest range of mineralization levels in Europe – from a few grams per litre to as high as 58 g/l. Even highly mineralized waters in other countries cannot match the distinctive salt composition of the "Grožis" and "Sūrutis" springs.



regeneration, and improve well-being. The effects are felt after a course of 10–12 procedures. Water affects the body through receptors in the skin: water pressure, temperature, and chemical composition all play an important role, stimulating circulation, metabolism, and hormone production, while salts remaining on the skin have a long-lasting effect.

PINE FORESTS - REFRESHMENT FOR THE SOUL

The climate of Druskininkai is particularly favourable for climatotherapy and recreation. Druskininkai is the most forested resort in Lithuania. Thanks to the pine forests surrounding the town, you can enjoy natural oxygen therapy. The air in Druskininkai is saturated with elements essential for the body and with pine essential oils. The air here is exceptionally clean – visitors arriving from large cities or from abroad feel its beneficial effects immediately. Within a radius of 50 kilometres around the resort, there is no polluting industry. Clean air is especially beneficial for children.

Guests from Lithuania and abroad are charmed by the greenery in the town centre and the

century-old pine forests around the resort. Each year, the Druskininkai municipality plants hundreds of new trees and shrubs in various parts of the resort, steadily expanding its green areas. Forest therapy has become particularly popular in recent years, and its benefits have been confirmed by international research. A walk in the forest helps you relax, reduce tension and the effects of stress, lift your mood, and improve sleep. Druskininkai offers excellent conditions for spending time in the fresh air: whether for sport, recreation, or time with friends and family. For the convenience of guests, dozens of kilometres of pedestrian and cycling paths weave through the pine forests of Druskininkai; there are also marked Nordic walking trails, and in winter – cross-country skiing trails. The town has a beach, sports grounds, and outdoor fitness equipment.

OTHER NATURAL FACTORS USED FOR HEALTH IMPROVEMENT

Natural materials such as salt, amber, steam, cold, honey, chocolate, medicinal herbs, milk, silk, sea treasures, music, lava stones, buckwheat, natural scents and oils, are used for massages and a wide range of therapies.

A photograph of a sunroom or enclosed porch. In the center, a dark wood dining table with a decorative base is surrounded by four matching chairs. The table is set with a white tablecloth, a vase of pink flowers, and a ceramic pitcher. Large multi-paned windows in the background offer a view of green trees and a white building. To the left, a large potted plant with red flowers sits on a windowsill. The room has a wooden floor and a white ceiling with a recessed light fixture. The text "MUSEUMS AND GALLERIES" is overlaid in white on the left side of the image.

**MUSEUMS
AND GALLERIES**



DRUSKININKAI TOWN MUSEUM

[M. K. Čiurlionio g. 59](#)

On the main street of Druskininkai, M. K. Čiurlionis Street, stands an architectural gem that has become one of the resort's landmarks – the Druskininkai Town Museum, also known as Villa "Linksma" ("Merry"). This romantic villa was built around 1908 for banker Adolf Kiersnowski. The architect is unknown. Unlike most villas of that period, which were wooden, "Linksma" was built of brick and combined features of Art Nouveau and Neoclassicism. The villa,

designed as a summer retreat for the Kiersnowski family, lived up to its name – elegant receptions featuring French cuisine were frequently held here. After the Kiersnowski family emigrated westward in 1917, the building changed hands several times, serving variously as the Polish Economic Bank, a courthouse, and the German civil commandant's office. We invite you to visit this State-protected cultural site, which houses a comprehensive exhibition on the history of the resort, as well as iconographic and archival material on Druskininkai. This popular venue hosts numerous events,

concerts, meetings, and conferences. Visitors interested in local history can join engaging educational programs such as "A Visit to the Resort Pharmacist", "Druskininkai – My Town", or water-marbling (ebru) workshops. The charming building is also a beloved spot for newlyweds' photo sessions and wedding ceremonies.

M. K. ČIURLIONIS' HOUSE-MUSEUM

[M. K. Čiurlionio g. 35](#)

The Čiurlionis family home, which became the M. K. Čiurlionis Memorial Museum in 1963, invites visitors to

explore the home of Lithuania's most celebrated painter and composer.

After moving to Druskininkai in 1878, the Čiurlionis family had no permanent residence and rented various houses until around 1880, when they began leasing one that they later purchased in instalments in 1896. The larger, grey house became the family home, while the smaller yellow cottage near the road was rented out to summer visitors. The income from guests helped the father of the Čiurlionis family, Konstantinas, pay off the house debt throughout his life. This house was very important to Mikalojus Konstantinas Čiurlionis, as it was associated with his closest relatives and fondest memories: his father began teaching him music here during his childhood, and later he would return to this house for summer holidays and to celebrate major holidays. Mikalojus Konstantinas Čiurlionis found peace, fulfilment and creative inspiration here.

His parents set up a study for him in the small cottage – the best workshop he ever had. Many of his famous paintings were painted here. Mikalojus Konstantinas Čiurlionis visited this house for the last time in early 1910, when his wife Sofija brought him back from St. Petersburg after he had fallen ill.

After the war, thanks to the efforts of Mikalojus Konstantinas Čiurlionis' sisters, the homestead was preserved, and on 16 June 1963, it was opened to the public as the M. K. Čiurlionis Memorial Museum.

The exhibition consists of

four buildings: the entrance building, the authentic Čiurlionis family cottages, and a gallery. Most of the authentic items and instruments that belonged to the family are exhibited in the two Čiurlionis cottages. The Čiurlionis family harmonium, the piano playing schedule hanging above it, the piano given to Mikalojus Konstantinas Čiurlionis by Michał Ogiński, the artist's study, and the authentic piano played by the composer during his studies in Warsaw are particularly eye-catching. In the museum gallery, you can not only see Mikalojus Konstantinas Čiurlionis' works of art, but also hear his own musical compositions. In addition to reproductions of Mikalojus Konstantinas Čiurlionis works, the gallery also hosts exhibitions by guest artists.

The museum grounds are surrounded by a beautiful apple orchard blooming with colourful flowers each year. Here, you can encounter various birds, hear them singing, and feel a real connection with nature – just as Mikalojus Konstantinas Čiurlionis did. In the summer, piano concerts are organised in the courtyard.

DRUSKININKAI TOWN MUSEUM GALLERY

[M. K. Čiurlionio g. 37](#)

Located within a distinctive "art quarter" near the M. K. Čiurlionis Memorial Museum, the V. K. Jonynas Gallery, and the Town Museum, this gallery hosts exhibitions by artists and photographers from Druskininkai, Lithuania, and abroad. The on-site art

salon offers works of painting, graphics, jewellery, ceramics, and leather craftsmanship for purchase.

V. K. JONYNAS GALLERY

[Turistų g. 9](#)

In the heart of Druskininkai, surrounded by nature, stands the Vytautas Kazimieras Jonynas Gallery, built in 1989 and opened to visitors on 4 November 1993.

The gallery presents the works of an exceptionally talented Lithuanian artist – graphic artist, painter, sculptor and stained-glass master Vytautas Kazimieras Jonynas (1907–1997) – covering all periods of his career. The collection includes drawings, woodcuts, lithographs, book illustrations, postage stamps, paintings, sculptures, and extensive documentation on his monumental church art and interior design projects.

CRAFT CENTRE "MENŲ KALVĖ"

[M. K. Čiurlionio g. 27](#)

The Druskininkai Crafts Centre "Menų kalvė" ("Forge of Arts") is a versatile creative space that brings together professional and folk artists under one roof, where visitors can observe their work in open studios. The centre regularly hosts art exhibitions, creative camps, artistic events, plein-air workshops, and educational activities for the whole family. Handcrafted products and original artworks are also available for purchase. For the residents of Druskininkai and visitors to the town, this Crafts Centre is a vibrant cultural hub – a place to meet local artists, explore

various visual and applied art forms, learn different techniques and materials, and experience the joy of creativity firsthand.

JACQUES LIPCHITZ MEMORIAL MUSEUM

📍 Šv. Jokūbo g. 17

Jacques Lipchitz – a world-renowned sculptor of Lithuanian Jewish origin and a leading representative of Cubism – lived and worked in France, the United States, Israel, and Italy. Jacques Lipchitz gained his first recognition and clients in 1920, when his first solo exhibition was held at the Rosenberg Gallery in Paris. Among his best-known works are “Man with a Guitar”, “The Bather”, and “The Joy of Life.”

In 1996, a memorial museum dedicated in his honour was opened in Druskininkai. The new permanent exhibition presents the artist’s creative path and life story through an anthropological lens, within the broader sociocultural context of the 20th century. Particular attention is given to his enduring connection with Lithuania – a bond that remained strong despite the Iron Curtain that separated him from his homeland.

FOREST MUSEUM “GIRIOS AIDAS”

📍 M. K. Čiurlionio g. 116

The Forest Museum “Girios aidas” (“Forest Echo”) is located in a house of original architecture surrounded by forest. Inside, visitors can see taxidermy displays of Lithuanian animals and birds, as well as folk art works. Along



the forest path around the museum, wooden sculptures, crosses, benches, and other carvings by well-known folk artists – including A. Česnulis, S. Vaida, A. Lastauskas, A. Raugala, and J. Videika – are exhibited.

MUSEUM OF RESISTANCE AND EXILE

📍 Vilniaus al. 30

The Druskininkai Museum of Resistance and Exile is considered one of the best museums in Lithuania dedicated to the memory of

the Soviet occupation. Its collection comprises around 2,000 exhibits – photographs, documents, handicrafts made in exile, and other relics from the years of deportation and resistance. The Druskininkai Museum of Resistance and Exile is a branch of the Museum of Occupations and Freedom Fights. The museum was established in 1996 through the efforts of former deportees and political prisoners. The museum features three permanent exhibitions – on deportations, armed anti-Soviet resistance, and nonviolent resistance.

The displays illustrate the Soviet occupation that began in 1940, mass deportations to remote regions of the USSR, imprisonments, the armed partisan struggle of 1944–1953 (especially the intense battles of the Dainava District), women’s participation in the resistance, and the continuing nonviolent opposition from 1954 to 1990. Richly illustrated with photographs, documents, artefacts, and period press, the exhibits convey the hardships and heroism of that era. One room is dedicated to the memory of Antanas Dambrauskas (1911–1995) – a former political prisoner, prominent cultural figure, writer, and translator.

“GRŪTAS PARK” – MUSEUM OF SOVIET SCULPTURES

📍 Grūto k., Druskininkų sav.

In “Grūtas Park”, you will encounter concrete and granite statues of Lenin, Stalin, Karl Marx, Soviet soldiers, and various Communist Party figures. Within the museum grounds, there is also a library filled with propaganda literature and posters, as well as a small zoo. The monuments glorifying Soviet power, erected during the Soviet era and once standing in the squares of almost every Lithuanian town and city, were dismantled after Lithuania regained independence. After gathering dust in storage for some time, many of them were eventually brought to the unique “Grūtas Park”, nicknamed “StalinWorld” by foreign journalists. Here you will see concrete and granite statues of Lenin (not just one!), Stalin, Karl

Marx, Soviet Army soldiers, and various Communist Party officials. The layout of the exhibition, complete with guard towers and barbed-wire fences, has been deliberately designed to evoke the atmosphere of a Siberian labour camp. On the museum grounds, you will also find a library full of propaganda books and posters, as well as a small zoo.

ŠAKOTIS CAKE MUSEUM “ROMNESA”

📍 Vienkiemių g. 3, Jaskonys, Druskininkų sav.

Jaskonys is a village in the Druskininkai district, located 3 km from the town. Here you will find the rural tourism homestead Ignė and the confectionery company Romnesa, whose main activity for the past 20 years has been baking šakotis (a traditional Lithuanian fir-tree-shaped cake baked on a rotating spit). The idea to open a museum dedicated to šakotis came to “Romnesa” owner Romualdas Spulis when, as he says, baking šakotis had become more than just a business – it had become a way of life, and the history of Lithuania’s national cuisine had become an inseparable part of it. The company’s director collected items related to the baking of šakotis and to its ingredients in various ways, searching for them not only across Lithuania but also beyond its borders. Under his leadership, the company’s confectioners baked an enormous šakotis measuring nearly 86 kilograms, which entered the Guinness World Records. With no suitable place to display it, on 30 May 2015,

what is likely the world’s first Šakotis Cake Museum was opened in Jaskonys.

A. ČESNULIS SCULPTURE AND RECREATION PARK

📍 Naujasodės g. 16, Naujasodės k., Druskininkų sav.

The founder of the park, Antanas Česnulis, one of the best sculptors in the Dzūkija region, invites you to take a walk among impressive wooden sculptures. Just 5 kilometres from Druskininkai, you will find unique wooden sculptures created by the author himself. In this scenic park, you can admire his hand-carved works – from a windmill and the “Wall of Pensive Christs” to folk-tale figures – all set along the winding Ratnyčėlė stream. The park is constantly enriched with new sculptures, so each visit offers fresh artistic discoveries.

“DRUSKOS STUDIJA”

📍 Smiltynų g. 9

In the creative house “Druskos studija” (“Salt Studio”) you can visit an exhibition of salt sculptures, see a unique handmade electric vehicle, and explore salts from various local springs. Professional artists Aušra Česnulevičienė and Tauras Česnulevičius have been successfully leading educational and creative workshops “A Salty Lesson” for ten years, as well as organising themed tours such as “A Day in the City of Salt – Salty to the Point of Sweetness” and “Čiurlionis” Druskininkai”. In their cosy family studio, you can create salty souvenirs with your family members, colleagues or friends.

PLACES OF WORSHIP



Few people know that it houses a very rare relic of Saint Valentine.

CHURCH OF THE BLESSED VIRGIN MARY OF THE SCAPULAR IN DRUSKININKAI

The Neo-Gothic Church of the Most Holy Virgin Mary of the Scapular, built in 1931, was favoured by Marshal of Poland Józef Piłsudski. The linguist Juozas Balčikonis, poet and prose writer Vincas Mykolaitis-Putinas, and many other prominent Lithuanian public figures were frequent visitors here. The Church of the Blessed Virgin Mary of the Scapular is an exceptionally valuable and impressive architectural and cultural monument. Few people know that it houses a very rare relic of Saint Valentine, making it a place of quiet spiritual significance.

CHURCH OF THE ICON OF THE MOTHER OF GOD "JOY OF ALL WHO SORROW" IN DRUSKININKAI

The Church of the Icon of the Mother of God "Joy of All Who Sorrow", built in 1865, is one of the oldest surviving wooden architectural monuments in Druskininkai. Its forms clearly

reflect the traditions of Russian Orthodox church architecture, enriched with details characteristic of the Romanticism and Historicism periods, giving the building its unique and distinctive appearance.

CHURCH OF ST BARTHOLOMEW THE APOSTLE IN DRUSKININKAI (RATNYČIA)

This Church of St Bartholomew the Apostle, in the Lithuanian Gothic style, was first established in 1650 by nobleman Kazimieras Leonas Sapiega. At that time, it served as a filial church of Merkinė – a so-called church without its own parish. In 1676, Mykolas Pacas built another church here, and in 1762, yet another wooden church was erected on the same site. Unfortunately, neither these churches nor the original Church of St Bartholomew have survived to the present day. However, in 1910, thanks to the efforts of priest Pranciškus Bernotas and the donations of parishioners and benefactors, the Church of St. Bartholomew the Apostle was rebuilt, brought back to life, and opened to the community of believers.



WATER SPRINGS

BEAUTY SPRING

 *In The Health Resort park, on the Nemunas river bank*

The Beauty Spring is the saltiest and deepest of all Druskininkai's springs, renowned for its cleansing and rejuvenating effects on the skin. The water flows from a stone bas-relief near the River Nemunas and comes from a depth of more than 300 metres. The spring water is extremely salty and not recommended for drinking. It may be used to wash the face and hands or to gargle. It is believed to rejuvenate the skin and impart beauty

and vitality. According to legend, in ancient times a duke out hunting with his courtiers happened upon this place. The hunt was successful, and the duke was obliged to shoot a falcon. Struck by the hunter's arrow, the bird fell into the River Nemunas, and the duke leapt into the river to retrieve it. On the riverbank, the duchess burst into bitter tears, running along the shore, shedding salty tears and calling for her husband. After some time, the duke emerged from the water with the falcon in his hands – alive and unharmed. The legend says that in the places where the duchess's tears fell to the ground, salty springs burst forth.

OUTDOOR BUVETTE OF THE DRUSKININKAI HEALTH RESORT

 *Vilnius al. 9H*

Located in the Health Resort Park, this mineral-water pavilion is known as the Druskininkai's central mineral water drinking gallery, or buvette. Its windows are decorated with stained-glass panels by artist Kazys Morkūnas, inspired by the Lithuanian folk tale "Eglė the Queen of Serpents". Inside the pavilion, visitors can drink mineral water while sitting and enjoying the coloured light shining through the stained glass and the view of the small fountain.

MUSICAL FOUNTAIN

 *Vilnius al. 7*

DRUSKININKAI TOWN MUSICAL FOUNTAIN – A SHOW OF WATER, LIGHTS AND MUSIC! Located in the town centre, the musical fountain invites you to enjoy a delightful spectacle. Choose your favourite musical piece and admire an impressive show of water, colour, music, and dancing jets. The fountain entertains residents and guests with its performances during the warm season, and in winter it transforms into an icy fountain.



PARKS



HEALTH RESORT PARK

📍 *Along the Nemunas River,
next to The Health Resort*

The Health Resort Park is the town's historic garden, located in the very heart of Druskininkai. In the 19th century, it was the centre of resort life: treatment, leisure, and socialising all took place here. The garden was designed symmetrically, with some areas laid out in the English style with winding paths. Bathhouses and the Kurhaus were built here. The Kurhaus housed a station, a bookshop-library, a confectionery, and a theatre hall. In the park, visitors could enjoy kefir and kumis. During the Soviet period, a mineral water drinking pavilion and other buildings for consuming mineral water were added. In 2011, the park was renovated: new sculptures were installed, paths, benches, and lighting were arranged, new greenery was planted,

and the surroundings of the Beauty Spring were redesigned. A historical highlight of the park is the river water level gauge dating from 1881.

CURVED BRIDGE

This elegant arched pedestrian bridge spans the mouth of the Ratnyčėlė stream. Ratnyčėlė flows out of Lake Latežeris and is 33 kilometres long. The stream is particularly beautiful and lively where it joins the Nemunas. Its banks, lined with impressive alder trees, form a beloved walking area for holidaymakers – especially the Love Path, which runs from the confluence to the bridge along M. K. Čiurlionis Street. The bridge is adorned with a decorative sculpture "Ratnyčėlė", installed in 1962.

NEMUNAS RIVERSIDE

The Nemunas riverside in Druskininkai is a picturesque promenade with pedestrian and bicycle paths, benches, and

a pier. From here, visitors can take a boat excursion to the nearby Liškiava monastery complex or to Love Island, shrouded in legend. Descending to the Nemunas, you can wash in the water of the famous Beauty Spring – the saltiest spring in Druskininkai, known for its cleansing and rejuvenating effect on the skin.

KAROLIS DINEIKA'S WELLNESS PARK

📍 *Sausoji g. 1*

Karolis Dineika's Wellness Park will impress you with its beauty and with the restored, unique historic health procedures based on fresh air, movement and sunlight. The park was originally established by the well-known Polish physician Eugenia Lewicka. It is named, however, after Lithuanian educator and therapeutic exercise specialist Karolis Dineika, who, after the Second World War, succeeded



in reviving the park and continuing the traditions of treatment with air, movement and sun.

This oasis of greenery offers places to sit quietly in a pavilion with a book, admire the flowerbeds, relax in the sauna, refresh yourself in cascading pools and enjoy sunbathing while sipping herbal tea in the aeroionotherapy pavilion. Active visitors can use outdoor fitness equipment, go for a run or simply stroll along the park's paths. There is a playground for children and facilities for various sports games. The park is also adapted for people with reduced mobility, with special

swings designed for wheelchair users. Admission to the Karolis Dineika's Wellness Park is free of charge, except for additional services in the aeroionotherapy pavilion, cascading pools and sauna complex.

VIJŪNĖLĖS PARK

After visiting the museum, you can relax in nature at nearby Vijūnėlės Park – another excellent recreation area by Druskininkai's famous bodies of water. On one side you will see Lake Druskonis, and on the other – the Vijūnėlė Pond. Renovated in 2011, the park has become a favourite destination for local residents and resort

guests seeking meaningful leisure. Here you will find various sculptures, children's playgrounds and a volleyball court. A beach with a lifeguard post has been established by the Vijūnėlė Pond, so in summer you can safely enjoy swimming and water fun. The park is also worth visiting in early spring, when it is covered by a spectacular "sea" of daffodils – more than 200,000 of these flowers bloom here.

Vijūnėlės Park has become one of the most popular active recreation spots in the resort, and we invite you too to enjoy the beautiful shoreline of Lake Druskonis.

RECREATION PARK

 *T. Kosciuškų g.*

The Recreation Park is a peaceful place for walks near the River Nemunas, surrounded by pine forests. Some of the paths are forest tracks that lead closer to the river, and the area features numerous steep slopes that provide panoramic views of the Nemunas and Love Island. It is an ideal place for quiet relaxation or a leisurely bike ride.

LOVE ISLAND

Love Island is located in the middle of the River Nemunas. In the early 20th century, it was a popular meeting place for Druskininkai's youth, who gathered there to socialise, dance, and sing. At that time, the left side of the island belonged to Lithuania and the right side to Poland, and a barbed-wire fence ran through the middle, dividing the island in two. In the interwar years, Love Island was home to a very popular beach, connected to the Druskininkai riverbank by a pedestrian bridge erected each summer, with a lifting section to allow steamers to pass. Entry to the beach was subject to a fee. Today, Love Island is a botanical reserve of Druskininkai. It can be admired from up close during boat trips along the Nemunas.

A. ČESNULIS SCULPTURE AND RECREATION PARK

 *Naujasodės g. 16,
Naujasodės k.,
Druskininkų sav.*

The founder of the park, Antanas Česnulis, one of the most renowned sculptors in the Dūkija region, invites you to take a walk among impressive

wooden sculptures. Just 5 kilometres from Druskininkai, you will find unique wooden sculptures created by the author himself. In this scenic park, you can admire his hand-carved works – from a windmill and the "Wall of Pensive Christs" to folk-tale figures – all set along the winding Ratnyčėlė stream. The park is constantly enriched with new sculptures, so each visit reveals fresh artistic discoveries.

SCULPTURE PARK "MUSICAL SQUARE"

The Musical Square is a playful sculpture park located next to the M. K. Čiurlionis School of Art. Seven sculptures in the park symbolise the notes of the

musical scale. The sculpture "Relax" by Artūras Burneika, installed here, was recognised in 2009 as the best public-space sculpture in Lithuania.

SCULPTURE PARK IN MEMORY OF JACQUES LIPCHITZ

Jacques Lipchitz was one of the most famous artists to have lived in Lithuania and a prominent representative of the Cubist movement. Born in 1891 in Druskininkai to a Litvak family, he remains better known worldwide than in his homeland. The entire exhibition of the Jacques Lipchitz Sculpture Park was created during symposia held in his honour.





WATER BODIES

LAKE DRUSKONIS

Lake Druskonis is one of the town's most important tourist attractions. On its northern shore stands the Villa "Linksma" ("Merry"), while along its banks stretch pedestrian paths lined with sculptures and the greenery of Vijūnėlė Park. Farther south lies the old Druskininkai cemetery. The lake features a fountain and offers water activities such as pedal boats and rowing.

POND VIJŪNĖLĖ

Vijūnėlė Park is another excellent recreation area located near Druskininkai's famous bodies of water. On one side you can see Lake Druskonis, and on the other – Vijūnėlė Pond. This artificial water body was created in the 20th century on what used to be a swamp. Around 1983, it was decided to excavate a pond in place of the former marshland.

MERGIŲ AKYS ("THE MAIDENS' EYES")

The Maidens' Eyes is a small, boggy lake located southwest of central Druskininkai. It lies in a marshy hollow surrounded by pine forests and consists of two oval-shaped ponds connected by a narrow strait about 7 metres wide and 40 metres long. A walking trail leads to this mysterious place, whose swampy, plant-covered shores feature a small pier on the eastern side.

Locals say that an eerie stillness hangs over the Maidens' Eyes – during 1944–1953, the bodies of fallen partisans were thrown into the lake. Today, a monument stands on the shore in memory of the partisans of the Dainava District's Merkys Unit. Each

year, ceremonies are held here to honour the "brothers of the forest".

RIVER NEMUNAS

The Nemunas is the 14th longest river in Europe and the fourth among those flowing into the Baltic Sea basin. The Nemunas riverside in Druskininkai is a beautiful promenade with pedestrian and cycling paths, benches and a pier. From here, visitors can take a boat trip to the nearby Liškiava Monastery Complex or the legendary Love Island. Descending to the riverbank, you can wash in the water of the famous Beauty Spring – the saltiest spring in Druskininkai, known for its cleansing and rejuvenating effects on the skin.

