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ТООВІЗМ ВЕРАКТМЕИТ OF THE WARMINSKO-MAZURSKIE VOIVODESHIP THE MARSHAL'S OFFICE



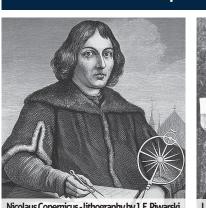








Nicolaus Copernicus in Warmia



Nicolaus Copernicus - lithography by J. F. Piwarski,



Lucas Watzenrode photo archives of Wikimedia Commons

"He stopped the Sun and moved the Earth, and he was a Pole by birth," wrote the poet Jan Nepomucen Kamiński about the great scientist. Leaving the issue of Nicolaus Copernicus' ethnic origin to historians, it can be stated without doubt that he chose Warmia as his country, which he himself called a "remote corner of the earth" and "a small country at the end of the world". He spent over 40 out of the 70 vears of his life here.

Due to his formulation of the heliocentric theory and other achievements, Copernicus is permanently renowned in the history of science. Today, a chemical element discovered in 1996, craters on the Moon and on Mars and the asteroid 1322 bear his name. A mountain and a pass on Spitsbergen and a genus of plants in the family Arecaceae (Copernicia) were also named in his honor.

The road to Warmia led through Europe

Nicolaus Copernicus was born in Toruń to a merchant family in 1473. Thanks to help from his uncle, the bishop of Warmia, Lucas Watzenrode, he gained the opportunity to study liberal arts in Cracow, law in Bologna and medicine in Padua. He then served an apprenticeship at the papal chancery in Rome and received a doctorate in canon law in Ferrara.

He obtained the office of a canon of the Warmian chapter thanks to his uncle's efforts in 1495, it was also then that he visited Lidzbark Warmiński for the first time. Afterwards, he resumed his studies in Italy. He came to Warmia permanently in 1503 and lived here until the end of his life, serving as chapter canon and administrator of its property, dealing with diplomacy, economics, medicine, and literature. And above all, conducting innovative astronomical research and developing the revolutionary heliocentric theory.

At the bishop's court in Lidzbark Warmiński

During his first years, Copernicus stayed at the Lidzbark castle, where he performed as a trusted relative the duties of the bishop's private secretary and physician. In gratitude for the received favors, he dedicated his first published work to his uncle: a translation from Greek to Latin of a volume of letters by a Byzantine writer, Theophylactus Simocattes

As part of his duties, Copernicus accompanied the bishop during conventions of the Prussian Estates, Polish-Teutonic negotiations, and other political events, improving his diplomatic skills. He simultaneously conducted astronomical research, developing an outline of the heliocentric theory, which he presented in the 'Commentariolus" ("Little Commentary")

Although his uncle saw as his successor, Copernicus left the bishop's court in 1510 to assume the offices of chancellor and property inspector of the chapter in Frombork. He spent 29 years here altogether, combining administrative work with the practice

For the first time in Frombork and in Olsztyn

On Frombork's Cathedral Hill, the scientist bought a tower, known to this day as the Copernicus Tower. Outside the complex's walls, he purchased a canon's house, where he arranged a post for conducting observations of the sky (a so-called pavimentum) in the garden. He used these observations, among others, in work on a reform of the Julian calendar, in which he had been invited to take part by the

Olsztyn

Copernicus visited Olsztyn as an inspector of the Warmian Chapter in 1511. One of

the many tasks entrusted to him by the Chapter was performing the duties of

administrator of its property. Consequently, the scientist lived in the capitular

castle in Olsztyn in 1516-19 and 1520-21. In later years, he visited the town many

Olsztyn received its charter in 1353 and the construction of the castle was also

the Apostle Co-Cathedral, the St. Lawrence Church, the Old Town Hall, the High

Gate, and fragments of the town walls. In addition, other sites have survived,

including: the 16th-century Jerusalem Chapel, seven churches and chapels from

A bust of Copernicus unveiled in 1916, made by the Berlin sculptor Johannes

Götz, stands in the park around the castle. Another monument to Copernicus, by

Urszula Szmyt, was placed outside the entrance to the castle, near the Lutheran

church, in 2003. This one has the form of a bench-one can sit there together with

