



# KAYAKING ALONG THE BUG RIVER

tourist guide

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Józef Tworek

# KAYAKING ALONG THE BUG RIVER

Second Revised Edition

tourist guide



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### Foreword

This guide to the borderland section of the Bug River and its tributaries in Poland is the result of the author's long-standing interest in active tourism and his fascination with the beauty of this river.

The insights and conclusions in this guide were devised using both own materials found on site and, to a large extent, with the help of kayaking trip organisers, local-government officials, Border Guard officers and also the enthusiasts and explorers of this part of Poland.

We are seeing a growing interest in discovering the "exotic" recesses of eastern Poland from the enthusiasts of kayaking and those who enjoy communing with the singular, pristine nature found in the area of the Bug, Polesie and Podlasie, and meeting the nice people that live there. This guide aims to encourage you to discover this extraordinary part of Poland, make the discovering easier, and help you take full advantage of what it has to offer, including especially a trip down this green river.

Tourism in the borderland areas of the Lubelskie Region has been booming in the recent years, as people start to recognise and appreciate the outstanding nature and scenery of this area. This is also due to the increasingly efficient tourism management and the ever-diversifying range of tourist services.

This guide is addressed to all the enthusiasts of kayaking tourism. It contains all the essential information you will need to plan your trip down the Bug and its tributaries, whether you are a team of kayaking pros, a group of paddling-experienced friends or relatives, or complete novices who have a wide selection of local kayaking-trip organisers.

Since nothing in this world is truly perfect, should you spot anything wrong with this guide and wish to make a comment or suggestion, feel free to contact the publishing house.

Have an interesting read and enjoy kayaking down the Bug and its tributaries!

## Ode to the River Bug

Written in Latin by Fr. Maciej Kazimierz Sarbiewski. Translated into Polish by Władysław Syrokomla; translated into English by Michał Wisz.

'Tis not to Salmacis the vain that I sing,  
No fountain to Venus do I adore,  
My praise goes not to an ancient spring,  
No Greek or Roman rivers of yore.

Pactolus and Cydnus, forgive my omission,  
Not a chord for you shall I play,  
And you, deep Tiber, grant me permission,  
My song hath found another bay.



Near Sugry,  
[www.kajaki.nadbugiem.pl](http://www.kajaki.nadbugiem.pl)



I shall praise the Bug, raging and rough,  
Sun-relief of many a riverside town,  
Until autumn brings drizzle and slough,  
And mist everything doth drown.

Oh, River Bug! Holy and crystal-clear!  
May Pieris allow me to your wave,  
So I can fill a vessel with water dear,  
And drink until no more I crave?

Oh, River Bug! Thou art so deep  
No boat nor ford will measure,  
And yet a merry herd of sheep  
In thy water takes pleasure!

Thy water turns not warm,  
As noon heat strikes upon the earth  
Frost binds you not on a winter morn,  
Thy currents still lukewarm at berth.

Come spring you run broad and free,  
Across fields and meadows you flow,  
By Wyszków you pass over the lea,  
Feeding the flowers as you go!

What pleasure to hear you rustle and hum!  
Two rivers, most healthy and pure!  
The Bug and the Narew! Pair up!  
Around Mazovia will be your tour.

If the oracle is to be believed,  
Listen to me, generations new,



A kayaking trip on the Bug, *photo archive UMWL*

A poet will soon be conceived,  
To sing the song that we knew.

He will pay off the debt we owe to the streams,  
And give them the praise they deserve,  
He will sing of the Narew and the Bug  
With more strength and reverb.

The lyrical piece written by Stanisław Dzierżanowski, “By the River Bug I stand alone” enjoys immense popularity among the residents of towns and villages on the Bug (and is also often rendered as a folk song). The author, a construction engineer from Warsaw, was involved in the construction of the airport in Małaszewice before World War II and came to live in Terespol with his wife. In September 1939 his wife fled to Brest, while the engineer, after the September campaign, came back to Terespol. They found themselves separated by the border on the Bug.



The Podlasie Switzerland, *photo S. Gębski*



By the River Bug, *photo T. Żaczek*

## By the River Bug I stand alone

Stanisław Dzierżanowski. Translated into English by Michał Wisz

By the River Bug I stand alone  
watching the other side.  
The wind blows through my bones  
and the snow clouds my sight.

How sad it is to stand by the river  
that cuts a country in two.  
You may be right there, my lover  
But the guards won't let me through.

By the River Bug I stand alone  
watching the other side.  
My motherland, my home  
and my beloved Brest.

I watch the river and despair,  
Grief-stricken is my heart.  
Once we were together,  
Now painfully apart.

I loved only once in my life,  
and once only you vowed  
to stay and be my wife  
till death us do part.

By the River Bug I stand alone  
This side is mine, the other thine.  
Snow falls, the cold wind blows,  
And tears flow into my eyes.

How sad it is here by the river  
that cuts a country in two.  
By the River Bug I stand alone,  
The guards won't let us through.





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## Description of the river and the trail

Chapter 1



Picturesque Bug gorge near Królewski Kąt,  
photo J. Tworek

The Bug River is one of the wildest and most ravishing rivers in Europe. Nowadays, sadly, it has become somewhat obscure. In olden times, Jan Długosz saw it as the fifth largest river in the then Polish Republic, after the Vistula, the Oder, the Warta and the Dniester. Located entirely within the borders of Poland (like the Vistula), it was of substantial economic importance. With the development of modern transport in the 19<sup>th</sup> Century, rivers were no longer the preferred, affordable, option for commodity transportation, although river transport did not completely disappear. In the times of the Second Polish Republic, the Bug was floatable from Busko and navigable from the mouth of the Rata River. It is surprising and hard to believe that in the early Second Polish Republic, passenger vessels plied between Dorohusk, Włodawa and Brest. This was the “Bug Flotilla”, established in the 19<sup>th</sup> Century. The “Bug Flotilla” operated until World War II put an end to it.

From time immemorial, the Bug has been a source of food (fish) and the driving force for numerous windmills along the shore. The river was used to float rafts with timber, including the famous pine from the Strzelce Landscape Park (*sosna matczańska*), used to make masts. It was plied by barges (so-called *szkuty*), and navigated by seasoned skippers. These vessels carried cereals, honey and other produce from Podolia and Volyn to as far as Gdańsk. On their way back, they transported woven products, colonial goods, handicraft wares and luxury products. A Parliamentary Resolution of 1548 shows how important the Bug was as a navigable river. The Resolution stipulated: “*The Bug, from Sokal onwards, shall in no place be diked, under a penalty of 200 marks in silver.*” The Resolution also ordered the existing dams to be demolished. The only exception was the dam in Kryłów, which protected the castle of Mikołaj Ostrobróg. Ostrobróg had to make sure, however, that the river was navigable in this section. Trade was booming in the areas along the river. Cities and towns thrived, with a growing number of granaries, wareho-

uses, marinas and river ports springing up in Horodło, Dubienka, Dorohusk, Uhurusk, Orchówek, Włodawa, Kuzawka, Sławatycze, Kodeń, Brest and many more, up to the Bug mouth.

Since the dawn of time, it was believed that the Bug opens into the Vistula (550.5 kilometre along the Vistula). As recently as in 1961, the Guide of the Central Water Management Office said that the Narew River opens into the Bug near Serock and the Bug opens into the Vistula 1 km below the Modlin Fortress. Since 1962, 772 kilometres along the river, the Bug opens into the Narew and flows into the Zegrze Reservoir. The Bug's section between the Zegrze Reservoir and the Vistula is popularly called the "*Bugo-Narew*." Not only does the Bug lead to the Baltic Sea, but also to the Black Sea, via the Mukhavets River, the Royal Canal (the Dnieper-Bug Canal), the Pina River and the Pripyat River, which opens into the Kiev Reservoir on the Dnieper and further down the Dnieper to its mouth below the city of Kherson and west of the Crimean Peninsula.

The Bug originates at the altitude of 311 m above sea level, at the northern end of the Podolia border, east of Lviv in the Voronyaky Mountain range.

Nowadays in Ukraine the Bug's origin is believed to be located in the village of Verkhobuhz, where, at the bottom of a small pond, there is a Vauclasian spring running under high pressure and giving rise to a voluminous, swift stream.

Both the Vauclasian spring and the stream's origin are encased in stone and marked as the origin of the Bug. Interestingly, this place is considered hallowed ground.

According to the 1932 kayaking guide (A. Heinrich), the Bug emerges from two streams of the Opaki Little Bug and the Buzhok Kruhivsky, which meet near Koltiv. On contemporary Ukrainian topographical maps, on the other hand, the Bug originates on the slope of a wooded hill north west of the Opaki village (Opaki Little Bug). Near Koltiv and Verkhobuzh, surrounded by hills, there is an expansive, swampy, valley. The valley was transformed by land-improvement measures which changed the course of the Buzhok Kruhivsky stream. Surrounded by the villages of Verkhobuzh, Opaki, Krichiv, and Koltiv, the valley is where waters from many small streams meet, including the Bug River, which flows west towards Ruda Koltivska. It starts in a narrow valley, which separates the ranges of the Voronyaky Mountains, and flows to Bilyi Kamin, where it leaves the Podolian Upland to enter the plain of Małe Polesie.



Source of Bug river in Ukraine,  
photo L. Flaga

The Ukrainian section of the Bug, from its spring to PISOCHNA, is 185 kilometres long. From Gołębie (boundary marker No. 820) to the mouth of the Mościcki Canal, it marks the Polish-Ukrainian border, and further down to Niemirów (excluding almost 2 kilometres in the area of Terespol and Brest), it constitutes the Polish-Belarusian border. According to commonly available geographical and encyclopaedic sources, the borderland section measures 363 kilometres. The entire last section of the lower course of the Bug (from Niemirów), 224 kilometres long, is located in Poland. Geographically, 772 kilometres from its spring, the Bug meets the Narew and opens into the Zegrze Reservoir.



The mouth of the Huczwa to the Bug in Gródek, *photo J. Fuchs*

The Bug forms part of the Baltic's drainage basin. Its basin has an area of 39,420 sq. kilometres, of which 19,284 sq. kilometres are in Poland. The average discharge in the lower course is 158 m<sup>3</sup>/s. The Bug collects water from a number of geographical regions. In its upper course, it drains part of the Volyn Upland and Małe Polesie, including the adjoining areas of Podolia and Rostocze.

This section of the Bug is mainly fed by its left tributaries, including the Poltva, the Rata, the Solokiya, the Varezanka (Warężanka), and the Huczwa. Grzęda Sokalska mesoregion, the Hrubieszów Valley, Grzęda Horodelska mesoregion, which lie in the Volyn Upland, are made of carbonate rocks (visible from the river in the gorge near Ślipcze), almost entirely covered by loess. Formed by intensive farming, the muck soil runs down to the Bug, giving its water a specific, light-brown colour.

From Horodło, the Bug flows into the East Baltic-Belarusian Lowland. Up to the mouth of the Krzna, it encompasses Polesie, including the Dubienka Lowland and Pagóry Chełmskie in the Volyn Polesie and the Western Polesie (north of Siedliszcze). In this area, the right tributaries include the Luga, Topkij and Neretva, and the left tributaries include the Velnyanka, Udal, Uherka, Włodawka, Hanna and Krzna.

Further into its course, fed by the Mukhavets, the Bug flows into the Middle European Plain and runs through the Podlesian Bug Gorge and the Lower Bug Valley. The eastern part, from the Krzna mouth to the Nurzec, forms a distinctive and picturesque gorge, whose steep slopes are 30 metres high near Neple and as high as 55 metres near Mielnik. On this section of the Podlesian Bug Gorge, the Bug is fed by the Leśna, Pulwa, Silna, Nurzec (right tributaries) and the Czyżówka, Myślina, Turna and Cetnia (left tributaries).

The section within the Lower Bug Valley runs through a landscape of alternating marshy fluvial terraces, straight sections with numerous isles, and sandy dune terraces. This section of the Bug is fed by the Buczynka, Kosówka, Ugoszcz and Liwiec (left tributaries) and the Pukawka, Brok and Tuchelka (right tributaries). Ultimately, the Bug joins up with the Narew and terminates in the flood waters of the Zegrze Reservoir.

In the days of the First and Second Polish Republic, the entire Bug flowed within the territory of Poland. Since 1944, it has been located across Poland and – up to 1992 within USSR borders – in Ukraine (Zakhindyy Buh) and Belarus (Buh).

The Upper Bug is entirely located in Ukraine (185 kilometres), in the Lviv Oblast (the Zolochiv, Busk, Kamianka-Buzka and Sokal districts and the separate district of Chervonohrad). Before flowing into the Polish-Ukrainian borderland, it also separates the Lviv Oblast from the Volyn Oblast. On the Ukrainian side, the borderland section runs through the Volyn Oblast and its districts – Ivanychi, Volodymyr Volynsky, Luboml and Shatsk. Major places along the Ukrainian section of the Bug include Buzk, Kamianka-Buzka, Dobrotvir, Chervonohrad (former Krystynopil), Sokal and Ustyluh.

In Belarus, the borderland Bug runs through the Brest Oblast. Major Belarusian places located by the Bug include Tomashivka, Damachava, Stradech and, most importantly, Brest.

According to a number of geographical and encyclopaedic sources, the borderland section of the Bug, which includes almost its



Allegory of Bug river by Ludwik Kaufmann (1855), photo J. Tworek

entire central course, measures 363 kilometres. This information requires some clarification, though. This length (363 kilometres of the navigable route) is confirmed in the publication *“A Guide to Inland Waterways”* by the Central Water Management Office (Wydawnictwo Komunikacji i Łączności, Warsaw 1961). According to the pre-War guide *“Poland’s Waterways”* (A. Heinrich, 1932), the Bug’s section between Gołębie (at the time called Holubye) and Niemirów is 367 kilometres long.

The latest measurements of the Bug within the borderland of Poland, Ukraine and Belarus, using new satellite technologies, were included in the study of the Presidium Department of the Bug River Border Guard Unit named after the 27<sup>th</sup> Volhynian Infantry Division of the Polish Home Army. According to the study, the Bug border, which since 1 May 2004 has also been the border of the European Union, is 399 kilometres 80 metres long, of which the Ukrainian border is 227 kilometres 770 metres long, and with Belarus 171 kilometres 310 metres. So it is quite a difference – almost 40 kilometres would be enough for



a decent kayaking trip. This, by all means, should be highlighted by those who arrange such trips. This surprisingly substantial difference can be explained by the fact that earlier measurements were inexact. In addition, being a large natural river, the Bug is constantly changing and transforming. I started doing GPS measurements myself out of curiosity and to organise kayaking trips, and then continued this while working on the guide. The resultant values confirmed that the Border Guard's measurements were correct.

The bed width and depth of the Bug varies across different sections, depending on weather conditions (rainfall volume) and also on when and how fast the reservoirs in Dobrotvir and Skomorochy, Ukraine, are emptied. The average annual discharge in the mouth is 158 m<sup>3</sup>/s. The maximum range of the water level can be as high as 5 metres.

The Bug gradients:

- – in the spring course – 3.00 per mille
- – in the upper course – 0.55 per mille
- – in the middle course – 0.19 per mille
- – in the lower course – 0.10 per mille



Bridges are excellent orientation points, *photo J. Tworek*

Water levels on the Bug are regularly measured and published by the Institute of Meteorology and Water Management on [www.pogodynka.pl](http://www.pogodynka.pl), and also on stream gauges placed in Strzyżów, Wyszaków and the most known of them in Włodawa. Measurements can also be made using the existing indicators in Kryłów, Dorohusk, Krzyczew and Frankopol. Five of these facilities (Kryłów, Strzyżów, Dorohusk, Włodawa, Krzyczew) are located on the non-Polish section

of the Bug. For kayakers, stream gauges are not only an interesting infrastructural feature, but also, and most importantly, an excellent navigation point and source of information about the trail conditions.

Administratively, the Polish section of the Bug flows across three voivodeships: Lubelskie, Podlaskie and Mazowieckie. The eastern, borderland, part of the Lubelskie Voivodeship, comprises the following districts: Hrubieszów (the communes of Dołhobyczów, Mircze, Hrubieszów, Horodło), Chełm (the communes of Dubienka, Dorohusk, Ruda-Huta), Włodawa (the communes of Wola Uhruska and Hanna, the town and commune of Włodawa) and Biała Podlaska (the communes of Sławatycze, Kodeń, Terespol, the town of Terespol, the communes of Rokitno, Janów Podlaski, Konstantynów). In the Podlaskie Voivodeship, the Bug flows through its southern part, comprising the following districts: Siemiatycze (the communes of Mielnik, Siemiatycze, Drohiczyń, Perlejewo) and Wysokomazowieckie (the commune and town of Ciechanowiec). This section of the Bug is the natural border of the Podlaskie Voivodeship and the Mazowieckie

Voivodeship and from this point it flows to its mouth via the Mazowieckie Voivodeship. On its way through the mid-eastern part of the Mazowieckie Voivodeship, the Bug bypasses or crosses the following districts: Łosice (the communes of Sarnaki, Platerów), Siedlce (the commune of Korczew), Sokołów (the communes of Repki, Jabłonna Lacka, Sterdyń, Ceranów, Kosów Lacki), Węgrów (the communes of Sadowne, Łochów), Wołomin (the communes of Dąbrówka, Radzymin), Ostrów (the communes of Nur, Zaręby Kościelne, Małkinia Górna, Brok), Wyszaków (the commune of Brańszczyk, the town and commune of Wyszaków, the commune of Somianka) and Legionowo (the communes of Serock and Nieporęt).

What is important for the organisers of kayaking trips down the middle borderland section of the Bug is that border protection on this river is under the command of a single unit – the Bug River Border Guard Unit based in Chełm.

Geopolitically, geographically and naturally, the Bug can be divided into three very diverse kayaking trails:

1. The trail within the Republic of Poland: 224 kilometres, from Niemirów to the mouth.
2. The borderland trail: 400 kilometres, Gołębie – Niemirów [right] (Gnojno) [left]
3. The trail within Ukraine: 135 kilometres, Busk – PISOCHNE.

Most guides describe the Bug trail as easy and friendly. Experience shows, however, that this should not be taken for granted, especially when it comes to the borderland section. This is due to a number of reasons:

- the Bug is one of few unregulated large European rivers, strongly meandering, with varying widths and depths, and also varying currents;
- the Gołębie – Dorohusk section might from time to time feature so-called “breakers” or jams across the entire width of the river;
- the Bug water might in some places, especially near the banks, contain limbs or entire trees which have fallen into the river, undermined by the water or by the activity of beavers, and thus posing a dangerous trap;
- at lower levels of water, there are numerous whirls caused by snags, and also debris from old dams and bridges;
- long sections of the trail feature banks that are inaccessible due to being too high or shrubby, and even those that seem easy for getting ashore are often unpleasantly muddy and boggy;
- bear in mind that the level of water on the Bug can change very quickly and substantially (up to 5 metres) due to heavy rainfall, spring thaws or Ukrainians emptying reservoirs in Dobrotvir and Skomorochy without warning the appropriate Polish authorities;
- planning the length of trail stages and navigating through the Bug is a tall order, both for seasoned and beginner kayakers, as all the existing guides fail to provide reliable distances (the actual length of the borderland Bug is 399 kilometres, whereas the guides show a 36-kilometre shorter length of 363 kilometres. Also, the existing

1:100 000 scale maps might provide out-of-date border marker numbers. Coupled with the scarcity of fixed orientation points, such as bridges and prominent structures (which are almost non-existent on the right bank), and sporadic contact with people (anglers), all this makes the river trail challenge even more difficult;

- last but not least, kayakers have to bear in mind the borderland nature of the Bug and the related limitations, such as having to keep to the left-of-centre of the river (even though the current might be moving towards the right bank) and know how to navigate round sandbanks, time limitations (no kayaking half an hour before sunset), and also the prohibition from staying on land near bridges (border checkpoints), and others.

We can generally assume, therefore, that the primary criteria for the kayaking trail on the borderland section are as follows:

### The trail to the road bridge in Dorohusk:

**Difficulty – ZW B:** a slightly difficult trail, with weak current, sporadic obstructions and minor disadvantageous features. At least one person should be an experienced kayaker.

**Complexity – U 2:** a slightly complicated trail, with easily avoidable obstructions.

### From the road bridge in Dorohusk to Niemirów:

**Difficulty – ZW A:** an easy trail, accessible to anyone. It is advisable that the guide (pilot) has some experience.

**Complexity – U 1:** a friendly trail, with no obstructions or portages.

**Picturesqueness: (\*\*\*)**

a very picturesque trail all the way along.

### River width:

- The Gołębie – Dorohusk section: 25-40 m,
- The Dorohusk – Niemirów section: 40-80 m.

**Trail length:** 400 kilometres (excluding transport near Terespol).

### Water level parameters in Włodawa:

- Low-level zone: up to 128 cm,
- Average-level zone: 128–209 cm,
- High-level zone: 209–250 cm,
- Flood warning: 250 cm,
- Flood alert: 350 cm,
- Average multiannual level: 156 cm.

### Discharge:

- in Włodawa, within low-level zones the discharge is approx. 50 m<sup>3</sup>/s; in the upper high-level zone it is approx 100 m<sup>3</sup>/s;
- at the mouth, the average annual discharge is 158 m<sup>3</sup>/s

**Average gradient:** 0.19 (in the middle course of the river).

**Current speed:** 0.3-0.5 m/s (medium speed).

**Actual speed:** 5-6 km/h.

The borderland Bug trail between Gołębie and Niemirów is a very important and interesting part of the river, originating in



Ukraine, in the Voronyaky Mountains, in the village of Verkhobuzh near Zolochiv (north-east of Lviv). The Ukrainian section of the Bug is 185 kilometres long. In the times of the First and Second Polish Republic, it was deemed floatable from Busk and navigable from the Rata River mouth. Nowadays, kayaking trips down the Ukrainian section of the Bug usually start near Dobrotvir (past the dam) and end in Stargorod (approx. 70 kilometres).

The lower course of the Bug to the confluence with the Narew is well known and described and heavily used by kayakers. This section is marked as navigable and measures 224 kilometres in length. Beyond the borderland section, you can start your kayaking trip from the right bank in Niemirów or from the left bank in Gnojno.

The Gołębie - Niemirów/Gnojno, approximately 400 kilometres long, is the least known and frequented (though the most interesting) section of the Bug.

The present river border with Ukraine and Belarus was established in 1991, after the dissolution of the USSR. One should bear in mind, however, that the border with the USSR was rather unstable. From 1945, the Ukrainian section of the border between Poland and the USSR went along the mouth section of the Solokiya and further along the Bug. Places like the historic Belz (the former capital of the Belz Region and Province), Variazh, Uhniv, Krystynopil, and also the left-bank part of Sokal (Zhvirka) with the Mother of God of Consolation Church and the Bernardine Monastery, were within the borders of Poland. The area involved in the territorial exchange between Poland and the USSR (the Agreement dated 15 February 1951) was 480 sq. kilometres. Under the Agreement, the Poles were given "oil-bearing" areas with Ustrzyki Dolne. There is also disagreement about the isle with castle ruins in Kryłów. Formally, this isle never belonged to USSR territory, it was only inaccessible. The Agreement with the USSR stipulated that in order to undertake anything on the Polish bank, be it reinforcing banks or building



An information board of the kayaking trail on the Sławatycze-Jableczna section, *photo M. Dąbrowski*

a bridge to the isle, etc., Poland had to consult on this with its neighbour. It was not until 1987 that Poland's persistent requests were approved and in the years 1987-1988, the isle was connected to the land through a causeway in the south and a bridge in the north. Also, the Polish bank was reinforced with granite blocks.

It is in Terespol, however, that troubles pile up on kayakers. Under the Border Agreement with the USSR, the border in this area was not demarcated by the Bug, but by the shallow canal (moat) of a former Brest fortress and, partly, by an oxbow lake. This nearly 2-kilometre long section of the Bug lies entirely within Belarus (including the estuaries of the Mukhavets and the Western Isle of the Fortress). With the canal being unnavigable and the land zone near border checkpoints inaccessible, until the problem is solved, one has to accept reality and write off the 16-kilometre-long section of the trail between Michałków and Kuzawka.

Until 2002, past the Western Isle (past the second rail bridge), there stood a flashboard weir, which necessitated portage, though it was fairly easy. The weir, which used to dam up the Bug to keep it navigable from the mouth of Mukhavets to the Royal Canal, seems to be fading into obscurity. A border agreement with Belarus would be decisive here, though it has not been concluded so far, and there is an unwritten agreement to stick to the old border provisions agreed between the USSR and Communist Poland.

Due to the borderland nature of the middle Bug (since 1944), the buildings of the ages-old towns and villages that existed on its right bank disappeared and gave way to poplars, willows, osier, and barbed-wire entanglements, which are peculiar remnants of the fallen empire, astonishing all the beginner kayakers on the Belarusian section of this trail. The left, Polish, bank of the Bug has undergone immense changes as well. The Ukrainian people were displaced from here and the isolation of this place from the rest of the country is creating mass emigration of the young population. Devoid of permanent settlements, it has become a popular destination for summer property and vacation facilities of different kinds. There used to be windmills, docks, and timber yards for rafting here, with ferry boats plying regularly, and fords, but now it is all falling into oblivion. The border markers which have been placed here, are regarded by all kayakers as crucial for navigation from Gołębie to Niemirów. Before we discuss border markers in detail, it is worth naming some other widely recognisable objects of interest one can see from the water, including bridges, stream gauges, tributary mouths, landmark buildings (especially Catholic and Orthodox churches).

**Bridges.** The entire 400-kilometre-long borderland section of the Bug features only nine bridges, of which five are road bridges and four railway bridges:

**Km 354,4** the railway bridge of the LHS line, and the railway border checkpoint from Hrubieszów to Ukraine, border marker No. 972;

**Km 326,1** road bridge, road border checkpoint from Zosin to Ukraine, border marker No. 901;

**Km 253,3** railway bridge, railway



The landscape near Królewski Kąt, *photo J. Tworek*

crossing from Dorohusk to Ukraine, border marker No. 988.

**WARNING!** Under the existing bridge, there is debris from the old bridge (sharp blocks and metal parts). Safe kayak passage at the water level (water-level indicator in Dorohusk, upper-base edge of the bridge's right pillar) of at least 200 cm.

**Km 252,6** twin bridge (two traffic lanes), road border checkpoint from Dorohusk to Ukraine, border marker No. 989;

**Km 122,8** road bridge, road border

checkpoint from Ślawatycze to Belarus, border marker No. 1186;

**Km 71,2 – 55,0; (Michałków – Kuzawka)** – this 16-kilometre section of the river, inaccessible to kayakers, features four bridges and border checkpoints into Belarus: road bridge (road border checkpoint in Terespol for individuals), 64.1 kilometres – marker No. 1260, two railway bridges – 61.6 and 60.6 kilometres – markers No. 1267 and 1268, road bridge (two lanes – road border checkpoint for goods movement in Kukuryki), 55,6 km – marker No. 1276.

This section of the Bug (past the second railway bridge) features a defunct (damaged by a barge in 2002) flashboard weir – 60.7 kilometres.

**Stream gauges.** One should know that stream gauges are not only navigation facilities but also interesting hydraulic engineering structures and valuable sources of information on water levels. From Gołębie to Niemirów, there are five such facilities, the most interesting and popular being the over-100-year-old, oblique gauge in Włodawa, whose readings are provided in daily radio weather reports. Readings from the stream gauges in Włodawa and Strzyżów are available on the official website of the Institute of Meteorology and Water Management ([www.pogodynka.pl](http://www.pogodynka.pl)). Readings from other stream gauges are available on the website of the Lubelskie Voivodeship Governor's Office ([www.lublin.uw.gov.pl](http://www.lublin.uw.gov.pl)).

**Km 389,7** – staff gauge in Kryłów (before the causeway to the isle); gauge position: E: 50° 40' 38", N: 24° 03' 64"

**Km 339,9** – staff gauge in Strzyżów (near the sugar plant water intake and concrete steps); gauge position: E: 50° 50' 22", N: 24° 02' 09"

**Km 252,6** – staff gauge in Dorohusk (between the pillars of the double road

bridge); gauge position E: 51° 11' 04", N: 23° 48' 25"

**Km 162,2** – oblique (step) gauge in Włodawa (300 metres past the mouth of Włodawka – border marker No. 1137); gauge position: E: 51° 33' 05", N: 23° 33' 59".

**Km 45,4** – staff gauge in Krzyczew (60 metres past the former Orthodox church); gauge position: E: 52° 08' 49", N: 23° 29' 57"

**Tributaries.** As well as providing navigational information, the Polish tributaries of the Bug are perfect for discovering some interesting trails in this part of the country. As the Bug is difficult to access, in some sections these might be helpful in starting or ending subsequent legs of kayaking trips down the borderland Bug. All the main, left, tributaries of the Bug, including the Huczwa, the Uherka, the Włodawka and the Krzna, are already quite often frequented by kayakers, and can take as long as three days to navigate. Inexperienced kayakers usually have problems with identifying the mouths of these tributaries because of their branching at acute angles, and also because of bushes, but, above all, numerous oxbow lakes, which can mislead even seasoned tourists. The location of tributary mouths is shown below to help you terminate your kayaking trip (whether planned or not) in sites where the river bank is easily accessible and safe.