RATNYČĖLĖ STREAM

The shaded little Ratnyčėlė (also called Ratnyčia) Stream flows through the southern part of Lithuania's Nemunas valley. Though short – only 33 kilometres long – its course passes through an exceptionally varied landscape. Its upper reaches include Lake Latežeris and a few small lakes that feed

into the Ratnyčėlė. Ratnyčėlė flows through sandy terrain dotted with small lakes, yet it also has its own distinct features: the sand layers are deeper and finer, forming dunes overgrown with dry pine forests. Several small Dzūkija region villages line the stream, and its lower reaches flow through the town of Druskininkai. Along the Ratnyčėlė you can find quaint rural homesteads, an old mill, and finally – the famous resort itself. It is remarkable how much natural and cultural richness is "strung" along such a small stream. Perhaps this is why Ratnyčėlė, though modest in size, is well known throughout the region and beyond.

ALKA PONDS

The Alka Ponds, covering 5 and 4 hectares respectively, lie southeast of Druskininkai and are a popular spot for tourists. The pine-covered shores provide places for sunbathing and swimming. Around the ponds, Nordic walking trails have been laid out, and nearby the Sun Trail ("Saulės takas") begins.

SURROUNDINGS





ŠVENDUBRĖ VILLAGE

Švendubrė is one of the villages nestled in the forests near Druskininkai, situated about 5 kilometres from the resort, close to the Raigardas Valley. It is mentioned in historical records as early as 1620. The village, with its characteristic street layout, is an architectural monument. Particularly fascinating are the traditional Dzūkija region farmsteads with their distinct enclosed courtyards. The surrounding meadows, stretching over 20 square kilometres, are crossed by streams and rivulets. At the confluence of the small River Nemunykštis with the River Nemunas rises Juodasis Hill, once thought to have served as a defensive site. From its summit opens a breathtaking panorama: the blue waters of the Nemunas, the lush green Raigardas Valley, and in the distance, the pine- and shrub-covered Užubalis Hill. It is believed that in ancient times a small wooden castle, surrounded by swamps and thickets, may have stood here.

THE ŠVENDUBRĖ OAK

The village of Švendubrė nestles in the Raigardas Valley. Raigardas, or "holy hollow", was formed 5,000 years ago. The valley and Švendubrė were greatly admired by Mikalojus Konstantinas Čiurlionis, the celebrated Lithuanian painter and composer. In 1907, he created his famous triptych Raigardas, inspired by this very landscape. In the surrounding fields stands an ancient oak tree, believed to have inspired M. K. Čiurlionis to paint Sonata No. IV (Andante). Among locals, the tree is affectionately called Kastukas Oak (after the M. K. Čiurlionis nickname, Kastukas).

THE RAIGARDAS VALLEY

The Raigardas Valley lies on the right bank of the Nemunas, about 5 kilometres south of Druskininkai. Enveloped in legend and myth, it was a favourite spot of artist Mikalojus Konstantinas Čiurlionis, who immortalised it in his triptych "Raigardas". The valley's name Raigardas

is derived from the words "raistas" (swamp) and "gardas" (an old term, meaning fortified settlement). The valley features floodplain meadows, pine-covered terraces, marshland, and the small Nemunykštis (also called Kubilnyčia) stream flowing through it. In her 1973 book "Memoirs about M. K. Čiurlionis", the artist's sister Juzė Čiurlionytė wrote that Kastukas (M. K. Čiurlionis) had heard local tales claiming that the stream sometimes carried to the surface objects from the buried town of Raigardas. The only problem, she noted, was that no matter where one placed or hid those objects, they would always disappear overnight – apparently because "they" return to reclaim what is theirs.

THE DEVIL'S STONE

The Devil's Stone, also known as the Švendubrė Stone, is the tenth-largest boulder in Lithuania, located within the Druskininkai Municipality, on the northern edge of Švendubrė

village. The Devil's Stone is not only a geological natural monument, but also a storied symbol of local mythology. According to the legend of Raigardas, the town was once ruled by a wicked duke who, together with his courtiers, indulged in such excesses that even the devils themselves were angered. To punish him, the devils sent one of their own carrying a massive boulder, intending to crush the duke and his followers and seal the entrance to the town of Raigardas. But as the devil approached, a rooster crowed – and at that sound, the devil dropped the stone before reaching Raigardas.

The visible part of the boulder measures 3.23 m in height, 7.61 m in length, and 5.21 m in width, with a maximum horizontal circumference of 18.55 m.

THE LIŠKIAVA HILLFORT

The Liškiava Hillfort, with the remains of its southwestern tower, is one of Lithuania's most popular and frequently visited archaeological sites. From the hillfort and the nearby manor hills, visitors can admire a breathtaking panoramic view of the Liškiava Church of the Holy Trinity and Dominican Monastery Ensemble, rising gracefully above the flowing River Nemunas.

It is believed that a brick castle began to be built here in the early 15th century, likely before the Battle of Grunwald. Construction was abandoned soon after the battle – the southwestern tower was nearly complete, foundations for the northwestern tower and defensive wall trenches had begun, but construction came

to a halt.

Another theory suggests that the castle's construction began around 1420 and was halted after the Treaty of Melno in 1422, when the region of Užnemunė was officially recognised as part of Lithuania. Also known as Liškiava Castle Hill, Witch's Wall, or Perkūnas' Sanctuary, the site is a cultural monument of national significance.

Between the hillfort and the manor hills stands a monumental metal sculpture – an axe – created by sculptor Tomas Vosylius, inspired by a genuine archaeological find: a decorated narrow-bladed axe from the 5th–7th century. Such axes were common in central, eastern and southern Lithuania. This particular piece is extremely rare and is thought to have belonged to a man of high status – not just a warrior, but a leader or local duke.

THE CHURCH OF THE HOLY TRINITY AND DOMINICAN MONASTERY ENSEMBLE IN LIŠKIAVA

The ensemble of the Liškiava Church and Dominican Monastery is a monument of 17th–18th-century architecture. In 1694, by a deed of foundation, Władysław Jerzy Kosyła granted the Liškiava estate to the Dominican monks of the Lithuanian Province, and after long legal disputes with Kosyła's sons-in-law, the monks built a church and monastery on the steep bank of the River Nemunas. The construction (completed by 1741) also included farm buildings, a churchyard, a cemetery, and an orchard, all surrounded by a high masonry wall.

After the Third Partition of the Polish–Lithuanian Commonwealth, Liškiava came under Prussian rule, and the neglected buildings began to deteriorate. Around 1830, a correctional facility for demerited priests – clergy disciplined for misconduct – operated in the Liškiava Monastery. Later, the buildings changed hands several times. From 1920 to 1991, the monastery buildings were used for various household and agricultural purposes. Since 1991, part of the monastery building has been returned to the rectory. Between 1990 and 1997, the church was restored, and a museum with mummified remains was established in its underground crypts. The monastery building now houses an exhibition of liturgical heritage.

LEIPALINGIS MANOR

At Leipalingis Manor, visitors can immerse themselves in the traditions and history of the past. First mentioned in the early 16th century, this cultural heritage building delights the eye today with its elegant symmetry and harmony. The manor houses the unique Leipalingis Local History Museum named after Algirdas Volungevičius, established in 1957 by Leipalingis Progymnasium. During your visit, you will discover archaeological, historical, and ethnographic exhibits that reflect the life and heritage of the town of Leipalingis. Events and educational programs held at the manor reveal its most fascinating secrets.



ARCHITECTURE



BRICK ARCHITECTURE

OLD RESORT

 [Vilniaus al. 7](#)

On the site of the bathhouse that burned down in 1896, a new era began with the construction of Druskininkai's first brick-built health resort – today it houses the EUROPA Royale Druskininkai hotel. This is the oldest example of brick architecture among Druskininkai's cultural heritage monuments.

The elegant spa palace, reflecting the architectural fashions of its time, was designed by Vaclovas Michnevičius, the Chief Architect of the City of Vilnius. At that time, he was also responsible for such notable

buildings as the Vilnius Hales Market, the Russian Drama Theatre, and numerous churches in Žvėrynas, Birštonas and Kernavė, among others across Lithuania.

The new health resort building – a single-storey structure of yellow brick – embodied the stylistic trends of contemporary St. Petersburg architecture and was therefore known as Nicholas I's Bathhouse or simply the Tsar's Bathhouse. The building became the focal point of the expanding resort, housing as many as 150 baths and offering treatments with salt, mud, carbonic acid, electricity, sunlight, and air, as well as massages and therapeutic orthopaedic exercises.

Druskininkai could proudly boast a health resort that was, at the time, one of the first and largest facilities of its kind in all of Europe.

DR. BUJAKOWSKI VILLA

 [Vilniaus al. 18](#)

Today, this building of the Druskininkai Municipality is one of the most interesting architectural landmarks of the resort. Its historical name is Dr. Bujakowski's House. Dr. Bujakowski was among the ten wealthiest residents of the resort. It is believed that the brick villa was built at the end of the 19th or the beginning of the 20th century. Originally



a single-storey structure, it later received an upper floor, with all the original roof and dome shapes carefully preserved.

WATER AMUSEMENT PARK

In the second half of the 20th century, the number of holidaymakers in Druskininkai increased significantly. As the existing sanatorium facilities no longer met the growing demand for treatment rooms, the town's Executive Committee of the People's Deputies announced an architectural competition for a new health resort building. The competition was won by

architects R. and A. Šilinskas, and construction began in 1975. On 19 February 1981, the largest Physiotherapy Health Resort in Europe opened its doors. The facility had 200 places, with a capacity of 1,000 procedures per hour, and up to 6,000 treatments performed daily. It featured bath departments where all baths were automated and controlled directly from the reception desk, and in the basement a large pool was installed with water cascading from a height of four metres. Mineral baths and a wide range of other therapeutic procedures were offered here. The health resort operated

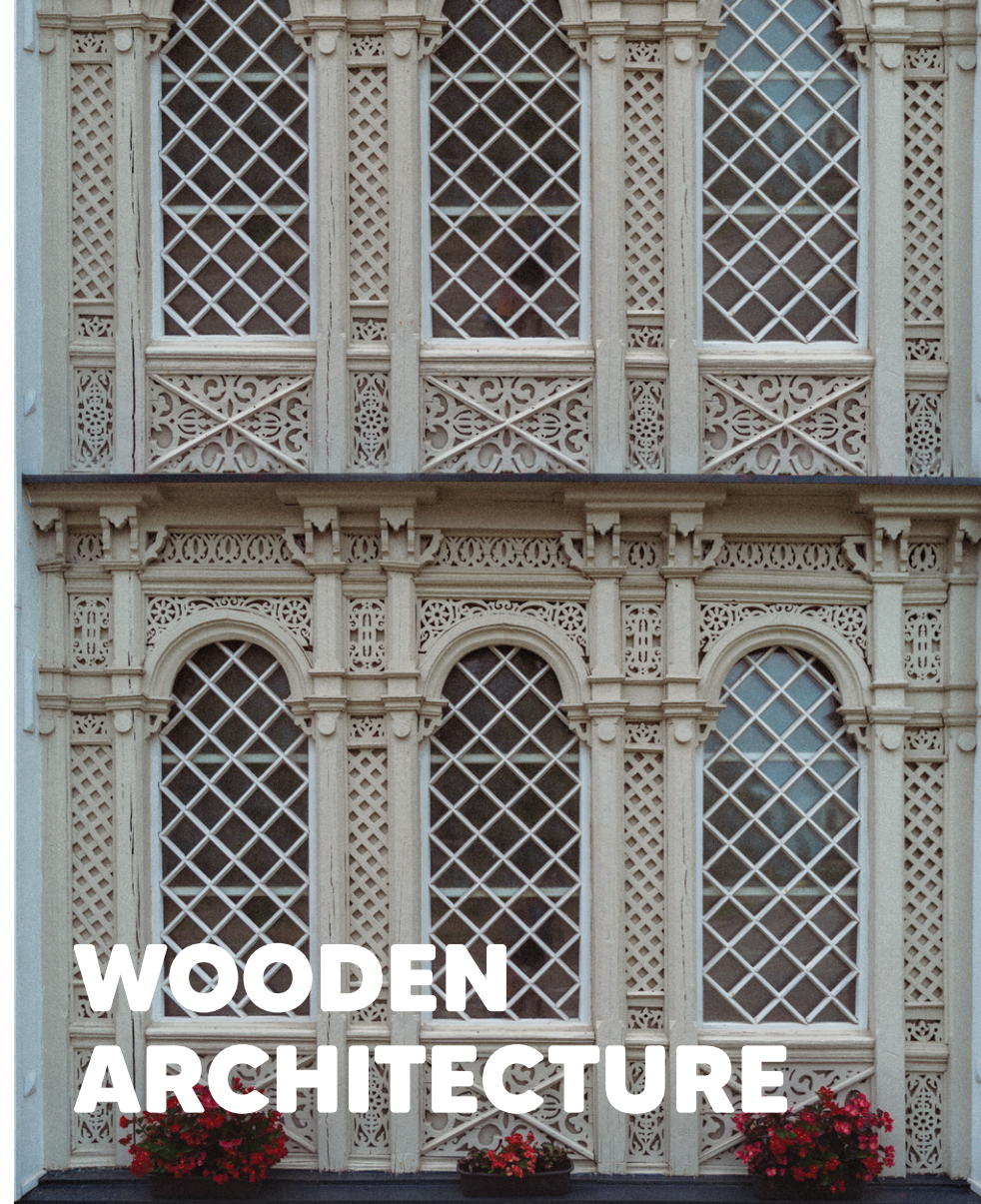
from 1981 until 2000. In 2003, the Urban Planning and Architecture Department of Druskininkai Municipality received a reconstruction plan for the physiotherapy building, giving it a new role as a Water Amusement Park.

DRUSKININKAI COLONNADE

[V. Kudirkos g. 22](#)

The Druskininkai resort's Kurhaus was one of the first public buildings in the town. Dr. Teodoras Triplinas, who visited the resort, mentioned this building in his work "A Travel Diary through Lithuania and Samogitia": "Beautiful, though wooden, halls with a large salon, used for a club and for the evening gatherings that take place here four times a week." The impressive Resort Hall (Kurzal), complete with a gallery for banquets, was designed by engineer Gaselman and built in 1856. It served as a meeting, social and leisure place for visitors of the spa and became the very heart of Druskininkai's resort life. Unfortunately, it was destroyed by fire during World War I, likely on 14–15 August 1914.

On its site now stands the restaurant "Kolonada", which also carries its own history. The building was constructed during the Polish period and, much like the Kurhaus, served as a social gathering place for holidaymakers. During the summer season, orchestras performed and concerts were held in the surrounding park. In the years of restored independence, the building was thoroughly reconstructed, yet its historic architectural forms were carefully preserved.



WOODEN ARCHITECTURE

VILLA "OAZĖ"

[V. Krėvės g. 6](#)

Both this villa and the neighbouring villa marked with the number 4 reflect typical resort architecture. It is likely that the buildings, erected

around 1930, were created by the same architect, as their style – both the composition of the facades and the dynamics of the window layout, as well as the silhouette of the multi-pitched roofs covering the attics – is very similar. In old publications

promoting Druskininkai, Villa "Oazė" ("Oasis") was presented as a modern guest house offering dietary meals on request and rooms with spacious verandas, a large dining room, a piano, a bathtub and even a sewerage system.

VILLA COMPLEX

📍 *Maironio g. 14 ir 16*

The interwar complex of buildings on Maironio Street was complemented by the Villa "Imperial" (Maironio g. 16), reminiscent of Swiss-style wooden spa architecture. Built in 1926, the house has undergone several renovations and repaintings over time, with some façade decorations altered. It was among the first private holiday homes in the resort, owned by local entrepreneur Meyer Frenkel. Initially, the villa operated only during the summer season, offering both guest rooms and a restaurant. Nearby stands the Villa "Niespodzianka" (Maironio g. 14), adorned with intricate openwork wood carvings. The elegant building radiates a sense of Italian romanticism.

VILLA "RADIUM"

📍 *T. Kosciuškos g. 9*

This jewel of the resort belongs to a building complex that also includes the later brick Burmistr's House (T. Kosciuškos g. 7). With its massive volume, playful façade composition, and decorative structure, the building immediately draws the eye, standing out among the resort's wooden villas. Its name is associated with the chemical element radium, discovered by Polish-born scientist Maria Salomea Skłodowska-Curie together with her husband. At that time, interest in newly discovered chemical elements spread across Poland, and even the radioactivity of Druskininkai's mineral waters was being studied. The villa, which once offered accommodation for visitors, was later converted into a sanatorium

laboratory during the Soviet era. In 2009, the building was fully restored, and today it again provides guest accommodation services.

VILLA "RIVJERA"

📍 *M. K. Čiurlionio g. 61*

Built in the 1920s–30s, the guesthouse of Elžbieta Mulevskaja stood out as one of the most modern buildings in the centre of the resort at the time. The rooms had private verandas and balconies, illuminated by electric light in the evenings, and the villa was equipped with a sewage system – an advanced amenity for that era. Guests could enjoy fashionable sunbathing on the terrace, while the nearby tennis courts and recreation area offered plenty of opportunities for active leisure.

VILLA "MAURÉ"

📍 *Laisvės a. 21*

Erected around 1900, at the turn of the 19th and 20th centuries, in Druskininkai's Old Town, the building's most distinctive feature is its main façade with a semi-enclosed gallery. The gallery's arched openings are adorned with delicate carved ornaments. Like most resort villas, Villa "Mauré" was built to accommodate holiday guests. During the Soviet period, the neglected building fell into severe disrepair. After its 1985 reconstruction, the former apartments were converted back to their original function – tourist accommodation. Today, Villa "Mauré" is known as the apartment hotel "Dalija", where the original carved wooden staircase railing has been carefully preserved.



CHURCH OF THE ICON OF THE MOTHER OF GOD "JOY OF ALL WHO SORROW" IN DRUSKININKAI

📍 *Laisvės a. 1*

Built in 1865, this house of prayer is the oldest surviving example of wooden architecture in Druskininkai. Remarkably, the church remained almost untouched during both world wars. Next to the church, in the Orthodox Brotherhood House,

a parish school for girls operated from 1890, where, in summer, poor people of all Christian denominations could find shelter and receive treatment. The wooden Orthodox church in Druskininkai imitates the style of a brick building. Its forms reflect the features of Russian Orthodox church architecture, enhanced by elements characteristic of the Romanticism and Historicism periods.

VILLA "SANATORIJA"

📍 *Kurorto g. 6*

Perched on the picturesque right bank of the Nemunas River, this sanatorium occupies a territory of about half a hectare. Although it is the largest wooden building in Druskininkai, no records of its architect have survived. What is known for certain, however, is that the sanatorium was built around 1930, and its original purpose has remained unchanged to this day. The building is now known as Villa "Vingis", home to a small wellness centre and guest accommodation.

JACQUES LIPHCHITZ MEMORIAL MUSEUM

📍 *Šv. Jokūbo g. 17*

This compact and cosy wooden house dates back to the first half of the 20th century. It was originally built for Dr. Józef Markiewicz. After World War II, the Markiewicz family villa was converted into a children's clinic, and in 1971 underwent major renovations to house a children's library. In 1996, the building was once again repurposed – it became the museum dedicated to the world-renowned sculptor Jacques Lipchitz, established in what was once a private home.

M. K. ČIURLIONIS HOUSE-MUSEUM

📍 *M. K. Čiurlionio g. 35*

Built on a fieldstone and brick foundation, the house features horizontal timber walls clad in greenish boards. The picturesque landscape – a hilly valley dotted with pine trees – became an endless source

of inspiration for the artist's creativity. The M. K. Čiurlionis Memorial Museum was founded here in 1963 on the initiative of the artist's sisters, and in 1964, the surrounding orchard planted by Čiurlionis's father was restored.

ST. GABRIEL'S ORTHODOX CHURCH | OLD TOWN CEMETERY

📍 *The Old Druskininkai Town Cemetery*

The church belongs to the Parish of the Icon of the Mother of God "Joy of All Who Sorrow" in Druskininkai. The St. Gabriel Orthodox Church, also known as the Chapel of the Holy Child Gabriel, is a small wooden church located in the Orthodox section of the Old Town Cemetery, atop a hill. Its gates are adorned with relief Orthodox crosses on the columns. During World War II, the church was looted and its interior destroyed. It remained in use until 1962, and later, at the request of the local Orthodox priest and parishioners, the church was restored.

GRUDZINSKI VILLA

📍 *M. K. Čiurlionio g. 67*

Standing at the corner of K. Dineika and M. K. Čiurlionis streets, the Grudzinski Villa dates back to 1900. An interwar brochure about Druskininkai advertised accommodation at Mrs. Grudzinska's villa "Dvorek" on what is now K. Dineika Street. In the mid-20th century, the building housed the resort's outpatient clinic, and later its laboratory wing. The villa's architecture combines features of Swiss chalets and the "Zakopane style" developed by Stanisław Witkiewicz.

MONUMENTS AND SCULPTURES



MONUMENT TO M. K. ČIURLIONIS

[V. Kudirkos g. 45](#)

Mikalojus Konstantinas Čiurlionis – the most renowned Lithuanian artist who grew up and created in Druskininkai – often mentioned the resort with great affection in his letters. The monument to M. K. Čiurlionis, created by sculptor Vladis Vildžiūnas, was unveiled in 1975 to mark the 100th anniversary of the artist's birth. For this work, Vildžiūnas and architect R. Dičius were awarded the Republican Prize.

“SŪRUTIS”

[Vilniaus al. 1](#)

In the centre of Druskininkai, in the square between the church and the town museum, a sculpture called “Sūrutis” was unveiled, symbolising the legend of the resort's origins. It was created by one of the most famous metal artists in Lithuania, Romualdas Inčirauskas. “Sūrutis” is a 180 cm tall figure of a standing man holding a bowl of salt in his left hand. In his right palm he supports a small

horse – according to legend, the first “patient” cured by the mineral waters. The owner, thinking the sick animal would end its days in the salty marsh, let it wade there, but instead it miraculously recovered.

The man's clothing is decorative and stylised, typical of a simplified historical costume. The pedestal is faced with red ceramic bricks and encircled by a 20 cm wide bronze band bearing the text of the legend.

“VYTURYS”

[V. Kudirkos g. / M. K. Čiurlionio g.](#)

The sculpture “Vyturys” (“Skylark”) by Dalia Matulaitė, erected in 1979, was dedicated to the 150th anniversary of Druskininkai as a resort.

“GIMTADIENIS”

[M. K. Čiurlionio g. 59](#)

“SVETINGUMO VARTAI”

[Šv. Jokūbo g. / Taikos g.](#)

In the very centre of Druskininkai, in the small square at the intersection of Taikos and Šv. Jokūbo streets, visitors can take photos

standing beneath a huge bronze horseshoe. Locals affectionately call this sculpture the “Svetingumo vartai” (“Gates of Hospitality”). It was created in 2013 by sculptor Tadas Gutauskas to commemorate the 25th anniversary of Sąjūdis, Lithuania's national independence movement. In Lithuanian and many other folk traditions, the horseshoe symbolises happiness, good fortune, and prosperity, which is why the custom of hanging a horseshoe above the doorway has survived to this day. Lithuanians long believed that even a worn horseshoe found on the road was a good omen. It is therefore no coincidence that some visitors to the resort make a point of passing through these “gates” each time they come to Druskininkai. Even if this ritual does not itself bring happiness, the belief that the future holds something bright may help. If you look closely, you will notice that the horseshoe is decorated with good-luck symbols from sixteen different countries, from which most visitors come to Druskininkai – eight symbols on each side. Nearby you will find an



information board explaining the meaning of each one. According to the artist, this work expresses the openness of a nation that has preserved its unique heritage of customs and its desire to share its cultural treasures with the world.

“ŠAULYS”

📍 *M.K. Čiurlionio, Žalioji, Liepų and Mizarų street crossing roundabout*

The sculptural composition “Šaulys” (“The Archer”), created by Vytautas Narutis, was installed in 2007 on the roundabout at the intersection of M. K. Čiurlionio, Žalioji, Liepų, and Mizarų streets. The three-metre-tall bronze figure, mounted on a five-metre column, was designed to honour and embody the spirit of M. K. Čiurlionis’ art.

MONUMENT “LIETUVAI” *King Mindaugas Monument*

📍 *Vilniaus al. / Vasario 16-osios g.*

The monument “Lietuvai” (“To Lithuania”), depicting King Mindaugas, was created by Vytautas Kašuba and unveiled in 1995. Mindaugas was the Grand Duke of Lithuania and the first and only crowned King of the country. He is remembered as the ruler who laid the foundations of the Lithuanian state and introduced its first steps toward Christianity.

“KARŪNOS”

📍 *Located on the bank of the River Nemunas, in the Spa Park*

The monument “Karūnos” (“Crowns”), created by renowned sculptor Dalia Matulaitė, is dedicated to the royal couple: the last Jagiellonian ruler

Sigismund II Augustus and his second wife, the great love of his life, Barbara Radziwiłł. The monument stands on the bank of the Nemunas River in the Spa Park and symbolises the cooperation between the neighbouring spa towns of Augustów and Druskininkai.