The erection of the structure was begun around 1348. The north wing was

completed in the second half of the 14th c. The south wing, with a 30 m high

round tower, was added in the mid-15th c. Initially, the Teutonic Order had the

Chapter under its military protection and the castle was often consequently in the

centre of the turmoil of war. After Warmia left Poland's control, it was, in turn,

the Teutonic Knights who tried to capture it in 1521. The late Baroque east wing

was added in the mid-18th c. The Museum of Warmia and Mazury is currently

ocated in the castle. An ancient stone statue of a Prussian "baba" was brought

A reminder of Copernicus' stay at Olsztyn Castle is an astronomical table on a wall

of the gallery, made by the astronomer in 1517. It has dimensions of $705 \times 140 \text{ cm}$

and served to present the sun's apparent movement in the days close to the

vernal and autumnal equinox. It is the only preserved astronomical instrument

used by the great scientist in the world. Its replica, which scientists used to study

The museum located in Warmian Chapter Castle also has other Copernicus

memorabilia besides the astronomical table. A biographical exhibition is devoted

to the astronomer, a medical incunabulum which belonged to him with his

handwritten notes is also kept here. The museum has rich collections in:

archaeology, history, and numismatics, old and modern art, handicrafts, literature,

The planetarium was built as a tribute to Copernicus on the 500th anniversary of

his birth (1973). This is the second largest such facility in Poland. Its modern

projection equipment shows 3D images in real time, which gives the impression

that they fill the entire dome. During the shows, spectators go on virtual space

journeys, discover the secrets of the starry sky, astronomical phenomena,

the mysteries of nature and Olsztyn. The planetarium organizes lectures and

folk culture. In the summer season, a panorama of the city can be admired from

the purpose of the original, hangs on an outer wall of the castle's south wing.

the 19th and early 20th c. and the Jewish community's funeral home.

the astronomer and pose for photographs.

rom Barciany and also placed in the courtyard.

Nicolaus Copernicus' astronomical table

concerts, it also has a rich meteorite collection

Museum of Warmia and Mazury

Olsztvn Planetarium

Warmian Chapter Castle

participants in the 1513 Lateran Council.

In recognition of Copernicus' managerial skills, the chapter appointed him administrator of its property, which involved moving to Olsztyn. From the local castle, the scientist managed land possessions in the Olsztyn and Pienieżno districts in 1516-19. His duties included, among others, settling villages with new settlers depopulated as a result of military operations, which involved numerous field trips. The evidence of these activities is the manuscript entitled "Locationes mansorum desertorum" ("Leases of abandoned farmsteads"), which contains entries concerning visits to 43 villages.

Upon the commission of the next bishop of Warmia, Fabian Luzjański (Fabian von Lossainen), Copernicus wrote a paper on money reform in 1517, which he developed into the treatise "Monetae cudendae ratio" ("Essay on the Coinage of Money") two years later.

Creator of an astronomical table and the town's defender

A reminder of the scientist's stay in Olsztyn is a partly preserved astronomical table made by his hand on a wall of the castle gallery. After a short stay in Frombork, Copernicus returned to Olsztyn in 1520 to prepare the castle and the town for defense against an expected attack by the Teutonic Knights. This brought the desired effect in January 1521, when an assault by the Order on the city walls near the Mill Gate was repulsed. As a result, Copernicus was hailed as Olsztyn's defender. After a ceasefire, the astronomer left the town, but he visited it several more times in the next 20 years. Among others, in 1531 he prepared the so-called "Olsztyn bread tariff," making bread prices dependent on grain prices and other costs.

A life rich in achievements and controversies

From 1521, Copernicus fulfilled further important offices on behalf of the bishopric and the chapter, and from 1525, he was responsible for negotiations with the newly established Protestant Ducal Prussia

During this period, the scientist established closer relations with Anna, who later (in



Fragments of the experimental solar quadrant in the Olsztyn castle, photo archives of UMWWM

Nicolaus Copernicus' heliocentric theory

During his studies in Italy, Copernicus learnt about Ptolemy's geocentric theory, universally accepted since the 2nd c. A.D. However, his own investigations led him to the conclusion that it was completely false. He developed the first version of his own cosmological theory around 1508 and presented it in the "Commentariolus" ("Little Commentary"), circulating it in copies. He claimed that the center of the system of heavenly bodies was the Sun, around which the Earth revolved together with other planets within a sphere of the fixed stars. Copernicus undertook work on a book fully explaining the heliocentric theory in 1514 and basically finished work around 1532. Despite the pope's favor and his friends' encouragement, he delayed the publication of "On the Revolutions", fearing the theory's rejection because of its novelty. He was convinced to publish the book by a mathematician from Wittenberg, Georg Joachim Rheticus, who had come to Frombork in 1539 and was studying under the master's eye for two years. Finally, the book appeared in Nuremberg in 1543, but the author was never to see it. "On the Revolutions" contributed to a fundamental change in the view of the world.