**Km 352,4** – the Huczwa mouth (border marker No. 875). The Huczwa can be entered in Hrubieszów (6 kilometres) or Gródek (1 kilometre). Sightseers are advised to enter from Gródek, due to the immediate vicinity of a hill fort (before a wooden bridge) and a very muddy bank. The Huczwa is used from Łaszczów as a 55-kilometre-long trail.

**Km 278,9** – the Welnianka mouth (border marker No. 962). The Welnianka can be used to start a trip from Dubienka. This can be made from two sites: from the bridge over provincial road No. 816 or from the bridge near the church. The estuarial section of the Welnianka, including the oxbow lake and Deusze Lake, can form an attractive, albeit problematic, first leg of your trip.

**Km 256,7** – the Udal mouth. The Udal offers an opportunity to start your trip near the bridge of road No. 816 (past the recreational reservoir). The distance to the mouth (Dorohusk, near a cut bank) is 3 kilometres.

**Km 221,0** – the Uherki mouth (border marker No. 1027). Easy access to the mouth and clear views of Siedlisz-

cze village. Up the river, 800 metres to the bridge with good access from road No. 816. A good starting point to go out to the Bug also by the bridge of road No. 816 in Rudka - 3 km to the mouth. Uherka is used from Stanków as a marked trail with a length of 28 km.

**Km 162,5** – the Włodawka mouth. The Włodawka can be entered (or launched on) before the causeway bridge (700 metres – jetty) or via a 1.5-kilometre section to the bridge of provincial road No. 816 (Okunińska Street). At the Włodawka mouth, past the wooden bridge, there are floating docks and a designated area for kayakers. From Kołaczce, the Włodawka is used as a 22.5-kilometre-long trail.

**Km 93,1** – the Kałamanka mouth, difficult to identify (past the third isle). When used, it offers easy access to the campsite (350 m, first footbridge) and the centre of Kodeń (another footbridge and unavoidable portage through the chute).

**Km 48,1** – the Krzna mouth. 2 kilometres to the bridge of the road No. 698 in Neple. A convenient starting point towards the Bug. The Krzna is used from Międzyrzec Podlaski as a 70-kilometre-long trail.

Each kayaking trip is enhanced by interesting, often historical, architectural structures. So far, these have mostly included church towers, including Orthodox churches. Now the landscape is defaced by an increasing number of high mobile-phone masts and radio and television masts. On a side note, while on your trip, remember to check your mobile operator and be careful when making phone calls, or otherwise you might pay higher rates for connections via Ukraine, and quickly run out of your prepaid calls or get a staggeringly big bill to foot.



Souvenirs from a kayaking trip, photo K. Kowalczyk

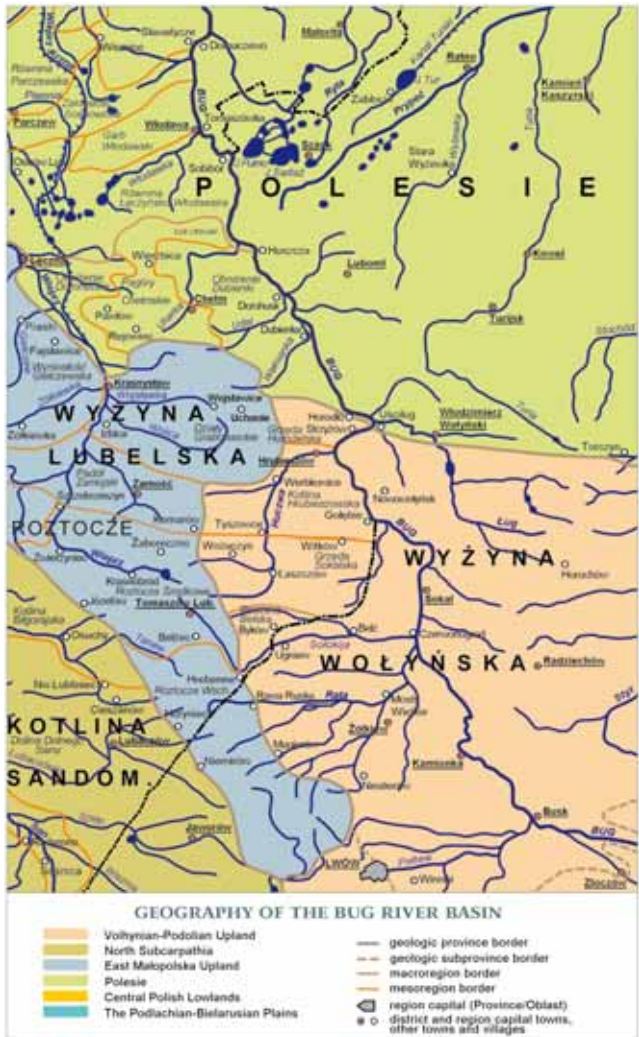




Włodawa, a kayaking trip near the water gauge, *photo K. Lis*

All the landmarks along the trail (excluding masts) are described, including distances, in the technical section. The distance from the river-bed as well as the layout of shrubs and bushes offer travellers a unique sight of entire towns and villages, such as Uchańka, Włodawa, and Sławatycze. Also, make sure to note the information on telephone cables running above the river – these provide direct connection between the Polish Border Guard offices and their counterparts on the right bank of the Bug.

Finally, let us discuss the issue of border markers. First of all, you should know that these are placed in pairs, facing each other from both sides of the border (river) and, most importantly, have the same numbers. So it does not matter which side the marker is on but which number it is allocated. Another fact worth noting is that at the border with Ukraine Polish markers were renumbered (minus 39) as a result of the 1993 border agreement between Poland and Ukraine. This is important, as the 1:100 000 scale maps published so far do not reflect this detail, so you have to learn to count fast (numbers provided on the maps are 39 higher than the actual numbers). Also bear in mind the distance between markers. Some might falsely believe that border markers are kilometre marker posts. The first marker in the Poland-Ukraine borderland section of the Bug has the number 820, and the last marker has the number 1083. Subsequent markers lie at an average of about 0.87 kilometres of the river from each other. In the Poland-Belarus section of the Bug, the first marker has the number 1123, and the last one the number 1346. Subsequent markers lie at an average of about 0.78 kilometres of the river from each other. Bear in mind, however, that these are average distances. In the context of border markers, it is important to mention the so-called tripoint of the



Polish, Ukrainian and Belarusian borders. The meeting point of these borders is in the middle of the Bug, directly opposite the Mościcki Canal mouth at the Ukrainian-Belarusian border. On the Polish bank, the border markers' numbering shifts from 1083 to 1123. To this day, the "tripoint" has remained obscure, with border markers, like the canal mouth, being invisible. You should really know your way around here to pinpoint where the border with Ukraine ends and the border with Belarus starts. This should change once the plans to develop and mark the trail have been completed. When planning to use border markers to navigate, remember that they are mostly invisible from the river, especially at low water levels. And even if a marker can be seen, the number is hardly legible. The most legible are the numbers on Belarusian markers, while the Ukrainian markers bear the least legible numbers. If possible, make



A stopover site in Pratulin, *photo J. Tworek*

use of binoculars or a camera with enhanced zoom. Another very important and practical reason behind numbering border markers on the borderland Bug is that this is often essential for accurately communicating your location to the Border Guard.

As technology is increasingly permeating our everyday lives, some of you will probably want to make navigation easier with the help of GPS. So for the enthusiasts of GPS, the technical description provides highly precise (degrees – minutes – seconds) coordinates for key points on the trail.

In 2010, a project was initiated to develop, for tourist purposes, the kayaking trail which runs from Gołębie to Gnojno, the Lubelskie Voivodeship. 2011 saw the commencement of this project. In Biała Podlaska District, the trail has been marked (the detailed trail description contains information on the position of information signs). In the years 2013-2014, a comprehensive trail development programme is to be carried out for the Bug section in Włodawa District (Siedliszcze – Kuzawka). These initiatives will dramatically improve the conditions for navigation and facilitate safer kayaking trips, and also make the trail more accessible for less-experienced kayakers.





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## The trial kilometrage

Chapter 2



The River Bug, photo M. Dąbrowski

It is a common standard among kayakers to describe the trail throughout its entire accessible length and provide its kilometrage in a descending order down to the river's mouth. In this guide, however, this rule has been abandoned to do justice to the unique borderland section of the Bug. It has been assumed that "the Borderland Bug" starts in Gołębie (where the land and river borders with Ukraine meet) and ends in Niemirów (the first place on the Bug's way after it enters Poland past the meeting point of the river and land borders with Belarus). From Niemirów to its conjunction with the Narew, the Bug is a navigable river with proper signage.

The trail kilometrage provided here has been outlined with practical considerations in mind. First of all, it emphasises the actual length of the trail, as published in the study done by the Bug River Border Guard Unit and revised by the author's field measurements using GPS. Secondly, it provides the bare essentials for navigating and planning subsequent legs of your trip without delving into the historical and natural details which have been discussed in other parts of the guide. The kilometrage provided focusses on the actually useful (and verified) sites which are fit for launching and landing, as opposed to indicating, for instance, village/town/city entry sites. The launching (landing) sites provided here are also considered priority sites for development and signage under the impending trail development plan. What is more, geographical coordinates for selected trail sites have been added as a new feature to make navigation easier. In addition, this guide provides the numbers of border markers (read from the river) so remember to keep your eyes peeled or, if possible, make use of binoculars or a camera with a zoom function.

## BASIC KILOMETRAGE

Km	Bank	Places, hydraulic structures, devices, tributaries and other	↻
400.0		The meeting point of the land and river borders – marker 820	0.0
398.5	L	Gołębie	1.5
389.5	L	Kryłów – stream gauge	10.5
388.5	L	Kryłów – bridge to the isle	11.5
382.0	R	Leżnica – Orthodox church	18.0
378.5	L	Kosmów – marker 847	21.5
358.5	L	Czumów – palace	41.5
354.5		Railway bridge	45.5
352.5	L	The mouth of the Huczwa – marker 875	47.5
347.0	L	Husynne – oxbow lake, mouth of the Huska	53.0
343.5	L	Łukaszówka	56.5
340.0	L	Strzyżów – sugar plant, stream gauge	60.0
326.0		Zosin – road bridge	74.0
321.5	L	Łuszków	78.5
315.5	L	Horodło – past the isle	84.5
310.0	L	Bereznica – marker 923	90.0
306.5	L	Matcze – marker 928	93.5
291.5	L	Starosiele – 2 km	108.5
288.5	L	Dubienka – 2 km	111.5
279.0	L	The mouth of the Welnianka	121.0
277.0	L	Uchańka – oxbow lake	123.0
270.5	L	Husynne- marker 972	129.5
256.5	L	Dorohusk – the mouth of the Udal, a cutoff (oxbow)	143.5
253.5		Dorohusk – railroad bridge	146.5
252.5		Dorohusk – road bridge, stream gauge	147.5
250.5	L	Okopy – marker 993	149.5
240.5	L	Świerże – mill, marker 1008	159.5
237.5	L	Hniszów – 1.5 km, marker 1013	162.5
221.0	L	Siedliszcze, the mouth of the Uherka	179.0
215.0	L	Wola Uhruska – slipway SG	185.0
213.0	L	Bytyń – recreational centre	187.0
205.5	R	Zbuzh (UA)	194.5
198.0	L	Zbereże – marker 1049	202.0
194.0	L	Zbereże – marker 1054	206.0
191.5	R	Hrabova (UA)	208.5
185.5	L	Wołczyny – grassland past the village	214.5
176.0	L	Sobibór – manor house, marker 1079	224.0
172.2		Tripoint, the Mościcki Canal's mouth (R)	227.8
171.5	L	Dubnik – water intake, shelter	228.5
167.7	L	Remnants of a 19 <sup>th</sup> -Century railway bridge	232.3
166.5	L	Orchówek – marker 1133	233.5
162.5	L	Mouth of the Włodawka	237.5
162.2	L	Włodawa – stream gauge, marker 1137	237.8

152.5	L	Różanka – shelter, marker 1148	247.5
145.0	L	Pawłuki – marker 1156	255.0
132.4	L	Kuzawka – the mouth of the Hanna	267.6
130.0	L	Kuzawka – former port, shelter	270.0
126.5	L	Ślawatycze – marker 1182	274.0
123.0		Road bridge	277.0
120.0	L	Mościce	280.0
114.5	L	Jabłeczna – a complex of Orthodox churches	285.5
107.5	L	Szostaki	292.5
104.5	L	Zalewsze – marker 1210	295.5
103.0	L	Sugry	297.0
96.0	L	Kodeń –	304.0
93.0	L	Kodeń – the mouth of the Kałamanka	307.0
85.5	L	Okczyn – marker 1234	314.5
82.5	L	Kostomłoty – marker 1240	318.5
75.0	L	Żuki – marker 1249	325.0
73.5	L	Murawiec	326.5
71.0	L	Michalków – embankment, marker 1254	329.0
<b>Michalków – Terespol – Kuzawka</b>			
55.0	L	Kuzawka – village entrance point – marker 1280	345.0
48.0	L	The mouth of the Krzna	352.0
44.5	L	Krzyczew – marker 1291	355.5
35.0	L	Łęgi	365.0
32.0	L	Pratulín – marker 1305	368.0
19.0	L	Wygoda – past the marker 1332	381.0
9.0	L	Buczyce Stare	391.0
7.0	L	Bubel Łukowiska	393.0
0.2		The meeting point of the land and river borders with Belarus	399.8
0.0	R	Niemirów – past the meeting point of the land and river borders and isle, shelter	400.0

## DETAILED KILOMETRAGE

### **Km 400.0 → 0.0**

**Gołębie** – where the Bug border between Poland and Ukraine starts from border marker 820. Accessible by vehicles from an asphalt road at the end of the village (from the south) – entry near the school building, about 1000 metres to the land border zone and further left along the zone to the meeting point of the land and river border with Ukraine. At high water levels, it might be difficult or even impossible to launch your kayak. The site is situated at the intersection of the jurisdictions of the Border Guard Office in Kryłów (river border) and the Border Guard Office in Dołhobyczów (land border). While on your way to

the starting point, make sure not to enter the border strip.

### **Km 398.5 → 1.5**

**Gołębie.** The most convenient launching conditions are between markers 822 and 823 (1.5 km from the “0” point), accessible by vehicles through a dirt road from the roadside cross.

↖ E: 500 38’ 622”, N: 240 04’ 936”

### **Km 398.1 → 1.9**

Marker 823.

### **Km 396.2 → 3.8**

Marker 825.

### **Km 395.2 → 4.8**

Marker nr 826.



The top of Orthodox church in Leżnica, *photo J. Tworek*

### Km 394.5 → 5.3

Prehoryle – a brick barn in front, marker 827.

### Km 393.9 → 6.1

An oxbow lake is to the left, the main current is to the right.

### Km 393.3 → 6.7

Marker 830, the Prehoryle village buildings and a communication mast in front.

### Km 393.0 → 7.0

Marker 831, a tall bank with sand martin nests.

### Km 391.0 → 9.0

A view of the tip of the Kryłów church's tower.

### Km 390.3 → 9.7

Marker 833, a view onto the Kryłów church's tower.



Church tower in Kryłów, *photo J. Tworek*

### Km 389.7 → 10.3

Kryłów – a stream gauge, the bank subsides at an angle of about 45 degrees.

Ń E: 500 40' 38", N: 240 03' 64"

### Km 388.7 → 11.3

Kryłów – the landing site is on the left branch bank before the bridge

(leftwards from the river). The distance from the middle of the Bug to the landing site is 300 metres.

Ń E: 500 40' 971", N: 240 03' 698"

### Km 386.8 → 13.2

Marker 837.



The bridge leading to the island in Kryłów, *photo J. Tworek*

### Km 386.1 → 13.9

Marker 838.

### Km 385.6 → 14.4

Marker 839.

### Km 384.8 → 15.2

Buildings and a steel chimney in front.

### Km 384.5 → 15.5

Marker 840.

### Km 381.8 → 18.2

A view onto the blue dome of the Orthodox church in Leżnitsa (Ukraine) above the tips of the trees.

### Km 380.9 → 19.1

Marker 844.

### Km 380.1 → 19.9

Marker nr 845.

**Km 378.6 → 21.4**

**Kosmów**, marker 847.

Ń E: 500 43' 019". N: 240 02' 573"  
Distance from the asphalt road Hrubieszów – Kryłów is 1000 metres. A hard-paved road from the bus stop, and further, a dirt road (in good condition).

**Km 377.8 → 22.2**

Marker 848.

**Km 376.3 → 23.7**

On the left bank, close by, are red-roofed buildings.

**Km 373.1 → 26.9**

Marker 853.

**Km 371.1 → 28.9**

A white, brown-roofed house can be seen on the left bank.

**Km 370.7 → 29.3**

A stopover point (at the level of the Ślipcze village), before marker 855.

**Km 368.5 → 31.5**

Marker 857. A tall left bank; the gorge starts near Ślipcze and ends after 2 kilometres.

Ń E: 500 46' 530". N: 230 58' 076"

**Km 354.7 → 45.3**

A view onto a railway bridge.

**Km 354.4 → 45.6**

A railway bridge (a railway border checkpoint in Hrubieszów).

**Km 353.7 → 46.3**

A convenient stopover point. Marker 873.

**Km 353.2 → 46.8**

Marker 847.

**Km 352.4 → 47.6**

The Huczwa's mouth, marker 875.

**Km 350.5 → 49.5**

Marker 877.

**Km 349.2 → 50.8**

Marker 878.

**Km 347.9 → 52.1**

Marker 879.

**Km 347.4 → 52.6**

A view onto the mill in Husynne.



Bug River gorge near Ślipcze, photo J. Tworek

**Km 366.5 → 33.5**

This is where the tall bank (the Bug gorge) ends.

**Km 364.0 → 36.0**

Marker 862. The right bank features a white-stone building.

**Km 363.0 → 37.0**

Marker 864.

**Km 359.7 → 40.3**

Ukrainian marker 866.

**Km 358.6 → 41.4**

**Czumów**. There is a landing (launching) site 500 m past the palace. Marker #869.

**Km 346.9 → 53.1**

**Husynne**. To the left, there is an oxbow lake, the Huska's mouth. You can enter or land by the lake 200 or 700 metres into the lake (to the right), depending on the water level.

**Km 346.2 → 53.8**

Between markers 880 and 881, there is a good site to end/start a particular leg of your trip.

**Km 344.2 → 55.8**

A telecommunications mast is nearby.



**Km 343.5 → 56.5**

**Łukaszówka**, the area is getting built up. This is a convenient landing site.

**Km 343.0 → 57.0**

A view onto the Strzyżów sugar plant's chimney.

**Km 342.2 → 57.8**

Marker 885.

**Km 340.5 → 59.5**

The sugar plant's buildings and chimney.



Sugar factory buildings in Strzyżów, *photo J. Tworek*

**Km 339.9 → 60.1**

**Strzyżów** – the sugar plant's water intake, a stream gauge with concrete stairs beside it.

Ń E: 500 50' 22". N: 240 02' 09"

**Km 338.2 → 61.8**

A convenient stopover point before marker 889 (foul smell from the sugar plant can be encountered at times).

**Km 336.3 → 63.7**

Marker 891.

**Km 333.4 → 66.6**

Marker 892.

**Km 332.9 → 67.1**

Marker 892.

**Km 331.8 → 68.2**

Marker 894.

**Km 331.2 → 68.8**

A nice, tall right bank with sand martin nests.

**Km 330.9 → 69.1**

Marker 895.

**Km 329.4 → 70.6**

Marker 897.

**Km 328.4 → 71.6**

Marker 898.

**Km 327.7 → 72.3**

Marker 899. A view onto a road bridge.

**Km 326.1 → 73.1**

A road bridge at the Zosin-Ustyluh border checkpoint.

**Km 326.5 → 73.5**

Marker 902.

**Km 324.9 → 75.1**

**Zosin-Komora**. The easternmost point of the Polish border. About 200 m further, there is the very inconspicuous mouth of the right-bank tributary Luga.

**Km 323.9 → 76.1**

Marker 905.

**Km 322.9 → 77.1**

The left bank is tall and features sand martin nests.

**Km 321.5 → 78.5**

**Łuszków**. Buildings past marker 907.

**Km 321.2 → 78.8**

Marker 908.

**Km 319.2 → 80.8**

A telephone line over the river. Marker 911.



A bridge on the Bug in Zosin, *photo J. Tworek*

**Km 318.9 → 81.1**

A view onto the buildings in Horodło.

**Km 318.0 → 82.0**

Marker 912.

**Km 317.1 → 82.9**

Marker 913.

**Km 315.9 → 84.1**

The isle starts here. The main current flows within the right branch. The buildings of Horodło.

**Km 315.4 → 84.6**

**Horodło.** A landing site past the isle and marker 905.

↖ E: 500 53' 870". N: 240 02' 984"

**Km 313.0 → 87.0**

Marker 919.

**Km 311.5 → 88.5**

Marker 921.

**Km 310.9 → 89.1**

Marker 922.

**Km 310.3 → 89.7**

**Bereznica.** Buildings, a communications mast. A good landing site before marker 923.

**Km 308.0 → 92.0**

A telephone line crosses over the river and is strung along the Polish bank of the Bug.

**Km 307.0 → 93.0**

The village of Matcze starts here. Fields of the distinctive runner beans can be seen, as well as a communications mast.

**Km 306.4 → 93.6**

**Matcze.** This is a fairly convenient site to end/start a leg of your trip, and a landing site can be found before marker 928. The site is conveniently accessible by vehicle from the village's centre (with a monument, a cross and a fire station) via a gravel road (800 m).

**Km 390.3 → 95.7**

Marker 931.

**Km 303.5 → 96.5**

Marker 932.

**Km 302.4 → 97.6**

Marker 934.

**Km 301.8 → 98.2**

The overhead telephone line along the left bank ends here. Marker 935.

**Km 301.0 → 99.00**

Marker 936.

**Km 297.7 → 102.3**

Marker 940.

**Km 296.9 → 103.1**

A view onto the complex of the Strzelce Forests.

**Km 291.6 → 108.4**

You can land here (recommended support from the riverbank) and reach Starosiele via a dirt road (2 km).

**Km 290.3 → 109.7**

You are at the level of the recreational centre in Starosiele. This cannot be seen from the water.

**Km 288.5 → 111.5**

You are at the level of the village of Dubienka. The village is situated 2 km away from the river. You can get there via a dirt road. An oxbow lake, as well as Lake Deusze are located here (a fairly inconspicuous site, support from the bank is recommended).

**Km 284.8 → 115.2**

Marker 955.

**Km 282.8 → 117.2**

An oxbow lake is to the left.

**Km 280.3 → 119.7**

Marker 960.

**Km 278.9 → 121.1**

The Wełnianka's mouth is seen here.



Uchańka – oxbow lake,  
photo M. Kalinowska

**Km 276.9 → 123.1**

**Uchańka.** The village is clearly visible from the Bug. There is a comfortable landing site on the right bank after you enter Bużysko Lake.

↖ E: 510 05' 529". N: 230 51' 993"

Spacious, tall grassland spans between where the village ends, to the Bug in the east and the oxbow lake in the north. An accessible, mildly subsiding bank of the oxbow lake is here too. To get to where the village starts (from the river), use the dirt road that goes through the grassland (500 m). The landing site might be difficult or impossible to access by vehicles after



heavy and long rainfalls. If so, the only option is to carry your kayaks or leave the trail earlier and go through private property, if the owner consents. The closest border marker is numbered 966, and lies past the landing site.

## **Km 274.9 → 125.1**

Kolemczyce. Buildings are clearly visible from the river.

## **Km 272.1 → 127.9**

Ukrainian border marker 970.

## **Km 271.2 → 128.8**

Ukrainian marker 971.

## **Km 270.3 → 129.7**

**Husynne.** A potential landing site, near marker 972.

## **Km 264.8 → 135.2**

Over the river, on the Ukrainian side, there are low-voltage power lines which span a length of about 200 metres.

## **Km 263.7 → 136.3**

Ukrainian marker 978.

## **Km 262.5 → 137.5**

A tall, sandy right bank which subsides at an angle of about 60 degrees. Near the bank, there is a power line spanning a length of about 100 m, with a pine forest looming behind.

## **Km 261.5 → 138.5**

Polish marker 980.

## **Km 256.7 → 143.3**

**Dorohusk.** The Udal's mouth. The oxbow lake (cut-off) can be entered directly past the Udal's mouth, before the tall banks at the Bug's bend. This is conveniently accessible from Dorohusk. E: 510 09' 694". N: 230 49' 465"

## **Km 255.1 → 144.9**

Ukrainian marker 986.

## **Km 254.4 → 145.6**

A view onto the radio station of the Border Guard in Dorohusk.

## **Km 253.3 → 146.7**

**Dorohusk** – a railway bridge. On the right bank, there is a distinctive, lightly coloured monument-sculpture. Be careful – at medium and low water levels, the debris of an older bridge, destroyed during World War II, might make it dangerous or impossible to navigate under this bridge.

## **Km 252.6 → 147.4**

**Dorohusk** – a dual carriageway bridge. Between the pillars and the bridge carriageways, there is a staff gauge.

↗ E: 510 11' 04". N: 230 48' 25"

## **Km 250.6 → 149.4**

**Okopy** – marker 993. This is a potential landing site.

↗ E: 510 11' 456". N: 230 46' 951"

## **Km 249.5 → 150.5**

A very tall, 300-metre-long right bank with a pine forest is found here, and an isle – use the right arm of the river.

## **Km 244.9 → 155.1**

Marker 1001. Between markers 1001 and 1002, there is a convenient, sandy stopover point.

## **Km 243.9 → 156.1**

A view onto buildings in Świerż. Marker 1003 is located here.



Before the railway bridge in Dorohusk, *photo J. Tworek*



Church tower in Świerże,  
*photo M. Kalinowska*

### **Km 243.1 → 156.9**

A view onto the Gothic Revival church tower in Świerż (a sloping, red-orange-coloured roof). Just past the church, there is a park.

### **Km 240.5 → 159.5**

**Świerże.** Directly by the river, at the end of the park, there is a mill's multi-storey building. Right behind it, there is marker 1008. A landing site is 100 metres further down. This landing site is situated 750 metres (600 metres from the mill, Młyńska Street) from provincial road 816. Landing before the park near marker 1007 is also possible (but see whether and how the site is currently accessible by vehicles).

↖ E: 51° 13' 800". N: 23° 44' 369"

### **Km 240.0 → 160.0**

Close by the left river bank, there are buildings with red-tiled roofs.

### **Km 238.5 → 161.5**

Ukrainian marker 1011.

### **Km 237.5 → 162.5**

**Hniszów.** A landing site past or before marker 1013, depending on the water level and bank accessibility (recommended support from the bank).

↖ E: 51° 15' 144". N: 23° 43' 462"

This site is 1.6 kilometres from the "Bolko" oak. To get to it, first use a dirt road through the grassland, then traverse a hard-paved road via the village, the oak is to the left of the junction.

### **Km 234.0 → 166.0**

In front of you on the right bank, above the tree tops, you can see the blue dome of the Orthodox church in Guszcz (Huszcz) village. About 0.5 km further on, look for a steel chimney.

### **Km 231.9 → 168.1**

To the right, there is an arm of an oxbow lake that separates a large Ukrainian isle from the mainland. The principal current flows through the left arm (straightforward).

### **Km 230.6 → 169.4**

On the right bank near the marker, there is a shelter.

### **Km 227.5 → 172.5**

An oxbow lake is to the right.

### **Km 222.5 → 177.5**

A view onto the Siedliszcze village.

### **Km 221.0 → 179.0**

**Siedliszcze.** The mouth of the Uherka. Past the Uherka's mouth, there is marker 1027. On the Uherka's left bank (directly before the mouth), there is a kayaking trail sign saying "Uherka – 0.0 km", and a border warning sign.

↖ E: 51° 17' 466". N: 23° 38' 789"

The Uherka's mouth is accessible by vehicles from road 816, in Siedliszcze (across from a chapel), via a fairly rough dirt road. About 800 metres up the Uherka, there is a bridge in Siedliszcze – the landing conditions here are good, and road 816 (near a fire station) is also easily accessible.



The mouth of the Uherka in  
Siedliszcze, *photo M. Kalinowska*

### **Km 218.0 → 182.0**

On the right bank, a Ukrainian, white-and-yellow tower made of brick can be seen.

### **Km 216.5 → 183.5**

A view onto a church tower and a radio station mast in Wola Uhruska.

### **Km 215.0 → 185.0**

**Wola Uhruska.** A view onto the church, and, to the right, a radio station mast. 200 metres further, there is an inconspicuous, small slipway of the Border Guard. Possible landing and launching site. The actual designated landing site is accessible by vehicles from road 816 via Ogródowa Street (past the church from the south), by traveling 300 metres down a hard-paved road to an oxbow lake culvert, and going a further 500 metres down a dirt road to an information board, and then traveling 100 metres to the right.