“LAUMĖS”

📍 *Health Resort Park, Beauty Spring*

“LIETUVA-LEGENDA”

📍 *The monument “Laumės” (“Fairies”) is installed on the bank of the River Nemunas, in the Spa Park*

At the confluence of the Ratnyčia and Nemunas Rivers stands the impressive “Lietuva-legenda” (“Lithuania, the Legend”) sculpture, created by Eimont Bronzini. Towering seven metres high and weighing ten tons, the sculpture was cast over thirty years ago and, after a long journey, finally found its home in the heart of the resort. The sculpture features four female faces, each representing one of Lithuania’s ethnographic regions, and four raised arms holding a large crown-like circle – a symbol that can be seen both as a cross and as a sun. It stands as a kind of Statue of Liberty for Lithuania – serene, dignified, and steadfast.

“POILSIS”

📍 *Located in the Health Resort Park*

The sculpture “Poilsis” (“Repose”), created by Juozas Kėdainis, has graced the Druskininkai Spa Park since 1959. Kėdainis is known as a sensitive chronicler of rural life, who captured the everyday world of ordinary people. In his sculptures, his

characters possess emotional and psychological authenticity; he imbued their existence with meaning, as if preserving a fleeting moment of daily life.

“PRIE ŠALTINIO”

📍 *Located in the Health Resort Park*

The sculpture “Prie šaltinio” (“By the Spring”), created by Antanas Dimžlys, has adorned the Druskininkai Spa Park since 1965. In this park, located by the Nemunas River, visitors can drink mineral water from the old drinking pavilion, wash with the water of the saltiest Druskininkai spring – the Beauty Spring – and enjoy the sculptures, flowerbeds and Musical Fountain.

“RATNYČĖLĖ”

📍 *Located near the arched footbridge*

The sculpture “Ratnyčėlė”, created by the renowned Lithuanian sculptor Bronius Vyšniauskas, was installed on the bank of the Ratnyčia River in 1962. The sculpture depicts a woman cupping water in her hands – a symbol of Druskininkai itself. Every year, during the local Evening of Gratitude, miniature “Ratnyčėlė” figurines are presented to distinguished residents of Druskininkai as a token of honour and appreciation.

“MOTINYSTĖ”

📍 *Vytauto g. 23*

Next to the M. K. Čiurlionis School of Art stands the sculpture “Motinystė” (“Motherhood”) (1959), created by the distinguished Lithuanian

sculptor Bronius Vyšniauskas – a State Prize laureate and an Honoured Artist of Lithuania. Vyšniauskas is also known for his major works, including the sculptures on the Green Bridge in Vilnius, the monument and reliefs at Kryžkalnis, and “Ratnyčėlė”.

“MUZIKANTAS”

📍 *M. K. Čiurlionio g. 65*

“AVINAI”

📍 *Vijūnėlė Park*

The sculpture “Avinai” (“Rams”), created by the widely known Lithuanian sculptor Dalia Matulaitė, stands in the central recreation area of Vijūnėlė Park. Each spring, this park is transformed by a “sea” of more than 220,000 blooming daffodils and a row of 20 Japanese cherry trees. The park features rest areas, cycling paths, volleyball and children’s playgrounds, a beach, and sculptural compositions.

“KALVIS”

📍 *Located by the Vijūnėlė Pond*

WOODEN SCULPTURE COMPLEX

📍 *Near Druskonis Lake*

“ŽYDŲ GETAS”

📍 *Šv. Jokūbo g. 22*

Not far from the Church of the Icon of the Mother of God “Joy of All Who Sorrow” stands the Holocaust Memorial. In the autumn of 1941, a Jewish ghetto was established here, surrounded by barbed wire, and confining nearly one thousand Jews. In November 1943, the ghetto was liquidated, and its residents were deported to the Kolbasino concentration

camp near Grodno. Within those two years, one-third of Druskininkai’s population was annihilated.

To commemorate this tragedy, an unknown artist created the memorial “Žydų getas” (“The Jewish Ghetto”) in 1992, dedicated to the Jewish victims. It was erected precisely on the site of the former Jewish ghetto established in 1941. Today, the State Vilna Gaon Jewish Museum also operates near the memorial.

The reddish-polished stone monument bears a Star of David, a menorah, and inscriptions in Yiddish, Lithuanian, and Russian, reading: “To the Prisoners of the Jewish Ghetto.”

THE WRITER V. KĖVĖ’S BUST

📍 *V. Krėvės g. / M. K. Čiurlionio g.*

SCULPTOR J. LIPCHITZ BUST

📍 *Šv. Jokūbo g. 17*

“PAUKŠTĖ”

📍 *J. Marcinkevičiaus square*

The idea to commemorate the famous Lithuanian poet Justinas Marcinkevičius in Druskininkai was born in 2023. The project was supported by the local community, the poet’s family, and people from across Lithuania, who contributed not only moral but also financial support. More than €100,000 was raised for the sculpture “Paukštė” (“The Songbird”), beside which lie sixteen engraved tiles bearing the names of the major patrons and sponsoring companies whose generosity made the monument possible.



MEMORIAL BENCHES HONOURING FAMOUS PEOPLE

FOR M. K. ČIURLIONIS

📍 Located on the shore
of Lake Druskonis

Mikalojus Konstantinas Čiurlionis (1875–1911) – a composer and painter who left the deepest and most luminous mark on Lithuanian culture, as well as a unique creator in European art history. Born in Varėna into the family of an organist, he moved to Druskininkai at the age of two. Here, his love for Lithuanian folk songs and the nature of Druskininkai took root, and his musical genius began to unfold. Many of his most inspired works in both music and painting were created here. Čiurlionis's multifaceted artistic quest could be compared to that of the Renaissance masters. During a brief decade of creative life, he composed around four hundred musical works, including two large symphonic poems, an overture, a cantata for choir and orchestra, two sonatas, several sets of piano variations, a string quartet, choral works, and numerous piano pieces. At the same time, in just six years as a painter, he produced over three hundred paintings, as well as numerous graphic works, literary and poetic writings, journalistic pieces, and even experiments in artistic photography. Among his best-known musical compositions are the symphonic poems "Miške" ("In the Forest") and "Jūra" ("The Sea"). Among his paintings, the most celebrated include "Pasaka (Karalių pasaka)" "Fairy Tale (The Tale of Kings)" (1909), "Rex" ("Rex") (1909), "Sonata Nr. 5 (Jūros sonata)" ("Sonata No. 5 (The Sea Sonata)") (1908),



and the cycle "Zodiako ženklai" ("Zodiac Signs") (1907). Druskininkai is truly Čiurlionis's town, and the bench by the shore of Lake Druskonis was placed there for good reason – the artist lived, worked, and found inspiration in the beauty of Druskininkai's nature.

FOR KAROLIS DINEIKA

📍 K. Dineika Wellness Park,
Sausoji g. 1

Karolis Dineika was a specialist in therapeutic physical culture, a lecturer, and researcher, and one of the creators of the first basketball rules in



Lithuania. During 28 years of his life in Druskininkai, he devoted himself to developing the wellness park, placing particular emphasis on treatment with air, sun and water. His therapeutic and health-promotion methods remain relevant to this day

FOR IGNACY FONBERG

Spa Park, near the mineral water drinking pavilion(buves)tes)

Ignacy Fonberg (1801–1891) was a professor at Vilnius University, a chemist who studied the mineral water of Druskininkai. In 1821, Fonberg began working at Vilnius University as an assistant to Andrius Sniadeckis in the Department of Chemistry and Pharmacy. In 1825 he earned the degree of Master of Philosophy, and in 1829 he became Professor of Chemistry. In 1830, he carried out studies of the mineral waters of Druskininkai. Fonberg's chemical analysis of the Druskininkai springs played a crucial role in developing spa treatment in the resort. He not only examined the

water, but also prepared a report that he presented in 1835 at the Vilnius Medical-Surgical Academy and then expanded and published the same year. On his initiative, a project for the Druskininkai Spa was also prepared. Although Fonberg never lived in Druskininkai, his work remains of exceptional importance to the town. For this reason, the memorial bench has been placed in the Spa Park, near the mineral water drinking pavilion, or buvettes.

FOR JACQUES LIPCHITZ

Next to the Jacques Lipchitz Memorial Museum, Šv. Jokūbo g. 17.

Jacques Lipchitz (1891–1973) was a Lithuanian sculptor of Jewish origin and a prominent representative of Cubism who lived and worked in France, the United States, Israel and Italy. He was born on 22 August 1891 in Druskininkai. Lipchitz attended the local Jewish school,

later the commercial school in Białystok and a gymnasium in Vilnius. From 1906 to 1909 he studied engineering, but devoted his main attention to art studies at the Vilnius Drawing School. In 1909, he left to study art in Paris.

“Druskininkai were the Creator's surprise of thought in peace, when He smiled.”
J. Pilsudski

In 1911–1912 Lipchitz had not yet fully embraced Cubism, but already in 1913–1914 his work shows clear creative innovation and efforts to understand and absorb Cubist stylistic elements. By 1915, he had joined the ranks of the true Cubists, working alongside such leading figures as Picasso, Braque, Gris, Léger and Laurens. The years 1915–1930 were the brightest period of Lipchitz's career, most fully reflecting the principles of Cubist expression. From around 1930, a stylistic shift becomes apparent in his work: he no longer divides his sculptures into strict, geometric planes; the forms become

smoother, rounder and more plastic, and the silhouette line begins to undulate, as if pulsing. Jacques Lipchitz died on 16 May 1973 in Capri, Italy. After his death, his remains were transferred and buried in Jerusalem. The memorial bench dedicated to Jacques Lipchitz has been installed in Druskininkai, beside the Jewish museum that bears his name.

FOR DONATAS BANIONIS

V. Kudirkos g. 45

For Donatas Banionis The bronze sculpture of the late theatre and film actor Donatas Banionis stands beside the “Grand SPA Lietuva” complex: he is seated on a bench with a book in his hand, a crane standing nearby, as if inviting resort guests to sit down and rest. “They have given me such a great honour – people will come here from all over the world. I can see them already from Germany, from the United States. Everyone knows me, more or less, from the films. And today we are sitting here together with my double,” Banionis said with his characteristic sense of humour at the unveiling of the sculpture in 2010. The monument was initiated by Druskininkai honorary citizen Bronislovas Lubys, an ardent admirer of Banionis' talent. This sense of humour is also what sculptor Mindaugas Junčius, the author of the work, remembers most about the actor. Since the monument to Mikalojus Konstantinas Čiurlionis stands not far away, Banionis used to joke that all that was missing was

a sculpture of Arvydas Sabonis, and then “all of Lithuania” would be represented. Banionis had a special connection with Druskininkai, the town where one of Lithuania's greatest artists, M. K. Čiurlionis, lived and created. In 1975, together with film director Robertas Verba, he made a documentary film about this renowned composer and painter. The actor often toured and rested in the resort. One of the most vivid sequences in the film “I Imagine the World as a great symphony...” consists of unique shots showing the monument to Čiurlionis by Vladas Vildžiūnas being transported to Druskininkai.

FOR THE POLISH COMMUNITY

At the confluence of the Nemunas and Ratnyčėlė rivers, on the former castle site

Druskininkai is the oldest functioning resort in Lithuania, founded on 20 June 1794 by decree of Grand Duke of Lithuania and The King of Poland Stanisław August Poniatowski. The present-day town area has been inhabited since ancient times and was historically home to three main communities: residents of Polish, Jewish, and Lithuanian origin. In 1863, insurgent units operated in the surroundings of Druskininkai. During the interwar period (1920–1939), Druskininkai belonged to Poland. The resort flourished during this time, especially thanks to Józef Piłsudski, who often spent his summer holidays here. Many notable people lived in Druskininkai, including Lithuanian painter and

composer M. K. Čiurlionis, sculptor Jacques Lipchitz, founder of the Druskininkai therapeutic physical culture and climate therapy park Karolis Dineika, and distinguished physician Ignacy Fonberg. The bench dedicated to the Polish community in Druskininkai pays tribute to notable figures who lived, created and contributed to the fame of the resort: Polish writer Eliza Orzeszkowa, poet Józef Czechowicz, writer Józef Ignacy Kraszewski, and the well-known historical figure Józef Piłsudski, honorary citizen of interwar Druskininkai. The bench-sculpture features the coat of arms of the 1863 Uprising, symbolising the unity of three nations – Lithuanians, Poles and Ukrainians – in their struggle against Tsarist Russia, a message that remains relevant today. The bench stands in a very beautiful location on the bank of the River Nemunas, on the site of Piłsudski's former summer residence.

FOR ANTANAS DAMBRAUSKAS

Vytauto g. 2

Vytauto Street in Druskininkai has been adorned with a professional work of art – a bronze armchair created by Professor Alfonsas Vaura of the Vilnius Academy of Arts, dedicated to Antanas Dambrauskas, a translator of ancient Greek and Roman classics. The sculpture reproduces an authentic artifact – the very chair made and used by Dambrauskas himself while working on his translations, which can still be seen today at the Druskininkai Museum of Resistance and Exile.



CEMETERIES

THE OLD DRUSKININKAI TOWN CEMETERY

The Old Druskininkai Town Cemetery preserves the spirit of a unique 19th-century cemetery. It is easy to find – located just beyond Lake Druskonis. Here, Catholics were laid to rest on one side, Orthodox Christians on the other, and in the centre lie townspeople of the Protestant faith. On the Catholic side stands a now-inactive Neo-Gothic chapel built by the wealthy Kiersnowski family. The old gravestones

captivate visitors with their grandeur and with moving, original inscriptions. One reads: "To my dear nanny Mavra Bekisheva, born in Siberia, died in 1908." Another says: "My little angel, rest in peace. Until our joyful reunion." The wealthy families of the resort had larger family or even clan burial sites. On the Orthodox side lies the crypt of the affluent Erbsstein-Giuliani family, and on the Catholic side – the tombs of the O'Brien De Lacy, De Niz, Kiersnowski, Grudziński, and

others. Near the Kiersnovski family chapel lie the oldest surviving graves, including the almost illegible tombstone of Ksawery Wolfgang, editor of the journal "Druskininkų šaltinių undinė" ("The Mermaid of the Druskininkai Springs"), and close friend and colleague of historian Teodoras Narbutas. Nearby lies the grave of Druskininkai's promoter, Doctor Jonas Pileckis, and close by – the graves of Mikalojus Konstantinas Čiurlionis' parents, Konstantinas and Adelė

Čiurlionis. The first townsman buried here was interred in 1858 – a beggar of the Druskininkai church, originally from the Kingdom of Poland. The cemetery is now inactive. The Old Druskininkai Town Cemetery is a protected cultural heritage site.

THE OLD JEWISH CEMETERY OF DRUSKININKAI

The inactive Jewish community cemetery lies in the southwestern outskirts of Druskininkai, located 0.7 km northwest of Baravykų Street and 230 m southeast of Lake Mergelių Akys. The cemetery stands atop a sandy hill in the forest of Druskininkai. The protected area is square-shaped (15 x 15 m), overgrown with pine and scattered deciduous trees. Within it, a concrete border forms the outline of the Star of David, in the centre of which stands a concrete pedestal for a memorial plaque. On the right side, in front of and behind the pedestal, stone headstones salvaged from the destroyed cemetery are positioned at the points of the star.

About 135 metres southwest of the site, near Druskininkai's southwestern bypass connecting Mizarų Street with Baravykų Street, stands a wooden signpost reading "OLD JEWISH CEMETERY – 150 m." The cemetery was established in the second half of the 19th century and functioned until June 1941. It served as the burial ground for members of Druskininkai's Jewish community. Among those buried here was Rachele Lipchitz, the mother of renowned sculptor

Jacques Lipchitz. In 1967, the disused cemetery was levelled by bulldozer, and the gravestones were repurposed for local construction projects – built into the foundations of the "Gulbé" store, placed in the fountain basin of the "Saulutė" sanatorium, and laid in the spring-fed estuary of the River Ratnyčia. As part of efforts to preserve Jewish cultural heritage, the cemetery was later restored and memorialized. A memorial plaque inscribed in Hebrew and Lithuanian now marks the site, indicating that this was once the Old Jewish Cemetery.

Nearby stand three preserved gravestones. In 2015, the site was granted legal protection and was entered in the Register of Cultural Properties of the Republic of Lithuania as a cultural heritage object of local significance, recognized for its memorial value.

THE OLD JEWISH CEMETERY OF RATNYČIA

This disused Jewish community cemetery lies within the Druskininkai Municipality, in Ratnyčia, 0.33 km south of Čiurlionio Street and 0.11 km west of the intersection of Ratnyčios and Latežerio Streets, on the right bank of the Ratnyčia River. The cemetery is located on the edge of a forest, in a sandy area. It has an irregular shape, slightly elongated northwest-southeast, measuring up to 69

metres long and 55–68 metres wide. Its boundaries are marked by small stones placed close together.

On either side of the entrance lie two round stones inscribed with Hebrew characters. To the right of the path, gravestones and fragments – not in their original locations – are arranged in a circle. In the southern and western parts of the cemetery, over a hundred stone steles marking graves have survived in their original positions, some still standing, others toppled. The cemetery was established at the end of the 18th century and remained in use until June 1941,



The parents of M. K. Čiurlionis, Konstantinas and Adelė, and his sister Jadvyga are laid to rest on the shores of Lake Druskonis.

serving the Jewish communities of Ratnyčia and Druskininkai. In the 1960s, attempts were made to destroy it, and many gravestones were removed to Druskininkai to pave the spring-fed mouth of the Ratnyčia River.

Through efforts to preserve Jewish heritage, the cemetery has been restored. A memorial monument with inscriptions now commemorates the old Jewish burial site. Some destroyed or broken gravestones have been returned and displayed in the northern section. In 2015, the cemetery was granted legal protection, entered in the Register of Cultural Property of the Republic of Lithuania, and designated a local-level cultural heritage site of memorial significance.

A close-up photograph of an old, weathered metal palette. The palette is made of a dark, possibly aluminum or steel, material that shows significant signs of age and use, with a mottled, greyish-brown patina. It features several circular wells for mixing paint. Three tubes of paint are lying on the palette, their original packaging partially worn and crumpled. A paintbrush with a wooden handle and a metal ferrule is resting across the top of the palette. The background is dark and out of focus, suggesting a workshop or studio setting. The word "ARTISTS" is overlaid in white, bold, sans-serif capital letters on the left side of the image.

ARTISTS



MIKALOJUS KONSTANTINAS ČIURLIONIS

Mikalojus Konstantinas Čiurlionis (born on 22 September 1875 in Varėna, now known as Senoji Varėna – died on 10 April 1911 in Pustelnik near Warsaw; buried in Rasos Cemetery, Vilnius) was a Lithuanian composer, painter, choir conductor, and cultural figure. In 20th-century texts, several spellings of his surname appear: Čiurlianis, Čiurlionis, Czurlanis, and others.

Čiurlionis is regarded as the most prominent artist and composer Lithuania has ever produced and the founder of Lithuanian professional music. His musical legacy includes two symphonic poems – “Miške” (“In the Forest”) and “Jūra” (“The Sea”), – the symphonic overture *Kęstutis*, a String Quartet, the cantata *De profundis*, the fugue *Kyrie*, *Agnus Dei*, *Sanctus*, choral pieces such as “Neliūskime” (“Let Us Not Grieve”), “Lapas pageltęs nukrinta” (“Yellowed Leaf Falls”), around 200 piano compositions (not counting unfinished ones), about 40 harmonised Lithuanian folk songs, and more.

In 1909, his collection of harmonised Lithuanian folk songs titled “Vieversėlis” (“The Skylark”) was published in Warsaw. Čiurlionis’s arrangements of folk songs – “Beauštanti aušrelė” (“The Dawn is Breaking”), “Oi lekia, lekia” (“Swans Fly in the Sky”), “Šoks tėvelis sukniņi” (“Dad Will Dance”), and “Taip toli žadėta” (“Promised To Be Married Off So Far Away”) – were performed at Lithuanian Song Festivals in Chicago and Toronto, and remain beloved by choirs in Lithuania today.

Čiurlionis began developing as a painter relatively late. While it is known that during his studies in Plungė under Duke Mykolas Oginskis, around 1893, he drew the surrounding landscapes, his professional path as an artist began only at the age of 27, when he entered the Warsaw School of Drawing. Čiurlionis later remarked about the school: “They did not teach there what I wanted to learn.”

Even in his earliest works, the artist’s inclination toward symbolism and abstraction

began to emerge, imbuing his creations with an air of mystery and spirituality. Through this, he became part of the Neo-Romantic movement in art that spread among painters of Central and Eastern Europe. As his preferred technique, he chose the traditional tempera method of painting. Another feature reflecting his affinity for early art is his use of cyclic compositions, as well as diptychs and triptychs, characteristic of medieval art.

At age 27 (in 1902), he entered the Warsaw Drawing School and began painting intensively. Among more than 200 completed works, some of the best known include “Pasaka (Karalių pasaka)” (“Fairy Tale / The Tale of Kings”) (1909), “Rex” (1909), and “Sonata Nr. 5 (Jūros sonata)” (“Sonata No. 5 / The Sea Sonata”) (1908).

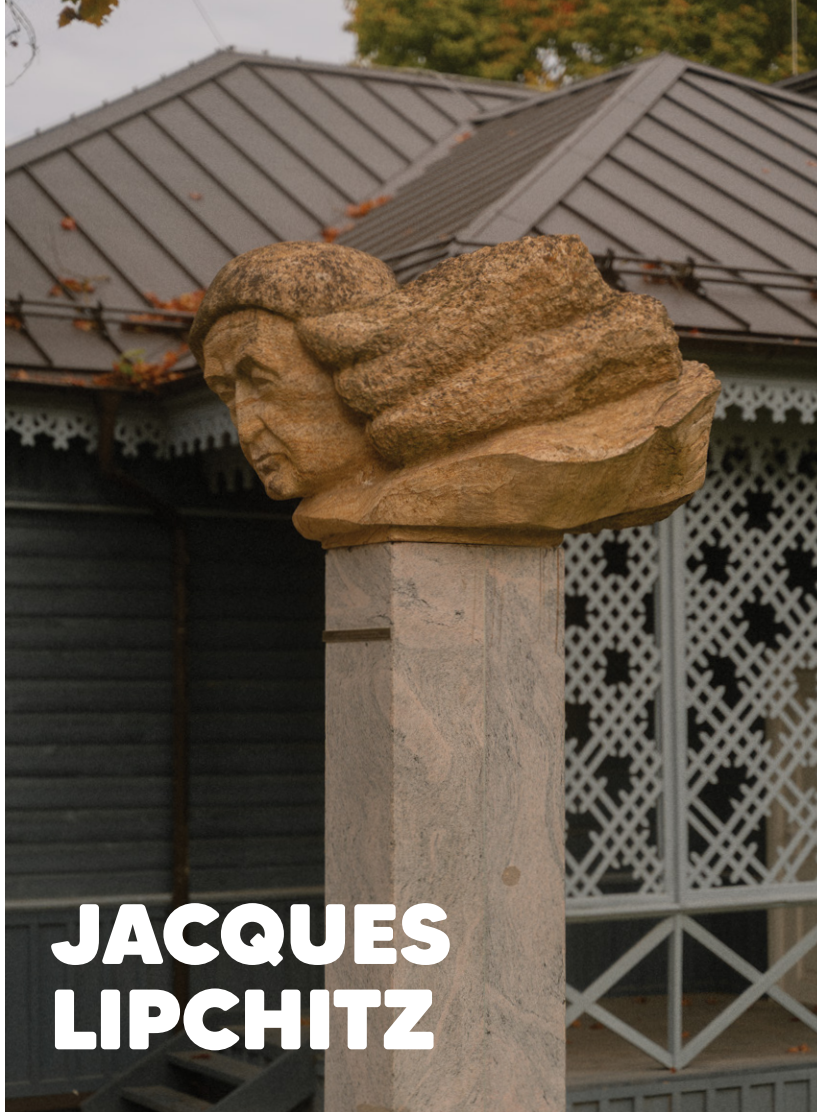
Almost all known paintings, manuscripts, and other works by Čiurlionis are preserved and exhibited at the National M. K. Čiurlionis Museum of Art in Kaunas. A few works are held by the Lithuanian National Museum of Art, the National Museum in Warsaw, and the State Russian Museum in Saint Petersburg.

In 1963, the M. K. Čiurlionis Memorial Museum was established in Druskininkai in the former Čiurlionis family home, followed in 1965 by the opening of the second Čiurlionis house.



REPRODUCTIONS OF PAINTINGS BY M. K. ČIURLIONIS:

- 1 „Fairy Tale (Castle Fairy Tale)” and „Fairy Tale (III painting from the triptych)”
📍 Vilnius al.
- 2 „Truth” and „Rex”
📍 Vilnius al.
- 3 „Spring Motif” and „Funeral Symphony (VI from the cycle of paintings)”
📍 Vilnius al. / V. Kudirkos g. near Druskonis Lake
- 4 „The Sun is Passing the Sign of Sagittarius (XI from 12 paintings cycle „Zodiac”) and „The Altar”
📍 M. K. Čiurlionio g.
- 5 „Friendship” and „Sonata VI (Sonata of the Stars. Allegro)”
📍 Health Resort Park
- 6 „Fairy Tale (II painting from the triptych)” and „Summer (III painting from the triptych)”
📍 Health Resort Park
- 7 „Angel (Angel Prelude)” and „Sonata II (Spring Sonata. Andante)”
📍 Health Resort Park
- 8 „The Sun is Passing the Sign of of Virgo (VI from 12 paintings cycle „Zodiac”) and „Sonata I (Sonata of the Sun. Finale)”
📍 M. K. Čiurlionio g.
- 9 „The Offering” and „The Summer (II painting from the triptych)”
📍 M. K. Čiurlionio g.
- 10 „Fairy Tale (Fairy Tale of the Kings)” and „Creation of the World (IX from the cycle of 13 paintings)”
📍 M. K. Čiurlionio g.