Olsztyn Astronomical Observatory The observatory was arranged in a former water tower in 1979. It enables watching the night sky through telescopes, daytime observations of sunspots, and admiration of a city panorama. Local workshops with instruments used in astronomy (among others, a Shortt clock, the most accurate mechanical timepiece, and a radio-controlled clock receiving solar time signals can also be

Frombork

Copernicus came to the town for the first time in July 1501 to officially assume his canonry. From late 1510, he lived on Frombork's Cathedral Hill and in the canon's house outside its walls for the rest of his life (with breaks for his stay in Olsztyn and shorter trips). After his death in May 1543, he was buried in the local cathedral.

Frombork received its charter in 1310. It was the headquarters of the Warmian Chapter, and in 1795–1945, it also served as the episcopal see. The Polonized name, Frauenburg (the Castle of Our Lady), refers to the Holy Virgin Mary, the patron of the church on Cathedral Hill. Besides this complex, other Gothic structures have survived: the Holy Spirit Hospital, the Water Tower and the former St. Nicholas Church. Other historic buildings include the 17th-19th-century canon's houses and the 19th-century Bishops' Palace.



ernicus' scientific tools at the museum in Frombork, photo archives of UMWWM

Cathedral Hill

The only well-preserved medieval cathedral fortress in the world. It is dominated by the Archcathedral Basilica. Other structures on the hill were also constructed mainly in the 14th century, namely, the Bishops' Palace, the custody, curia, and vicariate buildings and the Copernicus Tower, which once belonged to the great astronomer. The Radziejowski Tower was later erected (17th c.). The Nicolaus Copernicus Museum currently functions in the complex, there are also exhibitions of the Warmian Archdiocese Museum. A monument to Copernicus was placed at the foot of the hill in 1973. The

Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary and St. Andrew the Apostle Archcathedral The Gothic temple, erected in 1329-88, is the oldest element of Cathedral Hill. Warmia's largest church is a three-aisled, hall structure, nearly 100 m long and over 16 m high. Its current furnishings are mainly Baroque. The richly decorated 17th-century organ attracts attention. 25 bishops of Warmia and around 140

canons lie under the floor of the temple. One of the latter is Nicolaus

bronze statue is 6 m high and stands on a granite pedestal (3 m). The designer

Nicolaus Copernicus Museum

Copernicus, whose reburial was held here in 2010.

of the memorial is Mieczysław Welter.

This is a museum devoted to the great astronomer functions in Cathedral Hill structures. Its main exhibitions are located in the former Bishops' Palace – the most important exhibit presents Copernicus' life and work, there are also displays of astronomical and navigational instruments and stained-glass windows. The Radziejowski Tower houses a planetarium, and art exhibitions are presented here. A Foucault pendulum demonstrating the Earth's rotation also hangs inside. The museum's exhibitions are also in the Copernicus Tower and inner canon's houses.

Good money and the just price of bread

Because he fulfilled administrative functions, Copernicus was interested in monetary issues. He dealt with them scientifically in connection with money forging by the Teutonic Knights. In 1517 he composed the treatise "Meditata" ("Meditations"), which he published after years of corrections in 1528 under the title "Monetae cudendae ratio" ("Essay on the Coinage of Money"). The scientist established the principle that good money was driven out of the market by money of little value. He called for, among others: withdrawal of old coins when new ones were introduced, establishment of a uniform rate of mintage, avoidance of an excess of coins in circulation, the operation of one mint in Prussia. Although his views met with criticism from different interest groups, some of them were implemented. Copernicus also took up the problem of "the true and just weight and price of bread". In 1531 he prepared the instructions "Panis coquendi ratio" ("Manner of Baking Bread"), where he calculated the price of bread depending on the price of grain, by also taking into account other costs. His calculations could not be introduced without standardization of the system of measures and weights in Warmia, since the practice of the time was that every town had its own system.

photo archives of Wikimedia Commons

Copernicus' heliocentric system by Anadreas Cellarius (1660)