↖ E: 51° 19' 116". N: 23° 38' 138"

## **Km 213.0 → 187**

**Bytyń.** You are at the level of a recreational centre located on an oxbow lake. Currently, it is accessible only at very high water levels. There are plans to set up a slipway facility for landing and launching here, with launching possible also on the oxbow lake (a reservoir and a campsite are being designed). The centre is accessible by vehicles from road 816, via Turystyczna Street in Wola Uhruska.

Ń E: 510 19' 598". N: 230 38' 223"

## **Km 210.0 → 190.0**

Polish marker 1037.

## **Km 203.0 → 197**

Look to the right to see in the distance a steel chimney and the buildings of the Ukrainian village of Zabuzhe.

## **Km 202.0 → 198.0**

Zabuzhe, Ukraine. On the right bank, there is a steel chimney, a canal's outlet (with high fencing), the building of an old pumping station, and further on, a reinforced bank.

## **Km 194.5 → 205.5**

A view onto a mobile-telecommunications tower and a radio station mast belonging to the Border Guard Office in Zbereże.

## **Km 194.0 → 206.0**

**Zbereże.** Slightly past marker 1054, there is a designated (planned for development) landing and launching site. This site is accessible by vehicles (1300 metres) from road 816 (near building 17) via a partly hard-paved dirt road. There are plans to build a bridge and set up a border check-point here.

## **Km 191.5 → 208.5)**

To the right, you can see the Ukrainian village of Hrabovo, the left bank is tall, features sand martin nests, and is topped by a pine forest. Marker 1060.

## **Km 190.0 → 210.0**

An oxbow lake – to the right, there is the stream's mouth, you can also see the buildings of Hrabovo (Ukraine).



A landing site in Wołczyn, photo J. Tworek

## **Km 198.0 → 202.0**

**Zbereże.** Past marker 10040, on a tall bank, there is an angling site with concrete stairs. Possible landing and launching in difficult circumstances – one kayak at a time. This site is accessible by vehicles from road 816, by traveling about 300 metres down a dirt road. The entry is across from a former fire station.

Ń E: 510 23' 698". N: 230 40' 650"

A very convenient site for landing and launching, situated on a sandy beach 800 metres down the river, past marker 1050 (invisible from the river). Accessible by vehicles via a dirt road along the Bug.

## **Km 185.5 → 214.5**

**Wołczyn** - An expansive grassland on the northern limits of the village. Marker 1066 (this cannot be seen from the river) is found here. On a nearby concrete marker slab, there is a plate saying "Water intake for fire protection." To reach the village buildings, go 500 metres via a grassland dirt road. The landing site is accessible by vehicles from road 816, by way of the south of Wołczyn near a mid-forest parking – use the road through the village and travel a further 500 metres via a dirt road.

Ń E: 510 26' 709". N: 230 39' 108"

## **Km 181.0 → 219.0**

An about 200-metre-long, tall bank. Nice and sandy. Sand martin nests.

**Km 176.5 → 223.5**

A view onto former State Agricultural Farm (PGR) buildings, mobile telecommunications masts can be seen.

**Km 176.0 → 224.0**

**Sobibór - manor.** A former school. Marker 1079 is about 100 metres further north. This is a fairly convenient landing site, although kayaks can be landed only one at a time. A more convenient access by vehicles is offered from road 816 via a dirt road across the former PGR site.

**Km 172.2 → 227.8**

**The Tripoint** of the Polish-Ukrainian-Belarusian borders. Marker 1123 is invisible from the water (indeed, both the Polish and the first Belarusian markers are invisible from the river, as is the mouth of the pre-War Mościcki Canal to the right). Remember that the numbering of border markings switches here from 1083 (the last Ukrainian marker) to 1123 (the first Belarusian marker).

**Km 169.4 → 230.6**

Polish marker 1126.

**Km 168.8 → 231.2**

The right bank is very tall and made of limestone.

**Km 167.7 → 232.3**

Remnants of a 19<sup>th</sup>-Century railway bridge (the Chelm-Brest line). The embankment features marker 1130 (the number cannot be seen from the river).

**Km 167.0 → 233.0**

To the right is the mouth of a wide, barred canal. A road bridge leads through the canal. Past the canal's mouth lies marker 1031.

**Km 166.5 → 233.5**

**Orchówek.** The level of marker 1133. Belarusian and Polish markers can be seen amidst the cuttings. Landing possibility depends on water levels at the level of the marker or slightly up the river. Roughly 500 metres from the marker, there is a shelter. The site offers a view onto a church by an oxbow lake.

↖ E: 510 31' 899". N: 230 34' 398"



The Bug downstream of the Polish-Ukrainian-Belarusian tripoint, photo J. Tworek

**Km 171.5 → 228.5**

**Dubnik.** A shelter, a slipway for launching Border Guard's boats, with a pumping station further down the river. The site offers convenient landing (a concrete-slab slipway) when landing one kayak at a time. Accessible from road 816 and further towards a railway station.

↖ E: 510 30' 646". N: 230 37' 005"

**Km 170.9 → 229.1**

In front, there is an inconspicuous (covered by tree branches) Belarusian watch tower.

**Km 169.9 → 230.1**

Belarusian marker 1125.

**Km 165.8 → 234.2**

A view onto the dome of an Orthodox church in Włodawa, and further onto an Orthodox and a Catholic church. The city's buildings are in the background.

**Km 162.5 → 237.5**

The Włodawka's mouth.

↖ E: 510 32' 950". N: 230 33' 880"

**Km 162.2 → 237.8**

**Włodawa – stream gauge.** Polish marker 1137. A convenient landing and launching site near the stream gauge and an embankment (the former location of a pre-War road bridge).



The church in Włodawa, photo J. Tworek

From the landing site, go 100 metres down a dirt road to reach Lubelska Street.

Ń E: 510 33' 05", N: 230 33' 59"

**Km 159.1 → 240.9**

**Suszno.** A view onto the brick chimney of a former starch-processing plant.

**Km 157.4 → 242.6**

An isle. Use the left arm of the river.

**Km 156.0 → 244.0**

Belarusian marker 1145. A nice beach on the Polish side, good for a stopover.

**Km 154.6 → 245.4**

An isle. Use the left arm of the river.

**Km 154.2 → 245.8**

A view onto the tower of a church in Różanka.



A landing site in Różanka, photo J. Tworek

**Km 152.4 → 247.6**

**Różanka.** A shelter. Polish marker 1148. A perfect place for a stopover (a ferry crossing used to be here before the War). The site is at a wide ledge at the foot of a tall escarpment, and it comes with a historical park and the remnants of a palace complex. Be careful - the left bank bend features a large erratic stone.

Ń E: 510 36' 843". N: 230 32' 510"

**Km 151.4 → 248.6**

An isle. Use the left arm of the river.

**Km 151.2 → 248.8**

A view onto the buildings of Stawki village.

**Km 145.2 → 254.8**

The buildings of the Pawluki village. A very nice, sandy beach on the Polish bank.

Enclosed grazing land. Marker # 1156.

**Km 144.1 → 255.9**

To the right, there is a barred outlet of a canal with a bridge on top of it. Border fencing exists on the Belarusian side – This is the level of Kharsy village.

**Km 142.3 → 257.7**

A large isle, use the right arm of the river.

**Km 141.1 → 258.9**

Two isles right and left of the main current.

**Km 140.4 → 259.6**

A telephone line cable crosses the river here (the level of Dolhobrody village).

**Km 139.3 → 260.7**

A tall, sandy bank to the right, the left bank features a nice, sandy bank as well.

**Km 132.4 → 267.6**

The Hanna's mouth, the isle of Baja is to the left. Kuzawka village starts here.

**Km 130.1 → 269.9**

**Kuzawka.** An old river port. A harbour for boats and kayaks. Shelters and bonfire sites. Accessible from an asphalt road running through the village past a fire station.

Directly by the narrow landing site, there is marker 1177 (the Belarusian



marker is visible from the river, as opposed to the Polish marker).

↖ E: 510 44' 167". N: 230 31' 866"

### **Km 129.1 → 270.9**

**Kuzawka Kolonia.** From the river, you can see the road sign of a road which runs parallel to and close by the river.

### **Km 126.3 → 273.7, kilometre**

– a trail information board

**Ślawatycze.** An expansive grassland (wastelands), a view onto buildings, a Catholic church and an Orthodox church being the most prominent ones. To reach the centre of Ślawatycze, go about 500 metres through a dirt road. Near marker 1182, there is a landing site. An expansive, somewhat ruderal, grassy area with some stray trees.

↖ E: 510 49' 680". N: 230 33' 490"



A border bridge connecting Ślawatycze with Damachava, *photo J. Tworek*

### **Km 124.1 → 275.9**

A view onto a telecommunications mast.

### **Km 122.8 → 277.2**

A road bridge – the Ślawatycze-Domaczewo border checkpoint.

### **Km 120.1 → 279.9**

**Mościce.** A village, invisible from the river. Go about 500 metres via a dirt road to reach it.

Near the bank, there is a sandy shoal.

### **Km 119.4 → 280.6**

On the left bank, there is a nice, sandy beach.

### **Km 118.7 → 281.3**

The left bank is low and features a sandy beach. The right bank is taller and features a 50-odd-metre long border fencing on the Belarusian side.

### **Km 117.3 → 282.7**

An isle, use the right arm of the river.

### **Km 116.7 → 283.3**

To the right, there is an oxbow lake. Past the lake, there is a tall, sandy bank. This 300-metre-long bank is precipitous and features marker 1195 at its starting point. The left bank is low and sandy, and is a good place for a stopover.

### **Km 115.3 → 284.7**

To the right, there is a tall, sandy bank with a length of about 200 metres. It features a pine forest.

### **Km 114.7 → 285.3**

Amidst the trees, you can see the dome of the Holy Ghost chapel, and a little further on, the gilded dome of an Orthodox church (one of many in Jabłeczna).

### **Km 114.3 → 285.7, kilometre**

– a trail information board

**Jabłeczna.** A complex of Orthodox-church buildings. A fairly inconvenient landing site. To get to the churches and the monastery, go about 450 metres via a dirt road.

↖ E: 510 48' 491". N: 230 38' 221"



A chapel by the river, Jabłeczna, *photo J. Tworek*

## **Km 114.0 → 286.0**

An isle. Use the left arm of the river.

## **Km 110.8 → 289.2**

A conspicuous Belarusian marker, # 1202.

## **Km 110.5 → 289.5**

An isle. Use the left arm of the river.

## **Km 109.7 → 290.3**

An isle. Use the left arm of the river.

## **Km 108.6 → 291.4**

The village of Szostaki starts here. An isle, use the right arm of the river. A little further on, there is a well-accessible beach that is good for a stopover.

## **Km 107.8 → 292.2**

An isle, the main current flows through the right arm of the river.

## **Km 107.4 → 292.6**

kilometre – a trail information board  
**Szostaki** – a view onto buildings. The dirt road runs to the village. The landing site near the trail information board is accessible by vehicles via road 816 before the village's entrance sign. This is roughly 100 metres from the north of the village near the road marker, which in turn is 25.6 kilometres via a dirt road (which is very sandy at places. 1.5 kilometres from the river.

↖ E: 510 57' 310". N: 230 38' 118"

## **Km 106.9 → 293.1**

An isle, the main current flows through the right arm. You can also use the left arm of the river for slow-paced navigation.

## **Km 105.4 → 294.6**

A small, treeless island, use the right arm of the river.

## **Km 104.4 → 295.6**

**Zalewsze** – The Border Guard's slipway is just before an isle, past marker 1210.

## **Km 103.1 → 296.9**

This is a fairly big isle with a length of about 100 metres.

## **Km 102.8 → 297.2, kilometre**

– a trail information board

**Sugry**. In front, there is a sandy bank, subsiding into the water at an angle of 45 degrees, and featuring a small pine forest.

## **Km 102.2 → 297.8**

An isle, use the right arm of the river. Before the isle, there is a Polish border marker.

## **Km 100.6 → 299.4**

The sandy right bank is somewhat tall, and it features a roughly 300-metre-long pine copse.

## **Km 99.6 → 300.4**

An overhead telephone line spans the river here.

## **Km 98.7 → 301.3**

An isle, use the right arm of the river.

## **Km 98.2 → 301.8**

Belarusian marker 1218 is located here.

## **Km 95.9 → 304.1**

This site offers a view onto a gilded dome of an Orthodox church, and, a little further on, the dome of a basilica that is located within Kodeń.

## **Km 95.7 → 304.3**

A small, treeless island. Use the right arm of the river and move towards the Kałamanka's mouth in Kodeń, passing another two isles.

## **Km 95.3 → 304.7**

Another isle, use the left arm of the river.

## **Km 95.9 → 304.1 kilometre** – an information board (at low water levels, it is not easily visible)

**Kodeń**. The left main arm (an isle to the right) of the river features a narrow landing site on a low, marshy bank. Behind the bushes, there are buildings which cannot be seen from the river. Marker 1224 is also here. If you are not planning to enter Kodeń via the Kałamanka, this is the best site for landing in Kodeń. Once you pass/ the bushes, about 500 metres further, you can see the ruins of a castle and a chapel. Go 100 metres further, passing a bridge, to reach the village centre.

↖ E: 510 54' 785". N: 230 37" 000"

## **Km 94.4 → 305.6**

**Kodeń**. The third isle. This is a big, 300-metre-long isle, situated before the Kałamanka's mouth, at the level of Kodeń.

## **Km 93.1 → 306.9**

**Kodeń**. The mouth of the Kałamanka – keep your eyes peeled as it is fairly inconspicuous. You can enter a reservoir here. Roughly 300 metres on, there is a small bridge, and 50 metres further, you will go past another small bridge and a chute. Before the second bridge, to the right, there is a camping site, and 200 metres past the Kałamanka



Kodeń, the mouth of the Kalamanka, *photo J. Tworek*

you will find the last landing site in Kodeń. This one is one that is fairly inconvenient to access, though.

**Km 92.8 → 307.2**

To the right, there is a wide oxbow lake (an arm) and the face of a 600-metre-long island – go straightforward with the main current.

**Km 90.9 → 309.4**

A small island on the left, with a Polish marker past the island.

**Km 89.2 → 310.8**

On the right bank, there is the conspicuous marker 1230.

**Km 88.6 → 311.4**

The buildings of a hamlet on the Łęga.

**Km 86.1 → 313.9**

On the bank, there lies a lofted house (with a dark-green roof) and a utility building – the village of Okczyn starts here.



A landing site in Okczyn, *photo J. Tworek*

**Km 85.6 → 314.4**

**Okczyn.** A landing site at the level of marker 1234 (invisible from the river). To reach Okczyn, go 300 metres down

a dirt road (across of building 22).

↖ E: 510 57' 310". N: 230 38' 118"

**Km 82.0 → 318.0**, kilometre – a trail information board.

**Kostomłoty.** The village cannot be seen from the river. A potential landing site at the level of marker 1240, fairly convenient to access at low water levels. To reach the village, go 800 metres down a dirt road that starts across from an Orthodox church.

↖ E: 510 58' 278". N: 230 39' 995"

**Km 78.3 → 321.7**

A big, wooded island. Use the left arm of the river.

**Km 74.7 → 325.3**

A big island, use the left arm of the river.

**Km 75.0 → 325.0**

**Żuki.** The southern part of the village starts here. Look for an entrance road sign. This is your last chance before Michalków to end your trip on this section, and to land conveniently. In the bend to the right, there are village buildings. A potential landing site at the level of marker 1249 – a grassland near the road. This is the best location if you want to get rapidly to Lebieżew (the ruins of a fortress) or to Zastawek (a Muslim cemetery, Mizar). Żuki is the best landing location for those who want to end their kayaking trip before Terespol.

**Km 73.5 → 327.0**

**Murawiec.** The village ends here (past an isle).



**Km 71.2 → 328.8**

**Michalków** – Access by vehicles might be very difficult, especially after a heavy rainfall. As a last resort, you can drive along the embankment (to get out, you

have to drive backwards!). Warning! At low water levels, the embankment might be invisible from the river – support from the bank is recommended.

↗ E: 520 03' 069". N: 230 39' 272"

**Michalków – Terespol – Kuzawka**

The area of Terespol is the most troublesome for kayakers, so this section is discussed separately to help you plan your trip and avoid trouble on your way. There are two reasons why a smooth passage through this section of our border with Belarus might be problematic or impossible: First of all – it is not common knowledge, even in the kayaking community, that a short section of the Bug near Terespol is not a borderland river. Rather, it flows entirely (including the Muchawiec's mouth) within the territory of Belarus. The border itself runs along an inaccessible, currently non-navigable border canal (the former moat of the Brest Fortress and an oxbow lake) which separates the Lotnicza Isle of the Fortress from the territory of Poland. This border arrangement, dating back to 1939, is often called "the Terespol deception." From the road bridge in Terespol, down to where the isle ends, this almost 1.5-kilometre long section features markers 1261 to 1265. Secondly – under Regulation 1 of the Lubelskie Voivodeship Governor of 27 June 2013 on prohibition from entering some sections of the border strip, it is prohibited to enter the section of the border strip within Terespol from markers 1259 to 1269, and markers 1276 to 1277. This measure is intended to protect the complex of road and railway border checkpoints.

Due to these restrictions, you will have to plan your portage route. This route will stretch from Michalków (marker 1254), or Żuki/Murawiec, to Kuzawka Terespolska (marker 1280) or, a bit further, to the Krzna bridge in Neple.



Terespol – road bridge, *photo J. Tworek*

Theoretically, with special approval and with the supervision of the Border Guard, you might be allowed to

- make the portage from the road bridge along the canal and launch your kayaks past the isle,
- transport the kayaks from the Terespol bridge and launch them on the receiving waters of the treated effluent from a nearby sewage treatment plant. These waters enter into the Bug past the Lotnicza Isle,
- transport your kayaks from the road bridge past the second railway bridge (the other side of marker 1268).

For several years now, efforts have been made to make the border canal navigable so that the trail could be covered (however, landing between markers 1259 and 1269 will be prohibited) without a portage. It might, therefore, be a good idea to learn more about the 16-kilometre-long trail section from Michalków to Kuzawka.

### **Km 66.7 → 333.3**

On the Polish bank, there is a spacious, sandy beach.

### **Km 64.7 → 335.3**

Polish marker # 1259 – the last before the road bridge in Terespol.

### **Km 64.1 → 335.9**

**Terespol.** Road bridge – road no. 2. This site is a road border checkpoint (for individuals) with Belarus. Directly past the bridge, there is a slipway belonging to the Border Guard. Past the bridge, from markers 1261 to 1265, the border runs along a non-navigable canal (a former moat and an oxbow lake). This is the Lotnicza (Aviation) Isle and the Belarusian section of the Bug.

### **Km 62.7 → 337.3**

The Lotnicza Isle ends here – the Bug again flows in the borderland region.

### **Km 62.6 → 337.4**

The receiving waters of the sewage treatment plant in Terespol flow into the Bug here.

### **Km 61.6 → 338.4**

The first railway bridge.

### **Km 60.6 → 339.4**

The second bridge, with marker 1268 beyond it.

### **Km 60.7 → 339.6**

Marker 1269. On the bank, there is the concrete structure of a now-defunct flashboard weir in Kozłowiec.

### **Km 59.0 → 341.0**

A wooded isle. The Bug's main right arm.

### **Km 57.2 → 342.8**

A view onto three steel-framework masts.

### **Km 55.6 → 344.4**

A dual carriageway road bridge that is the border checkpoint for goods movement from the terminal in Koroszczyń.

### **Km 54.1 → 345.9**

An isle. The Bug's main left arm.

### **Km 55.0 → 345.0**

**Kuzawka Terespolska.** A view onto the beginning of the village: the building of a community centre, a 1920s cemetery, as well as marker 1280. A harbour for small, river excursion vessels is found here.



Kuzawka Terespolska – harbour,  
*photo J. Tworek*

### **Km 51.8 → 348.2**

A high-voltage power line crosses over the river here.

### **Km 48.1 → 351.9**

The **Krzna's** mouth. The Krzna is a left-bank tributary of the Bug. It flows directly before the tall escarpments of the Szwańcaria Podlaska Nature Reserve. About 1000 metres further, there is a convenient landing site.

### **Km 45.4 → 354.6**

**Krzyczew.** A small wooden Catholic church (formerly an Orthodox church), tucked amidst trees, with marker 1290 nearby. Past the church, there is a staff gauge.

## **Km 44.6 → 355.4**

**Krzyczew.** A landing site before marker 1291. To reach the village, go 500 metres via a dirt road.

## **Km 38.3 → 361.7**

An overhead telephone line spans the river.

## **Km 34.9 → 365.1**

Belarusian marker 1302.

## **Km 32.4 → 367.6**

In front, a view onto a mobile telecommunications mast. You are approaching Pratulin.

## **Km 31.9 → 368.1**

**Pratulin.** A cove and an oxbow lake past marker 1305, as well as a bower (invisible from the river). The site offers a view onto the village's buildings. At higher water levels, the oxbow lake is accessible.

## **Km 30.5 → 369.5**

A Polish marker by the bank; the number cannot be seen from the river.

## **Km 27.0 → 373.0**

Belarusian marker 1311

## **Km 24.9 → 375.1**

An isle. The Bug's main course on the right.

## **Km 23.7 → 376.3**

An isle. The Bug's main course on the left.

## **Km 19.7 → 380.3**

Belarusian marker 1322

## **Km 19.0 → 381, kilometre A**

trail information board.

**Wygoda.** A good site to end/start a particular leg of your trip situated at the mouth of an oxbow lake. It offers a shelter with a fireplace, as well as a small camp site. The closest buildings are 700 metres away. To reach a stud farm, go up a dirt road that ends at the river and travel further left about 1100 metres, and then go 5.3 kilometres down a concrete-flagstone road.

↗ E: 52-12-424. W: 023-18-157

## **Km 17.8 → 382.2**

Belarusian marker 1224

## **Km 16.8 → 383.2**

A guard's shelter on the Belarusian bank.

## **Km 13.5 → 386.5**

Riverbank protection on the Belarusian side (stone heads). Three subsequent stone heads every 50 metres).

## **Km 12.9 → 387.1**

Polish marker 1228.

## **Km 11.0 → 389.0**

An overhead telephone line. The Border Guard's slipway.

## **Km 9.0 → 381.0, kilometre –**

A trail information board

**Buczyce Stare.** A view onto the village's buildings.

↗ E: 52-13-554. W: 023-12-259

## **Km 8.1 → 391.9**

An isle. The Bug's main course is on the right.

## **Km 7.2 → 392.8**

**Bubel Łukowiska.** Belarusian marker 1337.

## **Km 5.3 → 394.7**

An isle. The Bug's main course is on the right.

## **Km 2.5 → 397.5**

On the right bank, there is a cottage and a Belarusian border marker (in the past, this used to be the "home" of a famous mannequin.

## **Km 2.2 → 397.8**

An isle starts here. The current flows through the left arm. About 500 metres in front of you, there is a Polish border marker 1345.

## **Km 1.2 → 398.8**

This is the level of a Belarusian watch tower visible above the tree tops. In the clearing, there is a bright, star-topped obelisk.

## **Km 0.5 → 399.5**

An isle starts here, a view onto the buildings of Niemirów.

## **Km 0.2 → 399.8**

The meeting point of the land and river border with Belarus.

## **Km 0.0 → 400.0**

**Niemirów (R). Gnojno (L).** A ferry crossing from Niemirów to Gnojno (passenger cars, bikes, pedestrians), piers for kayakers. The left bank features a developed area, with a shelter and a trail information board – the distance to the Bug's confluence with the Narew is 22 kilometres.

## THE BUG'S KILOMETRAGE WITHIN POLAND

Niemirów (R)/Gnojno (L) – The mouth to the Narwia (the Zegrze Reservoir). This part offers a navigable trail, that is marked out with current, bank and holm sticks.

Kilometre signs every 5 kilometres.

Km	Bank	Places, hydraulic structures, devices, tributaries and other	
224.2		The border with Belarus	-
224.0	R	Niemirów starts here, a trail information board	0.0
223.0	R,L	Niemirów – Gnojno, a ferry crossing	1.0
221.5	L	Gnojno	2.0
217.5	R	Sutno	6.5
217.0	L	Borsuki	7.0
214.8	R	Wąjków	9.2
213.8	L	Serpelice	10.2
211.7	L	Klepaczew	12.3
208.5	L	Kolonia Zabuże	15.5
207.0	R	Mielnik, Mielnik-Zabuże ferry crossing	17.0
201.5	R	Ośłowo	22.5
200.0	L	Mierzvice Stare	24.0
199.1	R	Kolonia Ośłowo, mouth of the Mętna	24.9
197.0	L	Kolonia Mierzvice Stare	27.0
196.5	R	Mouth of the Mszczona	27.5
196.2	L	Kolonia Fronołów, a railway bridge	27.8
195.2	R	Olendry	28.8
193.7	R	Kolonia Anusin	30.3
193.4	L	Bużka	30.6
192.0	R	Turna Duża	32.0
191.3	R	Mouth of the Turna	32.7
191.1	R	Turna Mała - Kózki, a road bridge	32.9
191.1	L	Kózki	32.9
189.4	L	Binduga	34.6
189.0	L	Klimczyce	35.0
188.5	R	Wólka Nadbużna	35.5
186.3	L	Kolonia Klimczyce	37.7
185.1	L	Kolonia Mężenin	38.9
184.8	R	Ogrodniki	39.2
184.0	L	Mężenin	40.0
179.8	R	Zajączniki	44.2
179.0	L	Drażniew	45.0
174.3	L	Kolonia Wyczółków	49.7
173.6	L	Ruska Strona	50.4
173.0	R	Drohiczyn	51.0
171.8	L	Bużyska	52.2
168.7	R	Wólka Zamkowa	55.3
168.6	L	Starczewice	55.4

166.4	L	Mogielnica	57.6
165.9	L	Mouth of the Myśl	58.1
163.4	R	Tonkiele	60.6
163.0	L	Frankopol, a road bridge	61.0
161.6	R	Kolonia Chrołowice Stare	62.4
161.5	L	Wasilew Szlachecki	62.5
161.3	R	Chrołowice	62.7
159.1	L	Wirów	64.9
159.0	R	Chutkowice	65.0
157.7	R	Wierzchuca Nadbużna	66.3
154.3	L	Mołożew	69.7
152.0	L	Gródek	72.0
151.4	R	Bużyska Stare	72.6
148.5	R	Śledzianów	75.5
147.0	R	Arbasy	77.0
146.0	R	Osnówka	78.0
144.5	L	Kolonia Osnówka	79.5
144.2	L	Kolonia Krzemień	79.8
144.0	R	Granne	80.0
142.5	L	Krzemień	81.5
141.1	R	Kruży	82.9
141.0	L	Wieska	83.0
140.5	R	Głębocek	83.5
139.6	L	Kolonia Wieska	84.4
139.4	R	Leśniki	84.6
137.8	R	Głody	86.2
137.0	R	Kolonia Wojtkowice-Glinna	87.0
134.8	R	Wojtkowice-Glinna, a ferry crossing	89.2
134.5	L	Kamieńczyk	89.5
133.5	L	Matejki	90.5
132.3	R	Ujście rz. Nurzec	91.7
132.0	R	Ślepowrony Nadgórne	92.0
131.5	L	Białobrzegi, mouth of the Cetynia	92.5
130.8	L	Młynarz	93.2
130.5	L	Kółko	93.5
130.3	R	Obryte	93.7
129.8	R	Ołowka	94.2
129.0	L	Kiełpiniec	95.0
128.0	R	Myślibory	96.0
127.5	R	Murawskie Nadbużne	96.5
126.8	R	Kosaki Stare	97.2
124.0	R	Kamianka Nadbużna	100.0
123.2	L	Dabówka	100.8
123.2	R	Nur	100.8
120.8	-	Nur – a road bridge	103.2
119.8	L	Dąbrówka Przewóz Nurski	104.2
119.5	R	Łęg Nurski	104.5

119.0	L	Kamieńskie	105.0
118.0	R	Oltaże-Golacze	106.0
114.9	L	Grodziskie	109.1
114.8	R	Zuzela	109.2
113.6	R	Zakrzewo Stomy	110.4
113.1	L	Wólka Nadbużna	110.9
111.5	R	Zgłeczewo Szlacheckie Stare	112.5
110.7	L	Wólka Groble	113.3
110.7	R	Zgłeczewo Panieńskie	113.3
109.4	L	Rybaki-Olechny	114.6
108.9	L	Rytele-Olechny	115.1
108.0	R	Gąsiorowo	116.0
106.5	R	Podgórze-Gazdy	117.5
105.7	L	Rytele Wszółki	118.3
104.5	L	Rytele Suche	119.5
104.5	R	Rostki Piotrowice	119.5
103.2	L	Rytele Świeckie	120.8
103.1	R	Rostki Wielkie	120.9
101.7	R	Zawisty Nadbużne	122.3
101.3	L	Mouth of the Kosówka	122.7
101.0	R	Zawisty Dzikie Stare	123.0
99.2	L	Boreczek	124.8
98.1	R	Małkinia-Borowe, a bridge and a broken bridge	125.9
97.2	L	Borowe	126.8
96.1	-	Małkinia – a railway bridge	127.9
95.5	R	Klukow-Morgi	128.5
94.0	L	Kielczew	130.0
93.5	R	Głina	130.5
90.8	L	Kielczew Kol.	133.2
89.5	R	Brok Podducze	134.5
88.8	L	Morzyczyn-Podkule	135.2
87.2	R	Mouth of the Brok	136.8
86.4	L	Morzyczyn	137.6
86.4	R	Brok-Zabrocze	137.6
86.4	R	Brok-Old town	137.6
84.6	R	Mouth of the Turka	139.4
82.0	-	Brok – a road bridge	142.0
81.2	L	Platkownica	142.8
81.1	R	Brok-Brzostowa	142.9
79.8	-	The river bed features a 1946 wreck of a steamship	144.2
76.5	L	Wilczogęby	147.6
76.1	R	Bojany Stare	147.9
74.5	L	Zalesie-Suc	149.5
73.0	R	Udrzyn	151.0
71.8	L	Razny	152.2
70.0	L	Zarzетка	154.0
66.9	R	Tuchlin	157.1



64.6	R	Budy Nowe	159.4
63.5	R	Budy Stare	160.5
60.5	L	Brzuza	163.5
57.7	L	Wywłoka Stara	166.3
54.2	L	Szumin	169.8
54.2	R	Budy-Baraki	169.8
46.0	R	Brańszczyk	178.0
44.0	R	Bieliny	180.0
43.3	L	Rafa	180.7
42.5	L	Mouth of the Liwiec	181.5
41.6	R	Nakuł	182.4
41.5	L	Kamieńczyk	182.5
39.0	R	Turzyn	146.0
39.0	L	Suwiec Stary	146.0
37.2	L	Kółko	186.8
36.0	L	Skuszew	188.0
35.2	-	Wyszków – a new road bridge	188.8
35.0	R	Wyszków-Zakrzęzie	189.0
34.5	L	Latoszek	189.5
34.5	-	Wyszków – a road bridge, a stream gauge	189.5
34.0	R	Wyszków	190.0
33.3	L	Rybieńko Leśne	190.7
33.2	R	Rybieńko	190.8
32.0	L	Droszewo	192.0
31.0	R	Rybno Stare	193.0
30.0	L	Deskurów	194.0
29.5	R	Tulewo	194.5
28.0	L	Grądy	196.0
27.0	L	Ślubów	197.0
26.5	R	Gulczewo Stare	197.5
24.5	L	Młynarze	199.5
23.0	L	Słopsk	201.0
22.2	L	Mouth of the Fiszer	201.8
22.0	R	Somianka	202.0
20.0	L	Dręszew	204.0
19.8	R	Kępa Barcicka	204.2
18.5	R	Jasieniec Dolny	205.5
17.8	L	Sekundówka	206.2
17.0	R	Barcice Stare	207.0
16.0	L	Ślężany	208.0
15.8	R	Jackowo Dolne	208.2
14.5	R	Janki	209.5
13.5	R	Janki, a former manor farm	210.5
13.0	L	Czarnów	211.0
12.0	R	Popowo	212.0
11.5	R	Popowo, a former manor farm	212.5
10.0	L	Stasipole	214.0

9.0	L	Kuligów – a chute across the entire width	215.0
6.0	R	Bindugi	218.0
5.0	L	Popielarze	219.0
5.0	R	Kania Polska	219.0
4.0	R	Kania Nowa	220.0
3.0	R	Nowa Wieś	221.0
2.5	L	Dąbrowa Arciechowska	221.5
1.5	R	Cupel	222.5
0.0		The mouth into the Zegrze Reservoir	224.0



Bug river near Krzyczew, *photo G. Jaworski*



## On border waters

Chapter 3



All trips along the borderland Bug must end half an hour before sunset, *photo archive. PTTK Włodawa*

The majority of Polish residents, not to mention the citizens of other EU countries, perceive Poland's eastern border as a remote and impenetrable, even exotic, place.