JACQUES LIPCHITZ

Jacques Lipchitz (born Chaim Jacob Lipchitz, Lithuanian: Žakas Lipšicas; 22 August 1891, Druskininkai – 16 May 1973, Capri, Italy; buried in Jerusalem) was a sculptor of Lithuanian Jewish origin and a prominent representative of Cubism who lived and worked in France, the United States, Israel, and Italy.

Jacques Lipchitz was the first of six children born to a well-to-do building contractor, Abraham Lipchitz, and Rachel Leah Krinski. His birth name was Chaim Jacob, and he adopted the name Jacques after moving to France. Lipchitz studied at a local

Jewish school, the Białystok Commercial School, and the Vilnius Gymnasium. From 1906 to 1909 he studied engineering, but his main interest remained in the arts, particularly in his studies at the Vilnius Drawing School.

In 1909, without his father's knowledge, Lipchitz left for Paris to study art, supported at first by his mother and later by his father. After the family's bankruptcy, he worked nights delivering fruit and as an assistant to other sculptors. He studied at the École des Beaux-Arts, attended the Académie Julian, worked in the studio of Raoul Verlet, and

took drawing classes at the Académie Colarossi. He was especially drawn to Egyptian and ancient Greek sculpture.

In Paris, Lipchitz associated with the founders of Cubism – Pablo Picasso and Juan Gris – as well as with Amedeo Modigliani, Diego Rivera, Chaim Soutine, and Moses Kisling. He rented a studio in Montparnasse, next to that of Constantin Brâncuși.

Lipchitz gained recognition and patrons in 1920, when his first solo exhibition was held at Léonce Rosenberg's gallery in Paris. Between 1915 and 1930, he created his most notable works, characterized by Cubist principles: Man with a Guitar, The Bather, Joy of Life, Man with Mandolin, a series of bas-reliefs reminiscent of Cubist paintings, and sculptural portraits of writers Gertrude Stein and Jean Cocteau.

Jacques Lipchitz died on May 16, 1973, in Capri, Italy. His remains were later transferred and buried in Jerusalem's Har HaMenuchet Cemetery ("Mount of Rest"). His last sculpture, Tree of Our Life, was completed by his second wife, sculptor Yulla Halberstadt, and installed in Jerusalem five years after his death, on the summit of Mount Scopus, the town's highest point.

In 1996, a memorial museum dedicated to Lipchitz was established in Druskininkai. From an



"Lithuania, my homeland, I have no other – except that which is perfect, like a dream, like a vision."

– the sculpture once wrote.

anthropological perspective, within the regional socio-cultural context of the 20th century, the museum's new exhibition presents the artist's life and creative journey. Special attention is given to his enduring ties with Lithuania, which remained strong despite the Iron Curtain that separated the artist from his homeland.

Abroad, the artist introduced himself as "the sculptor Jacques Lipchitz from Lithuania". He once wrote: "Lithuania, my homeland, I have no other – except that which is perfect, like a dream, like a vision." After the death of Mikalojus Konstantinas Čiurlionis, Lipchitz wrote in a letter: "Čiurlionis was a true genius. I am proud to have been born in the town whose soil was touched by his feet – our dear, unforgettable Druskininkai."





**WALKING AND
CYCLING TRAILS**

HIKING ROUTE

DIDŽIASALIS → DRUSKININKAI → ŽIOGELIAI → MERKINĖ

 48 km

 3 days

This section of the route leads to Dzūkija National Park, one of the most densely forested and sparsely populated natural areas in Lithuania, and to the town of Druskininkai, a popular spa and mineral water resort on the banks of the River Nemunas. While in Druskininkai, be sure to treat yourself to mineral water baths, taking a cable car ride over the Nemunas, visiting the Musical Fountain and strolling along the riverside promenade.

The hike begins in the village of Didžiasalis, which can be reached by bus from Druskininkai. From here, the trail leads through vast coniferous forests rich in berries and mushrooms, and through small villages. Upon reaching Druskininkai, the Forest Trail (Miško takas) winds along the resort's small streets and through its parks, crosses the Ratnyčia stream and continues through a forest park on the right bank of the Nemunas Valley. Leaving the resort, the Forest Trail follows the edge of the countryside, revealing beautiful views of the Liškiava Monastery on the opposite bank of the Nemunas. From there to the village of Žiogeliai, the route follows forest roads, then continues along the slopes of the Nemunas Valley, surrounded by the wide forests of Dzūkija. At the end of the route, don't miss the climb up Merkinė Hillfort, from which impressive panoramas of southern Lithuania open up.



Between Žiogeliai and Merkinė there are no shops or cafés, so be sure to bring a packed lunch.

DAY 1

Didžiasalis → Druskininkai

10 km (2 hours)

Gravel roads and forest tracks; within Druskininkai – asphalted pavements, pedestrian/cycling paths, and paved walkways. This day is ideal for exploring Druskininkai and taking a boat trip on the Nemunas to Liškiava. From the Snow Arena, you can take the cable car to the Druskininkai Water Park, shortening your route by about two kilometres.

DAY 2

Druskininkai → Žiogeliai

13 km (2–3 hours)

Gravel roads and forest tracks; within Druskininkai – asphalted pavements, pedestrian/cycling paths, and paved walkways.

3 DIENA

Žiogeliai → Merkinė

25 km (6–8 hours)

Small forest and rural roads, gravel roads; a short section consists of paths and asphalt (in Merkinė), and there are stairways near the hillforts. The River Merkys must be crossed via the bridge on the A4 road. You will need to cross the road and walk along its verge for several hundred metres. Near the Utieka stream, Sosnowsky's hogweed grows – do not touch it, as it causes burns!

PATHS

NEMUNAS RIVERSIDE TRAIL

**Length – 4,8 km.
extending up to 24 km.**

*A paved pedestrian
and bicycle path.*

This new 4.8 km asphalted cycling path runs along the left bank of the River Nemunas. Built in 2014 on the route of a former popular forest walking trail, it winds southwards from the end of Maironio Street (Park Bridge). Avoiding busy streets, you can cycle from the Spa Park directly to where it connects with the "Star Orbit" ("Žvaigždžių orbita") route. The route begins near UNO Park – the largest adventure park in Lithuania, offering ten treetop courses for children and adults. Adrenaline seekers are invited to try extreme zip-line rides over the Nemunas or a jump from a height of 21 metres. The trail then meanders through scenic pine forests along the Nemunas. Near the old amphitheatre, a short branch (460 m) leads back to the town centre and T. Kosciuškos Street. The main route continues to

a small rise with one of the most beautiful views of the town's surroundings: a panorama of Love Island. The island's name comes from a legend about a pair of lovers whose boat capsized near its shore as they tried to rescue their midsummer wreaths. During the interwar years, the island again became a popular spot for romantic meetings: as the Nemunas separated Lithuania from Poland, young people from opposite banks secretly met there.

A few hundred metres further, you can descend to the Nemunas at a rest and viewing area. After a few more minutes of cycling, the trail approaches the site of the former Druskininkai airfield. Every year, during the first week of August, an International Dog Show is held here, attracting many pedigree dog breeders from across Europe, Scandinavia and Russia. Some 200 metres past the airfield, the path joins the "Star Orbit" route. Here you can choose how to continue your journey. Turning left, a 2.7

km ride will take you back to Druskininkai. Turning right allows you to continue towards Švendubrė village and the Raigardas Valley.

"STAR ORBIT"

Length: 8, 12, 15, 22 km.

A paved bicycle path..

Druskininkai is surrounded by the Dainava Forest, Lithuania's largest woodland area (1,450 km²). The surroundings of the town abound in untouched corners of nature accessible not only to professional athletes but also to everyday cycling enthusiasts. There is no shortage of places of interest along the way.

The cycling route located in the southern part of Druskininkai is divided into three loops (orbits): 8, 12, and 15 kilometres. Together with an additional 4-kilometer section leading to Raigardas, these routes form „Star Orbit“.

We recommend starting your journey from Druskonis Park. The entire area around the pond is suitable for cycling. From the metal sculpture "Kalvis" ("The Blacksmith"),

between Vijūnėlė Pond and Lake Druskonis, the bike trail enters a pine forest and continues to wind through the hilly terrain towards the River Nemunas. On the riverbank, next to a rest area, the path connects with the Nemunas Riverside Trail. Turning onto this path, after 4.29 km you can return to the town centre, near the Water Park and Park Bridge. A few hundred meters further, the main route branches off. To the left lies the return to Vijūnėlė Park – the end of the

Next to the trail, on the northern edge of the Raigardas Valley, lies the old street-type village of Švendubrė, rich in ethnographic homesteads. Locals say its name comes from the words "holy hollow." Archaeologists have discovered remains of a Middle Stone Age settlement here (9th–5th millennium BC). Through the village fields once ran a road connecting Pervalka with Merkinė and Vilnius. At the beginning of the 20th century, the village had a brickyard – the bricks

produced there were used to build the church of Druskininkai. Upon reaching another intersection, cyclists can choose a third return

first orbit (approximately 8 km total). Straight ahead continues the second orbit, following the Nemunas River. The second orbit also leads back to town, with an additional 4 km extension, making the combined distance of the first and second orbits about 12 km. The main attraction of the second orbit is The Devil's Stone, the tenth-largest boulder in Lithuania and a geological natural monument. With a perimeter of 19 meters, the stone stands on the northern edge of Švendubrė village. According to legend, the Devil carried the stone intending to destroy the town of Raigardas but dropped it nearby when a rooster crowed. Bioenergetic practitioners claim that the boulder emits a special energy due to its position above the intersection of different geotectonic zones deep underground.

route to the town (the third orbit), which together with the previous two forms a 15 km trail. The more experienced cyclists can continue south all the way to the Lithuanian–Belarusian border. This section runs along the edge of the Raigardas Valley, a horseshoe-shaped widening of the Nemunas Valley stretching up to 4–5 km wide and recognized as a nature reserve. The slopes of the valley rise up to 38 meters in height. Raigardas is famous and cherished for its connection with M. K. Čiurlionis and Vincas Krėvė – both drew inspiration here: Krėvė for his "Vakarinė giesmė" ("The Evening Song"), and Čiurlionis for his music and paintings, most notably the triptych "Raigardas". The legend of the wealthy town of Raigardas said to have sunk beneath the marshy valley continues to stir the imagination and inspire

creativity.

In the future, the route is planned to be renovated and connected with the Grodno–Pervalka (Privalka, Belarus) cycling route.

On the way back to Druskininkai, it is worth stopping by the historic cemeteries. Around the Mergelių Akys ponds are the old Jewish, Soviet soldiers', partisans', Lithuanian, Polish, and Russian cemeteries. Many prominent citizens of Druskininkai are buried here, including Ksawery Wolfgang, Karolis Dineika, and Jonas Pileckis.

Throughout winter, the Star Orbit route is also suitable for skiing.

SUN TRAIL

Length – 6,8 km (blue trail), 9 km (yellow trail), 24 km (to Lake Latežeris).

A bicycle and walking trail.

The recreational route Sun Trail was created around 1969 as a marked walking path. This form of leisure was recommended by doctors as one of the resort's therapeutic treatments – a way to harmonise physical activity with air and sun baths. The trail was designed as a continuation of the famous 20th-century Druskininkai curative concept – the Wellness Park. Established in 1924, the Wellness Park (formerly the "Soliarium" Institute for Air, Sun, and Exercise Therapy, later renamed the Therapeutic Physical Culture Park) quickly rose to the height of resort fashion. Its founder, the talented Polish physician Eugenia Lewicka, introduced several innovative – and at the time

considered controversial – forms of therapy: she promoted nudism and encouraged women's physical and athletic activity. Historical photographs of the park show gymnastics areas for men, women, and children, open-air pools, outdoor solariums, and sports fields. After World War II, the Wellness Park was reorganized and expanded to 20 hectares. Under the guidance of the distinguished Lithuanian advocate of body and mind culture Karolis Dineika, new facilities were added: solariums, a foot acupressure pool, cascade showers with thermal treatment, a vertical bath, and a pavilion for aero-hydro-ion therapy. After its reconstruction, the park now offers a variety of relaxation, meditation, and active recreation areas.

The trail leads southward from the Wellness Park along an asphalt road, crossing Veisiejai Street and winding into a pine forest near the Alka and Ratnyčia ponds. At this point, you can turn left off the main path to visit the wakeboarding track – a 170-meter closed cable system stretching across Lake Alka, where visitors can glide on a wakeboard while holding onto a line. Turning right along the path leads back to town through a residential area, while continuing straight ahead between the ponds follows the main route.

From the information board with a map, visitors can choose between the yellow and blue trails, marked on trees with corresponding-coloured squares. The yellow loop trail is designed for Nordic walking and runs along the shores of Lake Alka and through forest paths. The

blue trail follows the original Sun Trail route, beginning at a narrow wooden bridge and symbolic starting gate. It winds along the Ratnyčia Stream, with benches and gazebos placed along the way for rest. On a hot summer day, it's refreshing to wade in the shallow stream, and near the wooden bridge – where the blue route turns back toward the town – to cool off in the cascading water. Those wishing to explore further can continue eastward to the home and "Salt Studio" of sculptor Tauras Česnulevičius (Ratnyčia, Smiltynų g. 9), then follow the village roads of Ratnyčia and Naujasodė to reach the Antanas Česnulis Sculpture and Leisure Park, and finally the end of the trail at Lake Latežeris. From the symbolic gate onward, the Sun Trail follows unpaved forest paths. The section between the sign "Salt Studio" and Lake Latežeris has not been renovated and may contain natural obstacles, so it is advisable to plan your route using a map. In winter, the trails are also suitable for cross-country skiing.

ŽILVINAS TRAIL

Length: 6 km, 8 km, 10 km
A paved bicycle trail.

The trail takes its name from the Lithuanian folk legend of Eglė and her beloved King of Serpents, Žilvinas. True to its name, the trail winds in a serpentine path through the pine forest in the eastern part of Druskininkai. However, your journey can begin right in the old town of Druskininkai, at the curved bridge where the Nemunas River meets the Ratnyčėlė Stream – a popular

spot for wedding photographs. From the bridge and the nearby hill, visitors can admire a magnificent panorama of the Nemunas River. A few hundred meters further, within the grounds of the "Draugystė" Sanatorium, the trail reaches an open-air exhibition dedicated to one of the world's most famous 20th-century sculptors and a representative of Cubism – Jacques Lipchitz. The route continues along Kurorto Street, then follows an asphalt path through the pine forest, crossing the small Grūta Stream before emerging at the intersection of Veisiejai and Neravai Streets. The ride continues up to the sign "Eglė Sanatorium." It is recommended to taste the natural mineral water at the sanatorium's buvette. The Žilvinas Trail resumes on the eastern edge of the sanatorium's territory. Near the first trail junction, you can take the shortest route by turning right (a total of 6 km). Continuing in the direction of Grūtas, you can ride about another kilometre and a half and again choose between a shorter route (8 km in total) or a longer one (about three more kilometres toward Lakes Ilgis and Grūtas). On the shore of Lake Grūtas lies the famous open-air exhibition of Soviet sculptures and relics – "Grūtas Park." The park also includes a zoo and a café. On the way back to Druskininkai, it is worth stopping by the Forest Museum "Girios aidas" ("Echo of the Forest") to admire the exhibits and the picturesque scenery along Alka Pond and the Grūta Stream.



The trail is lit from the end of Maironio Street to Love Island and features seven viewing and rest areas.



WATER TRANSPORT

ENTERTAINMENT BOAT DRUSKININKAI

📍 *At the Ratnyčėlė stream*
☎️ +370 650 66988

Memorable trips to Love Island (1 hour) and Liškiava (3 hours).

We organize trips according to orders: birthdays, bachelorette parties, bachelor parties.

TRIP ON THE "DRUSKININKAI" BOAT TO LIŠKIAVA

Liškiava is a unique village located within the Dzūkija National Park. During your visit you will explore its ensemble of sacral architecture, admire the Holy Trinity Church, and see the hillfort, the sacred mound, and the mythical stone bearing the "bull's footprint." From the river,

you'll enjoy panoramic views of the Nemunas' forested banks and the unspoiled beauty of Lithuanian nature.

CATAMARAN TOUR

📍 *„Druskininkų HERMIS“ uostas, Vilniaus al. 7, Druskininkai*
☎️ +370 686 15814

A cruise on the Nemunas River is both an adventure and an opportunity to immerse yourself in the history of Druskininkai. Along the way, you will see the most famous sights of Druskininkai: DRUSKININKAI WATER PARK, UNO ADVENTURE PARK, SNOW ARENA, and the cable ferries crossing the Nemunas River. During the trip, you will see Love Island, and the captain

will tell you many legends about this island!

NEMO TRIPS

☎️ +370 653 56850

NEMO journeys are an unforgettable experience where the elements of nature unite – the flow of water, the refreshing breeze, the earth's vastness along the Nemunas banks, and the warmth of an evening fire. Handcrafted rafts embody authenticity, serenity, adventure, and togetherness, offering a moment of soul discovery. Each passenger becomes part of a unique world born of dreams, passion, and the power of nature. Once in a lifetime, let yourself live differently – discover what it means to travel where authenticity lives.



EXCURSIONS AND ENTERTAINMENT

ACROSS THE PINE DUNES

📍 *The tour lasts up to 6 hours.*
☎️ +370 686 82710

An off-road adventure through the pinewoods of Dzūkija in a classic Land Rover. We'll explore why Dzūkija locals climb trees with ropes, "plough" rivers, how bogs form, and why bees once lived even in village cemeteries. You'll learn how many breweries stood along the Ūla River and taste Lithuania's oldest dessert. The trip includes wading through a bog, walking across dunes and lichen heaths, searching for insect-eating plants, and picking wild berries and mushrooms. A picnic stop will offer homemade dishes from a family-run restaurant

and summer desserts made with local farm produce.

EDUCATIONAL ENTERTAINMENT "SŪRŪS VĖJAI"

🌐 www.surusvejai.lt

Let's celebrate – the Lithuanian way!

Fun and authentic programmes for groups.

Discover unique places, taste traditional dishes, and enjoy yourself according to old Lithuanian traditions. "Sūrūs Vėjai" ("Salty Winds") invites you to celebrate company parties or family gatherings in true Lithuanian style.

We will help you create a memorable day in Druskininkai.

New programmes:

- Lithuanian folk fiesta, 2 h;
- Sisters in a country manor, 2 h;
- The Forbidden Forest, 1 h;
- Sweet Oasis, 1 h.

DRUSKININKAI WATER PARK

📍 *Vilniaus al. 13-2, Druskininkai*
☎️ +370 697 08000
✉️ info@aquapark.lt
🌐 www.aquapark.lt

Located on the banks of the River Nemunas, this tropical paradise is open year-round and never fails to impress. Warm temperatures, bright blue pools, palm-shaded areas and endless entertainment await: ride the waves in the sea pool, float down the lazy or wild rivers, conquer your fears on thrilling slides, and relax body



and soul in the saunas – all while immersing yourself in the joyful atmosphere of nonstop fun.

SNOW ARENA

📍 *Nemuno kelias 2, Mizarai*
 📞 +370 615 35415
 ✉️ registratura@snowarena.lt
 🌐 www.snowarena.lt

The SNOW ARENA is the only year-round winter entertainment complex in the

Baltic States. It features two indoor alpine skiing slopes and one outdoor run, open during suitable weather conditions. The slopes are modern and covered with high-quality snow, with Swiss ski lifts carrying visitors up the mountain. All necessary equipment and clothing can be rented on site. Beginners can learn or improve their skiing and snowboarding skills with professional instructors.

CABLE CAR

📍 *Vilniaus al. 13, Druskininkai*
 📞 +370 620 49351
 ✉️ info@lynukelias.lt
 🌐 www.lynukelias.lt

Operating daily all year round, the Cable Car is the only one of its kind in Lithuania. It is an eco-friendly means of transport that does not pollute the environment and offers a spectacular experience for

EXCURSIONS IN DRUSKININKAI

Druskininkai guides association

📞 +370 699 49745
 📞 +370 675 26388

Druskininkai guide group „Artelė“

📞 +370 615 89454

“Chatty lady” in Druskininkai

📞 +370 655 58180

Excursions and education in Druskininkai

📞 +370 615 12053

Retro Druskininkai

📞 +370 686 36636

🌐 www.retodrugininkai.lt

visitors. A ten-seat cabin departs from the station near the Druskininkai Water Park and glides 45 metres above the Nemunas River, reaching the opposite bank in 7–8 minutes. During the ride, you'll see the river's sweeping curve, pine forests, Love Island, and the panoramic view of the town.

UNO PARK

📍 *Poilsio Park, next to the Nemunas River and Druskininkai Water Park*

📞 +370 659 61256

✉️ druskininkai@unoparks.lt

🌐 www.unoparks.lt

Located in the very heart of the resort, UNO Adventure Park welcomes visitors of all ages. Safety is ensured by experienced instructors and professional climbing equipment. The park's pride is its thrilling “Flight over the Nemunas” zipline. Each trail is designed with you in mind – whether you're brave or cautious, young or old.

WOLF GOLF CLUB

📍 *Kamorūnų k. Leipalingis*

📞 +370 611 45333

✉️ info@dzukijosgolfas.lt

🌐 www.dzukijosgolfas.lt

An 18-hole golf course located in the southernmost part of Lithuania. The course is unique in that one side lies within a pine forest, while the other stretches across open terrain. With 79 deep sand bunkers and turf sown with a blend of fescue grasses, the greens offer an exceptionally fast roll.

ORIENTATION WALKING GAMES

📍 *M. K. Čiurlionio g. 51, Druskininkai (Family entertainment park O KAS ČIA?)*

📞 +370 676 44640

🌐 www.trainbrain.lt

An interactive walking tour through Druskininkai that reveals the hidden stories about the resort and invites

participants to take part in the discovery themselves. A virtual guide challenges you to solve riddles, find hidden clues, answer questions, and progress step by step – learning about Druskininkai as you go and completing the route.

TRAIN YOUR BRAIN ESCAPE ROOMS

📍 *M. K. Čiurlionio g. 51, Druskininkai (Family entertainment park O KAS ČIA?)*

📞 +370 676 44640

🌐 www.trainbrain.lt

Puzzle and logic-based escape rooms where you have 60 minutes to find your way out. All you need is a bit of logic, attention, and good humour! Designed for teams of 2–5 people, there are three rooms of different themes and difficulty levels, allowing up to 15 players to participate simultaneously. Outdoor orientation games are also available.





UPSIDE-DOWN HOUSE

📍 Šalia Vilniaus al. 14, Druskininkai
 📞 +370 672 17669
 🌐 www.apverstasnamas.lt

Have you ever wondered what life would be like if everything turned upside down? Imagine running on the ceiling or playing games while standing on your head! Inside this house, you'll find an upside-down bathroom, living room, and bedrooms. Don't let curiosity torment you – turn your world upside down!

FAMILY ENTERTAINMENT PARK O KAS ČIA?

📍 M. K. Čiurlionio g. 51, Druskininkai
 📞 +370 614 99228
 ✉️ okascia@grandspa.lt

A 1,000 m² indoor adventure space where children are greeted by the park's queen – a giraffe – who invites them on a magical journey of discovery. The park also includes a café with a troll attic, offering treats and surprises for the whole family.

ECOTOURS ELECTRIC MINIBUS

📍 Turistų g. (car parking area) Maironio g. (šalia Lynų kelias keltuvo)
 📞 +370 677 60636
 📞 +370 677 77472

This small, compact electric minibus seats up to 13 passengers and offers a comfortable, eco-friendly way to explore Druskininkai. As you travel through the town's most beautiful areas, you'll hear fascinating stories about the

resort's history and its unique charm. It's a perfect leisure activity for families, groups, or anyone wishing to discover Druskininkai in a relaxed and enjoyable way.

SIGHTSEEING TRAIN

📍 Pramogų aikštė, Vilniaus al. 24, Druskininkai
 📞 +370 313 60800
 ✉️ information@druskininkai.lt
 🌐 www.druskininkai.lt

During the season, a small tourist train takes visitors through the most beautiful spots of the resort. The ride is especially attractive for families with young children, offering a chance to admire the nature and landmarks of Druskininkai in comfort. The route, departure point and time are announced on the website www.druskininkai.lt



BICYCLE RENTAL

- 📍 Vilniaus al. 8, Druskininkai
📞 +370 614 79501
- 📍 Turistų g. 8, Druskininkai
📞 +370 684 56685
- 📍 Šv. Jokūbo g. 3, Druskininkai
📞 +370 682 10953
- 📍 V. Kudirkos g. 37, Druskininkai
📞 +370 696 98104
- 📍 Druskonio ežero pakrantė
📞 +370 607 20060
- 📍 Druskonio ežero pakrantė
📞 +370 607 20060
- 📍 Vilniaus al. 26, Druskininkai
📞 +370 698 40430
- 📍 Vilniaus al. 32, Druskininkai
📞 +370 698 40430

One of the best ways to discover Druskininkai and its surroundings is by cycling. Around the resort, you'll find 60 km of dedicated bike paths, allowing you to admire the stunning landscapes and enjoy unforgettable experiences along the way. Bicycle rental points are easy to find throughout the town.