1529) married a Frombork burgher and took his name, Schilling. However, shortly

after the marriage, the woman left her husband and started to live with Copernicus

again. Admonitions from two successive bishops of Warmia resulted in her moving

Copernicus continued to conduct studies of the sky and wrote successive chapters

of his work. Although he made his discoveries available to trusted persons, he

delayed the publication of the book. It appeared under the title "On the Revolutions

of the Heavenly Spheres" only just before the author's death, which came after a

The search for Copernicus' grave started in 2004. Based on DNA taken from a hair,

preserved in a book once owned by the astronomer, his bones were successfully

identified. In 2010, Copernicus' mortal remains were reburied beneath the floor of

Warmia's most famous resident has been commemorated in the region in various

ways. A road and a hiking tourist trail lead through places connected with his activity,

they can also be visited travelling by bicycle and even by kayak. The Nicolaus

Copernicus Museum presents its collection in the buildings of the Frombork

Cathedral Hill. A permanent exhibition also outlines the scientist's life and work at

the Museum of Warmia and Mazury at the Olsztyn castle. Monuments to the

astronomer stand in both towns (in Olsztyn, there are even two). On the 500th

anniversary of his birth, the grandest "monument" in his honor was opened,

Streets and schools, an Olsztyn hospital and the Faculty of Medical Sciences at the

University of Warmia and Mazury bear Copernicus' name. On the occasion of the

Year of Nicolaus Copernicus, celebrated in the region in 2013, the Copernican

Division was created at the Scientific Research Center in Olsztyn, and the brewery

operating in this city brewed a lavender beer called Copernican Gruit. The inspiration

long illness in May 1543. The scientist was buried in Frombork cathedral.

The memory of Copernicus preserved after centuries

away from the astronomer only in 1539.

the cathedral in Frombork

i.e. the Olsztyn planetarium.

Frombork Planetarium

The planetarium functions as part of the Nicolaus Copernicus Museum in the former Cathedral Hill belfry called the Radziejowski Tower. It was opened in 1973, on the 500th anniversary of the astronomer's birth. Daily shows presenting, among others, the movements of planets, comets, and satellites, are projected using modern equipment on a dome 8 m in diameter. A meteorite exhibition was also made available in the facility.

Astronomical Park

The observatory functions as part of the Nicolaus Copernicus Museum and is located on Żurawia Góra (Crane Mountain) around 2 km from Frombork. The park has five pavilions and three observation decks, which enable conducting observations of the sky with historical and modern instruments. Two buildings house research rooms and a reference

Holy Spirit Hospital

The erection of the hospital with St. Anne's Chapel began in the early 15th century. It acquired its current shape after remodelling in 1686. One of the most valuable elements of its interior decoration is a painting showing the Last Judgement in the chapel (15th c.). The History of Medicine Division of the Nicolaus Copernicus Museum, which presents old medical instruments and Warmian painting and religious sculpture, was opened here in 1991. A herb garden with cultivated medicinal herbs was created next to the building.

Lidzbark Warmiński

Copernicus came to the court of his uncle, Bishop Lucas Watzenrode, for the first time in late 1495/early 1496, in connection with an attempt to assume the office of canon. After his permanent arrival in Warmia in 1503, he lived at Lidzbark Castle until 1510, performing the duties of the bishop's secretary and physician. After his move to Frombork, he visited Lidzbark Warmiński many times.

The town, which has existed since 1308, served as Warmia's capital in 1350-1795. The Gothic castle, once the home of the bishops, has survived here. It currently houses the Warmian Museum. Other historic Gothic buildings in the town are: St. Peter and Paul's Collegiate Church with a convent and the High Gate. Later structures include: the classicistic Krasicki Orangery (early 18th c.), Exaltation of the Cross (late 18th c.) and Lutheran (early 19th c., currently Orthodox) churches, the town hall (19th c.).

Castle of Warmian Bishops

The Gothic fortress was erected in 1350-55 where the Symsarna River flows into the Łyna River. From the late 16th century, the castle lost its defensive character, transforming into a magnificent bishops' court. The four-wing structure survived the ravages of wars. Its courtyard is surrounded by striking galleries, which gave to it the name of the "Wawel of the North". The Grand Refectory and a chapel with rococo furnishings are particularly impressive. The castle's rooms currently house the Warmian Museum.