Active kayakers have a slightly better understanding of the topic, as it is discussed at countrywide gatherings and meetings and spread by the exchange of experiences. Nevertheless, the general knowledge of the River Bug and the conditions for tourism along its border section leaves a lot to be desired.

It's worth noting that the border section of the Bug is not just the Polish border with the Republics of Ukraine and Belarus, which were established in 1992, but also, since 1 May 2004, it has been the eastern border of the European Union. An important event that opened kayaking opportunities on the Bug for foreigners was Poland's entry into the Schengen Area on 21 December 2007.

To organise kayaking trips along the borderland, middle course of the Bug, you have to be aware of and comply with the regulations on state-border protection. Both the organisers and the participants should be familiar with the regulations, as such trips, due restrictions, are very different from trips within the country or on the border waters with Germany, the Czech Republic, Slovakia, and Lithuania. The situation might change in the future, if Ukraine and Belarus at some point become part of the European Union and the Schengen Area.

### **Agreements, regulations and definitions**

The fundamental documents containing the legal regulations for border areas are the agreements between the neighbouring countries. They pertain to the course, markings, and maintenance of the border, as well as the activities of the international Border Committees and border delegates, the method of using border waters, and all the structures that cut through the border (railways, roads, dams, weirs, etc.), business activities, and environmental protection. As Poland has borders with two countries along the Bug, the above-mentioned matters have to be regulated by separate agreements.

The agreement between the Republic of Poland and Ukraine was concluded in Kiev on 12 January 1993 and was published in Journal of Laws 94.63.267. The border agreement with Belarus is a more complex matter. In this case, with no new agreement signed, both parties respect and apply in practice the provisions of the agreement between the Polish People's Republic and the Soviet Union signed in Moscow on 15 February 1961 (Journal of Laws 61.47.253).

For kayakers on border waters, it is important to specify the line of the border. The agreements stipulate that on border waters the borderline runs along their centre or along the centre of the main stream of a river arm. The main arm is that which has the greatest flow at average water level. Where there are bays, the so-called straightened line is used, with the same distance from the straightened banks. Islands on border rivers are within the territory of one side or the other depending on their location in relation to the borderline (the main course of the river) and are mentioned in the border documentation. This knowledge is, therefore, not widely held by tourists, which is why we should sail round islands along the branch of the main course assuming it to be the border line, or, if we have any doubts, we should take the left branch of the river. In the case of unnavigable rivers (and the Bug along its border area is such a river), no floating vessels can cross the border line.

An important point provided for by international agreements is the matter of landing on (and approaching) the banks located within the other country's territory. The binding agreements allow such a situation only in cases of absolute necessity (life- and health-threatening situations). This should be borne in mind, as the border authorities are bound by the regulations to provide help to those in need. You should never overuse this right. Otherwise your landing might be treated as a case of illegally (deliberate or unintentional) crossing a state border, which is considered a criminal offence.

For the proper planning of trip stages it is necessary to know the regulations which state that floating vessels must not be present in border waters during night-time, which begins half an hour before sunset and ends half an hour after sunrise. Kayaking trip organisers who plan stages on the borderland Bug must avoid the situation in which the participants reach their destination later than half an hour before sunset.

The basic Act of law regulating the matters of protecting the state border is the Act of 12 October 1990 on the Protection of the State Border (Journal of Laws No. 78, item 46, as amended of 1997, No. 6 item 31 and No. 43, item 271 of 2000, No. 12, item 136 and No. 120, item 1268 and of 2001 No. 45, item 498 – consolidated text, Journal of Laws of 2005, No. 226, item 1944).

A very important addition to the regulations arising directly from international agreements and Acts are the regulations issued by specific Polish organs. These are:

- the Regulation of the Minister of Internal Affairs and Administration of 21 February 2008 on the conditions for tourism, sports,

hunting and fishing in the border zone (Journal of Laws of 2008, No. 80, item 481),

- Regulation No. 204 of the Lubelskie Voivodeship Governor of 8 November 2002 on the order regulations binding along the border strip and in the border zone within the Lubelskie Voivodeship (Official Journal of the Lubelskie Voivodeship 02.143.3134).
- Regulation No. 1 of the Lubelskie Voivodeship Governor of 27 June 2013 introducing a ban on entering certain sections of the border strip (Official Journal of the Lubelskie Voivodeship 2013.3270).

These provisions, contained in agreements and Acts, are obligatory and allow no exception or negotiation. Such regulations, which, when broken, are treated as punishable offences, also include provisions establishing restrictions in the border strip and border zone (especially on border waters). The regulations also prohibit:

- covering border markings and structures with writing or drawings, and the unauthorised placing, destroying, damaging, removing, moving or impairing the visibility of border markings and structures;
- taking photographs of buildings, border markings and structures, as well as areas located behind the line of the border;
- directly communicating through the country border and supplying or receiving any items through the border line;
- placing obstacles and digging holes or ditches within the border strip.

Other prohibited behaviour includes the kinds of activity that have to be agreed on individually and in detail with the Bug River Border Guard Unit by the organisers of kayaking trips on the borderland Bug. These include issues connected with:

- prohibited entry to certain sections of the border strip connected primarily with the existing infrastructure and the protection of border crossings;
- bathing in the borderland Bug during a stage of the trip and at campsites;
- the organisation (as to place and time) of campfires for the participants;
- the location of campsites and providing the Border Guard with information on persons, vehicles etc. staying at the campsite during the night;
- providing information regarding the number of kayaks and persons present on border waters during trips.

Prohibited entry to certain sections of the border strip provided for in the Regulation of the Lubelskie Voivodeship Governor of 27 June 2013 includes areas in:

- Communes: Lubyca Królewska, Ułhówek, Dołhobyczów; from marker No. 638 to marker No. 820 – land border to the water border on the Bug (Gołębie) and to marker No. 821 at the river border. Border Guard Posts: Chłopiatyn, Dołhobyczów, Kryłów – from marker No. 820.
- The Hrubieszów Commune – from marker No. 862 to marker No. 865 (Ślipcze – the Border Guard Post w Kryłowie) and from



marker No. 880 to marker No. 882 (Husynne – the Border Guard Post in Hrubieszów).

- The Horodło Commune – from marker No. 900 to marker No. 902 (Zosin – the Border Guard Post in Horodło).
- The Dorohusk Commune – from marker No. 972 to marker No. 974 (Husynne – the Border Guard Post in Dorohusk), from marker No. 987 to marker No. 990 (Okopy – the Border Guard Post in Dorohusk), from marker No. 1003 to marker No. 1005 (Świerże – the Border Guard Post in Dorohusk) and from marker No. 1009 to 1010 (Mielnik – the Border Guard Post in Dorohusk).
- The Sławatycze Commune – from marker No. 1185 to marker No. 1187 (Sławatycze – Mościska; the Border Guard Post in Sławatycze).
- The Terespol Commune – from marker No. 1259 to marker No. 1269 (Terespol - Kozłowice; the Border Guard Post in Terespol) and from marker No. 1276 to marker No. 1277 (Kukuryki – the Border Guard Post in Terespol).

The practical significance of restrictions on kayakers on the above-mentioned sections is mainly the fact that starting or ending trips and organising camps or stopovers is not allowed there. Obviously, this does not relate to emergency or exceptional circumstances, such as necessary portages due to obstructions and other obstacles, tipping, damage to equipment, life-or health-threatening situations – in such cases you need to contact the relevant Border Guard Post.

The regulation of the Ministry of Internal Affairs and Administration regarding conditions for tourism, commits the organisers (or natural persons) to notify the relevant Border Guard Post of the planned activities or events no later than 2 hours before it starts. This regulation is practical and convenient in the case of organisers and participants who are planning a sporting event, angling or hunting, but for long, multistage kayaking trips it is quite the opposite – both for kayakers and the Border Guard. The provisions regarding the method, and especially the time of notifying the Border Guard about kayaking trips, have been rightly criticised and might be amended in the near future.

The good and responsible organisation of a kayaking trip requires planning well ahead of time as regards formal and organisational matters. First of all, you need to notify the headquarters of the Bug River Border Guard Unit in Chełm, which will forward this information to the employees of a relevant Border Guard Post, whom you might meet during the trip. You should also bear in mind that the Polish Border Guard notifies their counterparts from Ukraine



The logo of the Bug River Border Guard Unit

(the Lviv State Border Guard Unit: from marker No. 638 to 950 and the Lutsk State Border Guard Unit: from marker No. 950 to 1084) and Belarus (the 86th Brest Border Guard Detachment – from marker No. 1123 to 1346) not just about the event itself but also



Border Guard officers are a common sight on the borderland Bug, photo archive. UKS KIKO Zamość

about certain aspects of its organisation. For this reason, organisers of kayaking trips should be responsible and predictable partners when it comes to preparatory activities. The above conditions for the organisation of kayaking trips on the border waters of the Bug also require the organisers to know the currently binding regulations in

this respect. This is facilitated by the website of the Border Guard on [www.strazgraniczna.pl](http://www.strazgraniczna.pl).

Tourists need to know the scope of responsibilities of Border Guard officers who are active not only at the border itself, but also all around the border zone – they shouldn't be surprised to see road patrols of the Border Guard.

Among left-bank kayakers on the borderland Bug there is a quite popular jocular saying – a Border Guard is like your father and mother – when we're asking for trouble, it will rebuke us, but when we are in need, it will extend a helping hand.

### **The Bug River Border Guard Unit**

The protection of the border as one of the basic functions of the State is regulated by the Act of 12 October 1990 on Border Guard (Journal of Laws of 1990, No. 78, item 462, as amended). To carry out the tasks specified in the Act, a uniformed and armed formation was established – the Border Guard. Pursuant to a statutory delegation, by Regulation No. 6/91 of 14 February 1991 the Border Guard Chief established 11 regional units of the Border Guard, including the Bug River Border Guard Unit in Chełm (Nadbużański Oddział Straży Granicznej, NOSG), named after the 27th Volhynian Infantry Division of the Polish Home Army. NOSG protects the external borders of the European Union (171,310 km long), the river border on the Bug with Ukraine (227,770 km) and the land border with Ukraine (68,490 km). The area under NOSG's control stretches from the Border Guard Post in Mielnik, which is under the Podlasie Border Guard Unit, in the north, to the Border Guard Post in Horyniec, which under the Bieszczady Border Guard Unit, in the south. NOSG has authority over 18 Border Guard Posts. We should note that the establishment in Chełm of a formation whose duty is

to protect the border dates back to 1945, when the Border Guard Army (WOP) was created. Before the military formation that was WOP was eventually replaced and disbanded, Chełm was home to the Bug River Brigade of the Border Guard Army (31 May 1976 – 30 October 1989) and the Bug River Battalion of the Bieszczady Brigade of the Border Guard Army (31 October 1989 – 15 May 1991).



Polish Border Guard patrol,  
fot. J. Tworek

#### THE HEADQUARTERS OF THE BUG RIVER BORDER GUARD UNIT, NAMED AFTER THE 27TH VOLHYNIAN INFANTRY DIVISION OF THE POLISH HOME ARMY

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- ✉ ul. 3 Maja, 22-681 Hrebenne
- ☎ tel.: +48 84 667 45 00
- @ e-mail: [hrebenne@strazgraniczna.pl](mailto:hrebenne@strazgraniczna.pl)

The post protects the border along a 16.70 km section which is exclusively a land border with Ukraine.

To the south the post borders with the area of the post in Horyniec (the Bieszczady Border Guard Unit in Przemyśl), and to the north with the area of the Post in Łaszczów.

Two border crossings are located along this section of the border: road and rail crossings in Hrebenne.

Communes in the border zone: Tomaszów Lubelski (m), Tomaszów Lubelski, Bełżec, Lubycza Królewska, Jarczów

#### THE BORDER GUARD POST IN ŁASZCZÓW

- ✉ ul. Lwowska 29, 22-650 Łaszczów
- ☎ tel.: +48 84 661 22 00
- @ e-mail: [laszczow@strazgraniczna.pl](mailto:laszczow@strazgraniczna.pl)

The post protects the border along a 16.04 km section which is exclusively a land border with Ukraine.

To the south the post borders with the area of the post in Hrebenne, and to the north with the area of the Post in Chłopiatyn.

Communes in the border zone: Jarczów, Łaszczów, Ulhówek, Lubycza Królewska

#### THE BORDER GUARD POST IN CHŁOPIATYN


- ✉ Chłopiatyn 41A, 22-540 Dołhobyczów
- ☎ tel.: +48 84 666 05 00
- @ e-mail: [chlpiatyn@strazgraniczna.pl](mailto:chlpiatyn@strazgraniczna.pl)


The post protects the border along a 19,962 km section which is exclusively a land border with Ukraine.


To the south the post borders with the area of the post in Łaszczów, and to the north with the area of the Post in Dołhobyczów.

Communes in the border zone: Dołhobyczów, Telatyn, Ulhówek, Łaszczów

#### THE BORDER GUARD POST IN DOŁHOBYCZÓW

 **ul. Partyzantów 15, 22-540 Dołhobyczów**

 **tel.: +48 84 653 14 00, fax: +48 84 653 14 05, tel. IP: 6638500**

 **e-mail: dolhobyczow@strazgraniczna.pl**


The post protects the border along a 15.79 km section which is exclusively a land border with Ukraine (from marker No. 766 to marker No. 820 inclusively).


To the south the post borders with the area of the post in Chłopiatyn, and to the north with the area of the Post in Kryłów.

Communes in the border zone: Dołhobyczów, Mircze, Telatyn

#### THE BORDER GUARD POST IN KRYŁÓW

 **ul. Hrubieszowska 7, 22-530 Mircze**

 **tel.: +48 84 651 83 00, fax: +48 84 651 83 05, tel. IP: 6638300**


 **e-mail: krylow@strazgraniczna.pl**


The post protects the border along a 27.82 km section which is exclusively a border on the River Bug with Ukraine (from marker No. 820 to marker No. 853 inclusively).


To the south the post borders with the area of the post in Dołhobyczów, and to the north with the area of the Post in Hrubieszów.

Communes in the border zone: Dołhobyczów, Hrubieszów, Werbkowice, Mircze

#### THE BORDER GUARD POST IN HRUBIESZÓW

 **ul. Nowa 24, 22-500 Hrubieszów**

 **tel.: +48 84 697 56 00, fax: +48 84 697 56 05, tel. IP: 6630300**

 **e-mail: hrubieszow@strazgraniczna.pl**

The post protects the border along a 26.65 km section which is exclusively a border on the River Bug with Ukraine (from marker No. 853 to marker No. 882 inclusively).


To the south the post borders with the area of the post in Kryłów, and to the north with the area of the post in Horodło.


Two border crossings are located along this section of the border: road crossing in Zosin and rail crossing in Hrubieszów.

Communes in the border zone: Werbkowice, Trzuszczany, Hrubieszów, Hrubieszów (town)

#### THE BORDER GUARD POST IN HORODŁO

 **ul. Piłsudskiego 112, 22-523 Horodło**

 **tel.: +48 84 651 75 00, fax: +48 84 651 75 05, tel. IP: 6637500**


 **e-mail: horodlo@strazgraniczna.pl**


The post protects the border along a 38.566 km section which is exclusively a border on the River Bug with Ukraine (from marker No. 882 to marker No. 931 inclusively).


To the south the post borders with the area of the post in Hrubieszów, and to the north with the area of the post in Skryhiczyn.

Communes in the border zone: Uchanie, Hrubieszów, Horodło.

#### THE BORDER GUARD POST IN SKRYHICZYN

 **Skryhiczyn 69, 22-145 Dubienka**

 **tel.: +48 82 566 74 00, fax: +48 82 566 74 05, tel. IP: 6637400**

 **e-mail: skryhiczyn@strazgraniczna.pl**

The post protects the border along a 29.89 km section which is exclusively a border on the River Bug with Ukraine (from marker No. 931 to marker No. 966 inclusively).

To the south the post borders with the area of the post in Horodło, and to the north with the area of the post in Dorohusk.

Communes in the border zone: Dubienka, Białopole, Żmudź, Horodło

**THE BORDER GUARD POST IN DOROHUSK**

✉ **22-175 Dorohusk**

☎ **tel.: +48 82 566 62 00, fax: +48 82 566 62 05, tel. IP: 6621200**

@ **e-mail: dorohusk@strazgraniczna.pl**

The post protects the border along a 36.23 km section which is exclusively a border on the River Bug with Ukraine (from marker No. 966 to marker No. 1010 inclusively).

To the south the post borders with the area of the post in Skryhiczyn, and to the north with the area of the Post in Wola Uhruska.

Two border crossings are located along this section of the border: road and rail crossings in Dorohusk.

Communes in the border zone: Dorohusk, Kamień, Chełm (town), Chełm

**THE BORDER GUARD POST IN WOLA UHRUSKA**

✉ **ul. Turystyczna 10, 22-230 Wola Uhruska**

☎ **tel.: +48 82 591 72 00, fax: +48 82 591 72 05, tel. IP: 6637200**

@ **e-mail: wolauhruska@strazgraniczna.pl**

The post protects the border along a 32.11 km section which is exclusively a border on the River Bug with Ukraine (from marker No. 1010 to marker No. 1041 inclusively).

To the south the post borders with the area of the post in Dorohusk, and to the north with the area of the Post in Zbereże.

Communes in the border zone: Wola Uhruska, Ruda Huta, Sawin, Dorohusk

**THE BORDER GUARD POST IN ZBEREŻE**

✉ **22-320 Wola Uhruska, Zbereże**

☎ **tel.: +48 82 591 75 00, fax: +48 82 591 75 05, tel. IP: 6636500**

@ **e-mail: zbereze@strazgraniczna.pl**

The post protects the border along a 36.69 wide section which is exclusively a border on the River Bug with Ukraine (to the intersection of the Polish, Ukrainian and Belarusian borders – from marker No. 1041 to marker No. 1083 inclusively and No. 1123 inclusively).

To the south the post borders with the area of the post in Wola Uhruska, and to the north with the area of the post in Włodawa.

Communes in the border zone: Hańsk, Włodawa, Wola Uhruska

**THE BORDER GUARD POST IN WŁODAWIE**

✉ **ul. Wojska Polskiego 18, 22-200 Włodawa**

☎ **tel.: +48 82 572 74 00, fax: +48 82 572 74 05, tel. IP: 6636400**

@ **e-mail: wlodawa@strazgraniczna.pl**

The post protects the border along a 16.95 km section which is exclusively a border on the River Bug with Belarus (from the intersection of the Polish, Ukrainian and Belarusian borders – from marker No. 1123 to marker No. 1147 inclusively).

To the south the post borders with the area of the post in Zbereże, and to the north with the area of the post in Dołhobrody.

Communes in the border zone: Włodawa (town), Włodawa, Wryki.

**THE BORDER GUARD POST IN DOŁHOBRODY**

✉ **Dołhobrody 58a, 22-220 Hanna**

☎ **tel.: +48 83 379 94 00, fax: +48 83 379 94 05, tel. IP: 6636300**

@ **e-mail: dolhobrody@strazgraniczna.pl**

The post protects the border along a 22.05 km section which is exclusively a border on the River Bug with Belarus (from marker No. 1147 to marker No. 1176 inclusively).

To the south the post borders with the area of the post in Włodawa, and to the north with the area of the post in Sławatycze.

Communes in the border zone: Sosnówka, Hanna, Włodawa

**THE BORDER GUARD POST IN SŁAWATYCZE**

✉ **21-515 Sławatycze**

☎ **tel.: +48 83 376 82 00, fax: +48 83 376 82 05, tel. IP: 6636200**

@ **e-mail: slawatycze@strazgraniczna.pl**


The post protects the border along a 27.79 km section which is exclusively a border on the River Bug with Belarus (from marker No. 1176 to marker No. 1211 inclusively).


To the south the post borders with the area of the post in Dolhobrody, and to the north with the area of the post in Kodeń.


A road border crossing in Sławatycze is located along this section of the border.

Communes in the border zone: Sławatycze, Tucznia, Sosnówka, Kodeń, Hanna

### THE BORDER GUARD POST IN KODEŃ

 **ul. 1 Maja 18, 21-509 Kodeń**

 **tel.: +48 83 376 95 00, fax: +48 83 376 95 05, tel. IP: 6631500**

 **e-mail: koden@strazgraniczna.pl**


The post protects the border along a 33.10 km section which is exclusively a border on the River Bug with Belarus (from marker No. 1211 to marker No. 1254 inclusively).

To the south the post borders with the area of the post in Sławatycze, and to the north with the area of the post in Terespol.

Communes in the border zone: Kodeń, Piszczac, Terespol

### THE BORDER GUARD POST IN TERESPOL

 **ul. Wojska Polskiego 164, 21-550 Terespol**

 **tel.: +48 83 377 23 00, fax: +48 83 377 23 05, tel. IP: 6687300**

 **e-mail: terespol@strazgraniczna.pl**


The post protects the border along a 16.36 km section which is exclusively a border on the River Bug with Belarus (from marker No. 1254 to marker No. 1278 inclusively).


To the south the post borders with the area of the post in Kodeń, and to the north with the area of the post in Bohukały.


Four border crossings are located along this section of the border: a road crossing in Terespol, a rail crossing in Terespol, a road crossing connected by a 5.2 km customs house road with a modern terminal in Koroszczyn.

Communes in the border zone: Terespol, Zalesie, Biała Podlaska.

### THE BORDER GUARD POST IN BOHUKAŁY

 **Bohukały 33, 21-550 Terespol**

 **tel.: +48 83 375 81 20, fax: +48 83 375 81 25, tel. IP: 6631320**


 **e-mail: bohukaly@strazgraniczna.pl**


The post protects the border along a 28.86 km section which is exclusively a border on the River Bug with Belarus (from marker No. 1278 to marker No. 1313 inclusively).


To the south the post borders with the area of the post in Terespol, and to the north with the area of the post in Janów Podlaski.

Communes in the border zone: Rokitno, Leśna Podlaska, Terespol, Zalesie, Biała Podlaska.

### THE BORDER GUARD POST IN JANÓW PODLASKI

 **ul. Brzeska 71, 21-505 Janów Podlaski**

 **tel.: +48 83 341 62 00, fax: +48 83 341 62 05, tel. IP: 6631200**

 **e-mail: janowpodlaski@strazgraniczna.pl**

The post protects the border along a 25.96 km which is exclusively a border on the River Bug with Belarus (from marker No. 1313 to marker No. 1346 inclusively).

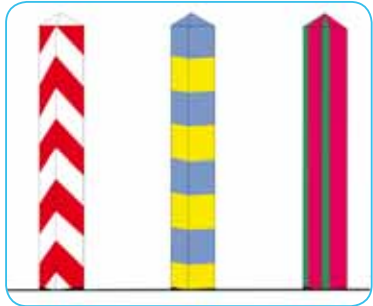
To the south the post borders with the area of the post in Bohukały, and to the north with the area of the post in Mielnik (The Podlasie Border Guard Unit in Białystok).

Communes in the border zone: Konstantynów, Janów Podlaski.

Moving along the Polish eastern border in a kayak, you always have to act with responsibility and common sense and remember that the trip must be reported to the Border Guard - directly before setting out you need to call the appropriate Border Guard Post specifying the



number of people and kayaks (if you enter the Bug from a tributary, you have to stop the trip at the mouth and contact the appropriate Border Guard Post before proceeding). Also, after the stage ends, please inform the Border Guard Post by phone; if you plan to camp by the river you need to inform both the owner of the plot and the Border Guard (you are required to have a list of participants and cars with you at the campsite).



