

## Annual events organised by the Biebrza National Park



"Biebrza Haymaking" European Championships on Haymaking Fen  
Meadows for Nature - the end of August



"Biebrza Fair of local products and Folk Art" - first weekend of May



"Biebrza University" - periodical meetings with lectures and field trips  
for nature lovers

## Visitor regulations in the Biebrza National Park:

1. Both the wildlife and the landscape are protected.
2. Sightseeing is only allowed along the marked trails, educational paths and water trails, from dawn to dusk, with a valid admission ticket.
3. Vehicular traffic is only allowed on public roads.
4. Organized groups of more than 7 visitors are required to visit the park with licensed guides.
5. Camping and lighting the bonfires is allowed only in selected and designated places.
6. Fishing is allowed only with the valid fishing license, which can be purchased in the BNP headquarters and selected lodges.
7. Canoe rafts between Osowiec and Brzostowo in the period 01.01 – 23.06 require a special permit issued by the Director of the Biebrza National Park.
8. Camping at the "Biały Grąd" is allowed from the 24th of June to 31th of December.
9. Trails could be closed for visitors due to birds' nesting season, fire precaution or other nature protection goals.

For more information please visit: [www.biebrza.org.pl](http://www.biebrza.org.pl)

### Tourist Information Point

at the **Biebrza National Park Headquarters** is open:

from the 20th of April till the 10th of September - every day  
from 7.30 am to 5.00 pm.  
from the 11th of September till the 19th of April - Monday to Friday  
from 7.30 am to 3.30 pm.



## Biebrza National Park

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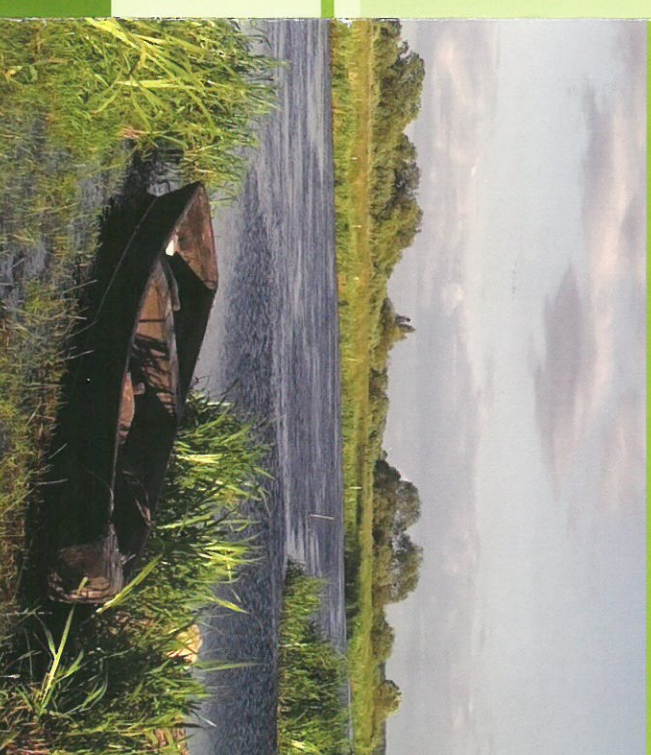
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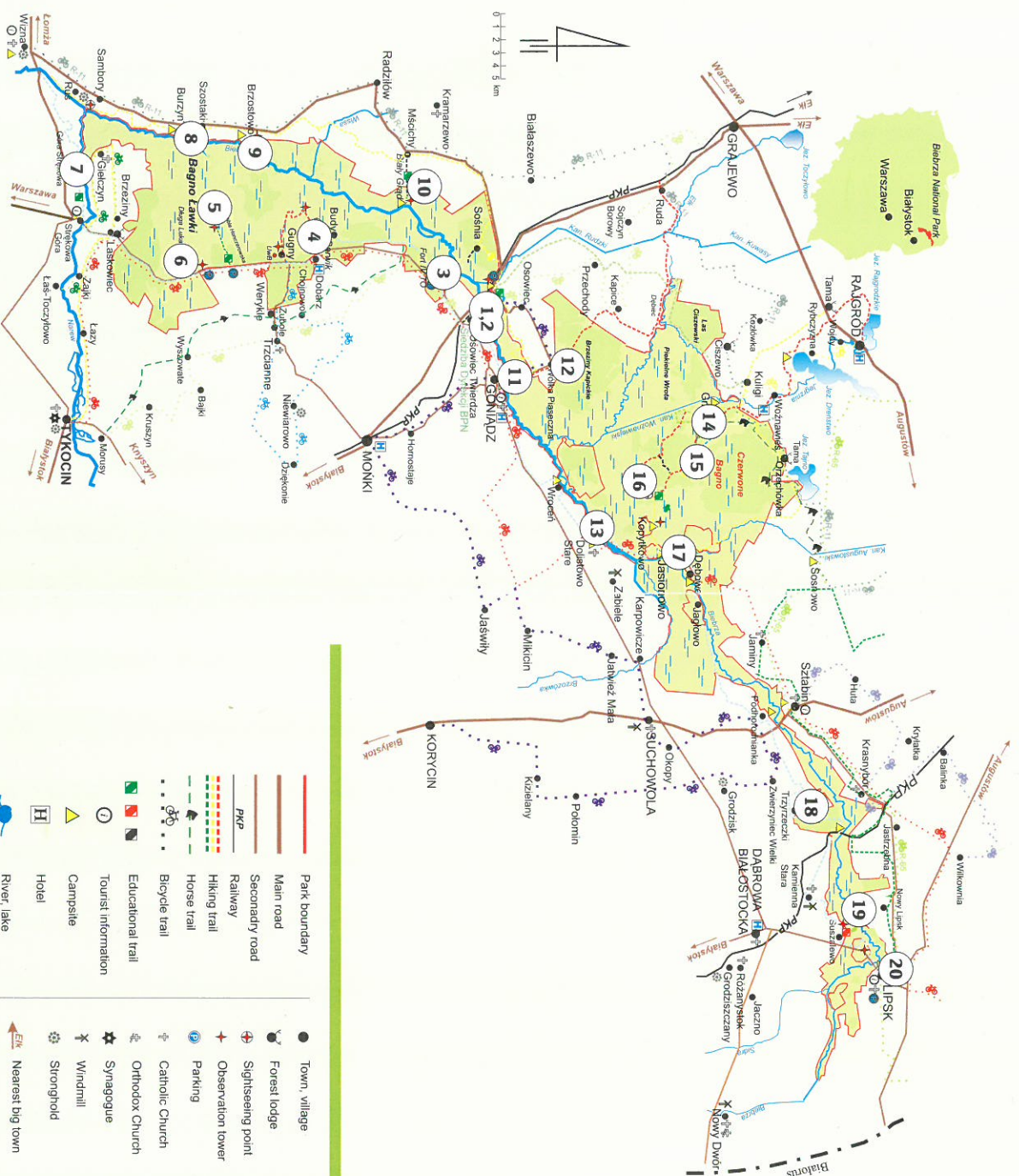