TENNIS COURTS

- 📍 V. Krėvės g. 7, Druskininkai
📞 +370 313 53132
- 📍 Maironio g. 2, Druskininkai
📞 +370 313 60618
- 📍 Eglės g. 1, Druskininkai
📞 +370 313 60220

The tennis courts in Druskininkai meet all professional standards and are built using only high-quality materials. Both visitors and tennis enthusiasts are welcome to enjoy a game daily on the open-air courts surrounded by the peaceful resort atmosphere.



SUPRAŠL



Publication issued as part of the project no. LTPL00326 "Discovering and promoting the tourist treasures of the health resorts of Supraśl and Druskininkai".

The aim of the project is to bring Supraśl and Druskininkai to leading positions in wellness tourism by promoting their uniqueness and supporting cooperation between partners.

The main results of the project are high-quality promotional materials presenting the wellness offer, cultural attractions and beauty of Supraśl and Druskininkai. These include: the guidebook you're holding in your hand, tourist maps, the „Health Resorts“ mobile app, a joint promotional film and reels.

To view other promotional materials and learn more about the project, scan the QR code.



SUPRAŚL - A TREASURE WAITING TO BE DISCOVERED BY YOU

THERE IS ONLY ONE TOWN IN THE WHOLE OF PODLACHIA, HIDDEN IN THE MIDDLE OF THE KNYSZYN PRIMEVAL FOREST AND WITH A TRADITION OF MORE THAN 500 YEARS, WHICH IS WRITTEN IN GOLDEN LETTERS IN THE HISTORY OF POLAND, BELARUS AND LITHUANIA. THIS UNIQUE PLACE, IS LOCATED IN A LARGE CLEARING - SUPRAŚL.

Interreg  Co-funded by
the European Union
Lithuania - Poland

Published as part of project no. LTPLO0326
„DISCOVERING AND PROMOTING THE TOURIST
TREASURES OF THE HEALTH RESORTS OF SUPRAŚL
AND DRUSKININKAI”

Although its "official" history begins with the settlement of Orthodox monks of the Rule of Saint Basil the Great in 1500, archaeological monuments from the Stone, Bronze and Iron Ages push back the metric of settlement in the area by several thousand years.

PREHISTORY

A stone axe characteristic of the Corded Ware culture has been found near the "Puszczka" Resort, i.e. in the vicinity of the Health Resort Hospital, and an intricate arrowhead and flint knife were found next to the monastery. The discovery of several bronze brooches (fibulae) dating back to the 4th century AD and produced by the Wielbark culture has been a phenomenon; they were found near Biskup Jaworowski Street. Also, by the monastery itself, ceramics dating to the 13th century were discovered next to the catacombs, and in 1975 two early medieval iron axes (dating to the 11th century). Similarly, an iron spearhead of javelin from the 13th - 14th century has been found on the Supraśl dike located in the river valley (near Nowy Świat Street). Similar items attributed to the Yotvingians have been unearthed 10 km from Supraśl, near the village of Sokoldy (Supraśl urban-rural commune). These finds prove that the area of present-day Supraśl was also penetrated by people in the Middle Ages. Medieval artifacts from Supraśl and the surrounding area can be seen in the Small Historical Museum of the Knyszyn Primeval Forest at the Arboretum on Kopna Góra near Supraśl, as well as in the permanent exhibition in the Old Parsonage (corner of Pilsudskiego and 3 Maja Streets) in Supraśl, where there is also a tourist information point.

PREHISTORIC SETTLEMENT AT DĘBOWNIK

Prehistoric settlement in the immediate vicinity of Supraśl (near Podsupraśl) was confirmed by excavations carried out in 2004 at the Dębownik habitat. On the vast alluvial terrace, scientists recovered approximately 2,000 ceramic fragments and several thousand flint artefacts, among which an arrowhead (Bronze Age) and a Kunda plate of knight's armour (Mesolithic) are of particular

interest. The oldest artefacts may date back as far as the 9th millennium BC, while the youngest date back to the Iron Age.

At Dębownik, as well as not far to the east of this settlement - which lies on the other side of the Supraśl river (in relation to the town) - remnants of a prehistoric settlement, the so-called Bell Beaker culture, rare in this part of Europe, were discovered several years ago. Burials with deposits in the form of clay vessel parts, stone tools and ornaments were also found there. On many fragments of ceramic pots, the geometric ornamentation features analogies from the



Before the modern settlement of our ancestors, Supraśl was inhabited for many thousands of years by other peoples and cultures who appreciated the convenient location of this area.

distant, southern parts of our continent (Spain, Portugal). At one site, a unique rarity was explored in the form of a complete toolbox of a bowhunter, which consisted of arrow straighteners, a set of arrowheads, knife blades and daggers. The finds date from 2800-1800 BC.

MODERN SETTLEMENT

Long before the monastery complex was built, the high riverside embankment had been a convenient place to set up camp. On almost every side, access to the Supraśl island had been defended by coniferous forests, oak-hornbeam forests, swampy meadows, the Supraśl River, and the Brzozówka and Grabówka Rivers (now streams). The "fortified" location had also been used to lead an eremitic life by sketes - hermits who separated themselves from the monastic community and spent their lives alone in hermitages made by themselves. According to tradition and accounts, the monks' hermitages were located on a high embankment downstream, in the vicinity of the "Holmed" Health Resort Hospital on the so-called "Frying Pan". As late as the early 19th century, the site was still referred to as the "Hermitage Sacred Spots".

MONASTERY OF THE ANNUNCIATION





FROM GRÓDEK TO SUPRAŚL

The modern history of Supraśl began in 1500, when Aleksander Chodkiewicz, coat-of-arms Kościesza, court master of the horse, Royal Marshal and, from 1544, voivode of Nowogródek, gave his consent for a monastery of the Greek-Ruthenian-Byzantine tradition to be founded on the site of present-day Supraśl. This Orthodox Lithuanian lord, born around 1457, son of Ivan the voivode of Kyiv, had first brought monks of the Rule of St. Basil the Great to Gródek from the holy Mount Athos and Kyiv before 1498. After two years, due to the inconvenience of the monks staying in the populous and bustling Gródek, they asked their benefactor to locate them elsewhere on the same river. The founder allowed the headquarters of the monastery to be moved from Gródek to a new, peaceful location, and the choice of the new monastic seat was to be decided by Providence. This fact, in the form of a legend, is stated in the chronicle of the monastery from the mid-18th century by the Unitarian monk Fr. Mikołaj Radkiewicz, deputy vicar of the Basilian Abbey:

"...At first, in the year 1498, this monastery was founded in Gródek on the estate inherited from his ancestors by the noble Lord Aleksander Chodkiewicz, voivode of Novogródok and Grand Marshal of the Grand Duchy of Lithuania. It was from here, i.e. from Supraśl, about 4 miles away. There, on the first of these plots, he settled the monks of the Order of Saint Basil the Great, not yet making any bequests to them. The first monastic supervisor of the site was Pafnucy Sieheń. After two years, when the monks were not pleased with the location, they asked the founder to move them to another, quieter place. This saintly lord allowed them to let the monks themselves find a convenient site for the new monastery. With the founder's permission, they made a wooden cross and let it go from Gródek along the Supraśl River. Their intention was that wherever the cross would stop, they would agree on the choice of location. There is no doubt that, by dispensation of providence, on such a beautiful, peaceful and useful place called Hroda in the Btudowska Primeval Forest,

the hereditary estate of the same founder, the indicated cross was found by the bank of the Supraśl River. The monks announced this to the founder, who began to move the new monastery from Gródek to the new site. In 1500, Pafnucy Sieheń, the first superior of the Supraśl monastery, moved with the religious community, at the will of the founder, to this island between the two streams of the Grabówki and Brzozówki Rivers, where this pious lord firmly and unswervingly founded this sacred place. A small church was built at the beginning, dedicated to St. John the Evangelist...."

At the very beginning, Aleksander Chodkiewicz did not make any bestowments to the monks. It was not until 1506 that the Orthodox Metropolitan of Kiev, Józef Soltan, donated estates along with subjects in Topilec, Baciuty and Piszczew, which



The monastery in Supraśl was a model centre for the faithful of Eastern Christianity within the Polish - Lithuanian Commonwealth. Its history reflects the turbulent fortunes of Poland in all their historical diversity.

he had received from King Alexander Jagiellon for his loyalty and participation in the defence of the Grand Duchy of Lithuania against aggression by Moscow. At the time, the hierarch was the Bishop of Smoleńsk.

The symbol of Supraśl was and still is the Gothic Orthodox Church of the Annunciation of the Blessed Virgin Mary. Although the original building from the early 16th century was blown up during the Second World War (July 1944), today the towers of the reconstructed temple dominate the city.

The 1931 issue of ZIEMIA magazine described this now-reconstructed structure as follows:

"The church edifice, built in the shape of a rectangular quadrangle, with four defensive towers and a dome above the centre of the nave, supported by four pillars, has a basic eastern layout, yet the Gothic architecture of the windows and vaults, and the later Baroque additions, give the edifice in detail a western imprint. The whole of this monumental temple, both from its external shape and

from its interior, speaks to us of the strange harmonisation of Greek ritual with the Latin culture, something as if East and West here shake hands with each other, one Christ in Slavic and Latin celebrating...."

THE ORIGINS OF THE MONASTERY

The Supraśl Monastery indeed combined not only architectural styles, but also different philosophical and religious views. Orthodox Christians living in the eastern part of the Knyszyn Primeval Forest were open to the Western culture and religious rapprochement with the Latin rite Catholics living in the same forest complex. The location of Supraśl between the two directions of settlement, as well as on the border between the Confederation of the Polish Crown and Lithuania, was conducive to the establishment of contacts, exchange of views, and in a way

determined the role of the monastery as an intercultural bridge. This monastery perfectly fitted into the Jagiellonian idea of a state united by a personal union of a common monarch, in which a Pole, a Lithuanian, a Tatar and a Rusyn felt like brothers.

The drama of the split of orthodox Christianity in 1054 into the Roman

Church and the Eastern Churches resulted in attempts to unite the Orthodox Church and the Church, especially under the influence of the Council of Florence (1439), common to the Greeks and the Romans. One attempt at ecclesiastical integration coincided with the establishment of the Supraśl monastery. Shortly after consenting to its foundation and consecrating the first Supraśl church by the Metropolitan of all Rus Józef Bułharynowicz, the same Orthodox leader, on 20 August 1500, without disobeying Constantinople, also made an act of obedience to Pope Alexander IV. In this manner, he made reference to the attitudes of his predecessors in Kiev. Unfortunately, the religious war declared by Moscow (dictated by its aversion to any conciliatory aspirations), and the consequent defeat of Lithuania and the danger of further territorial cessions to the Grand Duchy of Moscow, caused ecumenical tendencies to be abandoned. After Bułharynowicz's death (1501), the new metropolitan Ion of Minsk did not establish contact with Rome, and in 1503 he even he reconsecrated the sacred buildings in Supraśl, which had been blessed three years earlier

by Bulharynowicz, described in the Moscow chronicles as an enemy and apostate of the Greek faith, although the metropolitan never renounced the Orthodox faith.

In 1545, the wooden Orthodox church of St. John the Evangelist was destroyed by lightning, and with it probably the icons of Our Lady of Smoleńsk and Spas, donated by Metropolitan Józef Bulharynowicz on the occasion of his consecration of the temples in Supraśl.

In the course of the sixteenth century, a brick refectory was built and, after 1545, the monastic tomb-catacombs with the Church of the Holy Cross were constructed. The Resurrection of Christ. Alongside the catacombs, usable gardens, cultivated fields and even a vineyard were created. A monastery library was organised, which was frequented by eminent humanists and people of the arts.

In addition to fish ponds supplying the tables of refectory with fasting food, a 2.5 km-long artificial canal was dug in the valley of the Supraśl River in the 16th century, known by contemporaries as the Kopianica, the Nowa River or the Kopana River. At the end of this canal, which is about 300 years older than the Augustów Canal, a mill pond of about 8 hectares was built, with mills, sawmills and felling facilities with a milling settlement next to it. Today, this unique and well-preserved hydrotechnical damming system has been entered in the register of monuments under the name the Supraśl Water System. The Supraśl commune is aiming to restore this reservoir, and it is one step away from preparing the project with full investment permits. The restored upper lagoon (Zajma) is to have a hydroelectric power station and tourist development including a beach, among other things.

From 1545 onwards, the heads of the Orthodox monastery bore the dignity of archimandrites, or abbots, having previously been only hegumens (superiors). The first archimandrite to hold this honourable position was the nobleman Sergiusz Kimbar (1545–1565), one of the more enlightened theologians in the Polish-Lithuanian Orthodox Christianity, who proposed religious reforms. It is no exaggeration to say that he found Supraśl wooden and left it built in brick. Indeed, he made many useful masonry investments, which were carried out, among others, by foremen from Vilnius. His remains were deposited in the catacombs.

BASILIAN - UNIATE PERIOD

After 1596, the Supraśl monastery adopted the provisions of a synod of Orthodox rulers, which united the Orthodox Church in the Republic with the Roman Church. Although initially the Orthodox superior of the monastery, Archimandrite Prince Ilarion Massalski, first supported religious integration and then participated in the anti-Unionist synod in Brest, after some time he finally submitted to the Uniate Metropolitan Hippacy Pocięj and became a Catholic.

Without abandoning the Ruthenian religious and cultural traditions, but adopting and, as it were, complementing them with Latin and Polish elements, the Supraśl monastery became one of the most important intellectual centres for Unitarians in the Polish-Lithuanian Commonwealth and the seat of hierarchs, including the metropolitans of the Greek Catholic Church.

From the adoption of the Union of Brest between 1601 and 1603 up until 1839, the Supraśl Monastery was the only autonomous monastery in Poland. It was not subject to the authority of the Basilian congregations established in the 17th and 18th centuries, which were centrally managed on the model of the Society of Jesus: the Lithuanian (under the invocation of the Holy Trinity) and Polish (under the invocation of the Protection of the Blessed Virgin Mary). It depended only on its Metropolitan and the Holy See. The abbots of Supraśl were the highest dignitaries of the Uniate Church in Poland, including the metropolitans of that Church. There was a monastic typography in Supraśl between 1695 and 1803. During its 108 years of operation, the printing presses embossed 452 items registered today, of which as many as 73% were printed in Latin characters and 27% in Cyrillic characters. According to Maria Cubrzyńska-Leonarczyk, PhD in Art Studies:

"The Basilians constituted the elite of that part of the society of the Commonwealth which had bound its fate to the Greek Catholic, or Uniate, Church. Adherents of the Uniate rite – and these included not only Ukrainians, as is generally believed today, but also the numerous Belarusians, Poles, Lithuanians and sometimes even the Russians – nurtured the Ruthenian tradition and church customs, at the same time recognising the primacy of the Pope. The Basilians, and with them the Uniates, were therefore a bridge not only between the two

Churches (Orthodox and Catholic), but above all between the culture of Western Europe and the Byzantine-influenced culture of the East. They were thus fulfilling a kind of mission, and this mission was also served by the publishing activities of the Supraśl institution"

PARTITIONS. ABOLITION OF THE MONASTERY AND THE RUSSIFICATION

The cultural mission of the Supraśl Basilians was interrupted by the Partitions. First, the Prussians, and then after 1807, the Russians, deprived the Basilians of their land grants and set an annual subsidy which was insufficient even for basic expenses. In 1803, under the influence of the strict policy of the partitioning power, the Uniate publishing house ceased to exist, which, among other things, in 1792 published for the first time a volume entitled "Songs of Piety" by Franciszek Karpiński, including the songs sung to this day "As the Dawn Breaks", "All Our Daily Affairs", and the carol "God is Born".

In 1839, the Tsar abolished the Greek-Uniate Church, incorporating its property, clergy and faithful into the Russian Orthodox Church. At that time, an Orthodox monastery was established in Supraśl, which initially served as a de facto place of retreat for the former Uniate clergy. It caught up with the former Basilians who had grown up in a completely different tradition and reality, who could not fully find themselves in the new situation imposed on them.

In the mid-19th century, the Archimandrite Palace, including part of the southern wing of the monastery, was sold to Wilhelm Frydryk Zachert. The Orthodox monks were living in a detached building called the Żaczek and occupied the entrance gate and part of the south wing of the monastery. Despite the sale of a large part of the former monastery to Zachert, the planned liquidation of the Supraśl monastery did not ultimately take place. This was thanks to the superior, Nikolai Dalmatov, a noble-born Russian who organised the monastery archives, revived the cult of Our Lady of Supraśl – forgotten since the Uniate times – built the Orthodox church of St. John the Theologian adjacent to Żaczek, and cared for the education of local children. At the time of this archimandrite, there was a three-class men's school attached to the monastery, which was attended by boys of various faiths from Supraśl and it was taught in the Russian spirit. In the early 20th century, Dalmatov built a cemetery church

dedicated to the Virgin Mary. Great Martyr Jerzy in Podsupraśl. He put the monastery archive in order and protected those manuscripts and books that remained in Supraśl after the dispersal of the monastery's collection during a period of intense Russification and decatholicisation. He was the first monographer of the history of the Supraśl monastery, published in print in St. Petersburg in 1892. He founded a religious brotherhood spreading the cult of the Virgin Mary. He carried out repairs to the Church of the Annunciation, where he removed the lime whitewash on the frescoes – which had been painted over by archimandrite Viktinty Kurhanovich (1852–1859). The clergyman died on 31 January 1906. His grave, located beneath St. John the Theologian Orthodox Church, was plundered by the Red Army, which occupied the monastery after 17 September 1939. In the opinion of posterity, he remained as a good person with a gentle disposition and tolerant.

MONASTERY AFTER 1915

In 1915, during the First World War, the Russian monks left Supraśl, abandoning all of the property belonging to the monastery. The abandoned monastery buildings were occupied by German soldiers, who stayed there until the beginning of 1919, i.e. until Poland returned to this area. After independence, the abandoned monastery was leased by the State Treasury to the Catholic Church, which in 1937 organised an educational institution and oratory in it, run by the order of the Society of St. Francis de Sales. The Second World War interrupted the educational work of this congregation.

After 17 September 1939, the monastery buildings taken over by the Red Army became a military garrison. The Soviets "cleaned" the interior of the Church of the Annunciation of the Blessed Virgin Mary. In the furnaces of the laundry they annihilated the most beautiful iconostasis in the Republic, made by Gdansk masters in the mid-17th century, and made "decorative" soldered kettles and cups out of paintings painted on copper sheets that came from it. They also burnt the side altars and tablatures. To complete the picture of destruction under the so-called "first Soviet", let us take the example of the Abbots Palace. Inside it, on the first floor, the Red Army set up a public convenience. They had so polluted this facility that the only means of communication were platforms made of planks leaning against bricks on which they moved.

After the war, the partly ruined and burnt buildings of the monastery were rebuilt and the Agricultural Mechanisation Technical School was organised. After a long-running dispute, by a decision of the Polish government in February 1996, the buildings occupied by the school were handed over to the Polish Autocephalous Orthodox Church, which has been reconstructing the Church of the Annunciation of the Blessed Virgin Mary since 1982. Recently, the interior of the church was decorated with frescoes painted in the spirit of their historical originals. A new iconostasis was also created; although it does not refer to the latter, i.e. the Baroque one, it nevertheless impresses with its monumentality and icons, which breathe the art of the Byzantine "Renaissance" from the time of the Komnenoi.

Great merit in the restoration of the monastery in 1984 and in the restoration of the cult of the Mother of God was due to Archimandrite Father

Miron Chodakowski, former Archbishop of Hajnów and head of the Orthodox Ordinariate in the Polish Army with the rank of Brigadier General. The clergyman died on 10 April 2010 near Smoleńsk in the plane crash of the presidential aircraft. In accordance with his will, the dignitary's body was laid to rest in the rebuilt Church of the Annunciation of the Blessed Virgin Mary in Supraśl; it is located under the presbyterium of the temple. In honour of this hierarch, one of the streets running alongside the monastery was named after him, and the monks organised a memorial chamber to Bishop Miron in the southern frontage of the monastery, where the Archbishop's personal items can be viewed. By the Abbots' Palace on the river side, in an area open to tourists, a bronze cast bust of the hierarch was placed on a granite pedestal. Bishop Miron Chodakowski has remained in the memory of the inhabitants of Supraśl as an unusually sensitive

and open-minded man, seeking in another person a brother or sister in Christ. A natural ecumenical sensitivity was particularly endearing in him, which he embodied in Supraśl in the 1980s. In the 1970s, together with the Roman Catholic pastors, they organised the Days of Christian Culture. These were among the first grassroots stepping stones of the Catholic-Orthodox dialogue in Poland.

HISTORY OF THE TOWN

A monastery settlement in Supraśl in the 17th and 18th centuries did not have the qualities of a "town", but neither was it a village. Its community was involved in servicing the monastery and the monastery farm including, above all, work in the manufactories located at the "Zajma-Binduga" in Supraśl. The activities of the inhabitants of Supraśl in the 16th-18th centuries resulted from the daily needs of the monks: provisioning,



Supraśl exists as a town thanks to a monastic settlement developed by Bishop Leon Ludwik Jaworowski. It was first called a "town" in the monastery's inventory from 1829.

establishing the seat of the Uniate bishopric here. Although in the ecclesiastical sense the village described was considered a town, it was nevertheless realised that this was an exaggerated designation. Bishoprics, according to a medieval tradition, were erected in cities, and the status of Supraśl was bothersome at this point. Supraśl was therefore conditionally granted the title of a bishop's town and it was hoped that it would develop rapidly. An excerpt from the papal document explains:

"On our own initiative and with unquestionable conviction, by virtue of our full apostolic authority, we consider the aforementioned settlement of Supraśl worthy and appropriate to be renamed the town of Supraśl, granting it all the rights, privileges and prerogatives benefited by other towns having such capitals, or rather their inhabitants, have, possess, enjoy and may now and in the future use, benefit, possess and enjoy in any way..."

The orientation of the development of Supraśl by Pius VI also had its economic justification. Since the liquidation of the Republic and the state takeover of the monastic property, the development and the maintenance of the abbey depended on the economic capacity of the monastery settlement. In order to improve the financial situation of the monastery, the Basilians leased from the Prussians (and, after 1807, from the Russians) the "Supraśl estate", taken over by the partitioners, which included industrial facilities in the form of 2 mills, 2 fulling



facilities, a sawmill, a brewery, 2 inns, a distillery, a brickyard and a paper mill.

The Basilians – by renovating the mills and fulling facilities, building a brewery, a new paper mill, a farmhouse and other facilities – caused an influx of artisanal sub-tenants. Many of them held German-sounding surnames, appearing in the baptismal book of the Supraśl Basilian parish, and were Lutherans.

The abbot of the monastery and, at the same time, the last bishop-nominate of the Supraśl diocese, Leon Ludwik Jaworowski of Lubicz coat of arms, was particularly keen on the development of the settlement. Following the liquidation of the Supraśl diocese

in 1809, the head of the Basilian monastery wished to bring the costly offices of the Brest diocese, of which he was suffragan, to Supraśl, headed by the seminary, consistory and bishop's residence. Within three decades, Jaworowski doubled the population of Supraśl by changing the character of the town. What is essential, this occurred several years before the analogous activity displayed in Supraśl by Wilhelm Fryderyk Zachert, who will be discussed below.

Even before the introduction of a customs barrier on goods exported from the Kingdom of Poland to the Russian market after the November Uprising (1830-1831), Supraśl was beginning to fulfil the character of a town. This is why, among other things, the first sentence of the monastery's inventory of 1829 reads that the monastery was located in "a town called Supraśl".

Although the modernisation of industry in Supraśl by 1830 had consumed more than 70% of the total expenditure of the monastery, the project to relocate the seat of the diocese of Brest proved unfeasible. It was opposed by the authorities in St. Petersburg, who tightened their policy towards the Uniates. Abbot Jaworowski experience remorse as he had invested a huge amount of funds in the manor, as if in vain. In the inventory of the monastery he wrote:

"...But if the higher authorities liked it otherwise, I can only be ashamed of my mistake, but I hope in conscience that I will not be obliged to give an account to God."

However, the mistake made by Bishop Jaworowski turned out to be a "blessed" one for, as a result of it, the development of Supraśl was greatly accelerated. Lay industrialists took advantage of



the plans of Abbot Jaworowski, who, from 1831, leased the former monastery estate together with the post-Basilian manufactures. In their place they organised textile factories. In February 1831, the monastery farm was leased by the German textile manufacturer Huffert and in November by the factory owner Roter. Wilhelm Fryderyk Zachert, a textile worker from Zgierz, was the third to take over the Supra Basilian inheritance at Zajma (1834). Within two decades, this manufacturer developed a monastery town of more than 300 inhabitants into a "genuine town", with as many as 3,450 citizens in 1857. Catholics were the most numerous (2,086), followed by the Evangelicals (790), Orthodox (327) and Jews (227). Zachert was followed by other industrialists: the Buchholzes, the Reichs, the Jansens, the Auernerts, the Altes, the Koszades, and the Tebuses ... and behind them a host of qualified foremen. They all moved to Supraśl from the Kingdom of Poland due to a fear of bankruptcy. The heavy tariffs on textiles exported to the Russian Empire, introduced after the November Uprising, did not allow them to develop further. The only chance to continue to prosper was to move production to the

Białystok Region, which lay within the borders of the Russian Empire. As a result, literally in the blink of an eye Supraśl became a significant textile centre in the Białystok Oblast and later in the Grodno Governorate. It was not until the Second World War that the textile industry finally came to an end.