Border landmarks, *polish on the left, ukrainian in the center, belarusian on the right*

## Practical information for kayaking trip organisers

### Stage points – Border Guard Posts (for notifying about trips)

No.	Km	Village/town	Border Guard outpost	
1.	400.0	Gołębie – the land border meets the river border	Dołhobyeczów Kryłów	+48 84 653 14 00 +48 84 651 83 00
2.	398.5	Gołębie, Dołhobyeczów Commune	Kryłów	+48 84 651 83 00
3.	388.7	Kryłów, Mircze Commune	Kryłów	+48 84 651 83 00
4.	378.6	Kosmów, Hrubieszów Commune	Kryłów	+48 84 651 83 00
5.	358.6	Czumów, Hrubieszów Commune	Hrubieszów	+48 84 697 56 00
6.	352.5	Gródek – the mouth of the Huczwa Hrubieszów Commune	Hrubieszów	+48 84 697 56 00
7.	346.9	Husynne, Hrubieszów Commune	Hrubieszów	+48 84 697 56 00
8.	324.9	Zosin-Komora, Horodło Commune	Horodło	+48 84 651 75 00
9.	321.5	Łuszków, Horodło Commune	Horodło	+48 84 651 75 00
10.	315.4	HORODŁO	Horodło	+48 84 651 75 00
11.	306.4	Matcze, Horodło Commune	Horodło	+48 84 651 75 00
12.	291.6	Starosiele, Dubienka Commune	Skryhiczyn	+48 82 566 74 00
13.	288.5	DUBIENKA	Skryhiczyn	+48 82 566 74 00
14.	276.9	Uchańka, Dubienka Commune	Skryhiczyn	+48 82 566 74 00
15.	270.3	Husynne, Dorohusk Commune	Dorohusk	+48 82 566 62 00
16.	256.7	DOROHUSK	Dorohusk	+48 82 566 62 00
17.	250.6	Okopy, Dorohusk Commune	Dorohusk	+48 82 566 62 00
18.	240.5	Świerze, Dorohusk Commune	Dorohusk	+48 82 566 62 00
19.	237.5	Hniszów, Ruda-Huta Commune	Wola Uhruska	+48 82 591 72 00
20.	221.0	Siedliszcze – the mouth of the Uherka Wola Uhruska Commune	Wola Uhruska	+48 82 591 72 00
21.	218.5	WOLA UHRUSKA	Wola Uhruska	+48 82 591 72 00
22.	213.0	Bytyń – starorzecze Wola Uhruska Commune	Wola Uhruska	+48 82 591 72 00
23.	198.5	Zbereże, Wola Uhruska Commune	Zbereże	+48 82 591 75 00
24.	185.5	Wołczyny, Włodawa Commune	Zbereże	+48 82 591 75 00
25.	175.8	Sobibór (dwór), Włodawa Commune	Zbereże	+48 82 591 75 00
26.	172.2	Dubnik – Tripoint, Włodawa Commune	Włodawa	+48 82 572 74 00

27.	162.2	Włodawa – water gauge The town of WŁODAWA	Włodawa	+48 82 572 74 00
28.	152.4	Różanka, Włodawa Commune	Dołhobrody	+48 83 379 94 00
29.	145.2	Pawłuki, Włodawa Commune	Dołhobrody	+48 83 379 94 00
30.	130.1	Kuzawka, Hanna Commune	Sławatycze	+48 83 376 82 00
31.	126.3	SŁAWATYCZE	Sławatycze	+48 83 376 82 00
32.	114.3	Jableczna, Sławatycze Commune	Sławatycze	+48 83 376 82 00
33.	107.5	Szostaki, Kodeń Commune	Sławatycze	+48 83 376 82 00
34.	104.5	Zalesze, Kodeń Commune	Sławatycze	+48 83 376 82 00
35.	103.0	Sugry, Kodeń Commune	Kodeń	+48 83 376 95 00
36.	96.0	KODEŃ – castle	Kodeń	+48 83 376 95 00
39.	93.1	KODEŃ – the mouth of the Kałamanka	Kodeń	+48 83 376 95 00
40.	85.5	Okczyn, Kodeń Commune	Kodeń	+48 83 376 95 00
41.	84.0	Kostomłoty, Kodeń Commune	Kodeń	+48 83 376 95 00
42.	75.0	Żuki, Terespol Commune	Kodeń	+48 83 376 95 00
43.	72.5	Michałków Terespol Commune	Kodeń Terespol	+48 83 376 95 00 +48 83 377 23 00
44.		Terespol-excluded section 16,360 km	Terespol	+48 83 377 23 00
45.	52.5	Kuzawka, Terespol Commune	Bohukały	+48 83 375 81 20
46.	49.0	Nepie - the mouth of the Krzna Terespol Commune	Bohukały	+48 83 375 81 20
47.	45.0	Krzyczew, Terespol Commune	Bohukały	+48 83 375 81 20
48.	34.0	Pratulín, Rokitno Commune	Bohukały	+48 83 375 81 20
49.	16.0	Wygoda, Janów Podlaski Commune	Janów Podlaski	+48 83 341 62 00
50.	9.0	Buczyce Stare Janów Podlaski Commune	Janów Podlaski	+48 83 341 62 00
51.	1.0	Bubel Stary, Janów Podlaski Com- mune	Janów Podlaski	+48 83 341 62 00
52.	0.0	Gnojno – Niemirów Konstantynów Commune	Janów Podlaski	+48 83 341 62 00

## NOTE!

As this guide was being prepared for printing, the Border Guard began the introduction of new border marker numbering at the section along the Polish-Belarusian border, starting from the Poland-Ukraine-Belarus tripoint. The previous number 1123 (the first marker on the border with Belarus) was renamed number 001. When using this guide please take into account that the numbers of markers shown in the text and on the maps need to be smaller by 1122.



A restored and renumbered (from 1137) border marker in Włodawa near the water gauge, photo A. Jaroszyńska



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## Maps of the trail

Chapter 4

# "THE BORDERLAND BUG" Kayaking Trail

tourist map



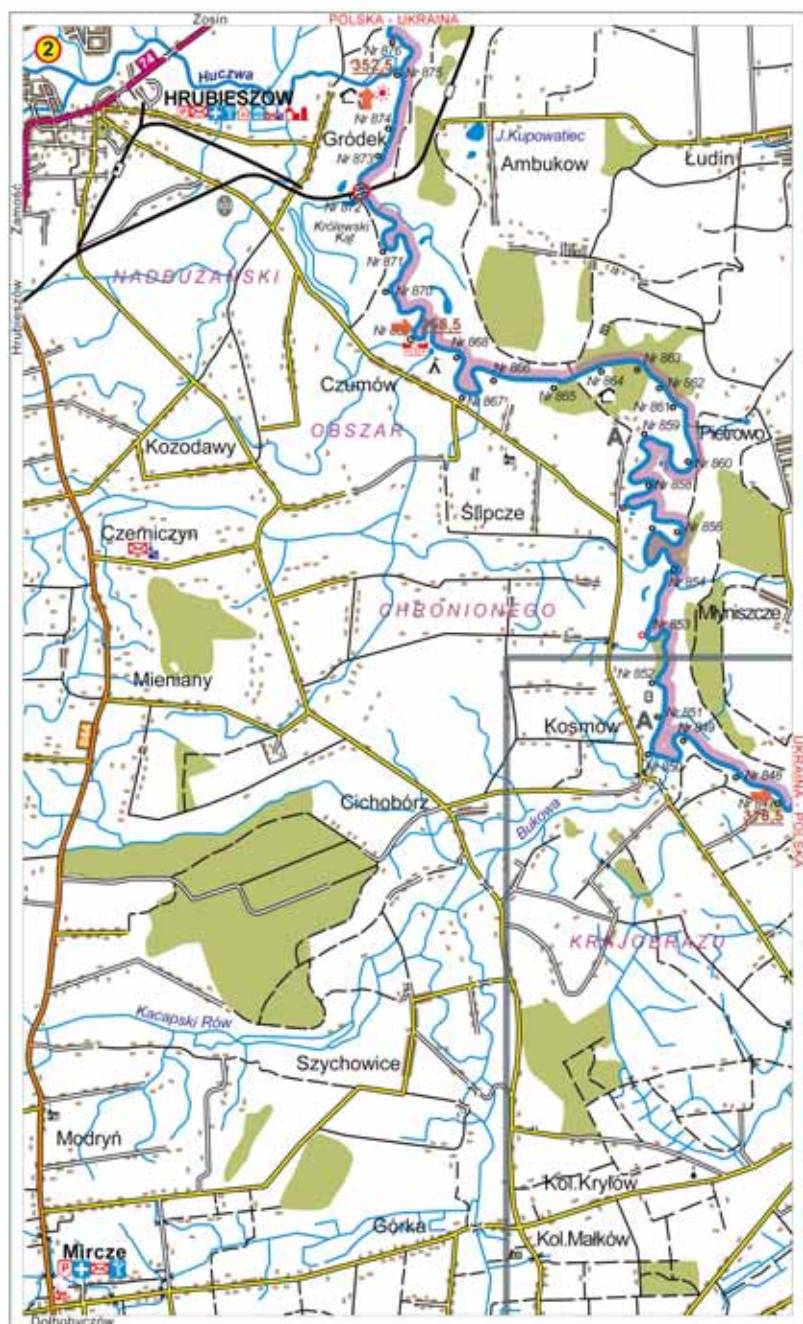
	State border		Selected launching and landing sites
	Boundary marker (updated)		Water-level indicator
	Border crossing		Museum, tourist information
	National roads		Historic manor
	Provincial roads		Historic park, hill fort
	District, municipal, local dirt and forest road		Castle (castl ruins), fort
	Rail		Other architectural landmark, monument (mound)
	Buildings		Wooden buildings, wind mill
	Forests, parks		Battlefield, memorial (martyrdom) site
	Rivers, lakes, reservoirs		Overlook, observation tower
	Border of national and landscape parks		Industrial facility with a chimney
	Nature reserve		
	Border Guard's office	<b>WŁODAWA</b>	District city
	Police, Fire Service	<b>Dubienka</b>	Seat of the Commune
	Post office, petrol station	<b>Kuzawka</b>	Village
	Hotel, hostel	<b>Dubnik</b>	Small village, hamlet
	Campsite		Map sheet number
	Agritourism farms	1	Gołębie - Kryłów - Kosmów
	Resorts, tourist shelters	2	Kosmów - Czumów - Gródek
	Health centres, chemist's	3	Husynne - Zosin - Horodło
	Historic church, Orthodox church	4	Matcze - Skryhiczyn - Starosiele
	Church, chapel	5	Dubienka - Dorohusk - Okopy
	Cemetery	6	Świerże - Hnieszów - Wola Uhruska
		7	Zbereże - Wołczyń - Sobibór
		8	Orchówek - Włodawa - Różanka
		9	Kuzawka - Sławatycze - Jabłeczna
		10	Szostaki - Kodeń - Koszmioty
		11	Michałków - Terespol - Kozłowiec
		12	Kuzawka - Krzyczew - Pratulin
		13	Zaczopki - Worobin - Wygoda
		14	Niemirów - Gnojno - Serpelice
			Border marker
			Border marker at the meeting point of two Border Guard Posts