# Biebrza National Park

20 places worth to be seen



# Biebrza National Park



**The Biebrza National Park**, established in 1993, covers 59 223 ha becoming the largest national park in Poland. It protects the Biebrza Valley, one of the biggest coherent areas of wetlands in Europe. The River Biebrza, a pristine water course, becomes the core of the valley, which natural character determines vast biodiversity: rich world of flora and fauna. Within the park a diverse forest stands are present, of which the most valuable are Alder swamp forests and small patches of the bog Pine forests. Amongst the species of mammals living in the Biebrza National Park, Elk is the one of the special importance, for which the Biebrza Valley becomes the largest refuge in Poland. A few groups of Wolves, numerous Beavers and Otters also find the Biebrza Valley as a splendid habitat. Despite of that, wetlands of the Biebrza Valley are renowned throughout the Europe as an important breeding, feeding and transit site for hundreds of thousands of waterfowl and wetland birds and numerous birds of prey. For such an endangered species as the Aquatic Warbler, Spotted Eagle or the Great Snipe, the Biebrza Valley becomes one of the last remaining refuges in Europe. Over the 270 species of birds were recorded here, which is about the 70% of the total number of bird species living in Poland.





## 1. Osowiec-Twierdza



Osowiec-Twierdza – the village, among the attractions there are the Headquarters of the Biebrza National Park, the stronghold of Russian Tsar's army built in 1882-1915. There is also a shop and the railway station. In the Headquarters of the Biebrza National Park an exhibitions can be visited as well a presentations of movies and pictures. Throughout the whole season the touristic information point operates (within the season also in non-working days), where the park admission tickets can be purchased as well as maps, publications and souvenirs from the Biebrza region. Within the 1 km distance from the headquarters the camping "Bóbr" is located (perfect place to overnight on the way downstream the Biebrza river). There are also two educational paths and watching towers located nearby.