The museum which functions in the Bishops' Castle is a branch of the Museum of Warmia and Mazury. Its permanent exhibition is devoted to eminent residents of the castle, mainly Ignacy Krasicki and other bishops (but also Nicolaus Copernicus). Displays of the region's religious painting and medieval art are also presented here. The museum's collection includes memorabilia and documents as well, including the act of the Second Peace of Thorn, thanks to which Warmia was placed within the borders of Poland.



photo archives of UMWWM

A tourist journey in the footsteps of Nicolaus Copernicus



Holy Apostles Peter and Paul Church n Pieniężno, photo archives of UMWWM

During his 40-year-old stay in Warmia, Copernicus held numerous positions in the service of the Bishop of Warmia and the Warmian Chapter. In his work, he lived in several places and did a lot of travelling, visiting towns and villages in the bishopric. Among other things, as an tax inspector and deputy of the bishop, at the end of each year he toured the property of the Chapter, conducting inspections, collecting rents and judging disputes. His journeys also reached beyond Warmia – to Elbląg, Bartoszyce, Lubawa, Malbork, Grudziądz, Toruń, Królewiec (at present Kaliningrad), Vilnius, Poznań and Cracow.

St. Catherine's Basilica in Braniewo,

photo archives of UMWWM

To commemorate the most famous inhabitant of the region of Warmia, hiking trails have been marked leading through places associated with his life and work. Two of such routes - road and pedestrian - partly overlap with each other and meet in the most important places: Olsztyn, Dobre Miasto, Lidzbark Warmiński, Pieniężno, Braniewo, Frombork, Tolkmicko and Elbląg. In Warmia, Copernicus also visited areas situated outside of the bishopric, including Reszel, Jeziorany and Barczewo (among others, during a tour of Bishop John Dantiscus in August, 1538). Tourists can also travel by bike or kayak to the sites associated with Copernicus. Along these routes, you can explore historic buildings from the times of Copernicus, museum exhibitions devoted to him, and even make astronomical

The Copernicus Road Trail

The trail has a length of 232 km marked with the symbol of an astrolabe. It begins in Olsztynek, outside the historic boundaries of Warmia. It is worth seeing the Ethnographic Park Museum of Folk Architecture and a Gothic church, which now houses a museum, as well as the former castle of the Teutonic Knights and the Multimedia Museum of POW Camp Stalag IB and the History of Olsztynek.

The trail leads to Olsztyn, where the scholar lived from 1516-1519 and 1520-1521. The next stops are Dobre Miasto and Lidzbark Warmiński, where Copernicus lived in the years 1503-1510. From Lidzbark, a looping trail leads to the Stoczek Monastery with its Baroque Shrine of Our Lady Queen of Peace. Another pilgrimage site from this period – The Visitation of the Blessed Virgin Mary and St Joseph – a special place in Krosno near Orneta, is another point along the trail.

Through Pieniężno and Braniewo the route reaches Frombork on the Vistula Lagoon, where the astronomer lived and worked for 29 years. Along the Lagoon, the trail leads to Elbląg, running through Tolkmicko (with its Gothic church of St James the Apostle and bastion from the period) and Kadyny (a village with a palace rom the 17th century).

The Copernicus Hiking Trail

The hiking trail is 236 km long and is marked in red. It starts in Olsztyn at the historic High Gate. Its route differs from the road trail, among others, it goes around Stoczek Klasztorny and Orneta and, after Elbląg, it runs further to the village of

Elblag

Copernicus visited the town several times. In January 1504 in the town hall, together with the bishop, he deliberated on sending envoys to the Polish king. In May 1504, he participated in the tribute Elblag's authorities paid to the king as well as acted as a witness in the announcement of a divorce verdict. In September 1507 together with the bishop, he participated in the assembly of the Estates Royal Prussia. Copernicus' visits to Elblag in 1529 (two) and in 1530 were also documented. In 1531 the scientist became one of heroes of the masquerade event in the town. For a similar purpose, a comedy entitled "Błaźnimędrzec" ("Morosophus") was published in 1541 by Wilhelm Gnapheus, a rector of the local middle school.