## 1. Gołębie – Kryłów – Kosmów



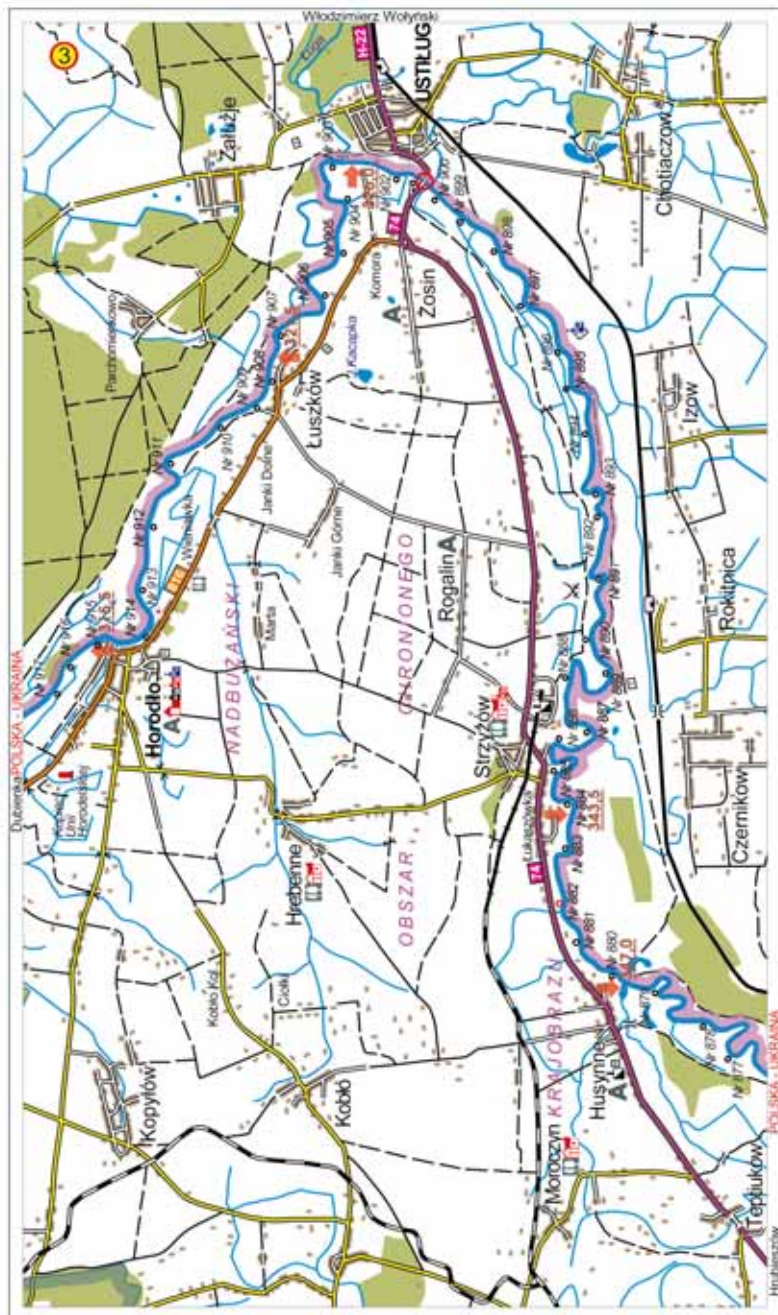


## 2. Kosmów – Czumów – Gródek

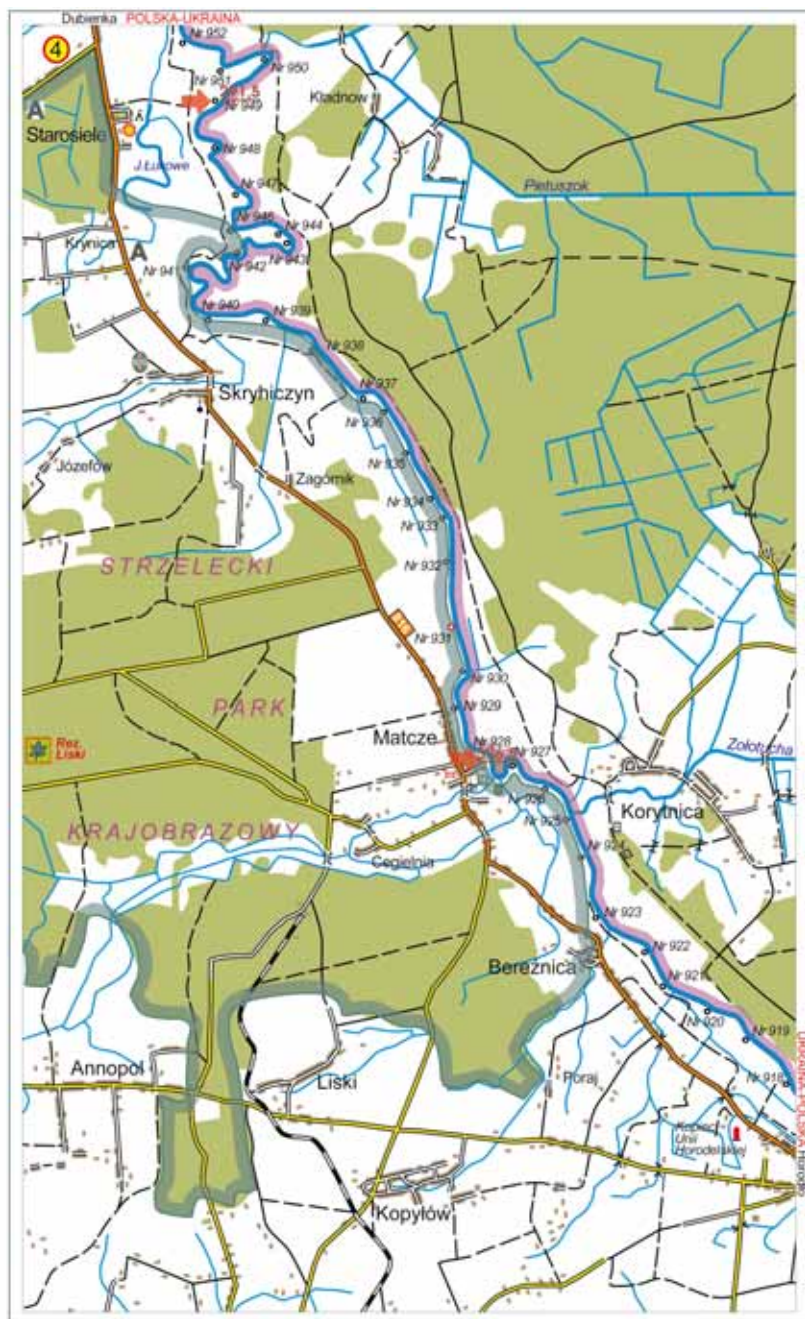




### 3. Husynne – Zosin – Horodło

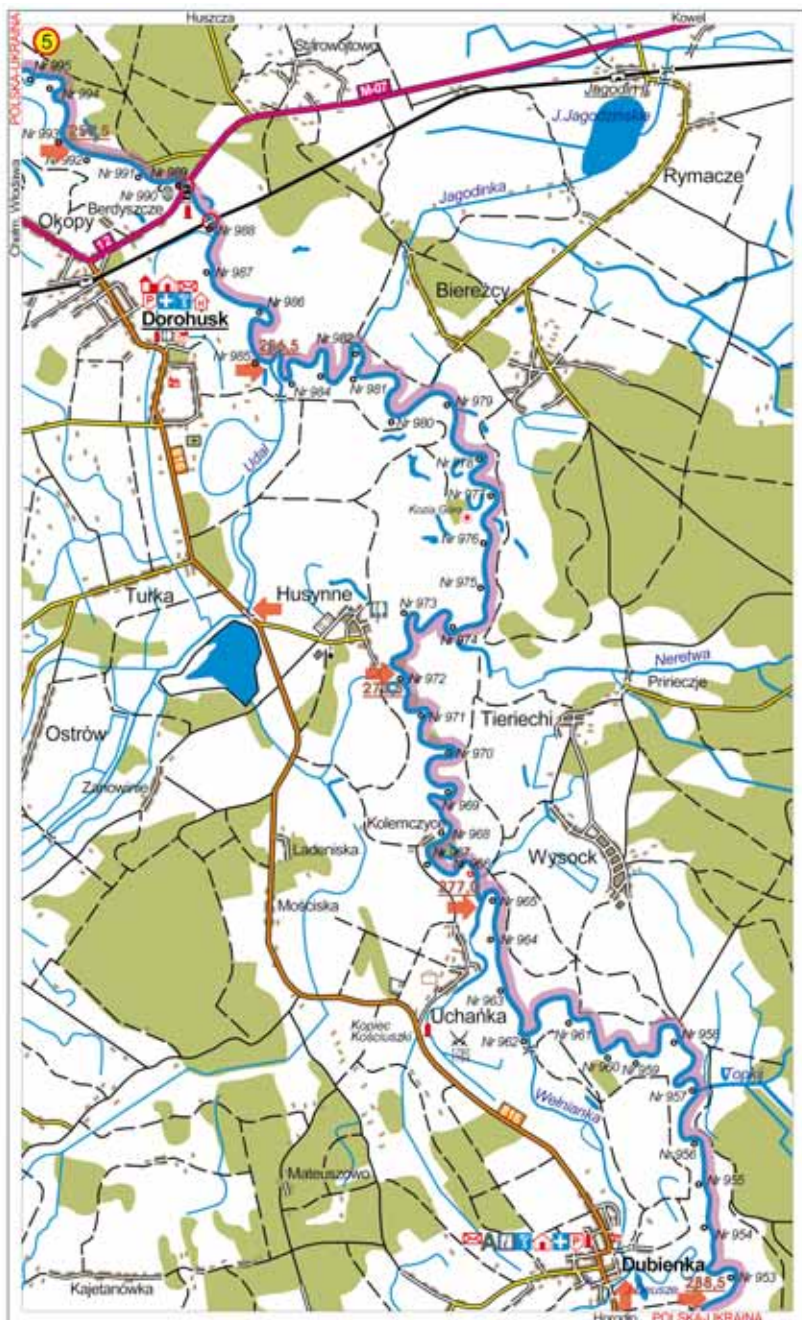


## 4. Matcze – Skryhiczyn – Starosiele

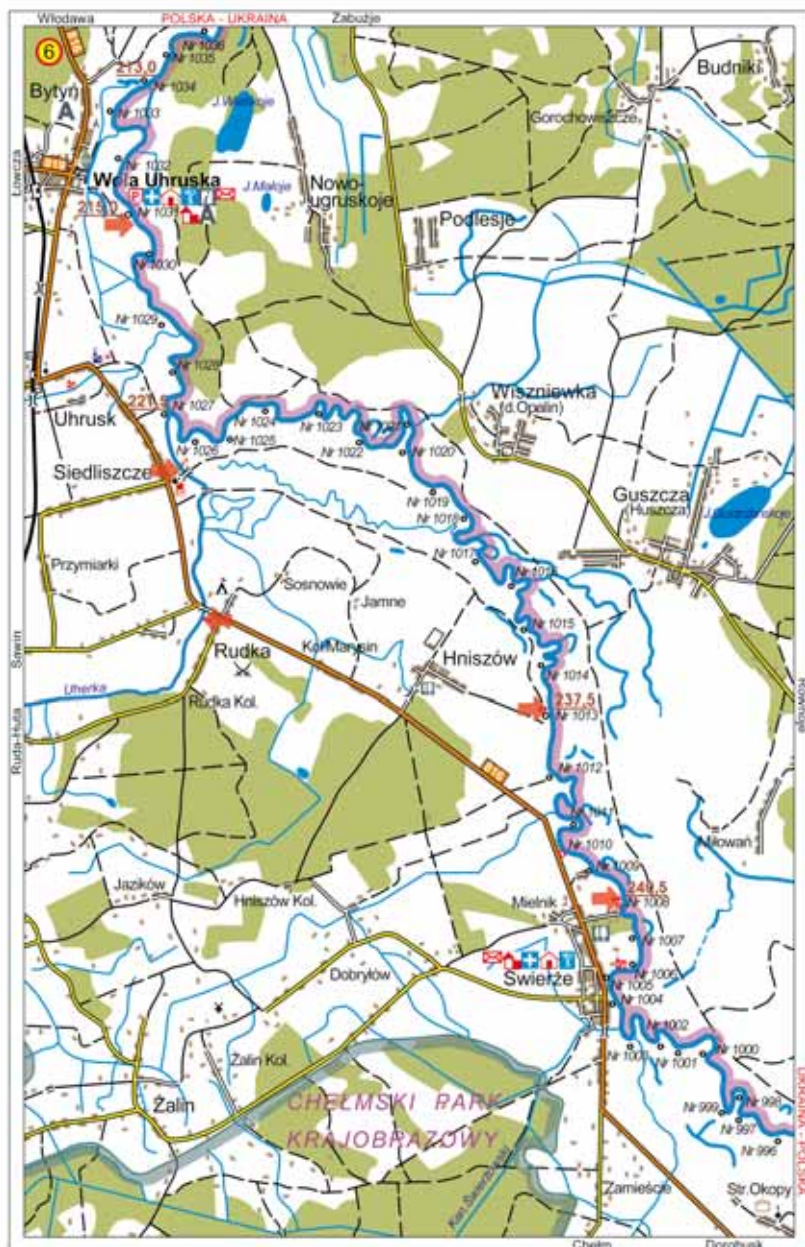




## 5. Dubienka – Dorohusk – Okopy

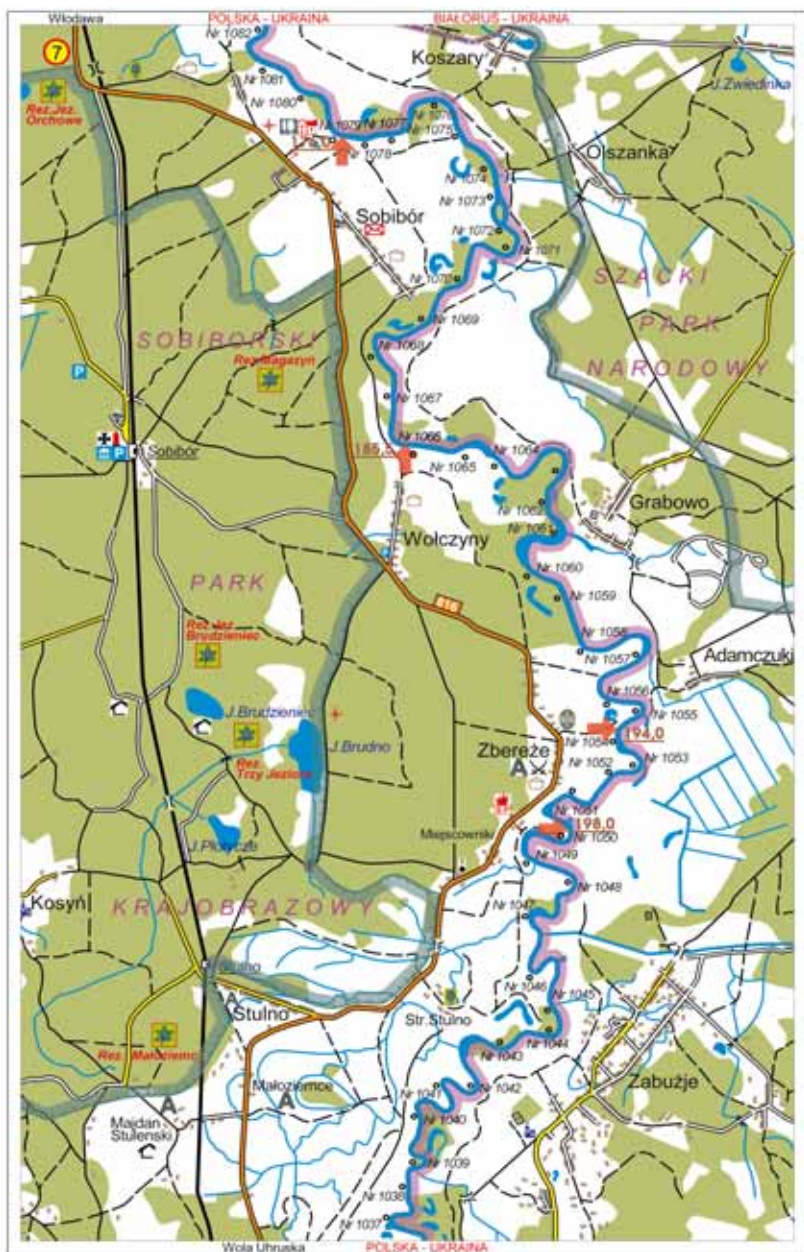


## 6. Świerże – Hnyszów – Wola Uhruska

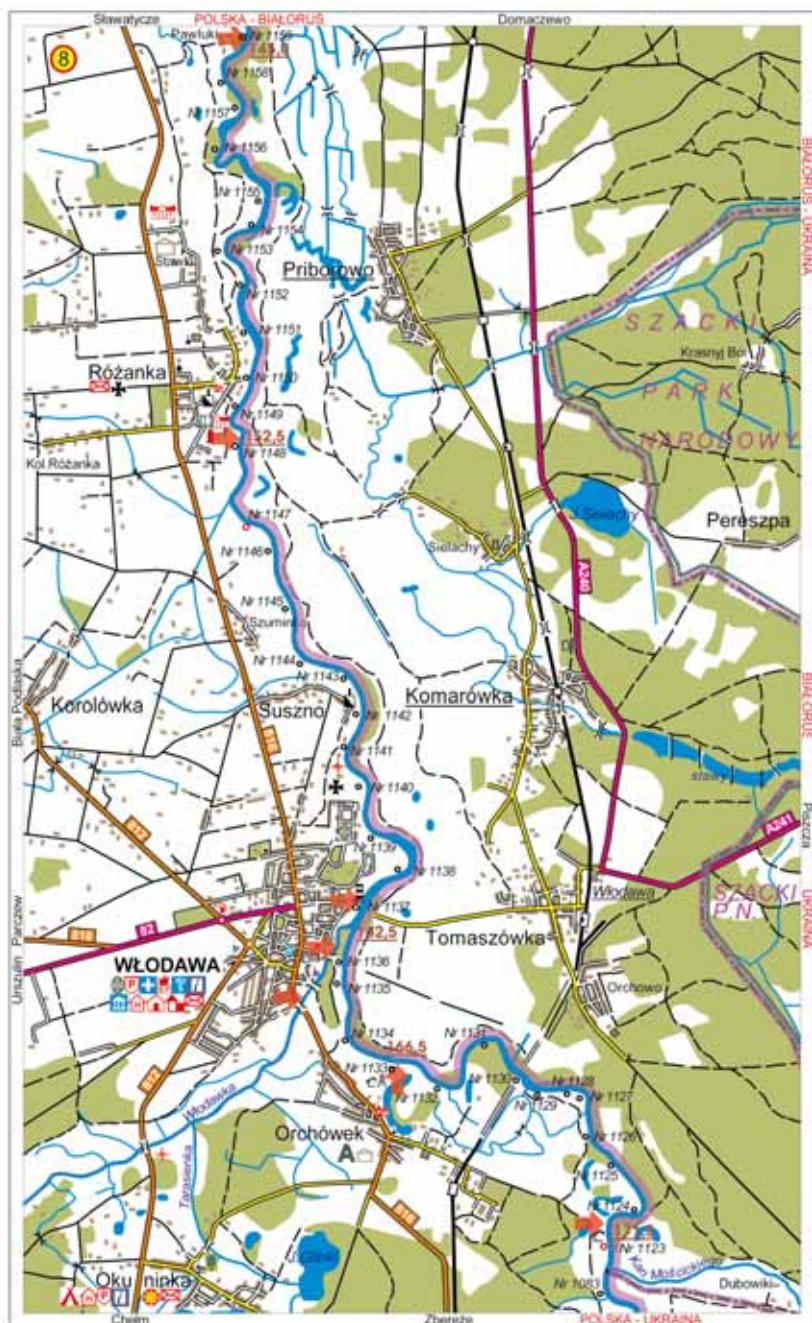




## 7. Zbereże – Wołczyny – Sobibór

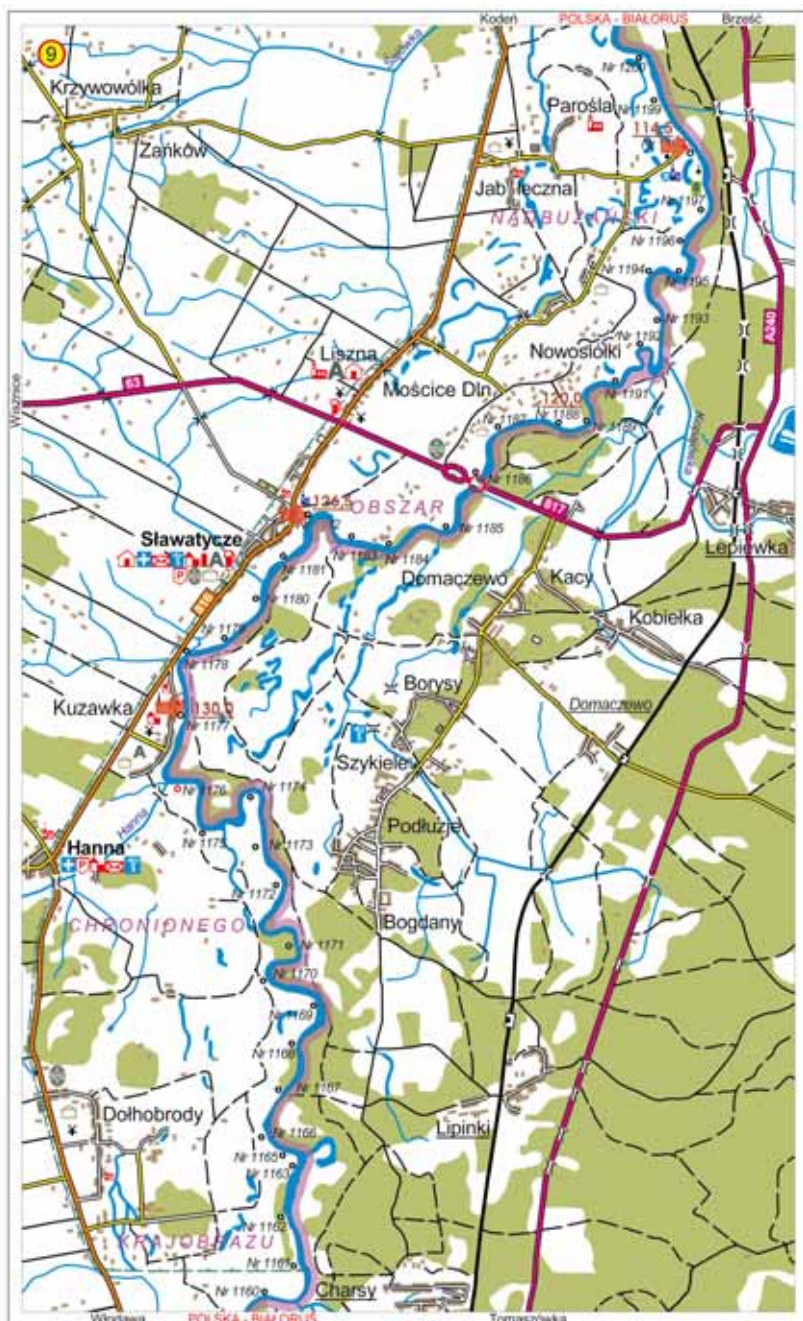


## 8. Orchówek – Włodawa – Różanka

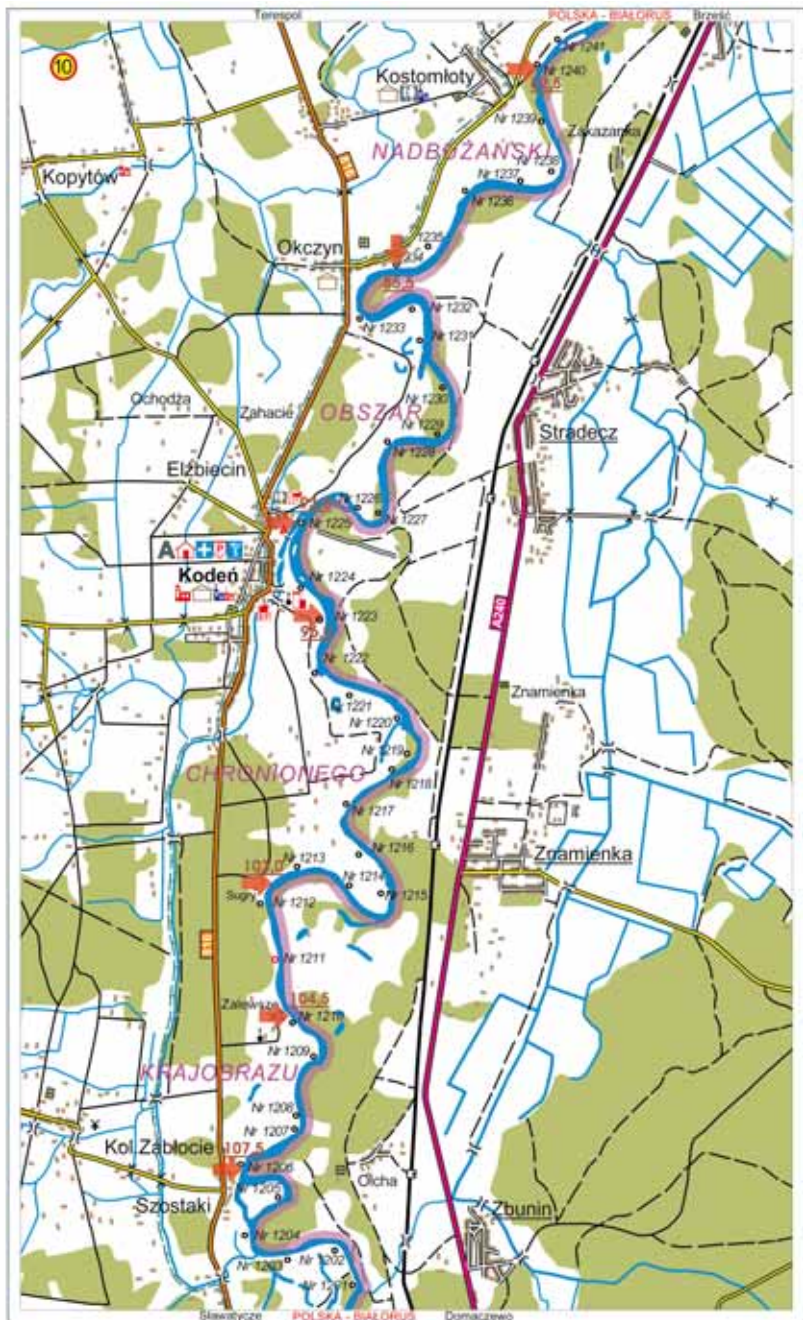




## 9. Kuzawka – Sławatycze – Jabłeczna

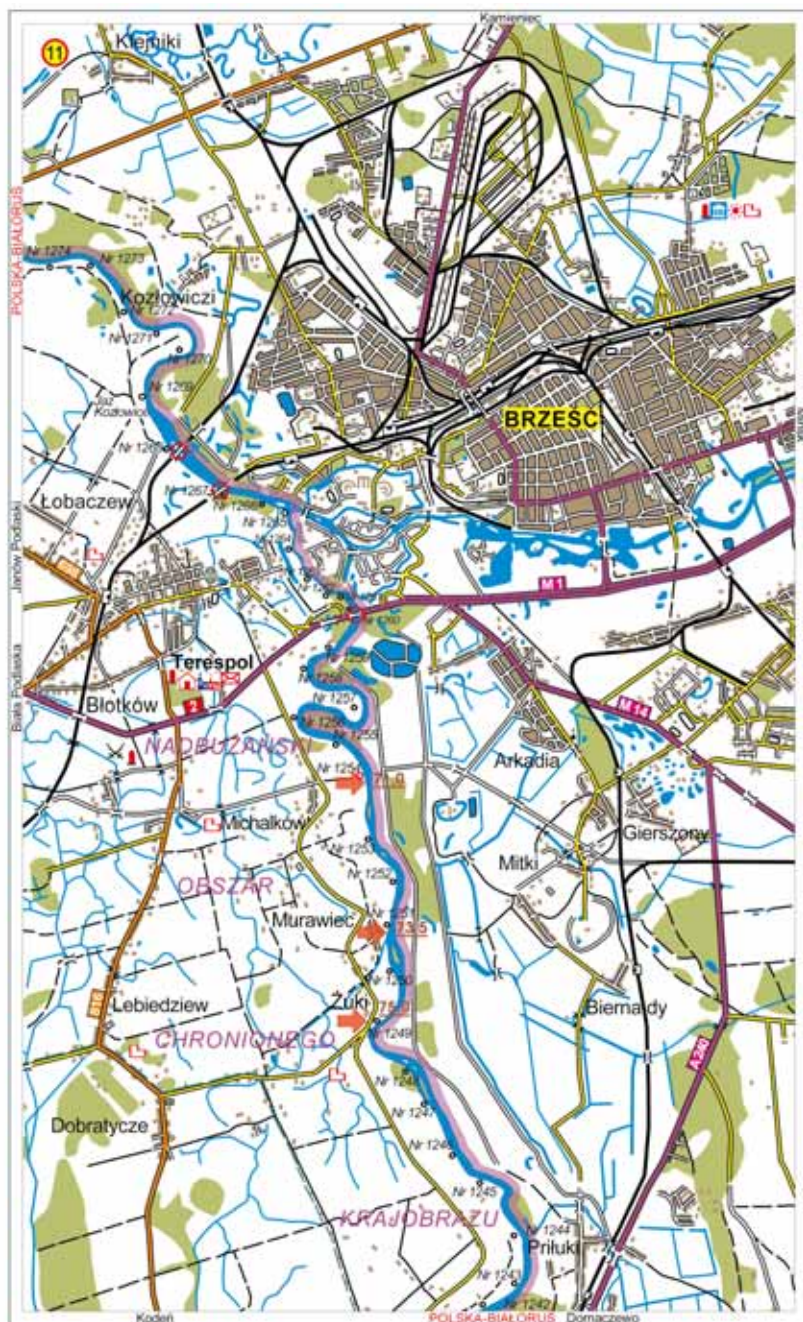


## 10. Szostaki – Kodeń – Kostomłoty

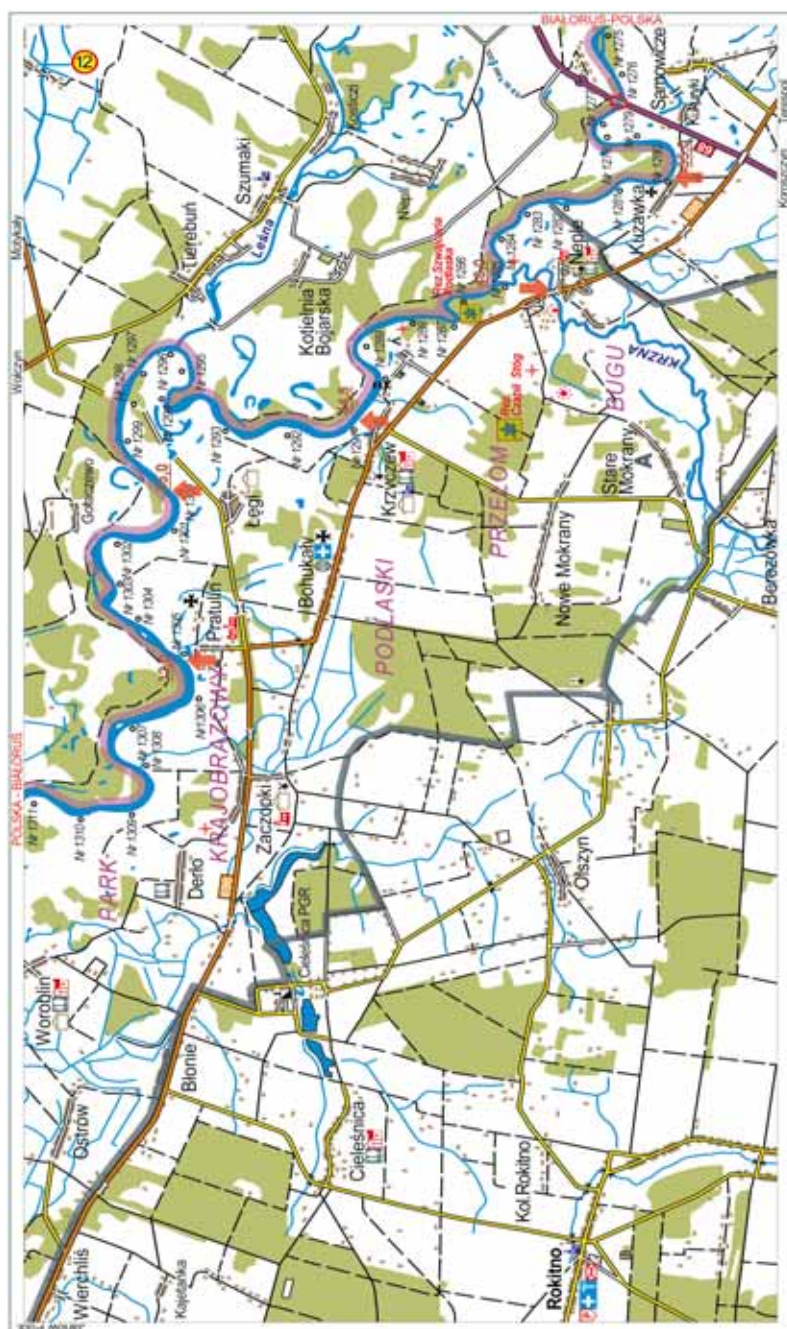




## 11. Michalków – Terespol – Kozłowice



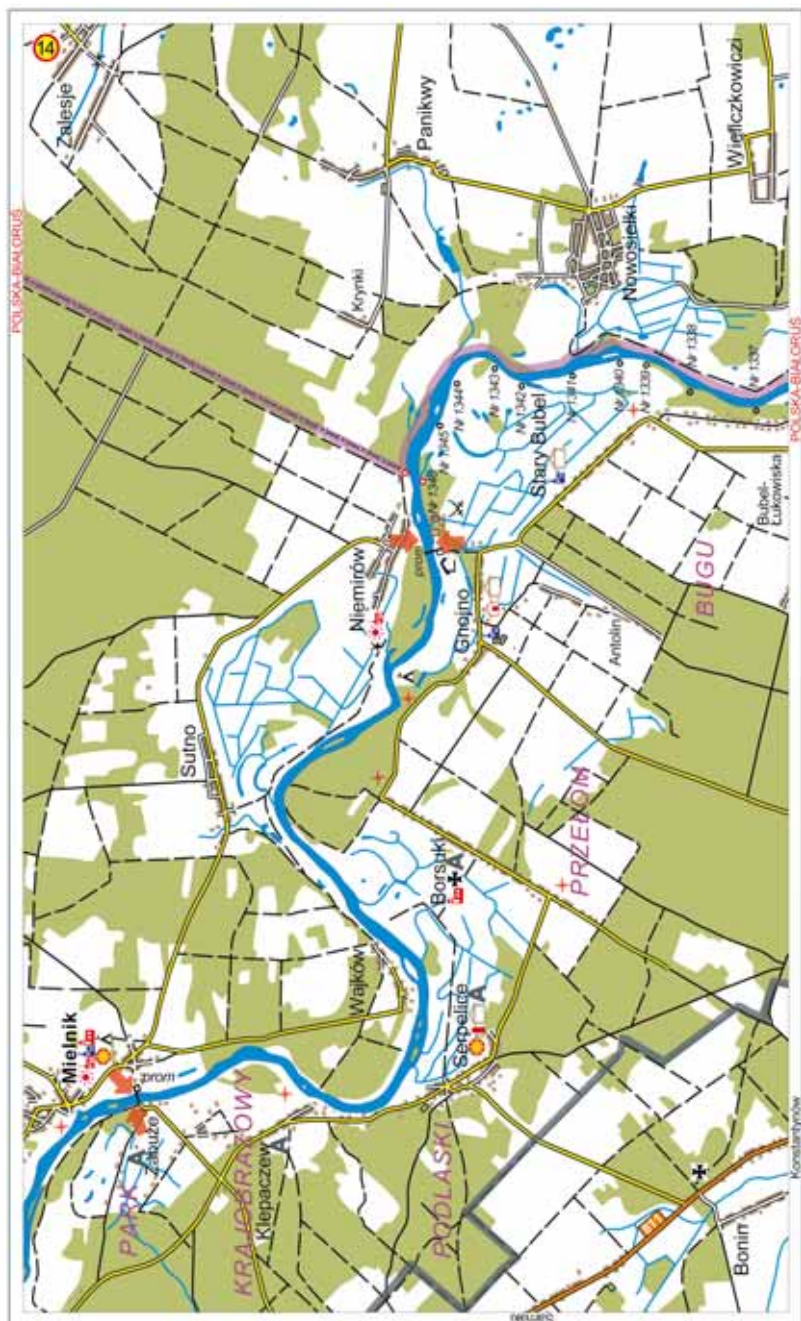
## 12. Kuzawka – Krzyczew – Pratulin







## 14. Niemirów – Gnojno – Serpelice







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## History, monuments, nature

Chapter 5



The Podlasie Bug Gorge, *photo M. Pomietło*

The area of the present-day Polish-Ukrainian and Polish-Belarusian borderlands offers a unique catalogue of events and locations inscribed in the history of the Polish nation and statehood, but also of relevance to Ukraine, Belarus, Lithuania, and Russia. It is also a place of historical significance to Jews, Hungarians, Vlachs, Tatars, Armenians and Germans.

The River Bug has marked the history of Podolia, Galicia, Volhynia, Chełm Land, Podlasie, Mazovia and other regions that once belonged to the Polish-Lithuanian Commonwealth. The melting pot of nations that inhabited the lands on either side of the Bug is evidenced in a wealth of lasting traces left by Roman Catholics, Orthodox and Eastern-Rite Catholics, Protestants, Judaists and Muslims. All those amazing places are within arm's reach – just step out of a kayak and you can stumble upon a forgotten cemetery, discover old architectural gems, explore roadside ruins or historic parks or approach wayside figures and monuments. History is not just big events, but also the lives of people, many of whom achieved great things for Poland. The Polish-Ukrainian borderlands are perhaps the most interesting. It is a land of still-unhealed wounds from the tragic time of Nazi occupation which left its terrible mark on the fates of local people and places with the mass exterminations of Jews and the outbreak of inhumane Ukrainian nationalism.

Kayaking along the borderland Bug we can stop by many interesting places and localities.

## 5.1. Historical and geographical features

**Gołębie** – a village in the Dołhobyczów Commune, near the land border between Poland and Ukraine, first mentioned in 1485. In geographical terms, it is situated in the Hrubieszów Basin. The estate of Hołubie (the former name of Gołębie) belonged to, among others, Franciszek Jeżewski, who fought in the November Uprising. The Jeżewski family then left the estate to the Świeżawskis, who, as it turned out, were its



The manor house in Gołębie, *photo J. Tworek*

last private owners until World War II. The village still features a manor complex with the remains of a historic park. An old larchwood manor, which, according to tradition, is over 300 years old, was partly pulled down due to damage and in 1902 a brick-walled wing was added (partly only ground floor, partly with additional storeys). The brick manor was probably designed by the famous architect Władysław Marconi. During World War I the manor perished in a fire. The preserved brick part was rebuilt in the Interwar Period. Currently, the manor is in private hands and there have been noticeable attempts made to restore some of its glory. Before the War, most villagers were Ukrainians, and during the Nazi occupation it was a strong nationalist centre. The displaced residents left behind an old cemetery that first served the Eastern-Rite Catholics and then the Orthodox Church.

**Prehoryłe** – first mentioned in 1473. Once the outskirts of Kryłów and the property of Andrzej Tęczyński. In the First Republic of Poland it was located in the Belz Province. Before World War II half its residents were Polish and the other half Ukrainian. In 1943-44 it was the scene of bloody clashes between the two nations. Today's dispersed housing is the result of this wartime havoc.

**Kryłów** – from 1523 a town-enclave of the Chełm Land within the Ruthenian Province, featuring an island with a castle in the Volhynia Province, and the Prehoryłe outskirts in the Belz Province. The island bears the remains of the Tęczyński and Ostroróg Castle and has been connected with the land since 1987 by a causeway from the south and by a bridge from the north. The construction of the first wooden castle was begun by Mikołaj Tęczyński. In 1498 it was replaced by a stronghold. After the Ostroróg period, its owner was the notorious Hieronim Radziejowski, who was condemned to infamy for his shady dealings with the Cossacks, and was also one



The palace gate in Kryłów,  
photo D. Dadun

of the initiators of the Swedish invasion of Poland. The town and castle were devastated by the Cossacks in 1655 and then in 1656 by the Swedes. After yet another episode of destruction in 1717 it was not rebuilt again. The Kryłów stronghold is an example of a borderland defensive structure on a triangular plan. Today, the mighty walls of the bastion

(visible from the Bug River) stand firm, and the large vaults and ruins of the retaining walls are still there.

Other interesting monuments that can be found in the village include the 19<sup>th</sup> Century Gothic Revival Catholic Church, the Catholic cemetery featuring a chapel and 19<sup>th</sup> Century tombs, and also the graves of those who fell in the battle against the Ukrainian Insurgent Army (UPA), traces of the former Reformati Monastery with the 18<sup>th</sup> Century figure of St. John of Nepomuk, the remnants of the Horodyski palace complex with traces of the park and a Gothic Revival gate, as well as an 18<sup>th</sup> & 19<sup>th</sup> Century Eastern-Rite Catholic cemetery located next to the road to Prehoryle. Kryłów lost its town status in 1868. Next to the church stands a monument to the legendary Lt. Stanisław Basaj "Rys" (Lynx). He was a fearless defender of the Polish people against Ukrainian and German oppression, a soldier in the September Campaign, the Commander of a Peasants' Battalions unit, and the Commander of Civic Militia operational units. The monument commemorates the martyrdom of "Rys" who, along with 18 young militiamen and 25 civilian victims, was murdered by UPA in March 1945.

In the nearby village of Kryłów-Kolonia, near the wonder-working springs, stand the figure of St. Nicolaus and a peculiar stone sculpture depicting a sitting wolf.

**Kosmów** – the village was mentioned in Ruthenian chronicles from 1376. The scene of deadly Polish-Ukrainian clashes in 1944. 7 km west of Kosmów, in the small village of Maślomęcz, traces of Goth settlements and cemeteries from the 2<sup>nd</sup> to the 4<sup>th</sup> Century AD were discovered. There is an old, originally Eastern-Rite Catholic and later Orthodox, cemetery by the Bug. Only a stone-brick building and traces of the park remain of the old estate.

**Ślipcze** – the village was mentioned in Ruthenian chronicles as Sliepcze in 1376. A beautiful gorge of the Bug with its over-a-dozen-metre high edges stretching as far as 2 km can be found on its outskirts. The remnants of the old manor farm and an Orthodox Church which was once an Eastern-Rite Catholic temple are worth seeing in the village.



The palace in Czumów, *photo J. Tworek*

**Czumów** – mentioned as a manor farm in 1400. Clearly visible from the river is an eclectic palace from the second half of the 19<sup>th</sup> Century, with a red-and-white flag fluttering at the top of its tower. Having endured devastation on several occasions, it is now on the path to regain its glory. The park that used to surround the residence was cleared after the palace became a Grenzschutz Ost outpost at the German-Soviet border in 1939. On the side of the Bug it features a portico with a balcony overlooking the river.

**Gródek** – a village at the fork of the rivers Bug and Huczwa first mentioned in 1400. By the banks of the Huczwa once lay a hill fort called Zamczysko, which is identified as the mighty town of Volhyn, known from the Ruthenian *letopises* from the year 990 and standing at least since the 8<sup>th</sup> Century as one of the main centres of tribal Volhynians, and later the Czerwień Towns. The oval-shaped inner area of the hill fort measuring 40x60 m is located about 20 m above the level of the Huczwa. On the other side of the river, opposite the fort, rises an 11<sup>th</sup> Century burial mound known as Księżycowa Mogiła (the Lunar Tomb). Between Gródek and Czumowo there is a swampy depression called “The Royal Corner”, which was once traversed by Bolesław Chrobry during his expedition to Kiev.

**The Huczwa** – a left-bank tributary of the Bug, it flows through Grzęda Sokalska, Padół Zamojski and Roztocze. It is 74 km long and has a basin area of 563 sq. km. The Huczwa springs from the vicinity of Tomaszów Lubelski, where the Rivers Solokiya and Wieprz also derive their sources. Major towns and villages on the Huczwa: Werbkowice, Łaszczów, Tyszowce, Czermino, Hrubieszów. It feeds into the Bug 6 km east of Hrubieszów. The kayaking trail on the Huczwa from Łaszczów to the Bug is 55 km long.

**Husynne** (Hrubieszów Commune) – the village was first mentioned in 1400. On 24 September 1939 it was the scene of the biggest battle between the Polish Army and the Red Army ever seen in



the Zamość Land. The manor and Orthodox church (previously Eastern-Rite Catholic) buildings in the village were damaged or demolished. Moroczyn, which is located 2 km from Husynne features the remains of a manor complex.



The palace in Strzyżów, photo J. Tworek

**Strzyżów** – mentioned in Ruthenian chronicles in 1376. A Late Baroque palace was erected in 1762-1786, with later modifications, used by the sugar factory established in 1899. On both sides of the multi-storey palace there are original octagonal

pavilions from the second half of the 19<sup>th</sup> Century with dome-shaped roofs. Other notable sites include the historic sugar-factory complex dating back to the late 19<sup>th</sup> Century, the old wooden Eastern-Rite Catholic church from 1817 (Orthodox from 1875 and converted into a Roman-Catholic Church in 1947), the wooden belfry from 1817 and the wooden rectory from 1925.

**Zosin** – the meander of the Bug near Zosin is the easternmost point of Poland (24° 8' 42.44" E). The part of Zosin that is the closest to the Bug is called Komora – a reminder of the former customs house between Austria and Russia, and later between the Kingdom of Poland and the Russian Empire. The right, higher, bank of the Uściług (Ustyluh) bears marks of one of the oldest settlements in Volhynia by the place where the Ługa feeds into the Bug. In Chełm, the historic capital of the Chełm Land, the Uściłuska Gate still stands. Today Zosin-Ustyluh is a road border crossing point between Poland and Ukraine.

**Łuszków** – first mentioned in documents in 1444, the village has an interesting oval layout, which has been preserved since the 16<sup>th</sup> Century and is located at the threshold of the Grzęda Horodelska mesoregion. Near the road to Strzyżów lie the remains of an originally Eastern-Rite Catholic cemetery, which later served the Orthodox church.

**Horodło** – the seat of the Commune Office, Hrubieszów District. Horodło was first mentioned in 1287 as the village that replaced the earlier settlement, which was destroyed. In 1382 Horodło was considered one of the most formidable castles in Ruthenia. It is known as the venue where the Polish-Lithuanian Union was formed on 2 October 1413. As early as in 1396 it was referred to as a town, although it was not granted the Magdeburg Rights until 1454. These were lost due to Tsarist repressions following the fall of the January Uprising. By the banks of the Bug stands a fort hill dating back to the 10<sup>th</sup>-13<sup>th</sup>





Horodło – stone lions, *photo J. Tworek*

Centuries and the remains of a 14<sup>th</sup>-Century wooden castle called the Jagiellonian Embankments – the gathering place of the Polish and Lithuanian knights and the venue of the Union of Horodło. The castle – the seat of the royal starosts – was on many occasions destroyed and rebuilt, but after the Swedish invasion of 1702 it fell into ruin and perished completely late into the 18<sup>th</sup> Century. The urban layout of the old town, with a quadrilateral market square, is well preserved – in its centre stood a stone table with a bench and sculptures of lions, probably from the destroyed castle. The Late-Baroque Dominican church and monastery (currently St. Hyacinth and Our Lady of the Rosary's Parish Church) was erected in the mid-18<sup>th</sup> Century on the site of the former wooden structures. Next to the market stands a wooden Eastern-Rite Catholic church from 1932, which in 1937-39 housed a Neo-Uniate parish and is now used by the Roman-Catholic Church. The Polish-Catholic church built in 1933 is the seat of one of the eight parishes of this denomination in the Zamość land. A Roman-Catholic cemetery is located near the road to Strzyżów (formerly Eastern-Rite Catholic and Orthodox) with preserved tombstones from the early 19<sup>th</sup> Century. North of Horodło stands the mound in honour of the Union of Horodło. Built during the patriotic manifestation of 10 October 1861 it was destroyed shortly after by the Tsarist troops and was not rebuilt until 1924.