## 2. The Osowiec Stronghold



The Osowiec Stronghold – this object was an important element of the Russian boundary stronghold system due to its strategic location in the bottleneck of the Biebrza Valley, being here much narrower, than anywhere else in the neighbouring areas. The role of the stronghold was to defend the railway and a road passage, which was threatened by the German invasion. The stronghold fulfilled its duties during the First World War. The defence fights, which took place in Osowiec are compared to the French Verdun. Touristic trips and sightseeing in the Osowiec Stronghold are maintained by the Osowiec Stronghold Association (tel.: +48600941954). During the shortest possible visit (2 hours approximately) visitors get the opportunity to pass the underground passages. In the winter time the stronghold became an important shelter for numerous bats.

## 3. The 4th Stronghold of the Osowiec



The 4th Stronghold of the Osowiec – called also "The New Stronghold" – is located approximately 4 km from the Central Stronghold. This spot is also available for visiting. The educational path goes from the parking located just by the Tsar's Road, through the forest, along the moat, to the ruins of the stronghold. Nowadays the stronghold is completely overgrown by the forest. In the ruins there can be spotted a calcareous sediments, similar to the ones, which can be found in caves. This stronghold becomes a splendid place to observe, how the nature expands on its own after being altered some 100 years ago. Upon the moat a wooden footbridge is located, where one can see the typical riparian vegetation. Once our visit is silent, then the Kingfishers and Otters can be seen hunting for small fish.

## 4. Barwik

Barwik – a 2.5 km long educational path through a pine forest, Black Alder swamp forest and an open wetland area. For the fans of trekking along the muddy trails, this path is a must visit. From the path one can observe the Elk, Snipe, Spotted Eagle, Lesser Spotted Eagle, White-tailed Eagle, Short-eared Owl, Great Grey Shrike and Bluethroat. Along the trail there are 7 information boards, a watching platform and a tower with a splendid panorama over the Bagno Podlaskie (Podlaskie Fen).



## 5. „Batalionowa Łąka”



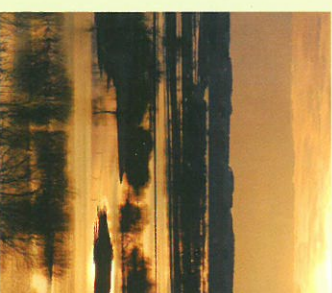
Batalionowa Łąka (Ruff's Meadow) – peatland area. For many years the meadow was hand-mown with the scythes, in order to keep the landscape open, free of encroachments. In result of those measures, rare species of flora and fauna, such as the Early Marsh Orchid, Ruff, Aquatic Warbler, Corncreak, Black-tailed Godwit and a Snipe could have survived here. To access the meadow one should take a 3.5 km walk along the educational path "Grodla Horszowska". Next to the meadow there is a watching tower built to remind the hay stack – construction to store hay with a mobile roof. From the watching tower one can admire the broad view of endless Biebrza mines.

## 6. Długa Luka

Długa Luka (A Long Gap) – the biggest coherent complex of fens in the Lower Biebrza Basin. The landscape of a horizon-broad fen meadows can be admired westwards from the "Tsar's Road". A watching tower is the place to admire one of the broadest views of wetlands. The 400 m long wooden foot-bridge will lead you to the heart of a fen mine, which has become in recent years a one of the best places in the Park to watch the Aquatic Warbler. It is also possible to observe here – just by the path – interesting plants such as the Early Marsh Orchid or the Downy Willow – a glacial relict. Within this area, every year in August – September the international event "The Biebrza Haymaking" takes place, which becomes the national championships in wetland meadows scythe-mowing.

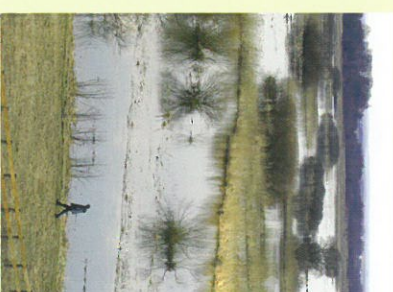


## 7. Góra Strękowa



Góra Strękowa – a small village situated by the sandy hill, from the top of which one can admire the breathtaking view of the Biebrza and the Narw valleys. The spot is interesting also due to archaeology and history. There have been spotted traits of settlement from the Neolithic age (5100BC – 1900 BC). A treasure was found here, which was 29 silver Arabic coins from the 10th century. Góra Strękowa became famous at the beginning of the Second World War, as the Battle of Wizna – the Polish Thermopylae – took place here. The hill was a key point of the defense line "Wizna". Despite the crashing majority of the Nazis Army over the Poles (40 soldiers to 1), the defenders with great bravery and sacrifice resisted the heavy armored attacks for over two days. On the hill there are remains of the bunker and a monument that honors the event and the defense leader – Cpt. Władysław Raginis.