Elblag is the oldest city in the voivodeship (1246) and was an important seaport. This is where the Elblag Canal originates, which leads to Ostróda, Iława and Stare Jabłonki. The Elbląg old town is dominated by the St. Nicolas Gothic cathedral. Other historic buildings from this era include: the Market Gate (Brama Targowa), the Holy pirit church, the Dominican church (currently a gallery), the Corpus Christi church, the St. George and the St. Antonio churches, and a passage between the tenant houses called the Church Passage. Moreover, an 18th-century temple and four others from the 19th century have survived until today. A Museum of Archaeology

Museum of Archaeology and History

The institution operates in two buildings which in the past formed a part of the castle grounds. The collection includes exhibits from the pre-war Municipal Museum (opened in 1864), later acquisitions and the effects of own archaeological research. The expositions of historic buildings originate, among others, from Truso - a Viking emporium, a Goths' cemetery in Weklice and excavations from the Elblag Old Town. The museum also collects pieces of art and items documenting the history of the city and the area.

Dobre Miasto

Due to its location, the town was a stop on the route which Copernicus travelled many times. A confirmed visit occurred here in August 1538 during a tour of the diocese with the newly elected Warmian bishop Johannes Dantiscus. n the town which has existed since 1329, the remains of the medieval fortifications include fragments of the walls and the Stork Tower. A historical exhibition was arranged inside the tower, and the Town Open Air Museum was created nearby. Warmia's second largest church, the Gothic Collegiate Church of the Holiest Savior and All Saints (with associated buildings), dominates the town. Other historic buildings: the late baroque chapel (currently St. Nicholas Greek Catholic Church) and a 19th-century Lutheran church (currently a

Orneta

The town lay on the route of Copernicus' official trips, so he undoubtedly visited it frequently. A documented visit took place in August 1538 during a tour of lands with the newly elected Warmian bishop Johannes Dantiscus. In Orneta, a town already before 1313, historic buildings that recall this visit have survived. They include Gothic structures: the town hall and St. John the Baptist and St. John the Evangelist Church. The remains of the 14th-century defensive walls are also here and the cellars of the dismantled castle, on which a school was built in the 19th century. Several younger historic buildings are also preserved.

Pieniężno

Copernicus stayed in the local capitular castle many times, particularly leasing abandoned or purchased farmsteads in nearby villages: in early 1517, in October 1518, and in March 1519

The originally Gothic, later frequently remodeled castle has remained in ruins since the

It runs along partly dirt roads and forest paths, allowing tourists to explore the scenic beauty of this region. In Olsztyn, the trail runs through the City Forest, then along the Łyna River valley. Before Dobre Miasto it turns to reach Głotowo, a village with the baroque church of the Blessed Saviour and St. Florian (Sanctuary of the Blessed Sacrament and the Passion). Near the church is a temple from the late 19th century modelled on the Way of the Cross in Jerusalem called "the Calvary of

From Smolajny and its baroque bishop's palace from the mid-18th century, the trail runs through the Wichrowski Forests. Then, from Lidzbark Warmiński, it turns to Pieniężno, on the way passing, among others, Kumajny where Copernicus established a settlement in 1517. The route leads through the charming Wałsza

Through Braniewo and Frombork the route reaches the Vistula Lagoon and the Elblag Uplands, then runs through Tolkmicko (and the nearby settlement of Wały Tolkmita) and Kadyny, where it reaches Elbląg, in the area of the Bażantarnia

Follow in the footsteps of Copernicus on a bike

The entire of the road trail, and most of the hiking trail, can also be enjoyed by bike. Along the hiking trail, there may be problems in stretches between Smolajny and Dębowa Góra, as well as in the Elbląg Uplands (especially between Kadyny and

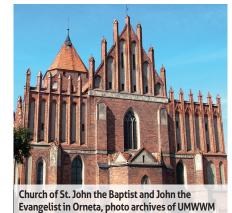
Another proposal for cycling enthusiasts is to use a section of the "Green Velo" -East of Poland Cycling Trail, which connects, among others, Lidzbark Warmiński with Pieniężno and other towns leading to Elblag.

An unmarked route from Olsztyn leads through Redykajny (Copernicus located settlers here in 1521) and Braswald (here in 1517 and 1518). The next villages along the route are: Barkweda, Cerkiewnik, Głotowo, Dobre Miasto, Kunik, Smolajny and Piotraszewo. Then it runs towards Wolnica, along an area marked with a green bike path along an old track connecting Orneta with Lidzbark Warmiński. Turning right, we reach the "Green Velo" trail in Lidzbark Warmiński. Turning left, we can reach Orneta, which will meet the "Green Velo" trail after travelling approx. 17 km from

Canoeing to places associated with Copernicus

Some villages connected with the activities of Copernicus can also be reached by canoe. Above the Łyna, the main river of Warmia, are Olsztyn, Dobre Miasto and Lidzbark Warmiński. In addition to these towns, there are great docks for canoes in Kłódka, Smolajny and Łaniewo to help in dividing a trip into one-day stages. In Lidzbark you can travel past Perkujki to Bartoszyce where, in 1528, Copernicus took part in the adoption of the Prussian national electoral law.