In the 19th century, the Jews who owned shops, bakeries and nearby inns settled in Supraśl. With the help of the factory owners in Supraśl, they built a synagogue located on Zgierska Street (now 11 Listopada Street), which was destroyed by the Germans during The Second World War. On the same street opposite the Rabbi's House, which housed a cheder – a traditional Jewish elementary school for boys – the former Jewish community is commemorated by a boulder with a cast of a broken menorah and text.

SUPRAŚL IN THE MODERN ERA

Currently with a population of around 4,300, Supraśl is developing as a tourist and health resort destination. The management of the town and the commune is carried out by the Mayor with the Town Council. Cultural institutions of the

Podlaskie Voivodeship, such as the Icon Museum and the Wierszalin Theatre, are located here. Supraśl is also an educational centre, as two schools are located here: the Artur Grottger Art School and the Ferdynand Marecki Sports Primary School. There are associations in the town, the best known of which are Collegium Suprasliense and the Friends of Supraśl Society. The Supraśl Academy – which initiates cultural, scientific, charitable and pastoral events – also operates at the Orthodox monastery. An important institution based in Supraśl promoting natural and cultural values is the Knyszyn Primeval Forest Landscape Park named after Witold Sławiński, established in 1988.

There are three parishes in Supraśl: two Roman Catholic and one Orthodox. Approximately 87% of the population is Catholic, the rest being Orthodox Christians and followers of other faiths.

The granting of the title of health resort to Supraśl on 28 December 2001 was of historical significance. Joining the elite group of Polish health resorts has opened a new page in the history of this unique town, which is still waiting to be written down.

MUSEUMS



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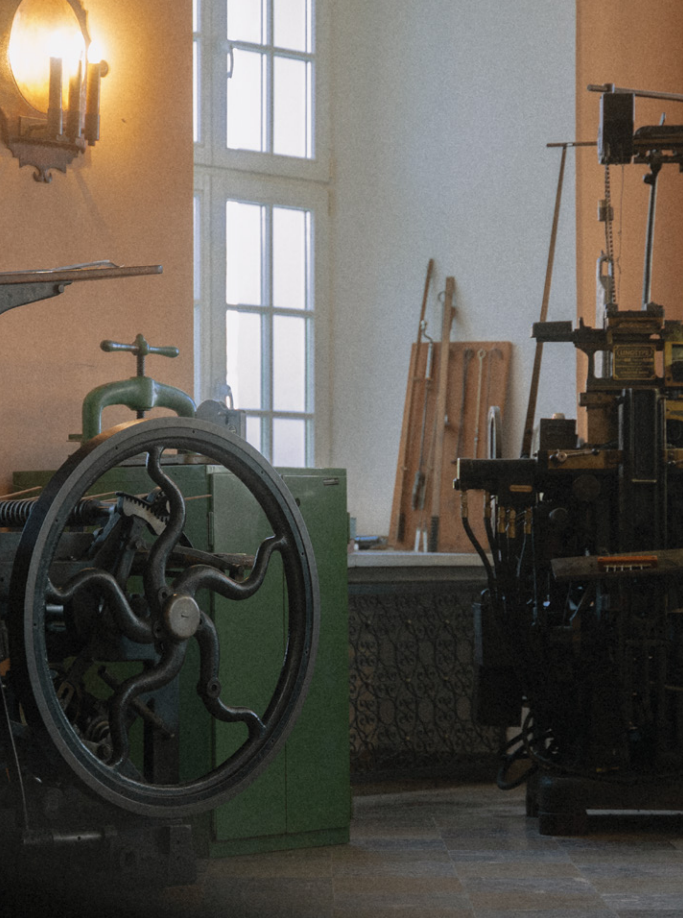
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MUSEUM OF ICONS

📍 *ul. Klasztorna 1,
16-030 Supraśl*

The multimedia exhibition of Orthodox art at the Icon Museum in Supraśl is full of unobvious design solutions. It presents the icon as a sacred work, full of symbolic meanings and theological content. Among the artefacts on display are works related to Podlachia, as well as the former territories of the Polish-Lithuanian Commonwealth, the Old Believers, and other manifestations of iconic art. The part of the exhibition devoted to the relics of Podlachia churches

presents priceless 16th-century post-Byzantine frescoes from the Church of the Annunciation of the Blessed Virgin Mary in the Supraśl Monastery, as well as other important monuments of Orthodox church art from the region. An important part of the permanent exhibition is one of the richest collections of Old Believer icons in the country, which delight in their diversity resulting from many iconographic traditions. Among the artefacts from the former territory of the Commonwealth, icons from temples dating from the 16th to 18th centuries can be seen. In addition to ancient iconography, the Prof. J.

Nowosielski hall of the museum presents works by the master as well as contemporary icons with references to the tradition of iconic art.

MUSEUM OF PRINTING ART AND PAPER INDUSTRY

📍 *ul. Klasztorna 1,
16-030 Supraśl*

🌐 www.muzeumdruku.pl

During a guided tour of the museum, you can travel back in time and see with your own eyes how laboriously – page by page – paper was handmade and how books were printed. The museum has a collection of antique printing presses. The smell of fresh paint and the creak of a wooden press is the atmosphere of this museum. The museum also organises thematic workshops (e.g. paper making, lino print and bookbinding) on site or with transport.

SUPRAŚL TREASURY

📍 *Supraśl Culture and Recreation Centre,
ul. Cieliczańska 1,
16-030 Supraśl*

🌐 ckirsuprasl.com/skarbiec/

A unique place on the cultural map of Supraśl, it contains dozens of documents, photographs and artefacts related to the history of the town. Among the most valuable objects are 18th-century books created in the printing house of the Basilian Fathers, a collection of 18th- to 20th-century maps and memorabilia from the pre-war cinema, including an original gramophone from 1919. There are also fragments of tiles from the monastery cells of the Supraśl Monastery from the 16th to 18th centuries.

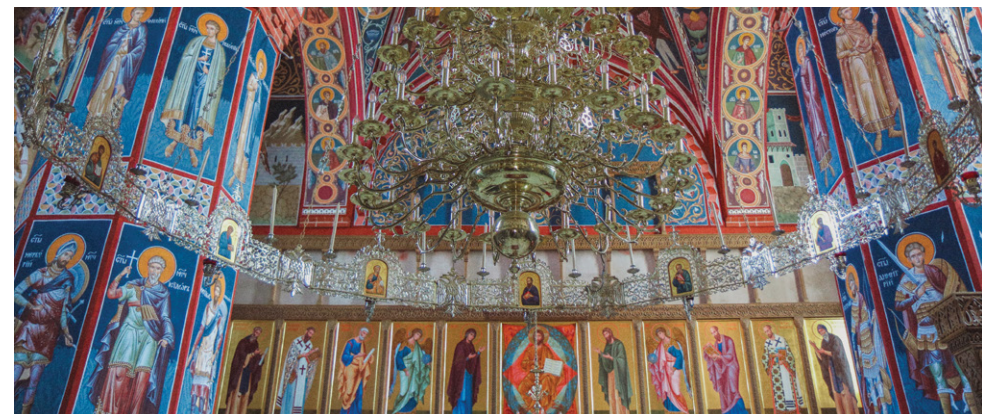
THE OLD PARSONAGE

📍 *ul. 3 Maja 30,
16-030 Supraśl*

The building, dating from the mid-19th century, served for several decades as the parsonage of the Roman Catholic parish of the Holy

glass negatives made by Father Mieczysław Akrejć using the wet collodion method were discovered. These negatives can be seen on permanent display in the coffee house in the Old Parsonage. The Old Parsonage served as a residential function for priests until the 1990s. By the time of the refurbishment

the history of battles fought to regain the long-awaited independence of Poland. These battles took place in November 1830 (November Uprising) and January 1863 (January Uprising). Some of the fights moved to this area and nearby, just 100 metres from Kopna Góra, a battle took place in the



Trinity. The first person to live there was the Reverend Gustaw Bayen, who was sent to Supraśl from Cologne. A condition of his settlement in Supraśl was that he would only serve the German-speaking population. As a result of Russian repression, he was sentenced to settle in Siberia for illegally serving the local Uniate population, which had been assigned to Russian Orthodox Christianity as a result of a general change of religion in 1839. The subsequent parish priests who lived in the building were Poles; they came from different parts of the vast diocese of Vilnius, to which Supraśl belonged. During restoration work, a rosary was found in the mortar bonding the bricks. In addition, dozens of

carried out in 2022–2023, it was not suitable for use. After modernisation, which saved the building, it now houses a tourist information point, an exhibition on the Uniate and Roman Catholic history of Supraśl and a meeting place for parish groups.

SMALL MUSEUM OF THE HISTORY OF THE KNYSZYN PRIMEVAL FOREST

📍 *16-030 Kopna Góra*

The inspiration for creating the Small Museum of the History of the Knyszyn Primeval Forest in Kopna Góra came from the search for the graves of the Polish soldiers who died in the battle of Sokółka in 1831. Here, we will learn about

meadows on the Sokółka River, which was the reason why the Arboretum in Kopna Góra was named after the insurgents of 1863. A significant part of the exhibition aims to commemorate these battles. The rest of the exhibition presents the history of the Knyszyn Primeval Forest through the prism of other historical events that have left their mark here. Despite its limited space, the Museum presents the history of numerous generations of Knyszyn Primeval Forest inhabitants in the broadest possible context. On display are not only artefacts from the flint, bronze and iron ages, but also exhibits from the Middle Ages, old documents and maps, weapons, etc.



TEMPLES



CATHOLIC CHURCH OF THE HOLY CROSS

📍 ul. Józefa Piłsudskiego 9, 16-030 Supraśl

Built in the years 1861–1863. Dedicated to religious worship in 1868, the Tsarist authorities were unwilling to allow the organisation of a parish because of the repression of the Catholics and a failure to allow the former Uniates to receive the Catholic sacraments. After Wilhelm Fryderyk Zachert donated a plot of land for the construction of a church and a presbytery, Father Gustaw Bajen was brought in from the Rhineland. However, after a year he was exiled to Siberia for administering the sacraments to the Unitarians. A porch with a tower, apse, choir and two vestries were added in 1902–1903. Worthy of mention are the painting of the Holy Trinity by Józef Buchbinder and the Crucifixion of Christ from 1863, as well as the epitaph of the inhabitants of Supraśl killed during the Second World War. Many of the utensils from the former furnishing of a sacristy of this church can be seen in the permanent exhibition in the Old Parsonage. These include

18th century chasubles, missal and other items related to local history and religious worship. Noteworthy is the 18th century main altar, as well as the wooden figures of St. Kinga and probably St. Elizabeth of Hungary found in the attic of the church, dating from the first half of the 17th century. They probably found their way to Supraśl from monasteries in the Grodno area, which were cancelled after 1863 by the Russian partitioner. It is likely that the main altar mentioned above, as well as the title of the Supraśl church itself, were transferred from the Church of the Holy Trinity, which was closed by the Russians as a result of repressions after the January Uprising, from neighbouring Wasilków.

CHURCH OF THE BLESSED VIRGIN MARY QUEEN OF POLAND (FORMER EVANGELICAL CHURCH)

📍 ul. Józefa Piłsudskiego 16, 16-030 Supraśl

Built in 1885 in the neo-Gothic style. Until 1939, it was a branch church of the Evangelical Church of the Augsburg

Confession of the Holy Cross. Resurrection, belonging to the Evangelical parish in Białystok. The founders of the construction were the Emperor's court counsellor Melchior Grüber, Baron Wilhelm Fryderyk Zachert and the factory owners Buchholtz, Jansen and Alt. A large financial contribution was made by representatives of the local evangelical community. In 1935, the 50th anniversary of the dedication of this temple to religious worship was celebrated. After the occupation of Supraśl by the Soviets, an action of resettlement of the inhabitants of Supraśl who were of German origin to the Reich continued in late autumn and early winter 1939/1940. The only people left were those who had not confirmed their membership of the German nation. Between 1939 and 1941 the Soviets, after removing the crosses and sacred furnishings, organised a military cinema in the church. After the war, the former Evangelical church was a warehouse for building materials until 1964. Subsequently, the disused temple was in danger of collapsing. Following the collapse inwards of the decayed

wooden ceiling and roof, which occurred in March 1978, the communist authorities had to deal with the monument. Several years after the building disaster, thanks to the intervention of Leszek Krygier and his wife Blanka, who was the son of Aleksander the Evangelical (of German origin, who did not sign the so-called Volkslist), in 1984 the Metal Construction Plant in Starosielce erected a steel roof structure covered – like the tower spire – with copper sheet metal. In 1989, the

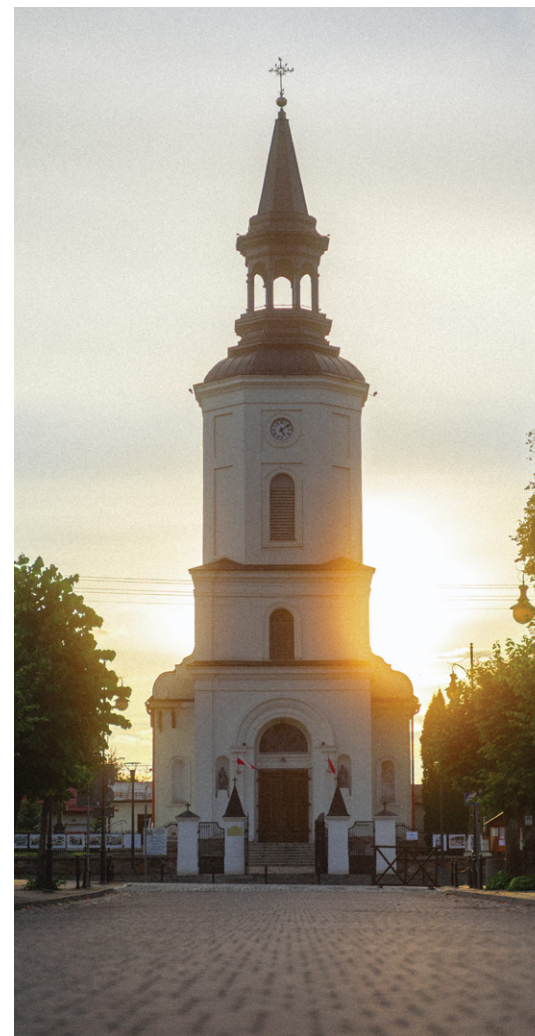
former Evangelical chapel was purchased by the Roman Catholic Curia in Białystok from the Evangelical – Augsburg Consistory in Warsaw. In the church, it is worth seeing the majestic image of Our Lady of Supraśl located in the central place of the temple and the epitaph dedicated to the Uniate bishop – Abbot Ludwik Leon Jaworowski (1764–1833). In 2005, the church became the seat of the newly established Roman Catholic parish of the Blessed Virgin Mary Queen of

Poland. The church's fronton and foundations were renovated between 2024 and 2025 and the church took on a new shine. A clock also appeared on the façade.

THE ORTHODOX CHAPEL (ORTHODOX CHURCH) OF ST. LUKE BISHOP OF THE CRIMEA IN ŁAŹNIE

📍 Łaźnie 29, 16-030 Łaźnie

When visiting the picturesque surroundings of Supraśl, it is worth visiting the village of Łaźnie, located on the eastern periphery of the Supraśl commune. There is an Orthodox church, built between 2014 and 2019, which attracts attention from afar with its golden domes. It was blessed on 22 June 2019. The patron of the temple is St. Lukas – a surgeon who lived at the turn of the 20th century. Bishop Lukas had Polish roots and was descended from the noble Wojno-Jasieniczny family. He was a physician specialising in treating non-healing wounds. The memory of this saint falls on 10th of June, the day of the saint's death, and a pilgrimage arrives at this place on that very day. This is the first temple in Poland dedicated to this person. The temple building is of timber construction and the mass itself is small and refers to the architecture of Siberian temples. This is to refer to Archbishop Luke's numerous deportations to Siberia. The church was built on a cruciform plan. In addition to the holy surgeon, the chapel commemorates dozens of inhabitants of Łaźnie and the surrounding villages, who were murdered by the Germans in October 1943.





**PARKS,
RESERVES
AND NATURE
MONUMENTS**

SAXON GARDEN

ul. Józefa Piłsudskiego 17,
16-030 Supraśl

The complex of landscaped greenery, formerly known as the Italian Garden and nowadays as the Saxon Garden, was created at the turn of the 17th and 18th centuries and was a novelty in the space of both Supraśl and the entire region. Facilities of this kind were built at the residences of royalty, magnates or wealthy nobility and were closed to the general public. The Saxon Garden was intended from the outset to be a garden open to the public and to pilgrims arriving for indulgences at the Supraśl Monastery. In this sense, it emulated – in terms of its functions – the Saxon Garden in Warsaw, created between 1724 and 1748 by King Augustus III and made available to the citizens of Warsaw. It was the first public park in Poland. In line with the imitation of its public function, the Supraśl ensemble of landscaped gardens took on the name of the Saxon Garden over time. The originator of its creation was the Uniate Metropolitan Archbishop Cyprian Żochowski.

In the minutes following his canonical visitation to Supraśl in 1687, he stated: "We wish, at the same time, and necessarily have, that His Lordship the Archimandrite order the establishment of an Italian garden, for which the restaurant and the monks of the time of recreation will help, as also the monastic custom orders the handicrafts to be performed". This garden was intended by the metropolitan to combine into a single compositional space: the monastery – especially the Abbots "Palace; the fishponds



Wild nature harmoniously harmonizes with landscaped greenery. In Supraśl, an Italian Garden has existed since the mid-18th century, while in Kopna Góra you can admire the relatively recently established Arboretum.

located to the south of the Annunciation Church; the monks' tomb catacombs – over which the Orthodox Church of the Resurrection of Christ (demolished by the Russians in the mid-19th century) then stood. Physical work in the garden, according to the ancient monastic maxim "ora et labora" (pray and work), was to be carried out by the Basilians. It is not known to what extent the visions of Metropolitan Żochowski were brought into effect. Arguably, only part of the garden was actually implemented. The final shape of the garden and park layout in Supraśl came at the time of abbot Bishop Jerzy Bułhak, who in 1753 began the construction of the southern frontage of the monastery, called Bulhakovska after his surname. The axes and avenues of the Saxon Garden were measured to its walls. Eleven years

later, a document from 1764 mentions the Italian Garden as the "newly established". Relating it to the current street network, it was contained between the monastery and Ogrodowa Street, and between Konarskiego and Piłsudskiego Streets. Its former site includes the Supraślanka sports complex with a pitch and a Sports House. In the 19th century, the Zachert family converted the highest part of the wooded area – the so-called bosquet of the Saxon Garden – into a public park. Following the discovery of

planning material from 1845 in 2001, the Supraśl commune set about restoring a part of the garden. The trigger for such measures was the devastation of the park following the storm on 17 June 2016, which laid half of the historic tree planting to the ground. The revitalisation of the park, including the construction of a salt graduation tower, a restroom and recreational facilities, was carried out under EU funding between 2017 and 2023. The investor was the Supraśl commune.

ARBORETUM IN KOPNA GÓRA

16-030 Kopna Góra

Botanical Garden Arboretum named after the Insurgents of 1863 in the locality of Kopna Góra. Total area 23.38 ha. It was founded in 1988 and is still run by the Supraśl Forest Inspectorate. Its initiator,

organiser and first manager was the late Wojciech Wygralak. In this relatively small area, as for the conditions of the forest, most of the forest habitat types characteristic for the Knyszyn Primeval Forest can be found. The source of this plethora is the considerable variation in topographical relief (from 132 to 154 m a.s.l.) and the great variety of soils. For those with an interest in native wildlife, this can be an encounter with primeval forest "in a nutshell". In the arboretum, we can see around 450 species and



varieties of plants, not only of native origin. These are mainly trees and shrubs but also herbaceous plants. Some of the plants are collected in genus collections: cypresses, avens, pines, yews, also maples, elms, rowans and the most beautiful rhododendrons in spring, and recently also a collection of perennials from old gardens. Among the interesting species to be encountered in the arboretum is the American tulip tree with its flowers resembling tulips in shape. Also beautiful is the Chinese colchicum, which

sprinkles delicate pink flowers in May–June. The common silverbell, on the other hand, blooms with white bells at about the same time. Shrubs such as the western buttonbush and Chinese seven-son flower in the late summer; their flowering time is much longer than that of spring plants. The arboretum is constantly being enriched with new plant species and varieties. On the basis of an agreement between the Knyszyn Primeval Forest Landscape Park, the Supraśl Forest District and the Białystok University of

Technology, rare and protected plants in danger of extinction are grown. Such plants include, for example, Eastern pasqueflower and Adenophora liliifolia.

HOLY PINE

The Knyszyn Primeval Forest is home to a unique type of Scots pine, called the mast tree. These trees are straight, tall and strong, which is why they were very often used to build the masts of sailing ships. The most famous representative of the Supraśl pine ecotype is the

so-called Holy Pine of Supraśl. It grew on the southern edge of the town, previously as a monastic settlement, sometime from the early 18th century. It is now at the confluence of Nowy Świat, Piłsudskiego Streets and Niepodległości Avenue. The dead trunk of this natural specimen was placed under the shelter. In 1905, one of the residents hung a picture of Our Lady of Częstochowa on it – a symbol of gratitude for the end of nearly a century of persecution of the Catholic Church by the Tsarist authorities. Until the Second World War, the tree was surrounded by



Supraśl's undoubted treasure, besides its history, monuments, and people, is its nature. The phytoaerosols contained in the forest air heal weakened health and soothe the soul.

a dense primeval forest, which was later cut down, and the pine with the holy image survived. Even during the Stalinist period, no one dared to cut it down. For decades, the inhabitants of Supraśl have held it in deep respect, treating it as a sacred tree. The pine tree has withered, and it rolled over on 1 October 2009. However, it has not been removed. The tree was roofed over and left in exactly the same place where it had grown for three centuries. To this day, it remains a valuable tourist site. Young couples in particular should visit the holy pine because, according to legend, the vows made at the pine ensure the permanence and prosperity of their life together.

KNYSZYN PRIMEVAL FOREST LANDSCAPE PARK (PKPK)

It is the largest landscape park in the Podlaskie Voivodeship and the fourth largest in the country. It has an area of 72,860.17 ha and a buffer zone

of 53,827.54 ha. It is a typically forested park (forests and tree stands cover 85% of its area). The vast forest complex stretching north and east from Białystok was called the Knyszyn Primeval Forest relatively recently, in the second half of the 20th century. The name derives from Knyszyn, located on the western edge of the Forest, which was a favourite holiday destination of King Sigismund II Augustus.

For decades, today's Knyszyn Primeval Forest was treated as a forest of purely economic importance, a kind of timber factory. It was not until the 1950s and 1960s that the interest of naturalists turned towards it. A major contribution to this was made by Professor Witold Sławiński – a naturalist, botanist and philosopher – who took over as head of the Department of Biology at the Medical University of Białystok. Fascinated by the extraordinary natural wealth of the Primeval Forest, he became the first initiator of its protection. Knyszyn Primeval Forest Landscape Park named after Professor Witold Sławiński was established in 1988.

The richness of the Knyszyn Primeval Forest Landscape Park is the diversity of habitats, including those indicative of its boreal character, typical of areas situated much further north. Here, among the spruce trees growing on the peat bogs,

you can feel as if you are in the Siberian taiga. The impression is enhanced by the presence of birds characteristic of the northern forests, such as the Eurasian nutcracker and the red crossbill. More than 150 species of breeding birds have been identified in the Primeval Forest, including such rare and valuable species as the black stork, honey buzzard, lesser spotted eagle, black grouse, three-toed woodpecker,

pygmy owl and boreal owl. The distinctive voice of the corn crane, increasingly rare in most European countries and

protected under the Birds Directive, can be heard in the grassy meadows of the primeval forest river valleys, enchanting with the scent of grass and herbs.

Shaped in periods of glaciation, the relief of the Knyszyn Primeval Forest is surprisingly diverse. Alongside the flat river valleys, we encounter moraine elevations, the most impressive of which is the range of the Hills of St. John. The highest hills such as Kopna Mountain, Saint John's Mountain and Saint Anne's Mountain reach a height of over 200 m a.s.l.