**Bereźnica** – a small village located on the Bug mentioned in 1444 as a gift of land to the Dominicans of Horodło. Interesting sights include a wooden shrine from the turn of the 20<sup>th</sup> Century and, in the western part of the village, the forests of the Strzelce Landscape Park.

**Matcze** – a village mentioned in 1436; from 1581 it was the property of Jan Zamoyski. The church was built after the War on the site of a former Eastern-Rite Catholic church. An old cemetery with preserved Orthodox and Eastern-Rite Catholic tombstones, a tomb to the soldiers that fell in the Polish-Bolshevik war of 1920



The Zamoyski hunting lodge in Maziarnia Strzelecka,  
photo K. Łapińska (ZLPK archive)

and the wooden building of the former school from 1880, stand in the village. The nearby complex of Strzelce Forests, which belonged to the Zamoyski Family Fee Tail, since 1983 has been protected as the Strzelce Landscape Park. The forest complex features a hunting lodge of the Zamoyski family in Maziarnia Strzelecka.

**Skryhiczyn** – the village was mentioned in the documents of the Horodło District in 1472. Legend has it that the first residents came here on an ice floe (*kryha* as evident in the name *Skryhiczyn*). The last two owners of the estate – the German Wilhelm Bergeman and the Jew Mordka Rottenberg, one of the few Jewish landowners – met tragic fates. No trace of the manor buildings that once stood here is to be found. There is a wayside shrine-monument placed by Wilhelm Bergeman on the spot where his daughter had been struck dead by lightning.

**Starosiele** – a holiday destination near an oxbow lake on the Bug. The village features the remains of an old park, while no trace is left of the buildings of the manor farm that belonged to the Suchodolski family before World War II.

**Dubienka** – the seat of the Commune Office, Chełm District. An old settlement at the fork of the Rivers Wełnianka and Bug called Dębno or Dubno during the time of the Duchy of Warsaw, and later part of the Belz Province, with a dock on the Bug (currently Dubienka is located by the oxbow lake which gives the Wełnianka access to the Bug). It was granted town rights and privileges in 1588. The name Dubienka appeared in the early 18<sup>th</sup> Century. In 1776 Dubienka became the capital of the fragmentary Belz Province, which was better known as the Dubienka District. Dubienka is famous as the scene of two historic battles – in 1792 during the Polish-Russian war in defence of the Constitution of May 3<sup>rd</sup> and in 1794 during the Kościuszko Uprising. The battles actually took place north of

Dubienka, near Uchańka. The multinational and multicultural community of Dubienka was famous for its devotion to Poland in the times of struggle for independence. Dubienka faced a problematic loss of its town rights in 1939 which was caused by German occupiers, who burnt all the documents, including an invaluable chronicle of the town that had been kept there since the 18<sup>th</sup> Century.



The Holy Trinity Church in Dubienka,  
photo J. Tworek

Dubienka has retained some of the character and layout of the 19<sup>th</sup>-Century borderland town it once was. The Holy Trinity Catholic Church was erected in 1865 in the Baroque Revival style. Also worth seeing is the inactive Orthodox church in the Byzantine-Ruthenian style built in 1909 and the monument to the Ruthenian physician of Dubienka, Mikołaj Nieczaj, the initiator of the raising of the mound commemorating the battle of 1792, the organiser and commander of a 400-strong unit and named as the leader of the district during the January Uprising. An interesting item is the T-34 tank, which commemorates the victorious offensive of the 1<sup>st</sup> Ukrainian Front, including the 1<sup>st</sup> Polish Army, in July 1944. In front of the local general secondary school there is a cannon from that period and a room showing the battle traditions of World War II, including a section dedicated to the heroic captain of the ORP "Wilk" submarine, Commander Bogusław Krawczyk, who came from Dubienka.

**The Wełnianka** – a left-bank tributary of the Bug, it flows through the Dubienka Lowland and enters the Bug downstream of Dubienka, through the old bed of the Bug. When the waters are at high or medium level, it is possible to embark on a kayaking trip to the Bug from Dubienka.

**Uchańka** – a large village founded in the 16<sup>th</sup> Century on the land belonging to Dubienka. It features a distinctive "barn street" with a line of wooden barns on the side of the fields. During the Polish-Russian war of 1792 the fields



The Kościuszko Mound in Uchańka,  
photo J. Tworek

and meadows south of the village were the scene of a battle known as the Battle of Dubienka. On 18 July Major General Tadeusz Kościuszko, commanding a division of 6 thousand men, spent six hours stopping a 30-thousand strong Russian corps, killing about 2 thousand enemy soldiers (while losing about 600 of his own). The Russian General Palembach was killed in the battle. On 3 June 1794, during the Kościuszko Uprising, in almost the same place, after crushing the Russian outposts at the outskirts of Dubienka, a part of Gen. Zajączek's corps of 6 thousand men clashed with a twice as numerous enemy, who had huge artillery advantage.

During the great patriotic manifestations of 1861 a mound was raised on the place from which Kościuszko commanded his troops to honour his memory. Kościuszko's Mound was destroyed and reconstructed twice (in 1918 and 1964). It is located close to the village limits (near the Dubienka-Dorohusk road).

**Kolemczyce** – a small village on the Bug. The place of the crossing and the battle of a several-hundred-strong unit of Soviet partisans supported by the company of “Mały” of the 27<sup>th</sup> Volhynian Infantry Division of the Polish Home Army with the units of SS-Galizien and Grenzschtutzen in the night from 4 to 5 April 1944. There is no trace of the initially Eastern-Rite Catholic and later Orthodox church destroyed in 1938 as part of the so-called revindication campaign.

**Husynne** (Dorohusk Commune) – in the past the central part of a demesne. Only sparse utility buildings, a distillery and a run-down park with old-growth trees are left after the old estate. The park trees include exotic (tulip trees) and historic specimens (oak, linden, white poplar). In the cemetery stands the interesting 19<sup>th</sup>-Century mortuary chapel of the Rulikowski family.

**The Udal** – a left-bank tributary of the Bug, which is 31.9 km long, flows through the depression of Dubienka. It flows into the Bug at the level of Dorohusk, supplying water to the recreational reservoir near Turka.



The Suchodolski Palace in Dorohusk,  
photo J. Tworek

**Dorohusk** – the seat of the Commune Office, Chełm District. The Dorohusk international road and rail border crossing – Jagodzin – between Poland and Ukraine. It is an old settlement that was once part of the Czerwień Towns at the trade route by the Bug with a crossing on the Bug. From the 19<sup>th</sup>

Century there was a port here called “Bug Flotyła”, which was still active after World War I, but was completely destroyed during

World War II. In the past the settlement was called Dorohowsk, Dorohusko, Dorous, and Drohiczyn Chełmski. Dorohusk became a town in 1750 through the efforts of Michał Maurycy Suchodolski and it has never formally lost this right. The town has two parts: a village and a settlement by the railway station. On a high slope over the Bug stands the 18<sup>th</sup>-Century Palace of the Suchodolski family in the area of barely visible fortifications of a 16<sup>th</sup>-Century manor. Other fascinating sites include the remains of the English park, the tomb of the Suchodolski family, the statue of St. Barbara and the Gothic Revival Catholic church erected between 1907 and 1909 on the site of the 18<sup>th</sup>-Century chapel of the Suchodolskis, which was demolished in 1818. By the river, between the rail and road bridges, a statue in the form of a granite block was placed on the spot where the Soviet Army and the 1<sup>st</sup> Polish Army succeeded in crossing the Bug on 21 July 1944.

**Świerże** – a settlement and former town (the rights of incorporation were granted in 1443) with numerous fairs and a river port. The original spatial layout is still clearly discernible, with its rectangular market square and mostly wooden buildings. A Gothic Revival church erected in 1905-07 stands on a slope near the Bug. Its furnishings include 18<sup>th</sup>-Century items. There is also a mid-19<sup>th</sup>-Century Gothic Revival rectory. Historic oaks and a hornbeam lane leading to the old park stand nearby. The park is one of the largest of its kind in the Lubelskie Region and



The Gothic-Revival church in Świerże, photo J. Tworek

features numerous exotic and historic trees, as well as the remains of old estate buildings (the Tarnowski palace was demolished after 1945). Traces of an early mediaeval hill fort can also be found in the park grounds.

**Hniszów** – located in close proximity to the Bug (1.5 km), this village lies near an old bog iron-mining site and is known for its historic English oaks, whose fame stretches well beyond the region. The buildings of the former manor farm are now only visible in the traces of foundations, around which lies a small historic park with a linden lane and ancient trees. The most valued specimen is the 400-year-old and 30-metre-high oak up to 9 m in diameter at chest height. According to a legend, Bolesław Chrobry stopped under the tree to rest during his expedition to Kiev. Hence, it was named "Bolko". Each year, around the time of Bolesław's name day, a cultural and recreational festival





“Bolko”, a 400-year old oak in Hniszów, photo J. Tworek

called “Bolkowanie” (organised by the community of the Ruda Huta Commune) takes place by the oak. It also features kayaking trips down the Uherka and the Bug.

**Siedliszcze** – a village located near the place where the Uherka flows into the Bug. In the 18<sup>th</sup> Century it was part of the non-town Starosty of Stulno in the Chełm Land, connected with the famous House of Rzewuski. Their main residence was located in Siedliszcze, although they had a number of other residences including the great castle in Podhorce in Podolia.

**The Uherka** – a left-bank tributary of the Bug, it flows through Pagóry Chełmskie and the Dubienka Lowland. 44 km long, basin area 575 sq. km. It flows from near the village of Zagroda south of Chełm. Its right-bank tributaries are the Słyszówka and the Gdola and its left-bank tributaries are the Janówka, the Garka and the Lepietucha. Significant towns and villages on the Uherka: Chełm, Stańków, Zarzecze, Ruda, Rudka and Siedliszcze. It flows into the Bug downstream of the village of Siedliszcze by Uhrusk. The kayaking trail on the Uherka: Stańków – Zarzecze Siedliszcze (28 km).

**Uhrusk** – first mentioned in the so-called chronicle in 1204 as the defensive town called Uhrowesk. In the 12<sup>th</sup> Century Uhrusk was one of the most important towns of the Principality of Galicia-Volhynia. It is here that in 1219-20 Daniel Romanowicz built a fortified town and established an Eastern-Rite diocese, which was then moved to Chełm in 1237-40. Dormition of the Mother of God Orthodox Church in the Classicist-Byzantine style from 1849 was converted into an Orthodox church in 1875. St. John the Baptist’s church, erected in 1675-78 as a Renaissance church, was rebuilt in the Classicist style after a fire. Next to the church, which is surrounded by a fortified wall, stands the Chapel of the Dłużewski Family from



1728 and a belfry dating back to the first half of the 19<sup>th</sup> Century. The old Orthodox cemetery, formerly Eastern-Rite Catholic, is located near the railway stop, while the Catholic cemetery stands by the crossroads. Nearby, in the park, there is an old unstylished manor of the Niemirycz family (the last owners) from the turn of the 20<sup>th</sup> Century. In the 19<sup>th</sup> Century the



Dormition of the Mother of God Orthodox Church in Uhrusk, photo O. Bielak

estate belonged to the Kamiński family: Henryk Ignacy, a general of the November Uprising and his son Henryk Michał, a well-known and recognised philosopher and political writer.

**Wola Uhruska** – the seat of the Commune Office, Włodawa District. A large settlement connected with the village of Bytyń in the north. The 19<sup>th</sup> Century was a time of rapid development, as the now-closed “Nadbużanka” glassworks were commissioned. Wola Uhruska was known as a holiday destination as early as in the time of the Second Polish Republic. Near Lake Bużysko, which is supplied by a small stream, there is a holiday and recreation site. The most interesting sites include the remains of the 19<sup>th</sup>-Century wooden post mill and also the sculptures by the local folk artist Czesław Szczęch and other artists who participate in annual outdoor sculpture workshops located outdoors, in the church and in the Commune Office building.

**Stulno** – a 17<sup>th</sup>-Century village, the centre of a small but very influential non-town starosty of the Chełm land. In 1771 the Kraków Voivode and Field Clerk of the Crown (later also the Grand Crown Hetman) Wacław Rzewuski was the Starost of Stulno. After him the starosty was taken over by his son Seweryn, a notorious Targowica Confederationist. The old Rzewuski and then Kunicki residence was located in the nearby Siedliszcze. The only trace of the former manor farm in Stulno is a pile of rubble with brick basements.

**Zberezze** – a village stretching along the Wola Uhruska – Włodawa road. Before the War it was a big Ukrainian village. At the southern end of the village is the so-called Popówka with a Roman-Catholic chapel built on the site of a former Orthodox church, some of the 19<sup>th</sup>-Century furnishings of which are located in the chapel.

West and north of Zberezze stretches the Sobibór Landscape Park with the distinctive landscape and ecosystems of Polesie, the biggest

European population of pond turtle, which is an endangered species, a great variety of birds, and elk, beaver, otter and wolf refuges.

Zberezę has a magnificent future in tourism as there are well-advanced plans for launching the international tourist border crossing Zberezę-Adamczuki (Ukraine). This would allow easy and quick access from Poland to the area of the Shatsky National Natural Park, including Lake Svityaz.

**Wołczyn** – a gradually depopulating village at the edge of the Sobibór Forests that was inhabited by Ukrainians before the War. It features several old wooden cottages with shuttered windows. Today holiday lodges owned by people from central Poland are growing increasingly common in these parts.

**Sobibór** – a big village picturesquely stretching within the valley of the Bug, almost entirely Ukrainian before the War. It has a distinctive group of wooden buildings decorated with cut-out cornices and windowsills, shutters, porches and gables. At the north end of Sobibór (in the most convenient place for taking a break from a kayaking trip) stands a former manor farm with a still-intact manor house from the turn of the 20<sup>th</sup> Century.



The Museum of the Former Sobibór Nazi Death Camp, *photo S. Turski*

In the collective memory, Sobibór is associated with the Nazi death camp that was located about 5 km west of the village, in the close vicinity of the railway station on the Chełm – Brest line (Sobibór Station). From March 1942 to October 1943 about 250 thousand Jews from Poland, USSR, Czechoslovakia, France and the Netherlands, and also Poles and Gypsies, were murdered there. After a successful mutiny among the prisoners in October 1943 (under the command of Aleksander Peczerski) the camp was closed down and the Nazis began attempts at covering-up the traces of their genocide. The site now houses a symbolic monument, a mound raised from the ashes of victims and a permanent museum exhibition to preserve the memory of the victims.

**Dubnik** – a small village between the Bug and the road to Włodawa. It still has several charming wooden cottages with decorated cornices and shutters. Today, the place is known for the so-called “tripoint”, the site at which the borders of Poland, Ukraine and Belarus meet.

**Orchówek** – a village in the Włodawa Commune at the fork of the Rivers Włodawka and Bug. Established in 1506 as a private town in the Chełm land. It featured a customs house between the Crown and Lithuania (forming the Polish-Lithuanian Commonwealth) with the border along the Włodawka. In 1869 it lost its town rights. After in 1972 the Bug Tanning Factory was built, Orchówek began developing and temporarily became part of the town of Włodawa. It now features the terminus of the Chełm-Brest rail route, interrupted by the current border on the Bug, which is continued on the Tomaszówka-Brest line in Belarus. Nearby, where the Mościcki Canal flows into the Bug, the borders of Poland, Ukraine and Belarus meet.

The most valuable monument of Orchówek is the Late-Baroque post-Augustinian Capuchin church erected in 1770-80. The church features the painting of Our Lady of Orchówek from the turn of the 17<sup>th</sup> Century.

**The Włodawka** – a left-bank tributary of the Bug, it flows through the Łęczna-Włodawa Lake District in West Polesie. 31.5 km long, the river flows out of the Wytyczno reservoir. Right-bank tributaries: the Krzemianka, the Tarasienka, the Więzienny Rów; left-bank tributaries: the Mietułka, the Ulanówka. Significant villages and towns on the Włodawka: Kołacz, Suchawa, Okuninka, Włodawa. In the past (from 1387) Włodawka was a border river between the Grand Duchy of Lithuania and the Polish Crown. Kayaking trip on the Włodawka: Kołacz – Suchawa – Włodawa (22.5 km).

**Włodawa** – a district town, the seat of the District Office, Town Office and Commune Office of Włodawa. In the past a typical town in the Polish-Russian-Lithuanian borderlands, located in the Garb Włodawski mesoregion near the place where the Włodawka enters



The church in Włodawa on the Bug, photo J. Tworek



The synagogue in Włodawa,  
*photo J. Tworek*

the Bug. At first it was part of the Czerwień Towns and then of the Principality of Galicia-Volhynia with its capital in Chełm. Due to the Lithuanian expansion, Włodawa remained part of the Grand Duchy and bordered the Crown through Włodawka. The place was granted town rights in 1534,

which were confirmed in 1540. Once the town was famous for its fairs and big cattle markets, but today it is best known as a tourist destination and a place where water levels on the Bug are reported. Włodawa has managed to retain the unique charm of a multinational, multicultural and multireligious town in the Eastern borderlands.

The town still has a Late-Baroque urban layout with a rectangular market square. On the site of the old town hall stands a rectangular-shaped building, aptly named Czworobok (rectangle in Polish), an 18th-Century original complex of stalls and shambles with an inner courtyard. According to the local tradition, the courtyard of the Czworobok was the scene of the famous duel between Wołodajowski and Kmicic. East of the market there is a group of old Jewish religious buildings with a beautiful Baroque synagogue from the second half of the 18th Century founded by the House of Czartoryski and featuring the Museum of the Łęczna-Włodawa Lake District. The synagogue in Włodawa is a religious building of great value and significance for Judaism and one of the few in Poland in such a good condition. The major building of the Pauline complex is St. Louis' Church erected in 1780-86 as designed by Paweł Fontana. The nave was built on an elliptic plan. The valuable Rococo interior of the temple is decorated with polychrome, six monumental sculptures of the Fathers of the Church, 18th-Century paintings and intarsia woodwork. The church has large vaults with crypts. Next to it stands the building of the Pauline monastery built in 1711-17 and behind it there is a small construction which once housed a monastery kitchen. The Orthodox Church, initially Eastern-Rite Catholic, was erected in 1840-42. In 1875 it was converted to Orthodox and in 1888 rebuilt in the Byzantine-Classical style. Next to it stands a Classical rectory. North of the Pauline monastery, the Zamkowa Hill, where a wooden-and-earthen town of the Principality of Galicia-Volhynia stood in the 13th Century, is well worth a visit. The town cemetery holds a collective grave of and a monument to the insurgents of 1863. Of the two Jewish cemeteries that existed in the past only two gravestones have remained. The former Jewish residents of Włodawa were murdered in the nearby "death factory" – Sobibór.

When visiting Włodawa, you have to see the famous water gauge on the Bug, which is located 300 m downstream from the place where the Włodawka supplies the Bug at the extension of Lubelska Street, near Polish border pole No. 1137. This place also features a section of a cycle trail with roofing and the sandy banks of the Bug – a perfect place to take a refreshing break from a kayaking trip.

Włodawa's development plans are connected with the continued efforts of the local authorities to establish the Włodawa-Tomashovka (Belarus) international border crossing.

**Suszno** – a small village located between a road and the Bug, which was once, along with its estate, part of Włodawa. Near the Bug there are remains of an old manor farm, and the brick chimney of the starchworks is clearly visible from the river.

**Różanka** – a large village located on a high slope over the Bug, established in 1507. It lost its town rights as early as in the 17<sup>th</sup> Century, but it remained the centre of a large demesne, e.g. of the Houses of Pociąg, Fleming, Czartoryski, and Zamoyski. Only vast yet crumbled basements, a damaged guardhouse and palace pavilion, the remains of the encircling wall and traces of manor farm buildings, are left now of the magnificent magnate residence,



The church in Różanka,  
*photo M. Zbarachewicz*

which was completely destroyed during World War I. The most valuable remnant is the big park (12 ha) created in the 18<sup>th</sup> Century as a French formal garden and in the 19<sup>th</sup> Century enlarged and converted into a Landscape Park. The park features many huge and exotic trees (linden, ash, horse chestnut, maple, elm, acacia, spruce, pine, larch, London plane, ginkgo biloba, honey locust, Siberian peashrub). In the centre of the village stands the Gothic Revival Church of the Zamoyski foundation built in 1908-13. The place used by kayakers is located below the high slope of the former magnates' estate, where a ferryboat plied across the Bug before WW2.

**Stawki** – a small village bordering Różanka. In the area of the former manor farm stands a 19<sup>th</sup> Century manor and the village itself features numerous wooden buildings from the turn of the 20<sup>th</sup> Century.



**Dołhobrody** – a large village stretching meridionally along an oxbow lake. In the 18<sup>th</sup> Century, it belonged to the House of Radziwiłł. It's worth paying a visit to the church from 1929 (with some furnishings left after the Eastern-Rite Catholic church), wooden houses from the late 19<sup>th</sup> Century, a post mill, and the regional chamber located in the school. The village is famous for its rich folk culture.

**The Hanna** – a small left-bank tributary of the Bug.



The wooden church in Hanna, photo J. Tworek

**Hanna** – the seat of the Commune Office, Włodawa District. A large village on the river Hanna. It had town rights in the period 1546-1821. About 3 km away from the Bug. Near the old market square stands a historic wooden group of buildings belonging to the former Eastern-Rite Catholic church from 1739-42. It features a rich interior with original polychrome painted on canvas and then placed on the walls and the vault. 8 km from the village you can find Romanów, with its grand Classicist manor housing the Józef Ignacy Kraszewski Museum.

**Kuzawka** (Hanna Commune) – an old village on the Bug, famous for being a hub for folk weaving. Once a port for boats. According to tradition it was from here that Tadeusz Kościuszko set off to Gdańsk from where he headed to the United States. Kuzawka has wooden houses and a windmill from 1870.

**Sławatycze** – the seat of the Commune Office, Biała Podlaska District. The road border crossing Sławatycze-Domaczewo (Belarus) is located here.

From the 15<sup>th</sup> Century it was a trade settlement on the Bug. Sławatycze was granted town rights as early as in 1577, but lost them in the 19<sup>th</sup> Century. The town layout, with numerous wooden houses, mainly from the early 20<sup>th</sup> Century, is well-preserved. Near the market square stand an Orthodox church and a Catholic church. The Byzantine-style Orthodox church was built in the late 19<sup>th</sup> Century. The interior houses 18<sup>th</sup>-Century furnishings. The Catholic church, which has

an interesting shape and detail, was erected in 1913-19 and features impressive historic items from the earlier house of God, including paintings from the 17<sup>th</sup> and 18<sup>th</sup> Centuries. The village has as many as four cemeteries – one Roman Catholic, one Jewish, one Eastern-Rite Catholic and one Orthodox. Just outside Sławatycze, near the crossing, there are two windmills dating back to the turn of the 20<sup>th</sup> Century; the road to the border crossing and the village of Liszna begin there.

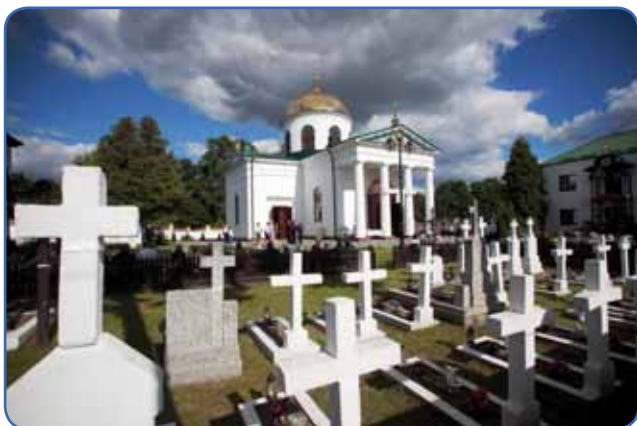


The Orthodox church in Sławatycze,  
*photo M. Tarajko*

**Mościce Dolne** – a village located among the marshy meadows by the Bug. Up to 1928 it bore the name Kolonia Nejbrof. Established in the 18<sup>th</sup> Century by Mecklenburg settlers who worked on draining the areas near the Bug, which resulted in shifting the course of the river. It features fascinating wooden buildings, including structures from the late 19<sup>th</sup> Century, and stilt houses.

**Jabłeczna** – a village mentioned in the 15<sup>th</sup> Century along with an Orthodox church enclave (separated by the Bug). The village has a wooden church built in 1750 as a Uniate church, rebuilt in the 19<sup>th</sup> Century and converted into an Orthodox church. During WW1 it became a Catholic church. Next to it stand two brick buildings from the late 19<sup>th</sup> Century. The village also has several wooden houses from the early 20<sup>th</sup> Century and two wooden post mills.

Jabłeczna is known mainly for the historic Orthodox church and monastery complex located on the Bug at a distance of 2 km from the village. Legend has it that the monastery was established on the site where an Icon of St. Onuphrius came here on the waters of the Bug. The monastery has been here since at least the 15<sup>th</sup> Century. The monks of Jabłeczna, despite being put under pressure, never joined the Union of Brest. It's worth knowing that until 1821 the monastery was located on the right bank of the Bug and the river ran between the monastery and the village of Jabłeczna. The central structure is the brick Orthodox church of St. Onuphrius, built in 1839-40 on the Greek cross plan. Inside, there is a beautiful iconostasis, including the most revered item of all – the 15<sup>th</sup>-Century Icon of St. Onuphrius. The Orthodox church courtyard is accessed through a belfry-gate. There is a monastery building nearby, along



St. Onuphrius Orthodox church in Jableczna, *photo A. Koziara*

with an Orthodox church, regularly extended, and also a wooden house with architecture reminiscent of central Russia. The entire group of buildings is surrounded by a wall with two gates bearing the painted images of St. Onuphrius. Outside the enclosure there are two chapels from 1905-1908. Near the monastery stands the Chapel of the Dormition of the Mother of God, and further east, on a small mound, close to the precipitous bank of the Bug, rises the Chapel of the Holy Spirit. This structure, which sparkles in the sunlight with its vivid colours, is clearly visible from the river and invites kayakers to the precious sanctuary in Jableczna.

**Szostaki** – a small village near the Włodawa-Terespol road. The village has several interesting wayside wooden crosses.

**Zalewsze** – a little village on the Bug, featuring a late-19<sup>th</sup>-Century wooden chapel.

**Kodeń** – the seat of the Commune Office, Biała Podlaska District. The first mentions of Kodeń, which reputedly was first called Todeń, come from the 15<sup>th</sup> Century. It was back then that the settlement and watermills were built. Towards the end of the 15<sup>th</sup> Century the estate was purchased by Iwan Sapieha. The rich and powerful House of Sapieha ruled Kodeń for three centuries. The town was incorporated in 1511, but was stripped of its town rights as a result of the Tsarist repressions in 1869 in the aftermath of the January Uprising. south-east of the centre, behind the Kałamanka creek, stand the remains of the Sapieha castle. The castle was built in the early 16<sup>th</sup> Century, was surrounded by a moat, and was protected by the Bug and its tributary Kałamanka. Traces of the ground floor are the only things left of the castle, but the old castle chapel, erected about 1540, is still in fine condition (currently it is a Catholic chapel). It is a very valuable historical monument, because it is the only Gothic Orthodox church made of brick with an Early-Renaissance portal and

elements of Armenian religious architecture. The plain interior of the Chapel features the gravestone of Iwan Sapiieha and the 17<sup>th</sup>-Century icon of Christ Pantocrator. Nearby, the basements of the castle arsenal were used to erect a 19<sup>th</sup>-Century pardon chapel. The entire group is surrounded by a park with valuable trees and its distinctive original elements are the wooden sculptures by Tadeusz Niewiadomski, which form the Way of the Cross.

Just by the market stands Kodeń's most famous building – the beautiful church of St. Anne, built in 1629-36 in the Baroque-style based on St. Peter's Basilica in Rome. Since 1923 the church has been a minor basilica. The original furnishings of the church were damaged, but a rich collection of Renaissance stuccowork has remained intact with an oval cupola attracting the visitor's eye. The most valuable



The castle chapel in Kodeń,  
*photo M. Dąbrowski*

ornament and a magnet for pilgrims is the famous painting of the Queen of Podlasie, Our Lady of Kodeń, or La Madonna di Guadalupe, which, according to tradition, was stolen from the Vatican by Mikołaj Sapiieha. The Catholic parish in Kodeń is run by missionary oblates, who also take care of the painting.

Other notable sights in Kodeń include the Placencja palace, a former palace annexe, a wooden manor from the early 20<sup>th</sup> Century, numerous late-19<sup>th</sup> and early 20<sup>th</sup>-Century wooden and utility houses and a cemetery with the graves of insurrectionists from 1863.