## 8. Burzyn



Burzyn. According to a legend, the village functioned as a settlement as early as in the 13th century. It is situated on the high bank of the Biebrza River. A wonderful panorama can be admired from the watching platform. It is a splendid place for ornithological observations. In the spring time, numerous migratory birds stop here at the sea of the Biebrza floodplain. Careful watchers can observe elks in a further distance. Amongst cultural monuments there is a cast-iron cross from 1885 next to a church.

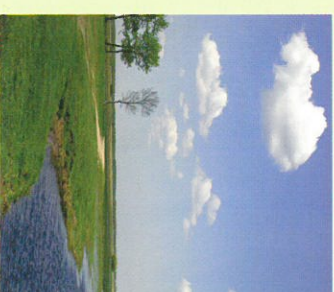


## 9. Brzostowo

Brzostowo – a picturesque and calm place, becomes one of the best spots to observe waterfowl and wetland birds. Marshy meadows, which stretch here up to the horizon, are grazed by cattle. In summer, cows leave the village at the dawn, and – unattended by farmers – cross the river on their way to the pasture. In the evening, at the milking time, cows come back on their own to the village. As they live their own life, they are called "happy cows from Brzostowo". In the village there are observation towers, camping sites and agrotouristic lodges with rooms for rent.



## 10. Biały Grąd



Biały Grąd a unique plateau placed among marshes, near the main channel of the Biebrza River. The way to the village of Mściwoj is a gravel dyke through the broad marshy meadows. In April and May one can observe from the dyke hundreds of footing male Ruffs – the symbol of the Biebrza National Park. On the Biały Grąd there is the only camping site along the river stretch between Osowiec and Brzostowo. The camping is closed within the nesting period of birds – from the 1st of January up to the 23rd of June. The observation tower can be accessed at any time. In spring many species of rare birds can be seen here, e.g. the Black Stork, Great White Egret and the Curlew.



## 11. Goniadz



Goniadz – a small town in the heart of the Biebrza National Park. The town was held in 1547, being in prior a river harbor. Products of timberworks and agriculture were floated from here to Gdansk. A must see are: two market squares – an original arrangement from the 14th-16th centuries, St Florian's chapel from 1864, neo-baroque St Agnes's church dated 1922-1924, a Catholic cemetery with a neo-gothic chapel from 1907 and the remains of a Jewish cemetery. In Goniadz there are numerous rooms for rent, an inn, hotels, a recreational centre near the beach, shops, bars and a restaurant. It is an ideal base to settle for stay and to arrange trips to the most interesting places in the Biebrza Valley. Along the picturesque road from Goniadz to Wólka Pasieczna, which goes across the Biebrza Valley, there is a watching tower with the panoramic view of the river, wetlands, pastures and shrubs. On the edge of the valley (formerly – the restaurant) there is a viewpoint with the panorama of the Biebrza Valley.

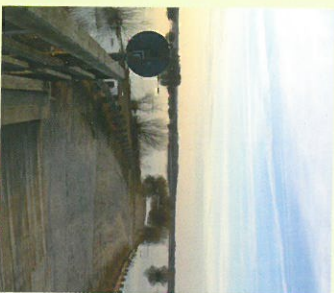
## 12. Brzeziny Kapickie

Brzeziny Kapickie – an interesting coherent complex of deciduous forests with the dominance of the swampy Birch forests. It's an age-long refuge for such valuable species as the Elk, Wolf, Black Stork and Spotted Eagle. In the early spring, clanging Granes provide here an extraordinary sounds – a music of the nature...

Along the Kapicki Canal the educational path of 4,2 km length was arranged. It starts at a forester's lodge (bonfire place, wooden tables). Along the path there are 11 information boards depicting the natural values of the neighborhood. Next to the Canal one can come across beavers. The last stop is at the hidden shelter arranged to watch the nature.



## 13. Dolistowo



Dolistowo – a big village located upon the middle course of the Biebrza River. In the 15th century it was inhabited by forest and game wardens, who protected the adjacent forests against poachers. The most interesting monuments here are the St. Laurence's classicistic church from the late 18th century, a bell from 1692 in the nearby belfry and a Dutch windmill from the early 20th century. Near the small beach there is a campsite with a shower, hot running water and toilets. Numerous rooms for rent and shops are available in the village. The bridge over the Biebrza River becomes a beginning of one of the most picturesque roads along the Biebrza. Caution! In spring the road can be flooded and inaccessible!