A noteworthy feature is the Scots pine. The seemingly ubiquitous Scots pine, *Pinus sylvestris*, but how different from its cousins in the other forests. With a straight trunk and small, high crown, it is sometimes called the Supraśl, Knyszyn or mast pine, as in the 16th and 17th centuries it was a valuable boatbuilding material used to make sailing

KNYSZYN PRIMEVAL FOREST LANDSCAPE PARK - NATURAL, CULTURAL, LANDSCAPE RESOURCES:

1,000 vascular plant species, including 107 endangered species

1,376 species of fungi (species varieties and forms) of microscopic and macroscopic fungi

361 lichen species

550 species of beetles

380 species of spiders

ca. 100 species of butterflies

38 fish species

13 amphibian species

5 reptile species

223 bird species, including more than 150 breeding birds

19 species of small mammals

14 bat species

20 species of other mammals, including bison and large predators: wolf and lynx

183 watercourses form a hydrographic network with a total length of over 550 km

430 lowland springs

23 km St. John's Embankment (relative height 45 m, max. width 1 km, crest of hill 30–50 m wide)

3,000 years ago there was a flint mine here

masts. The local population has taken a liking to the pine tree. The votive shrines and crosses placed on the trunks gave the trees an aura of sanctity and ensured their inviolability. Respect for the "sacred pines" has persisted among the local people to this day. The network of waters in the primeval forest is unusual. The lifeblood of the Primeval Forest is formed by numerous brooks, streams and rivers fed by more than 400 springs – natural groundwater outflows characteristic of the area. The largest of the rivers of the Primeval Forest, the Supraśl, is a reservoir of drinking water for the Białystok agglomeration. The quality of the waters in the Primeval Forest is evidenced by the brook trout and grayling, especially found in the upper sections of rivers, which are more associated with mountain streams and imported from southern Poland.

SUPRAŚL WATER SYSTEM

Created by monks in the 16th–17th centuries, it stretches between Supraśl and Cieliczanka. It consists of a 2.5 km long canal, a dike and a mill pond and is a unique object of old-Polish hydraulic engineering. It is worth taking a look at, encouraged by the convenient road for pedestrians and cycling enthusiasts. It stretches along a historic causeway that is part of the Supraśl Biodiversity Trail. At the end of the dike/trail there is a footbridge to the other side of the river, from where it is not far to Krzemienne and Surążkowo. Crossing the river and heading towards Podsupraśl, it is also safe to return to Supraśl. Thanks

to the Supraśl Water System, the monastery had already built a number of facilities moved by the power of mill wheels, including mills and fulling facilities, in the early 16th century, and a sawmill and paper mill in later times. Between 1795 and 1829, the Basilian monks of Supraśl spent a fortune upgrading this system of backwater and equipment. The weirs, bridges and plants moved by mill wheels were repaired. At that time, a new paper mill was also established at Zajma, which was the most interesting and technically complex plant. It was founded in 1710 through the efforts of the abbot – metropolitan of the entire Uniate Church – Archimandrite Archbishop Leon Kiszka. It produced paper for the monastic printing house established in Supraśl. One of the first paper-makers was a nobleman from the parish of Dobrzyniewo Kościelne, the Samogitian Bazyli Lenczewski from the settlement of Leńce. It was he who, as miraculously cured of an eye disease, was the founder of the first Uniate church in Święta Woda near Wasilkow. Oral tradition points to the location of this first paper mill upstream of the canal, i.e. 800 metres from the distributary weir of the river. A watery pond with moss-covered piles can still be seen there to this day – a former drainage basin. Next to it is the site of an old bridge, which none of the living inhabitants of Supraśl have seen, and of which only the name "Old Bridge" remains. As late as the early 19th century, this place named as the Paper Mill was still an artisan settlement – a settlement point

inhabited by people. However, documents from the end of the 18th century and the beginning of the 19th century locate the paper mill at the end of this water system, closer to the monastery, i.e. at Zajma in Supraśl. Its tenants were the Dutch – the Thierbach family. In 1 January 1793, Christopher Thierbach signed a contract with Abbot Theodosius Wistocki for the lease of the paper mill. Elsewhere in the documents, his son Karol Thierbach appears who, as a tenant of the paper mill, on 4 December 1801 compiled a "register of miscellaneous vessels in the mills of Supraśl". The specification of the expenses of the monastery made by Bishop Jaworowski shows that between 1805 and 1830 the expenses incurred in modernising the Supraśl manor, the heart of which was the Supraśl Water System complex described above, amounted to almost 9,500 silver roubles, which accounted for more than 70% of the total expenses of the monastery at that time. With these modernisations, Supraśl began to transform into a town. It was so defined for the first time in the inventory of the Supraśl monastery at the end of 1829. Shortly after the lease of the manor was surrendered to the Russian treasury, the Russians handed it over to successive lessees in 1831 – first to Gustaw Hufert, then to Karol Rote, and in 1834 to Wilhelm Fryderyk Zachert. These industrialists developed their business in the former monastery manufactories. This is how the mill wheels of the monastery got the development of the town rolling.



EXHIBITION ENCLOSURE FOR THE EUROPEAN BISON IN KOPNA GÓRA

16-030 Kopna Góra

Fast-growing free roaming herds of bison live in the Białowieża Primeval Forest, Knyszyn Primeval Forest and many other forest complexes. However, their increasing abundance only partially translates into the safety of the species. It was reconstituted after the First World War from only twelve surviving individuals, resulting in low genetic diversity. This has implications for the low resilience of the population to various threats. Therefore, for the conservation of the species and its safety, it is important to maintain small populations in enclosed breeding centres. The farm in Kopna Góra,

which is also a demonstration homestead, is such a centre. This is an important function, as educational and popularisation activities are also necessary for the effective conservation of the species. They involve not only passing on knowledge about these beautiful animals, but also building public understanding and acceptance. In January 2024, after several difficult years of construction, the homestead was opened to the public. It covers an area of nearly 20 hectares, partly open and largely covered by forest. European bison find it a valuable addition to their food base and can also simply hide there. This nature of the homestead makes it a place where the European bison can be viewed up close, in the conditions close to the wild ones. The herd is slowly expanding,

and eventually there will be more than a dozen individuals in the homestead. In September 2024, the first calf was born in the homestead! The homestead area has been divided into four sectors, between which the bison can move freely, using passages specially built for them. Thanks to their two-storey construction, they do not interfere with the walking routes. The pathways are located under footbridges built into the visitor paths. There are five of them and they are located in different parts of the homestead. The view from the footbridge of the European bison passing below is an attraction unparalleled in other homesteads. European bison can also be seen from two observation towers.

A photograph of a stone architectural monument, possibly a classical column capital, with strong shadows cast on a tiled wall. The scene is dimly lit, with a dark, almost black background on the right side. The text 'ARCHITECTURAL MONUMENTS' is overlaid in white, bold, sans-serif font on the left side of the image.

**ARCHITECTURAL
MONUMENTS**

BUCHHOLTZ PALACE

Currently the seat of the Secondary School of Visual Arts

ul. 3 Maja 2,
16-030 Supraśl

It was built in the 18th century as the manor house of the granger of the Basilian monastery. Between 1892 and 1903, it was rebuilt in an eclectic style with a predominance of Art Nouveau by the new owners, the Buchholtz family – textile factory owners of Prussian origin. The buildings also include a stable, coach house, gatehouse and an Art Nouveau-style park – one of the few in this part of Poland. In the interiors of the palace, many elements of the original decoration have been preserved. These include a staircase with original polychromes, as well as offices with rich stucco and painting decoration. Since 1959, it has been the home of the Artur Grottger Secondary School of Visual Arts – an institution subordinate to the Ministry of Culture and National Heritage.

JANSEN HOUSE

ul. abp. gen. M.
Chodakowskiego 2-4,
16-030 Supraśl

Situated on the corner of the market square, opposite the Buchholtz factory, on the road leading to Gródek (now Cieliczkańska Street). It once belonged to the factory owner, a Prussian subject, Johann Jansen. Together with his wife Emilia, née Bucht, they arrived in Supraśl in 1855 and opened a small cloth dyeing plant here. Emilia died in 1865 at the age of 40, and her grave is located in the post-evangelical cemetery

in Supraśl. In 1866, the widower Johann Jansen purchased it from Wilhelm Fryderyk Zachert for 1,800 roubles. The deed of sale, dated 1 December 1866, states that the house was built after 1836 by the seller, W.F. Zachert. To the east, the plot of land with the purchased building bordered the factory of another textile manufacturer, Wilhelm Lippert. The owner of the purchased mansion, whose name became a permanent part of its history, died in 1879 at the age of 70. He was laid to rest in Supraśl by his wife Emilia. After him, the "Jansen House" was inherited by his son Adolf, who in 1885 enlarged the property to include the factory and the house of the factory owner Lippert, which was in turn purchased by this family in 1860 from Julia May, daughter of Franz May. A set of buildings belonging to the Jansen family was thus created:

1. a corner house built on an "L" plan situated by the road
2. a parallel building built in line with the first one, situated closer to the river, formerly belonging to the May family and then to the Lippert family;
3. a wooden dwelling house situated perpendicular to the brick buildings, as well as an orchard and a garden.

In the north-west wing of the first building, in the former drawing room of the factory owners, a meticulously restored classicist plafond, created between 1866 and 1879, has been preserved. Its geometric lines and fields are surrounded by stylised acanthus leaves and laurel wreaths with ribbons in

the corners. Adolf Jansen ran his dye house and cloth factory here until the outbreak of the First World War (1914). After the Second World War, the complex of buildings described was handed over to the Secondary School of Visual Arts. It serves as a dormitory, kitchen and canteen, as well as exhibition and teaching facilities. A school workshop was built deep into the courtyard and a polychrome plaster art installation depicting a herd of European bison was created on its façade wall.

THE OLD POST OFFICE

Also known as the Gardener's House

ul. Stanisława Konarskiego 3,
16-030 Supraśl

The house of the monastery gardener built by the Basilians in the mid-18th century. In the 19th century it housed a Russian post office, renamed to the Polish post office in 1919. Now a dwelling house; a rare example of timber-framed construction with a Polish hipped roof with mansard and eyelid dormers. In the second half of the 18th century, there was a fig tree and an orangery. It held pots of thermophilic trees for the winter, which were displayed in the Italian garden in the summer. Archaeological research carried out in 2011, during the construction of Konarskiego Street, confirmed the existence – near the Old Post Office, or more precisely under the road – of a cemetery where residents of Supraśl were buried in the 16th–17th centuries. At the beginning of the 20th century, the Supraśl unit of the PSP organised an attack on the Russian cash register located in the building, then a Russian



post office. One of the Polish socialist conspirators was the later mayor (1930–1931), Feliks Bojarski (1897–1940). In 1906, together with other inhabitants of Supraśl, Aleksandr Bogdanowicz, Alfons Muklewicz, Piotr Wołkowski, Jan Górewicz, Antoni Szczęsnowicz and Bronisław Dobrowolski, they were exiled to the Orenburg Governorate to a camp in the Upper Ural Mountains. Among the activists in then Supraśl from under the Red Banner was also Romuald Muklewicz (1890–1939), alias Mars, who took part in the seizure of the Winter Palace that initiated the October Revolution. He made an inglorious record in the war of 1920. At that time he was

a chief of staff of the Western Front of the Red Army. After the Bolsheviks occupied Vilnius, he held a position of chairman of the Vilnius Revolutionary Committee. Commander of the USSR Navy from 1926 to 1931. He was executed on 10 February 1938 by the NKVD during the great Stalinist political purge in the USSR.

TOWN HALL

Former school of Baroness Józefina Zachert

ul. Józefa Piłsudskiego 58,
16-030 Supraśl

Originally a female public school, it was built in 1906 thanks to the generosity of Baroness Józefina Zachert, who upheld the national

traditions and consciousness of the inhabitants of Supraśl. During the Russian partition, secret lessons in the Polish language and Polish history were conducted here. In 1921, the building was donated by the Baroness to the community of Supraśl with the stipulation that it be used for educational purposes. A Polish primary school was established there, which served until a new primary school building was built – the so-called Thousand Year School (1966). In the 1990s, the building was extended in the 1970s; it is used by the Town Hall and is home to the Town Council and Mayor of Supraśl, as well as the Municipal Social Welfare Centre.

COMMUNITY HOUSE

📍 *ul. Józefa Piłsudskiego 11, 16-030 Supraśl, Poland*

A unique example of modernism. It was built in 1934 as the headquarters of the Supraśl magistrate and various cultural institutions and associations. Its designer was the engineer Jarosław Giryn, who also designed the building of the current Aleksander Węgierko Drama Theatre in Białystok, so for this reason the two buildings bear a close resemblance. It was renovated in 2014. It was at this time that the balcony, built over after the war for cinema purposes, was restored and the staircase leading up to it took on a representative value.

KLEIN HOUSE

Currently the seat of the Cultural and Leisure Centre in Supraśl

📍 *ul. Cieliczańska 1, 16-030 Supraśl*

Built at the end of the 19th century as the house of the administrator of the Buchholtz textile factory. Then, until 1939, the Parish House of the Evangelical Parish of the Augsburg Confession. It is one of the few brick factory buildings in Supraśl dating from the turn of the 19th/20th century. In Jacek Bromski's film trilogy *U Pana Boga za...* the building and its interiors served as the Police Station in Królowy Most. Since 2007, the seat of the Cultural and Leisure Centre. The Senior Club of the Supraśl Commune is located here. A Public Library was established next to this monument in 2021. On its first floor, there is the so-called Supraśl Treasury, which is also the archive and museum of the

Town of Supraśl. Remembrances of its more than 500-year history are stored here.

MANSION OF BISHOP JAWOROWSKI, KNOWN AS THE WHITE MANOR HOUSE OR ZACHERTÓW

📍 *ul. Cieliczańska 1, 16-030 Supraśl*

Built in 1822 by the Unitarian Bishop Leon Ludwik Jaworowski, the last Basilian abbot of the Supraśl Monastery. The hierarch lived here during the summer with his siblings. From 1834 to 1939 it belonged to the Zachert family of factory owners, and Baroness Józefina Zachert was born here. Thoroughly renovated

in 1988–1990, it has been the seat of the Knyszyn Primeval Forest Landscape Park named after Witold Sławiński for many years. It is now privately owned.

WEAVERS' HOUSES

📍 *ul. 3 Maja, 16-030 Supraśl*

Situated along 3 Maja Street. They imitated building patterns from Zgierz, from where textile workers and factory owners came to Supraśl after 1834. The Weavers' Houses in Supraśl were built in the mid-19th century. The initiator of their construction and investor was Wilhelm Fryderyk Zachert, at that time owner of almost all of Supraśl and the forest surrounding the town.

These houses, each designed for four families, served as both homes and workplaces. Following the installation of steam engines in the factories in Supraśl (after 1863), the Weaver's Houses performed exclusively residential functions. Today, they are a unique element of the town's wooden buildings, which distinguishes Supraśl from other towns. Thanks to the Weavers' Houses, Supraśl has its own unique character. One of them served as the commandant's house in Jacek Bromski's series of films entitled "U Pana Boga...".

THE ZACHERT FAMILY TOMB CHAPEL

📍 *ul. Białostocka, 16-030 Supraśl*

Located in the Evangelical-Augsburg cemetery, established in the mid-19th century. Next to the neo-classical Zachert chapel from 1885 is the neo-Gothic Buchholtz family tomb chapel from 1904, and behind it is the tomb of Vilnius botanist Professor Witold Sławiński – the originator of the use of peat for the purpose of running a natural health spa in Supraśl and the initiator of the protection of the natural values of the Knyszyn Forest. On the opposite side of the road is the Roman Catholic cemetery, which was established after the dissolution of the Uniate Church (1839). At that time, the former Unitarian cemetery, established at the end of the 18th century, was divided into a Roman Catholic and an Orthodox section. At present, there is a Roman Catholic cemetery chapel. All Saints and the historic tomb of Ludwika



Zachert – grandmother of Andrzej Matkowski – founder of Polish scouting.

THE BUCHHOLTZ FAMILY TOMB CHAPEL

📍 *ul. Białostocka, 16-030 Supraśl*

A pearl of neo-Gothic architecture designed by Hugo Kuder from Warsaw. Founded in 1904 by Adela Buchholtz, following the tragic death of her husband Adolf, the mausoleum consists of a tomb and a chapel built over it. In the main portal, the mosaic of the Risen Christ draws attention. Inside, the original altar made of white marble has been preserved, along with

a cross-shaped altarpiece. The original stained-glass windows, located in the tracers, have also been largely preserved. Construction work lasted from 14 April to 17 November 1904. The ceramic-glazed tile came from the Bojańczyk factory in Włocławek. The forged ornaments were made by K. Siakiewicz from Warsaw, and the stonework by ESTETYKA and A. Rosset, also from Warsaw. The carvings were handled by the stonemasons Kozłowski and Cekiera. The construction of the Buchholtz mausoleum was a major event in the world of architecture. The building was described in 1905 in the renowned ARCHITECT magazine.





MEMORIALS



CEMETERY OF NOVEMBER INSURGENTS IN KOPNA GÓRA

16-030 Kopna Góra

The cemetery was established in 2013 through the efforts of Collegium Suprasliense, the Supraśl Commune and the Regional Directorate of State Forests. In 46 plots rest the November insurgents who died in the battle against the Russians fought on 7 July 1831 in the meadows near the Sokolda River. The Poles were commanded by Colonel Józef Zaliwski. While heading from Vilnius to Warsaw, his troop stopped for the night of 6–7 July 1831 in the village of Sokolda. At dawn they were surprised by the Russians and an unequal battle took place. The mass grave was discovered in December 2009 after a three-year search.

It was found in a roadside ditch by the provincial road at the foot of Kopna Góra at a depth of more than two metres. The exhumation of the fallen for their homeland was carried out in October 2010. A ceremony of consecration of the cemetery combined with the placement of the dead in 46 plots took place on 15 September 2013.

ORTHODOX CEMETERY IN PODSUPRAŚL

ul. Podsupraśl 2, 16-030 Supraśl

Founded in 1900, there is a cemetery orthodox church of Saint George the Victorious, built in 1901, and behind it a few wooden crosses are now visible. These are the oldest graves and a way of honouring the inhabitants of the Knyszyn Primeval Forest. According to accounts, there was an erem

(hermitage aka skete) of one of the monks here in the 18th century. Even between the wars, stones from the foundations of this chapel-hermit's cell could still be seen on the hillside next to the cemetery. The walls of Saint George's Orthodox Church bear traces of the battle that took place here at the end of June 1941, when the USSR-occupied area of Supraśl passed into the hands of the next occupants – the Germans. Deployed on the hills, the Soviets set up an ambush against the Wehrmacht vehicles approaching from the direction of Supraśl. Dozens of soldiers were killed as a result of the battle.

TOMB OF THE UNKNOWN SOLDIER

It is located on the extension of Nowa Street, on the edge of the forest at the confluence of forest roads. Before the 10th

anniversary of regaining of independence by Poland, i.e. in 1927 or 1928, one of the

uniforms. She confirmed that the remains dated from 1813, when the Grand Army of Napoleon Bonaparte, led by Marshal Ney, was returning through the area from the



Supraśl's rich history also includes old cemeteries and places of national remembrance. They commemorate great patriots and people who have shaped our history over the centuries.

residents of Supraśl – while digging gravel in this place – came across human remains. He immediately informed the history teacher at the Supraśl Public School, Mrs Felicja Wolfówna, about it. Neuman. The teacher made the remains safe and, among them, she discovered metal clothing items, including buttons from military

unsuccessful Moscow campaign. Based on the numbers of each regiment on the buttons, Wolfówna was convinced that the dead came from troops in which Poles had fought. The teacher decided to hold a solemn funeral and give the grave the symbolism of the 10th anniversary of independence of Poland. Together with the young

people, she has paved the grave, surrounded it with a birch fence and placed a birch cross with an information board on the grave. Thanks to newspaper articles, especially in the teaching press, the whole of Poland knew about this discovery. Today, the site is looked after by students from the local Primary School.

GALLERY AT THE CROSSROADS

The January Uprising Gallery is located at the crossroads in front of the village of Konne, next to the district road connecting Supraśl with the village of Surazkowo. Life-size sculptures of the January Uprising insurgents were placed by the 200-year-old monumental oak tree. Their author was Ryszard Boltowicz and the installation was constructed almost 30 years ago. An amateur artist from Białystok, he dedicated his time to commemorating this point on the map of the Knyszyn Primeval Forest. This place is shrouded in legends and stories from the time of the Uprising in 1863. There is an oral account of two insurgents being hanged on one of the branches of this oak. It is likely that at the site of the cross, restored by the Supraśl Commune, there is a grave from the time of this greatest independence uprising. Archival documents convey that both landowners from the village of Surazkowo and representatives of the nobility from Konne – the Pilcicki family – participated in the uprising in large numbers. The Supraśl Forest Inspectorate has organised a stop-over equipped with a toilet and shelter. This is one of the points on the January Uprising Trail organised by the State Forests in 2013.



A photograph of a grand, classical-style building with a central entrance and multiple windows. In the foreground, a stone statue of a woman in a long dress stands on a pedestal. The scene is set in a garden with yellow roses. The text "CULTURE AND RECREATION" is overlaid on the left side of the image.

**CULTURE AND
RECREATION**



TOWN MARKET SQUARE

📍 *Plac Tadeusza Kościuszki, 16-030 Supraśl*

The Supraśl market square was established in the mid-19th century. It was located on the route towards Gródek, near the manufacture centre at Zajma (at the junction of 3 Maja [formerly Główna Street] and Cieliczańska Street [formerly Długa Street]). The market square has a layout of a square. Its frontage is marked by the former Cytron textile factory complex with its characteristic red chimney – a symbol of the textile traditions of the town, and on the other side by the Buchholtz Palace, Jansen House and the (Lippert) House.

EQUIPMENT RENTALS:

„Chillout wypożyczalnia kajaków”
1, 2, 3 and 5-person kayak rental. Kayak rental for the whole day, with no time limit. For the brave – kayaking at night

📍 *Osiedle Robotnicze 1, 16-030 Supraśl*
📞 +48 733 453 319
✉ www.kajakisuprasl.pl

Open daily.

„DeSup”
Swimming lessons, SUP board rental and paddleboarding with Stand Up Paddleboards (SUPs).

📍 *ul. Modrzewiowa 8, 16-030 Supraśl*
📞 +48 732 893 960, +48 669 979 160
✉ www.desup.pl

Opening hours: daily, services available by telephone appointment.

„Wypożyczalnia Nart Biegowych w Supraślu”

📍 *ul. Słowackiego 35, 16-030 Supraśl*
📞 +48 602 344 497
✉ artur.suprasl@gmail.com

„Kajaki nad rzeką Supraśl”

📍 *ul. Piłsudskiego 23, 16-030 Supraśl*
📞 +48 504 211 214, +48 509 765 600

Open daily from 8 a.m. to 6 p.m.

„Narciarnia u Magdy”
Ski rental, ski lessons.

📍 *ul. Sławińskiego 2A, 16-030 Supraśl*
📞 +48 785 957 630
✉ narciarniaumagdy@wp.pl

Opening hours: Saturday - Sunday 8 a.m. - 2 p.m., Monday - Friday - telephone contact: +48 785 957 630.



„Supraska Narciarnia”
Ski rental, ski lessons.

📍 *ul. Krasny Las 1, 16-030 Supraśl*
📞 +48 733 008 138

„MOKOL”

Kayak rental (1, 2, 3-person kayaks), tourist bikes, cross-country skis. Organisation of canoeing trips: Supraśl, Nowodworce, Wasilków, Białystok.

📍 *ul. Sowie 10, 16-030 Supraśl*
📞 +48 660 685 371
✉ www.wypożyczalnia-suprasl.pl

„Wypożyczalnia kajaków u Suma”

📍 *ul. Sławińskiego 2, 16-030 Supraśl*
📞 +48 690 516 760
✉ www.supraskajaki.pl

„Wypożyczalnia rowerów Supraśl”

Rental – mountain and city bike rental.

📍 *Plac T. Kościuszki 14/7, 16-030 Supraśl*
📞 +48 510 212 585

Opening hours: 10 a.m. – 7 p.m.

„Żuczek”

Organisation of kayaking on the Supraśl and Sokółka rivers, kayak rental with transport.

📍 *Aleja Niepodległości 12, 16-030 Supraśl*
📞 +48 604 400 368
✉ zuczki@interia.pl

The eastern frontage of the market square was open to the river valley landscape and was never built-up. On a plan of the „location of the town of Supraśl” by Józefina Zachert from 1892, the market square is shown as the „Open-air Market” (“Bazarnaja Ploszczad”). Since the dawn of time, it has been a trading place for agricultural produce and local crafts. Between the wars, markets were held on Saturdays, as this was the day when factory workers received their weekly wages and could stock up on the essentials of life on site. After the war, the fair was still held in the 1950s. In the 1970s. Then, as a result of

communist policies stifling private enterprise, the market was suspended. One part of it was overgrown with trees and became a city square, while the other part located closer to the river was transformed into a parking area and bus terminal. It was not until 2018 that an investment was made, consisting in the first phase of restoring the commercial function of the market square. The Supraśl commune benefited from the funds of the national programme “My Market Square”. A market square and refreshment gardens were then created and, next to this, a municipal amphitheatre and ample car park. A further second phase of the revaluation of the market square was completed in 2025. At that time, a pedestal with the coat of arms of Supraśl – the scene of the Annunciation of the Blessed Virgin Mary, the oldest iconographic symbol of Supraśl – was placed in its centre. The performance was written by a resident of Supraśl, Professor Jadwiga Szczykowska Załęska.