The western boundary of Warmia is formed by the Pasłęk River. From near Orneta you can canoe to Braniewo and from there to Nowa Pasłęka on the Vistula Lagoon. In the right weather and with calm water in the lagoon you can travel by canoe to Frombork and beyond, to Tolkmicko and even Elblag. Since almost the entire length of the Pasłeka River is within the boundaries of a nature reserve, canoe trips must be authorized by the environmental protection service.



Collegiate Basilica of the Holy Saviour

World War II years. Besides the castle, the remains of the Gothic town hall (under reconstruction), and the 14th-century Holy Apostles Peter and Paul Church and a 17th-century temple (currently the Greek Catholic St. Michael the Archangel Church) have survived in the town which has existed since 1312. The Missionary and Ethnographic Museum of the Society of the Divine Word functions at the local seminary.

Braniewo

In Braniewo, Copernicus experienced difficult moments in January 1520, after the town was captured by the Teutonic Knights, when he was conducting negotiations with the Grand Master of the Order as an envoy of the Warmian bishop Fabian von Lossainen. He was certainly here also in August 1538 while on a tour of holdings with the newly elected bishop Johannes Dantiscus, as well as in June 1541 at a consultation with the same.

Warmia's oldest town (since 1254) and first capital (1250–1341) is dominated by the rebuilt Gothic St. Catherine's Church. Only the gate tower survives of the castle of bishops. Other historic buildings: Holy Cross (18th c.), Holy Trinity (16th c., currently a Greek Catholic church), St. Anthony (19th c.) churches, Jesuit collegium.

Lubawa

Copernicus came to the town to stay with his friend Tiedemann Giese, then the bishop of Chełmno. He was in his castle in spring 1539, treating him for malaria, and for the entire summer of 1541. During his second visit he was accompanied by Georg Joachim Rheticus, who encouraged him with the bishop to publish "On the Revolutions".

Lubawa, mentioned in 1216, received its charter in 1311. The castle of the bishops was dismantled in the early 19th century. Fragments of its walls and the town fortifications with two Gothic towers have survived. Other historic buildings include the Gothic St. Anne and St. John the Baptist churches, the baroque wooden St. Barbara Church and the Bernardine Monastery complex

Tourist trails around the Warmia

The Elblag Canal Trail

The Elblag Canal is a unique water route joining Ostróda with Elblag, and through its branches, with Iława and Stare Jabłonki. Using a system of five inclined planes, ships can overcome about a 100 m water level difference. Following the road trail of the Elblag Canal, tourists can explore historical and sightseeing attractions in the vicinity of this famous water route. The trail is 278 km long and is composed of several loops. It starts and ends in Ostróda, leading through, among others: Miłomłyn, Morąg, Małdyty, Pasłęk, Elbląg, Zalewo, Susz, Kisielice and Iława.

Grunwald Loop Trail

The battle in the fields around Grunwald, one of the largest medieval battles in which Polish Lithuanian and Ruthenian armies defeated the Order of Teutonic Knights, was fought on 15 July 1410. Places related to this battle are connected through the Grunwald Loop Trail. Along this trail, tourists can visit Gothic castles and churches, as well as learn about the history and contemporary attractions of the region. The 263 km long trail is made of several smaller loops. The trail begins and finishes in Ostróda, running through, among others: Lubawa, Nowe Miasto Lubawskie, Lidzbark, Działdowo, Nidzica, Grunwald and Olsztynek.

Green Velo – East of Poland Cycling Trail

This trail is about 2,000 km long and runs through five provinces, of which its Warmian and Mazurian section measures about 395 km. The regional stage makes it possible for biking enthusiasts to admire the northern parts of Powiśle, Warmia and Mazury regions. The trail connects Elblag with Frombork, Braniewo, Pienieżno, Górowo Iławeckie, Lidzbark Warmiński and Bartoszyce. Further to the east, it runs through Sępopol, Korsze, Węgorzewo and Gołdap to the borders of Poland, Russia and Lithuania. The trail runs through scenic areas, abundant in natural and cultural attractions.



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