## 14. Grzędy



Grzędy – along with the lower Biebrza Basin, the Grzędy become second the most natural and remote areas of the Biebrza Valley. Uninhabited dunes and swamp forests become a refuge of the Wolves, Elks, Lynx and the numerous rare species of birds and plants. Grzędy is a mosaic of valuable habitats, such as marsh bogs, alder swamps, bog pine forests, sandy dunes and grasslands. It is also a place of national liberation fights and a settlement place for the 1345 exiles in the 19th century. Apart from the educational paths and tourist trails, a numerous attractions can be seen here such as the ethnographic exhibition at the Forester's lodge, the Animal Rehabilitation Centre, the Polish Koniks (primitive horses) Conservation and Breeding Centre, "Beehive Battery" ("Beehive Wood"). Grzędy – a former village, now becomes a settlement with a forester's lodge and a tourist's information point. Admission to the protection zone of Grzędy requires separate tickets. Cycling is possible on several trails. Entrance with the car is only possible with a licensed guide.

## 15. Wilcza Góra

The watching tower on Wilcza Góra provides one of the most beautiful panoramas over the Biebrza mires. It is almost guaranteed to spot the Elk from here.



## 16. Czerwone Bagno



Czerwone Bagno – the broad mire complex, strictly protected from the 1925 on. It becomes the biggest Polish refuge of the Elk and the most natural groups of the peatbog flora and avifauna. The western reach of the mire can be visited without getting wet feet, using the 800 m long, wooden foot-bridge. There are 5 information boards situated along the path. Currently the place becomes a Strictly Protected Area of the BNP.

## 17. Dębowo Lock

Dębowo Lock – the last river lock on the canoe trail along the Augustowski Canal – work of art in hydrotechnics, built 1824-1839, nowadays becomes a first-class technical monument.

The numerous locks along the Augustowski Canal make the canoe raft from Rospada or Czarna Hańcza to the Biebrza exciting. At the lock there is a campsite and a small shop.



## 18. Trzyrzeczki



Trzyrzeczki – the protection zone and a complex of deciduous forests in the upper Biebrza Basin. In the forester's lodge there is an ecological education centre. Next to the lodge there is a 3,2 km long educational path "Las" ("Forest"). The path goes through the area of the Nowodworska forest. Along the path there are 10 information boards, on which the areas' nature and history is presented. In the forest there are Soviet bunkers from the Molotov Line of 1940-1941. One of the bunkers located nearby the forester's lodge have been reconstructed and became available to be visited with the guide.

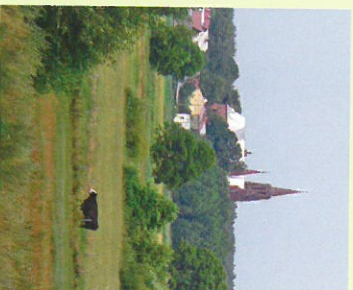
## 19. Nowy Lipsk

Nowy Lipsk – charming corners of Nowy Lipsk and the nearby places are best to be seen from a nature path of 4 km, going through the edge of the Biebrza wetlands. Two watching towers help to admire the most precious traits of the landscape and nature of the area. The other, equally interesting path is situated on the other bank of the Biebrza.

The route is 2,5 km long. It starts at the watching tower near Jabowo village and ends in Szuszałewo village. Wellingtons are required to walk through the paths all year around.



## 20. Lipsk



Lipsk – a town which got its legal status from the hands of King Batory in 1580. In Lipsk there used to be a river harbor and the salt store-house. Middle-class citizens ran breweries and mead cellars, which were tax-free. In the 17th and 18th century, wars and uprisings heavily slowed the town's progress. However, folk regional traditions are still cultivated in the town. The Culture Centre in Lipsk for organized groups a programme called "Meeting the folklore". During the meeting one can encounter folk people making decorations on Easter eggs, two-warp fabric, ritual bakers' products: "korowaj", "gaski". The programme members can try themselves to make the traditional goods such as gaski, Easter eggs, tissue-paper flowers, Easter bouquets and palms and watch weavers at work. In the town there is also the Regional Museum, where one can learn about the history of Lipsk and the traditions of the nearby villages. In the town of Lipsk there is a Museum of the Tradition and Easter Eggs of Lipsk. The museum presents numerous Easter eggs, which were prepared according to the local tradition, with the typical, regional style ornaments.