WIKTOR WÓLKOW BOULEVARDS

Supraśl Biodiversity Trail

One of the most interesting attractions in Supraśl, ideal for active people, are the boulevards named after Wiktor Wólkow. They stretch from the bridge at the town beach to the second river crossing located on the road towards Krynki. In 2023, the boulevard commemorating Supraśl resident, photographer Wiktor Wólkow was extended at its two extreme parts. In this way, a biodiversity trail of about 6 km including the boulevards was created. One part of it goes under the bridge at the monastery itself and leads towards the car park, viewing tower, shelters for tourists and numerous rest areas. Thanks to the lighting, you can go there at night. The observation tower offers a beautiful view of the monastery and the surrounding meadows and the Supraśl River. Deer can often be seen here, and during the roaring season, i.e. in early autumn, you can hear competing stags. While strolling along the boulevards, it is also worth noting the beaver lodges and the numerous water birds, ranging from swans, ducks, grebes and colourful kingfishers, which tunnel their nests in the river embankment. Another section of the biodiversity trail starts from the bridge at the beach and continues through the Supraśl water system to the river divide. At its end, there is a weir splitting the waters into the river, meandering through the middle of the valley, and into a canal running along its bank located right



on the border with the town. This section of the trail leads to some of the most beautiful views unspoilt by human activity. In the 1950s. In the 1970s, Professor Witold Sławiński strove to create a park here – the

TOWN BEACH

Located near the market square and amphitheatre, the Wiktor Wotkow Boulevard runs along its edge. Near the beach there are gymnastic bars and an indoor gym, along with beach

and football pitches. There are also many attractions for the little ones; there is plenty of equipment for children's

play at the beach. On site, numerous stalls offer cold and hot drinks, ice cream or snacks. During the summer holidays, the town beach is guarded by lifeguards. The water depth

here does not exceed 1.7 metres. Its purity is examined systematically by the municipal services. The beach in Supraśl is an extremely safe place.

INDIAN VILLAGE

Right next to the market square, in the very centre, by the river, there is the Indian Village – founded by a couple of Indologists (people interested in the culture of Indians and recreating their culture), who met at the National Rally of the Polish Movement of the Friends of Indians, just in the Knyszyn Primeval Forest in 1994. They were brought together by their fascination with this culture and nature. In their Indian Village, they try to pass on the knowledge

they have acquired over the years, showing the life of the ancient peoples in the form of historical reconstruction. The Indian Village in Supraśl is open seasonally from May to the end of October. The couple invites you to share in their great passion, in the form of education, children's play and animal encounters. Here you can feel the spirit of the Wild West by horseback riding, archery and air rifle shooting, lasso throwing, and sitting in a richly decorated, colourful teepee by a campfire, listening to stories about the Native American peoples. You can visit the Indian museum and the original Mongolian yurt with full interior decoration – for a comparison of different cultural solutions from around the world – our home for the

summer season. The village offers games and activities for children, including gold prospecting, face painting, an Indian obstacle course and more, as well as interesting encounters with animals. Horses, a pony, alpacas, a raccoon and a skunk live in the village. The Indian Village offers alpaca walks, alpaca therapy, overnight stays under a teepee, evening bonfires, various workshops and meetings with interesting people.

"WIERSZALIN" THEATRE

4 Kościelna Street,
16-030 Supraśl
www.wierszalin.pl

Originally a "Colony House" for young people, built in the 1920s. In the 1970s. In the post-war period it continued

to serve as a colony centre. A Commune Cultural Centre was subsequently organised here. Since 1994, it has been the seat of the "Wierszalin" Theatre – a well-known theatre stage. The theatre has repeatedly won prizes and awards at national and European art festivals. Its creator and director is Piotr Tomaszuk.

"ŁĄTEK" THEATRE

ul. Posterunkowa 1/4,
16-030 Supraśl
www.teatrłatek.pl

The smallest theatre in Poland, housed in a 150-year-old house. Its audience consists of only 10 seats. The author's art is practiced here. A favourite technique of the artists who create this venue is shadow and light theatre.



While visiting Supraśl, it's worth spending time actively, taking advantage of the walking and cycling paths. A stroll along the boulevards with a view of the setting sun will remain in your memory for a long time.

Supraśl River Valley Reserve. He claimed at the time that it was the most attractive piece of nature in the Białystok region. It is well worth a trip to it so that you can then return regularly!

**OTHER
ATTRACTIONS
AND PLACES
WORTH VISITING**





STAINED GLASS GALLERY

📍 ul. Kodeksu Supraskiego 28,
16-030 Supraśl
☎ +48 693 570 735
✉ wtrohel@wp.pl

An original stained glass atelier where you can view, purchase or commission artwork made from coloured stained glass – from pendants, birds, angels and jewellery to stunning stained glass for windows and doors. Stained glass made using the “Tiffany” technique, making it possible to achieve a very complex and interesting form.
Opening hours:
Gallery open daily (on request).

“SPRZAŚLA” YOUTH SPORTS CLUB (EQUESTRIAN SECTION)

📍 ul. Cieliczanka 10,
16-030 Supraśl
☎ +48 503 077 600
Vice President
Konrad Sewestian
☎ +48 505 779 995
Instructor
Ewa Zielenkiewicz
✉ mkssprzasla@wp.pl

The Association was established in 1992 and the equestrian section has been operating since 1995. It runs horse riding lessons, hippotherapy, organises horse rallies, rides through primeval forest, events and bonfires.

GALLERY IN THE MARKET SQUARE

📍 Plac T. Kościuszki 14 lok.,
16-030 Supraśl
☎ +48 692 958 417
+48 730 203 890
✉ galeriaikon@op.pl
🌐 www.kresart.pl

Memorabilia related to Supraśl and the region. On offer are, among others: paintings, icons, sculptures, ceramics, stained glass, original jewellery created by local artists and craftspeople, honey, healthy herbs, organic teas, maps and books.
Opening hours:
in the summer season: daily 10 a.m. – 6 p.m., off-season: Tuesday – Sunday 11 a.m. – 5 p.m.

CAMPING, CAMPING SITE AT THE FISHERY

📍 ul. Piłsudskiego,
16-030 Supraśl
☎ +48 503 602 260

Camping site with access to mains, water, chemical toilet discharge and showers. The site operates seasonally during the summer. Possibility of fishing, organising bonfires.

“MOC PODLASIA” TOURIST BUREAU

📍 ul. Kodeksu Supraskiego 22,
16-030 Supraśl
☎ +48 799 104 103
+48 609 471 179
🌐 www.mocpodlasia.pl

Stories about folk healers, workshops in medical anthropology, forest bathing and forest therapy, guided tours.

Opening hours:
Tuesday – Saturday 10 a.m. – 6 p.m., Sunday – Monday closed.

“FABRYKA”

☎ +48 793 604 988
🌐 /fabryka.supraśl

A place by the lagoon, opposite the beach. Local food and crafts, a children’s play area, relaxation on loungers, and concerts, all surrounded by nature.

The place operates seasonally.

SUPRAŚL ACADEMY

📍 ul. Klasztorna 1,
16-030 Supraśl,
☎ +48 662 254 177
🌐 akademiasupraska.pl

Wiktor Wolkow Permanent Gallery and Wiktor Wolkow Exhibition Hall.

Opening hours:
Tuesday to Sunday, 10 a.m. to 6 p.m., free admission.

PASSATA - HORSE RIDING FOR CHILDREN

📍 ul. Cieliczanka 10,
16-030 Supraśl
☎ +48 514 320 175
Ula Makosz
Horse riding instructor,
hippotherapist, veterinary technician.

Horse riding classes for children

SUPRAŚLOVE SOUVENIR SHOP

📍 Plac T. Kościuszki 14/7,
16-030 Supraśl
☎ +48 510 212 585

Produces souvenirs as well as sells them

Open 10 a.m. – 6 p.m.

ELECTROBUS TOURS

📍 Rynek T. Kościuszki,
16-030 Supraśl
☎ +48 506 545 412
🌐 www.turystycznysupraśl.pl

Learn about the history of Supraśl from the deck of an electric vehicle. See the attractions of the town and listen to stories about the secrets that are hidden in the town.

FAIRY TALE RAILWAY

☎ +48 601 208 235
🌐 www.kolejkabajkowa.pl

A ride on a stylised Fairy Tale Railway through Supraśl and its surroundings with a guide. In winter, a sleigh ride on a 12-person sleigh through the Knyszyn Primeval Forest.

SAUNA BY THE SUPRAŚL RIVER

📍 ul. Uroczysko Pustelnia 8,
16-030 Supraśl
☎ +48 504 211 214
+48 509 765 600

Sauna in Supraśl located 4 m from the river.

Open daily 8 a.m. – 8 p.m.

SZWĘDACZKI SUPRASKIE

📍 ul. 3-go Maja 3a,
16-030 Supraśl
☎ +48 666 238 280

An animated tourist attraction in the form of walks, after dark, with torches. On the route of the walk, legends of Supraśl, folk tales, old proverbs, interesting places, a seed divination and a meeting with the Spirit of the Forest.

Route: -3 km.

Duration of the walk: -2h.





TASTES OF SUPRAŚL - GASTRONOMY

SUPRAŚL CULINARY TRADITIONS

"The Tastes of Supraśl are the old Polish culinary traditions of the Basilian monastery, the surrounding manor houses, country cottages, Jewish chanajki, as well as the rich residences of textile masters and the poor men from the factory. However, all tables in Supraśl shared a similar tradition, differing only in details. The main ingredients in our cuisine are potatoes, flour, groats, vegetable oil, greaves, onions and carrots. The composition of cooked or baked dishes was modest, because the material situation of the local people, as well as the land and climate, were always difficult. Traditional dishes were generously sprinkled with hot lard and pork fat, because the very hard physical work in the primeval forest, in the freezing weather or in harsh conditions,

required a high-calorie diet. Since the post-war period, as society became richer and other products and spices became more available, local cuisine began to move away from tried-and-tested patterns. Mass media has also played a major role in this process, leading to a kind of globalisation of cuisine. The traditional cuisine of Supraśl did not deviate from the old culinary traditions that were and are found in the former eastern areas of our country, known as the Borderlands of the Republic; this is not surprising, as Supraśl lay within the borders of the old Grand Duchy of Lithuania. The culinary traditions in Supraśl have become firmly established thanks to the cyclical rhythm of festivals and church celebrations, which is clearly evident in the case of the Christmas holidays, carnival, Great Lent, and during Easter

On Christmas Eve, characteristic dishes – not so common in other parts of Poland – included: oatmeal kissel, poppy-seed kutia with pear, carp in jelly, mushroom borscht with dumplings (shaped like little ears) and, obligatorily, dried compote (dried apples, pears and plums). The carnival gave vent to the palate, making up for the fasting nature of Advent. Traditionally, doughnuts and crumpets, fried in hot fat, and angel wings (in Polish *chrusty* i.e. *faworki*) were made. After the sprinkling of ashes on Ash Wednesday beginning the Great Lent, the elaborate menus were pushed back. The menu of the inhabitants of Supraśl was shifting to dishes made of potatoes, groats, flour with lots of onions and vegetable oil replacing high-calorie animal fat. The most common dishes at this time of year were potato *babka* and potato sausage, as well as potato

patties called *olatki*. The counterpart to modern day crisps were fried potato chips in a frying pan or toasted on the hob. The most popular dish – and not only during the Great Lent, but also throughout the year – was potato *babka*, known in Supraśl as *gugel*, *okulnik*, *ogulnik* or *ulnik*. Twisted boiled potatoes, onions fried in oil, salt, eggs, semolina and sometimes buckwheat and pork blood were added to grated raw potatoes. You could also add pork scratching from pork fat or pork belly. Everything had to be mixed carefully, poured into a tin and baked in the oven."

Maria Lukaszewicz
Owner of the "Lukaszówka" restaurant



POTATO BABKA RECIPE:

Grated raw potatoes were mixed with boiled potatoes, onions fried in oil, salt, eggs, semolina, and sometimes buckwheat groats and pork blood. You could also add pork scratching from pork fat or pork belly. Everything had to be mixed carefully, poured into a tin and baked in the oven.

Ingredients:

- 1.5 kg of raw rated potatoes
- 60 dkg of boiled potatoes twisted through a machine
- 4 eggs
- 1 cup semolina
- 1 cup of vegetable oil
- 2 large onions
- 1 teaspoon of salt

“BAR - BAR”

📍 ul. Plac T. Kościuszki, 16-030 Supraśl

“BOHEMA”

📍 ul. Plac T. Kościuszki 1, 16-030 Supraśl

☎ +48 857 222 982
+48 530 857 501
+48 721 618 765

“SIELANKA” RESTAURANT

📍 Plac T. Kościuszki 14/1, 16-030 Supraśl

☎ +48 530 562 678

“DUCHOWE ŁĄKI” RESTAURANT

📍 ul. Klasztorna 1, 16-030 Supraśl

☎ +48 736 861 955

Opening hours:
Tuesday – Sunday
9 a.m. – 8 p.m.

(kitchen open until 6.30 p.m.)

“U PANA BOGA W SUPRAŚLU” RESTAURANT

📍 ul. Plac T. Kościuszki 14/2, 16-030 Supraśl

☎ +48 729 849 000

“DZIKA RÓŻA” RESTAURANT

📍 ul. Zielona 3, 16-030 Supraśl

☎ +48 660 509 590,
+48 85 718 30 25

Opening hours:
Monday – Friday 2 a.m. – 8 p.m.,
Friday – Sunday 12 p.m. – 9 p.m.
(outside the summer season the hours may change).

“JARZĘBINKA” BAR

📍 ul. 3 Maja 22, 16-030 Supraśl

☎ +48 884 008 043

Opening times:
summer season (April to September) 11 a.m. until 7 p.m.,
winter season (October to March) 11 a.m. until 6 p.m.

BASIL RATAFIA RECIPE:

For better “digestion”, or “for healthiness”, you can drink a glass of Basil Ratafia. To 60% vodka, add honey, sugar and gradually add the fruits of the forest undergrowth – added at intervals according to their rhythm of occurrence, from the strawberries ripening in June to the cranberries harvested in September and October. Set the mixture prepared in this way aside to clarify for 2 – 3 months. Bottled and served in winter, it will be a wonderful memory of a summer spent in Supraśl.

Ingredients:

2 litres of 60 % vodka

1 cup of natural honey

1 cup of sugar

1.5 kilograms of forest fruits (strawberries, blueberries, raspberries, blackberries, blueberries, cranberries), in proportion to other fruits.



“OSTOJA” RESTAURANT

📍 ul. 11 Listopada 7, 16-030 Supraśl

☎ +48 780 187 401

Opening hours:
Monday to Sunday
12 p.m. – 7 p.m.

“PIĘĆ DĘBÓW”

📍 ul. Rymarka 7, 16-030 Supraśl

☎ +48 607 567 673

🌐 www.piecdebow.pl

“PODLASKI ZAKĄTEK” RESTAURANT

📍 ul. 3 Maja 5A, 16-030 Supraśl

☎ +48 790 722 207

Opening hours
Monday – Saturday
11 a.m. – 6 p.m. (from November to March inclusive)
Monday – Saturday
11 a.m. – 7 p.m. (from April to October inclusive)

“PRYNUKA. DOMOWE SMAKI” RESTAURANT

📍 Al. Niepodległości 6, 16-030 Supraśl

☎ +48 501 416 648,
+48 85 710 83 94

Opening hours:
Friday 3 p.m. – 9 p.m.,
Saturday – Sunday
12 p.m. – 9 p.m.

“SPIŻARNIA SMAKÓW” RESTAURANT

📍 ul. 3 Maja 5, 16-030 Supraśl

☎ +48 512 676 868

Opening hours:
Monday, Tuesday, Thursday,
Friday 11 a.m. – 7 p.m., Saturday
11 a.m. – 8 p.m., Sunday 11 a.m. – 7 p.m. (closed on Wednesdays).

“ŁUKASZÓWKA” RESTAURANT

📍 ul. Nowy Świat 2, 16-030 Supraśl

☎ +48 85 718 37 08

Opening hours:
Monday to Sunday, 10 a.m. – 6 p.m.

“WSPÓLNY STÓŁ” RESTAURANT

📍 ul. J. Piłsudskiego 11, 16-030 Supraśl

☎ +48 733 004 418

Opening times:
in the summer season (May – August):
Wednesday, Thursday
1 p.m. – 8 p.m.,
Friday
1 p.m. – 10 p.m.,
Saturday
12 p.m. – 10 p.m.,
Sunday
12 p.m. – 6 p.m.

“ZAJAZD SOKOŁDA”

📍 Sokołda 1, 16-030 Supraśl

☎ +48 605 994 937

Opening hours:
summer season (June – October)
Monday – Sunday
11.30 a.m. – 7 p.m.,
winter season (November – May)
Wednesday – Sunday
11.30 a.m. – 6 p.m.

A dirt path winds through a dense forest of tall, thin trees. Sunlight filters through the canopy, creating dappled light on the path. The trees are mostly evergreens, with some deciduous trees showing autumn foliage. The path is unpaved and appears to be a well-trodden trail.

TOURIST TRAILS

SUPRAŚL TRAIL

Hiking, yellow

 17 km

Supraśl → Podsupraśl → Jalówka Reserve → Ożynnik → Złota Wieś → Czarny Blok → Czarna Białostocka

The Supraśl Trail is 17 km long, of which about 8 – 9 km run on the territory of the Supraśl commune. A very attractive trail at almost any time of year, it leads through beautiful forest areas. In winter there are ideal conditions for practising cross-country skiing.

PRIMEVAL FOREST TRAIL ACROSS HILLS OF ST. JOHN'S

Hiking, red

 27 km

Other attractions include the mid-forest lakes and rivers Świniobródka, Płoska and Starzynka, as well as the national memorials in Popówka and the highest hill – St. John's Mountain. It ends with a tour of Supraśl.

A trail of outstanding scenic value with a length of 27 km. It leads through interesting parts of the Knyszyn Primeval Forest, including a few kilometres along the ridge of the Hills of St. John, the highest morainic hills in the forest. It begins in the village of Sokole and runs through the central section of the Park.

SAINT WATER TRAIL

Hiking, blue

Białystok → Nowodworce → Wasilków → Święta Woda, Dąbrówki, Studzianki, Supraśl.

 27 km

It is approximately 27 km long and is marked in blue. The trail includes the most beautiful cemetery in Podlachia, in Wasilków, with its characteristic sculptures illuminated at night. Rev. Waclaw Rabczyński was the initiator of this installation. Together with his mother, they erected individual scenes of the Stations of the Way of the Cross, placing some of them in the Wasilków cemetery. Others were set up along the side road to Holy Water. A Podlachia Calvary, similar to the one near Vilnius (Kalwaria) – where Father Rabczyński's family came from – was

to be built here. Nearby is a place of worship called Holy Water with a distinctive Mountain of Crosses. This sanctuary was founded in 1717 on the initiative of a nobleman, Bazyl Lenczewski, who ran a paper mill at the "Roman-Unitarian" Basilian monastery in Supraśl. With the blessing of Metropolitan Archimandrite Leon Kiszka of Supraśl, the first Orthodox church with a miraculous spring was built there, and several decades later, monks from Supraśl applied to Rome for an indulgence feast on the day of Our Lady of Sorrows. The trail ends in historic Supraśl. Today, it is a thriving shrine with the image of Our Lady of Sorrows blessed by St. John Paul II. In one audience, he uttered a paraphrase of a secular song in reference to the sanctuary described. He said: "Holy water runs deep!".

SUPRAŚL RIVER BASIN TRAIL

Hiking, cycling, green

Grabówka → Leśniczówka Zielona → Krasny Las → Komosa Lake → Krasne Reserve → Supraśl → Podsupraśl → Krzemienne → Surazkowo → Łażnie → Podłaźnie → Kopna Góra.

 ~36,5 km, mostly runs through the Supraśl commune

Nature trail also attractive for cyclists and walkers; includes fauna-flora, Komosa Lake, Krasne Nature Reserve, the arboretum and the Forest Sculpture Gallery.

THE JANUARY UPRISING TRAIL

Red


 49 km

The name of the trail originates from the last national uprising, as the primeval forest complex was a shelter for numerous armed troops of insurgents. Reminders of those times include the Chomontowszczyzna Sacred Spot and numerous shrines on the so-called holy pines. The trail starts in Sokółka and continues through Zwiastowszczyzna, Igrzyły, Wysokie Laski, Planteczka and Lipina, crossing the Międzyrzecze nature reserve to reach the village of Woronicza and along the road to Kopna Góra. Heading south-east, it reaches Lipowy Most and then the Pieszczana Mountain reserve. Then heading south, through the Chomontowszczyzna Sacred Spot, it reaches its destination point – Waliły Station.

GREEN VELO NEAR SUPRAŚL

A well-known cycling route in Europe that runs through the Supraśl Commune.

Białystok → Supraśl → Cieliczanka → Kolodno → Królowy Most → return to Supraśl

 -31,5 km

→ Białystok (0 km)

Start in Białystok (Branickiego and Piastowska roundabout) Green Velo.

→ Ogrodniczki (-10 km)

Crossing Ogrodniczki, cycle parking, Krasne ponds, flyover with a beautiful view of the ponds and the "Krasne" Reserve, entrance to the Knyszyn Forest zone.

→ Supraśl (-15,5 km)

Entry to Supraśl. Worth seeing:

- Monastery of the Annunciation of the Mother of God with the Icon Museum
- Museum in the Old Parsonage and the Supraśl Treasury
- Museum of Printing Art and Papermaking
- Buchholtz Palace, Weavers' Houses, Holy Trinity Church and Church of the Blessed Virgin Mary Queen of Poland
- Supraśl river boulevards, the Biodiversity Trail, Zajma lagoon and beach, brine graduation tower
- Restaurants with local borderland cuisine

→ Cieliczanka (-19,7 km)

The tiny summer resort of Cieliczanka, in the heart of the Knyszyn Primeval Forest on the Supraśl River with a stud farm.

→ Kolodno (-26,5 km)

Passing through Kolodno, the belt of the Hills of St. John is visible; asphalt and forest road.

→ St. Anne's Mountain (-28 km)

The landform Hill of St. Anne; accessible footpaths, optional viewing point.

→ Królowy Most (-31,5 km)

A filmed village lies on the route: scenes from "U Pana Boga...". Church, forests and the Płoska River.



FURTHER PART - A TATAR OPTION


On the "To the Podlachia Tatars" route, the Green Velo continues through:

 up to ~95 km

- **Surążkowo** (approx. 11 km from Supraśl)
- **Kopna Góra** (approx. 15.8 km)
- **Poczopek** (28 km)
- **Ostrów Północny** (30 km)
- **Ostrów Południowy** (32.5 km)
- **Nowy Ostrów** (34 km)
- **Górany** (37 km)
- **Nietupa** (43.6 km)
- **Sanniki** (46.6 km)
- **Kruszyniany** (50 km) – Tatar mosque, mizar, Tatar museum, cuisine, culture
- **Walicy Station** (65.8 km)
- **Załuki** (75.2 km)
- **Kings Bridge** (81.5 km)
- **Kołodno** (84 km)
- **Cieliczanka** (90.5 km)
- **return to Supraśl** (95.4 km)

QUEEN BONA TRAIL

Hiking, blue

 ~75,5 km, of which approximately 25 km is in the Supraśl commune

→ **Start:** Tykocin – a town on the Narew River with monuments such as the castle of King Sigismund II Augustus, a synagogue and the Holy Trinity Church.

→ **The route then goes through the villages of Góra, Krypno Kościelne (sanctuary with the miraculous picture of the Virgin Mary).**

→ **Another town:** Knyszyn, founded on the initiative of Bona – St. John the Evangelist church, granary of the presbytery, ponds, park and local museum with railway monuments.

→ **Continue through:** Poniklica, Grądy Mierestki, Kopisk – near the Krzemianka reserve (with a Neolithic flint mine).

→ **Next stages:** Karczmiszko, Czarna Wieś Kościelna (folk art centre: pottery, blacksmithing, church).

→ **Then Czarna Białostocka – monuments, Orthodox church, narrow-gauge railway, the area around the Czapielówka dam.**

→ **The route passes through nature reserves: Budzisk, Miedzyrzecze, Woronicze – it ends in Kopna Góra, with the arboretum named after the Insurgents of 1863, the cemetery of the November Insurgents of 1831 and the European Bison Homestead.**

A long-distance natural-history walking trail associated with Queen Bona and King Sigismund II Augustus. The route should be planned to be walked over 3 days. Places to stay can include Tykocin, Czarna Białostocka, Supraśl or Wasilków.

King Sigismund II Augustus stayed for many months in Knyszyn, where he also died. He led to the founding of many towns in our region, and the king's mother, Bona Sforza, ordered the landscape and village buildings by carrying out the so-called spear survey. It resulted in the creation of compact villages, the so-called "street villages". The trail passes through numerous nature reserves (e.g. Budzisk, Miedzyrzecze).

It runs through the Supraśl commune: from the Budzisk reserve, through Woronicze and Kopna Góra, up to the borders of the commune.



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The aim of the project is to bring Supraśl and Druskininkai to leading positions in wellness tourism by promoting their uniqueness and supporting cooperation between partners.

The main results of the project are high-quality promotional materials presenting the wellness offer, cultural attractions and beauty of Supraśl and Druskininkai. These include: the guidebook you're holding in your hand, tourist maps, the „Health Resorts” mobile app, a joint promotional film and reels.

To view other promotional materials and learn more about the project, scan the QR code.