**Okczyn** – a small village by a bend on the Bug. Most buildings are wooden with wicker walls or with thatched roofs. The buildings feature densely braided fencing, which is also encountered in other villages in the region located on the Bug.

**Kostomłoty** – a large village mentioned for the first time in 1412. The village is known for the only Neo-Uniate parish in Poland. The wooden Orthodox church erected about 1631 as Uniate (Eastern-Rite Catholic), and after dissolution by the Russian Tsar of the Union with the See of Rome, converted into an Orthodox church, and in 1927 into a Catholic



The Neo-Uniate church in Kostomłoty,  
*photo S. Gębski*

church of the Byzantine-Slavonic Rite, i.e. Neo-Uniate. The most valuable item in the furnishings is the iconostasis with the icon of the Patron – St. Nikita. The icon of the patron, like the three others, was painted in the year the church was erected. Another worthwhile building is the wooden mid-19<sup>th</sup>-Century

rectory. Kostomłoty also has several wooden houses from the turn of the 20<sup>th</sup> Century.

**Żuki, Murawiec, Michalków** – small villages located along the Bug upstream from Terespol. The most famous of them is Michalków, which is the ideal place of recreation for the residents of Terespol and a stop on the kayaking trail. At the level where the embankment of the road leading to the village ends, there is practically the last stage point of the kayaking trips before Terespol. Moreover, from Żuki and Michalków it is worth going to Lebieziew, which is at a distance of about 5 km.

**Lebieziew** – the place is known for the Tatar cemetery. The Polish Tatars were settled here in 1679. The descendants of the Tatars brought here by John III Sobieski moved to the Nowogródek area during the military operations of 1915. Only a few quickly assimilated into the local community. Probably in 1915 the Cossacks burnt the mosque that stood here from the early 18<sup>th</sup> Century. The cemetery (the Mizar) has several dozen tombstones, the oldest of which dates back to 1704 and is thought to contain the ashes of Lt. Samuel Murza Korycki, the first Tatar settler in Lebieziew. The Mizar in Lebieziew (or rather in the nearby Zastawek village) is one of the two such cemeteries that can still be found in Podlasie.

**Terespol** – the seat of the Town Office and Commune Office, Biała Podlaska District. A road and rail border crossing between Poland and Belarus with connections to Moscow is located here:

- Road: Terespol – Brest,
- Road (transport): Kukuryki – Kozlovichi, with a modern terminal in Koroszczyń,
- Rail: Terespol – Brest.

Terespol is a town still overshadowed by its big neighbour, Brest. The first mention of the place where Terespol stands appeared in 1512 – at that time it was the area of the Błotków village. Terespol owes its name to Teresa, the wife of the landowner Józef Bogusław Słuszką, who in 1597 obtained the privilege to establish a town here and founded a Dominican church and monastery. Terespol



flourished under the Fleming family, who purchased it from the Pocięjs. After the Flemings, the town was taken over by the House of Czartoryski, beginning with the famous Izabela Czartoryska, née Fleming. After the fall of the November Uprising, the town went into the hands of the Tsarist Government, which began the construction of the massive Brest Fortress, which separated the town from the Bug. The remains of the Fortress are preserved in Łobaczew, Koroszczyń, Kobylany and Lebiedziew in varying conditions. The oldest historic building in Terespol is the brick Orthodox church (initially Eastern-Rite Catholic) from the late 18<sup>th</sup> Century. A unique historic structure is the cast-iron obelisk with reliefs from 1825, commemorating the construction of the modern Brest – Warsaw route. It is called “the monument to work”.

For kayakers, reaching Terespol is not an easy task, because of the extended infrastructure of the big border crossing, which is why a trip to the town should best be organised after stopping at the nearby Michalków.

**Kuzawka** (the Terespol Commune) – a small village next to a bend on the Bug. At the southern end of the village there is a small cemetery of Polish soldiers from the 66<sup>th</sup> Infantry Regiment of Kashubia, who fell in the battles with the Bolsheviks on the Bug line between 2 and 7 August 1920.

**Nepel** – a village established before 1430, located on both sides of the Krzna in its final section, currently known as a beautifully situated summer resort. It belonged to the Niemcewicz family (the famous Julian Ursyn visited this place several times) and the renowned bridge builder, engineer Stanisław Kierbedź. The only buildings left of the old palace complex in Nepel, which was devastated by fires and wars, are the Gothic Revival store-room called the Treasury, the Biwak pavilion, which was used as a residence by Tsar Alexander I who was here on several occasions, the building of the former manor kitchen, the old library pavilion, the White Manor, and the Gothic Revival Niemcewicz chapel from 1828. Traces of the glory of the old estate can also be seen in the 18-hectare park, which features over 1,000 trees of domestic species (up to 120 years



The “Stone Woman” in Nepel,  
photo M. Zbarachewicz

old) and a dozen-or-so specimens of eastern white pine. In the park there is a monumental glacial erratic. On the north-east of the estate, at the top of a hill, stands the famous “stone woman” – a cross carved in stone with a primitive depiction of a face.

The best option for kayakers wanting to visit Neple is to sail to the Krzna and reach the bridge on the Terespol-Janów road.

Neple is the first location in the “Podlasie Bug Gorge” Landscape Park, which we can admire on the left bank of the river from the spot where the Krzna flows into the Bug as far as to Mężenin. The park has an outstanding landscape formed in the glacial period, the natural course of the river Bug, with numerous oxbow lakes, large forest complexes, valuable plants and the habitats of many (often very rare) animal species – enough to make for a great experience to any visitor.

**The Krzna** – a left-bank tributary of the Bug which flows through the South Podlasie Lowland and Polesie Podlaskie. It is 119.9 km long and its river basin area is 3353.2 sq. km. The Krzna begins as two streams that flow out of the marshy forests of the Łuków Plain (the northern Krzna Północna at an altitude of 165 m above sea level and the southern Krzna Południowa at 169 m above sea level). In Międzyrzec Podlaski the two streams combine and, now as the Krzna, flow through the Łomazy Hollow and the Kodeń Plain. The river flows into the Bug 130 m above sea level, downstream of the village of Neple. The Wieprz – Krzna channel, which is 140 km long, connects Borowica on the Wieprz with Międzyrzec Podlaski. The major towns on the Krzna include Łuków, Międzyrzec Podlaski and Biała Podlaska. The kayaking trail on the Krzna – Biała Podlaska - Neple is 44 km long. When the rivers reach higher levels it is possible to begin the journey in Międzyrzec Podlaski.



The church in Krzyczew,  
photo M. Dąbrowski

**Krzyczew** – a village located on a scenic slope over the Bug, established in the first half of the 15<sup>th</sup> Century. It is here that traces of 10<sup>th</sup>-12<sup>th</sup>-Century settlements were discovered. The village features a small wooden Eastern-Rite Catholic church from 1683 (currently a Catholic church) located right by the banks of the Bug and an early 19<sup>th</sup>-Century brick manor

with an annexe. The wooden architecture from the early years of the 20<sup>th</sup> Century is also worth seeing. This includes a post mill from 1921 and a staff gauge in Krzyczew.

**Łęgi** – a small village located on a high slope and surrounded by picturesque meadows with oxbow lakes and distinctive riparian forests by the bend of the Bug. The village has retained coherent, wooden architecture and about a half the buildings were constructed in the early 20<sup>th</sup> Century.

**Pratulin** – a village known from 1478 as Hornowo, it has had its current name since 1732. In 1754 Pratulin was granted town rights. The town is known primarily as a symbol of Eastern-Rite Catholic resistance and the persecutions brought on these people by the Orthodox Church. In 1874 the Tsarist soldiers massacred the unyielding Eastern-Rite Catholics, killing 13 and leaving 180 wounded.



The Stations of the Cross by the Sanctuary of the Bless Martyrs of Podlasie, *photo S. Turski*

The tragedy is commemorated by a monument made of fieldstone and a memorial plate placed on the collective grave of the victims. A monument to the martyrs with a plate showing the names of the murdered was also placed here. In 1990 the ashes of the martyrs were moved to St. Peter and Paul's Church. The Classicist church with a belfry was erected in 1838. The furnishings include a noteworthy icon of the Mother of God painted in the 17<sup>th</sup> Century. The Sanctuary of the Martyrs is surrounded by awe-inspiring Stations of the Cross. The local cemetery features a Gothic Revival mortuary chapel of the Wierusz-Kowalski family, a mound to the Polish soldiers from 1920 and a chapel with a sculpture of St. John of Nepomuk.

**Zaczopki** – a village and manor farm established in the 18<sup>th</sup> Century. Numerous examples of wooden architecture and an old brick school from the early 20<sup>th</sup> Century. Outside the limits of the village lies a WW1 cemetery of German soldiers.

**Derłó** – a village and a manor farm from the early 16<sup>th</sup> Century. It features the remains of an old 19<sup>th</sup>-Century park.

**Woroblin** – a village known since the 15<sup>th</sup> Century. Numerous examples of wooden architecture, including late-19<sup>th</sup>-Century buildings. A stone manor from 1858 surrounded by a large landscape park.

**Wygoda** – an old manor farm and bishop's settlement. You should know that it is not Janów Podlaski, but the village of Wygoda, which

lies 2 km from its bigger neighbour, closer to the Bug, that is home to the world-famous Janów Podlaski stud farm. It has enjoyed great success in breeding thoroughbred Arabian horses and also half-bred horses. The stud farm dates back to 1817. The damage caused by WW1 was regularly and unceasingly repaired, which has resulted in the unique and well-deserved worldwide fame of the local stud farm. These historic buildings also provide for a pleasant aesthetic experience to everyone visiting the stud farm. The oldest stables – Zegarowa and Czołowa from 1845 – were designed by Enrico (Henryk) Marconi. The brick ones, Woroncowska and Wyścigowa, and also the two brick-wooden ones come from the late 19<sup>th</sup> Century. Four more, wooden, stables, were erected in the early 20<sup>th</sup> Century. The gate leading to the stud farm dates back to 1840. The entire complex is surrounded by a vast landscape park from the 18<sup>th</sup> and 19<sup>th</sup> Centuries.



The stud farm in Janów Podlaski, *photo UMWL archive*

**Janów Podlaski** – the seat of the Commune Office, Biała Podlaska District, a settlement and later a town (established in 1465) first mentioned in 1423. The only remains of bygone glory are the former Cathedral complex, the Church of the Holy Trinity from 1714-35, the belfry from 1745, the building of the old seminary, rectory with fencing, and St. John the Baptist's Church built in 1790-1801. Close by stands a less ancient belfry-gate and rectory with fencing. Two annexes built around 1770-80 remain of the bishops' palace complex that was located near the park. The Naruszewicz Grotto was built of fieldstone in 1796. Earthen fortifications with a moat and ascent are also easily noticeable.

**Bubel Łukowiska** – a village established at the turn of the 13<sup>th</sup> and 14<sup>th</sup> Centuries located on a high slope over the Bug. Next to the road leading to the nearby village of Buczyce Stare stands a post mill.

**Bubel Stary** – a village from the turn of the 14<sup>th</sup> Century with confirmed settlement from the Bronze Age, early Iron Age and the Roman times. A wooden Eastern-Rite Catholic church from 1740 converted into an

Orthodox church in 1875-1944 – currently a Catholic chapel with a free-standing belfry from the 18<sup>th</sup> Century. A typical linear settlement with numerous wooden residential and utility buildings. Bubel Stary is the last left-bank village on the Bug along the border.

**Niemirów** – the first right-bank village located within Poland, in the Mielnik Commune, Siemiatycze District, Podlaskie Voivodeship. The first mentions of the village, back then known as Niwice, come from 1495. In 1691 Niemirów was granted town rights which it retained as late as in 1944. It still features an urban layout with a market square (currently a park). The Classicist church was founded



The Classicist church in Niemirów,  
*photo J. Tworek*

in 1780 along with its stucco decorations by the House of Czartoryski. A 1823 belfry-gate leads up to the church. Half a kilometre from the Bug lies the Zamkowa Hill – a mediaeval hill fort. The village also features the remains of a Jewish cemetery with matzevas, and a still active historic ferry boat – ferries have been built in Niemirów for a long time and served as a means to reach the other side of the Bug.

**Gnojno** – a beautifully located village at the foot of a 30-metre-high slope over the Bug was mentioned in the 16<sup>th</sup> Century as a crossing site on the Bug and a place for storing goods rafted to Gdańsk. The road to the river is known as Napoleonic – according to tradition, Napoleon Bonaparte used it in 1812. In 1863, near the crossing, there was a battle between the insurrectionists and the Russians. The village has an old Orthodox Church in the Byzantine-Ruthenian style from 1875 converted into



The church in Gnojno,  
*photo J. Tworek*



a Catholic Church after World War I. Several wooden residential and utility buildings from the turn of the 20<sup>th</sup> Century still stand.

The right-bank Niemirów in the Podlaskie Voivodeship and the left-bank Gnojno in the Lubelskie Voivodeship are the closest-lying villages near the river border with Belarus that runs along the Bug. They are crucial for kayakers, as trails along the borderland part of the river end there and the exploration of the entirely Polish part of the Bug begins. In the past Niemirów and Gnojno have been in close contact with each other - and still are - on many levels and their cooperation is symbolically expressed in the ferry crossing, which has connected the two places for centuries.

## 5.2. Natural features

The river Bug and its valley are among the places in Europe least affected by human activity. The reasons behind this include difficult access along the entire border area and the lack of heavy urbanisation. The extraordinary natural and scenic assets of the Bug have motivated scientists to explore and institute all possible forms of environmental and landscape protection. At this stage, a programme of comprehensive protection has appeared, leading to the Trans-European Strip of Natural Environment Protection along the upper and middle course of the Bug in Ukraine and Poland and the West Polesie International Biosphere Reserve in Poland (with the Poleski National Park), Belarus (Polesie Brzeskie) and Ukraine (Shatsky National Natural Park). These projects are aimed at inscribing the entire Bug river valley with its unique natural richness and beauty on the World Heritage List and covering the area with legal protection. It should be added that the natural abundance of the Bug valley has been taken into account in developing the NATURA 2000 European Ecological Network. The establishment of three refuge habitats near the Bug, with a total area of 60 thousand ha, has been planned. Almost the entire Bug river valley is to become a bird conservation area.



Lesser spotted eagle, *photo R. Siek*

These ambitious international plans for the environmental protection of the Bug river corridor must be preceded by an arduous and lengthy process of providing legal protection to its sections, making use of the internal legislation of Poland, Ukraine and Belarus. The most advanced and earliest-started projects are being carried out in Poland. The following have been established along the Bug: the Dołhobyczów Protected Landscape Area, the Bug River Protected Landscape Area, the Strzelce Landscape Park, the Sobibór Landscape Park, the Bug River Protected Landscape Area



Lady's-slipper orchid,  
photo L. Sapko

(from the mouths of the Hanna to the Krzna, where they feed into the Bug), planned as a part of the Landscape Park of the Central Bug Valley, the "Podlasie Bug Gorge" Landscape Park, the Bug and Nurzec Valley Protected Landscape Area, the Bug River Protected Landscape Area (the Mazovian section of the Bug), and the Bug Landscape Park.

Ukraine has made great progress in environmental protection, but it is also responsible for the most far-reaching transformation of the primeval valley of the Bug on its territory (particularly in the section between Kamianka-Buzka and Chervonohrad). To protect the Shatsky Polesie, the Shatsky National Park was established in the Volhyn Oblast. The Lviv Oblast plans to establish four landscape parks: Voronyaky, Busk, Fiodorovka, Bug, and the Trans-European Strip of Natural Environment Protection on the level of protected landscape will cover the entire Ukrainian part of the Bug river valley.

Until recently, the least active party with regard to protecting the Bug valley was Belarus, but significant progress has been made here too. The establishment of a park covering some of the Bug valley and the south-western part of Brest Polesie is the Belarusian contribution to the Bug Polesie International Biosphere Reserve.

These areas, already protected or planned to be covered by protection, don't include numerous reserves and natural monuments in the Bug valley. Still, they go a long way to showing everyone involved the richness and uniqueness of the landscape, flora and fauna to be found on the kayaking trail along the Bug.

To whet the appetite of veteran sightseers and enthusiasts of nature, we should at least point out a few touristic gems to be found along the banks of the Bug.

- Firstly, the areas of steppe plants near Gołębie and Kryłów and sightings of the rare speckled ground squirrel.
- Then, the gorge of the Bug near Ślipcze, Strzyżów and Zosin (Poland's easternmost point, which can actually be reached only in a kayak)

with steep banks used for nesting by kingfishers and sand martins. Here starts the longest and largest stork nesting area. Nature experts can sometimes recognise plants, which are rarely seen elsewhere in Poland, brought here by the waters of the Bug from the faraway Podole.

- The great complex of Strzelce Forests with the famous Matcze pine, which resembles the fir in its spiry form, is the habitat of rare predatory birds: lesser spotted eagle, hobby, honey buzzard, hawk and two species of harriers found in the waterside bushes – marsh harrier and Montagu's harrier.
- As we get closer to the border with Belarus, we reach the great expanse of the Sobibór Forests. The area's inaccessible marshes are home to one of Europe's biggest colonies of the protected pond turtle, which is covered by a large reserve established especially for it. Rare bird species can be found here – white-tailed eagles, hoopoes, corncrakes, black storks, grey herons and great egrets. In recent years the area has been frequented by the industrious beavers, whose expansion has been on an unprecedented scale and is visible all along the Bug River valley. The numerous trees and unexpected jams appearing on the borderland Bug are becoming a serious issue both for inexperienced kayakers and the institutions watching over the border.
- Behind Włodawa (which features the world-famous staff gauge), there are many new elements on and around the river. You can see more bushy islets, banks with clean sandy beaches that beckon you to take a short break, flowery meadows with thousands of insects, and strips of riparian forests. We might see an otter or rare birds, such as remiz, water rail, common moorhen, little ringed plover, corncrake and hoopoe.
- From the place where the Krzna enters the Bug we reach the Podlasie Switzerland, a nature reserve within the Podlasie Bug Gorge Landscape Park, which fully deserves its name. The height differences here can be up to 50 m. The Podlasie Bug Gorge offers wonderful landscapes. Near Pratulin there are amazingly well-preserved riverside riparian forests, oxbow lakes - open and closed - which start at the level of Dubienka.



European pond turtle in the Sobibór Landscape Park,  
*photo M. Dąbrowski*

- As you travel along the Bug, you should take a closer look at the flood plains and the places where people have located their houses. The residents of Bug-side villages are well aware of the vagaries of nature and settle above the flood plains, which we can see from the water, e.g. palaces or their remains in Czumów, Dorohusk and Różanka.
- The Bug river valley and its immediate vicinity are home to many large mammals and a plethora of amphibians and reptiles, which are difficult to see from a kayak, but during stops and camps, or even on the water, it is hard not to notice the great abundance of animals, including the fascinating world of insects, proudly represented by colourful dragonflies and butterflies.
- West Polesie, where the International Biosphere Reserve is being established, is an international natural keystone, which sees the crossing of ecological corridors – south-north along the Bug and east-west along the Pripyat.
- Biosphere reserves have been established since 1971 as part of the UNESCO Man and Biosphere Programme (MaB). Its objective is to study the interrelations between humankind and the biosphere and to make them sustainable. They have three basic functions – preserving biodiversity (of ecosystems, species, genes), sustainable development (humanist and social), research, monitoring and exchange of information as part of the global MaB network. Naturally, biospheres are established in areas with well-preserved nature and high cultural value. **The West Polesie International Biosphere Reserve**, being established in Polesie, at the Polish-Belarusian-Ukrainian borderlands, is divided into three reserves:

**1. West Polesie** – established in Poland in 2002, it covers nearly 140 thousand ha, including the Łęczna-Włodawa Lake District and the surrounding areas. It features the Polesie National Park and the following landscape parks – Sobibór, Polesie and the Łęczna Lake District; numerous nature reserves, natural monuments and ecological sites. The area abounds in lakes, various types of peat bogs and rare species, including those endangered both in Europe and globally – aquatic warblers, corncrakes, ferruginous ducks, cranes, white-tailed eagles, black grouse, wolves and this country's largest



Crane, photo R. Siek

population of pond turtles. Many species of rare marsh flora can also be found here - *betula humilis*, swamp willow, downy willow, three species of sundews and many others. The monuments of culture include the Orthodox churches in Kosyń, Hańsk, Sosnowica and Dratów, windmills, wooden rural architecture and old cemeteries.

**2. The Bug Polesie** – this reserve was established in 2006 in Belarus and covers over 48 thousand ha. The *zakaznik* in the Bug Polesie is the most valuable part of it. Most of the reserve covers forest complexes (nearly all kinds of forests in Belarus), the natural valley of the Bug and water reservoirs both natural and artificial, such as the near 100-year old pond complex in Stradech. This area is significant for bird protection, with such species as great egrets, white-tailed eagles and whooper swans. Rare species of orchid also grow here and are among the most numerous in Belarus (for example lady's-slipper orchid). The architectural monuments include wooden Orthodox churches (such as in Tchersk – early 18<sup>th</sup> Century, Miedna, Damachava, Dubok), WW1 cemeteries and wooden rural architecture.

**3. Shatsky** – established in 2002 in Ukraine, it covers an area of about 75 thousand ha. It includes the Shatsky National Park with the complex of the largest lakes in Ukraine, featuring Lake Svityaz (over 2500 ha), peat-bog areas, the early course and source of the Pripyat, and a small fragment of the Bug River valley. This area is rich in rare animal species – wolves, black storks, cranes, pond turtles, and also rare forest communities (e.g. spruce forest on peat bog). It also features picturesque wooden and stone Orthodox churches (Svityaz, Pulmo, Shatsk) and wooden rural architecture.

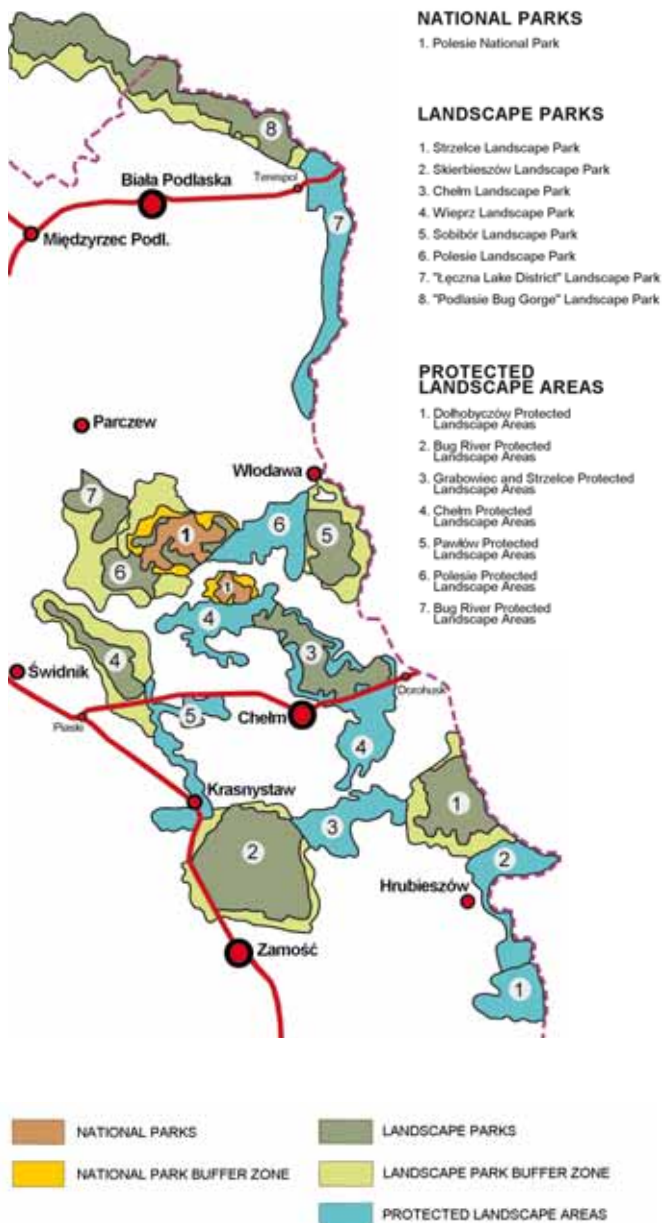
In total, the West Polesie International Biosphere Reserve is to cover an area of 263 thousand ha.



The Strzelce Forest, photo K. Łapińska (ZLPK archive)



## The Bug River Valley– protected areas



## Protected areas in the Lubelskie Voivodeship

### National Parks

1. Polesie National Park
2. Roztocze National Park

### Landscape Parks

1. Chełm Landscape Park
2. Kazimierz Landscape Park
3. Kozłówka Landscape Park
4. Krasnobród Landscape Park
5. Krzczonów Landscape Park
6. Wieprz Landscape Park
7. "Janów Forests" Landscape Park
8. "Podlasie Bug Gorge" Landscape Park
9. "Łączna Lake District" Landscape Park
10. "Solska Wilderness" Landscape Park
11. Polesie Landscape Park
12. South Roztocze Landscape Park
13. Skierbieszów Landscape Park
14. Sobibór Landscape Park
15. Strzelce Landscape Park
16. Szczepieszyn Landscape Park
17. Wrzelowiec Landscape Park

### Protected landscape areas

1. Chełm Protected Landscape Area
2. Chodel Protected Landscape Area
3. Czerniejów Protected Landscape Area
4. Dołhobyczów Protected Landscape Area
5. Grabowiec and Strzelce Protected Landscape Area
6. Kraśnik Protected Landscape Area
7. Łuków Protected Landscape Area
8. Bug River Protected Landscape Area
9. Bug River Protected Landscape Area
10. Protected Landscape Area "Annówka"
11. Protected Landscape Area "The Ciemięgi Valley"
12. Protected Landscape Area "Kości Bór"
13. Protected Landscape Area "The Wieprz Proglacial Stream Valley"
14. Pawłów Protected Landscape Area
15. Polesie Protected Landscape Area
16. Radzyń Podlaski Protected Landscape Area
17. Roztocze Protected Landscape Area



lubelskie  *Taste life!*

## The Polish tributaries of the borderland Bug

Chapter 6



A kayaking trip along the Uherka, photo M. Gołębiowska

Interest in the kayaking trails along the left-bank tributaries of the borderland Bug has been constantly growing for the last several years. These include the Huczwa (flows into the Bug at kilometre 352.5 of the “Borderland Bug” trail), the Uherka (flows into the Bug at kilometre 221 of this trail), the Włodawka (flows into the Bug at kilometre 162.5), and the Krzna (flows into the Bug at kilometre 49.0). 1-3 day kayaking trips are organised along these rivers. On the Włodawka there are also trips on its tributaries (the Rivers Krzewianka, Krzemianka and Tarasienka) or the initial stages of trips on the Bug. Other tributaries to begin trips on the Bug include the Wełnianka from Dubienka (flows into the Bug at kilometre 278.9 of the “Borderland Bug” trail) and Kałamanka from Kodeń (flows into the Bug at kilometre 93.1 of this trail). While the Krzna and the Huczwa have long been absent from kayaking literature, the Uherka and the Włodawka have only become fashionable during the last decade thanks to guidebooks, promotional and non-commercial trips and the availability of kayaks in the growing base of rental facilities in Włodawa and around the district. A drawback of all these tributaries is river regulation on most trails. In recent years, however, with some of these works abandoned or limited, and through the intensive activity of beavers, nature has been successfully reclaiming the rivers, which is evidenced by the huge beaver dam in Więzienny Rów (the Krzewianka) formed in 2009. The kayaking trails on the tributaries of the Bug can be classified as spring trails, but they can also be used in the middle of summer.

**THE HUCZWA** – a left-bank tributary of the Bug, it flows through Grzęda Sokalska, Padół Zamojski and Roztocze. It is 75 km long and has a basin area of 563 sq. km. The Huczwa springs from the vicinity of Tomaszów Lubelski, where the Rivers Solokiya and Wieprz also derive

their sources. Right-bank tributaries: the Kamień; left-bank tributaries: the Rachanka, Białka, and Siniocha. Major towns and villages on the Huczwa: Łaszczów, Tyszowce, Czermino, Turkowice, Wronowice, Werbkowice, Hrubieszów. It flows into the Bug 6 km east of Hrubieszów. The kayaking trail on the Huczwa from Łaszczów to the Bug is 55 km long.

- River length: – 77 km.
- Trail length: – 55 km.
- Difficulty level: – hard.
- Complexity: – high.
- Picturesqueness: – high.

The Huczwa kayaking trail begins in Łaszczów and can be divided into the following stages:

- Łaszczów – Tyszowce: 12 km.
- Tyszowce – Werbkowice: 20 km.
- Werbkowice – Hrubieszów: 17 km.
- Hrubieszów – mouth: 6 km.

The Huczwa features no facilities or aids for kayakers. The river can be used as an independent trail for 2-3-day events or as a starting point for trips on the Bug – from Werbkowice (the weir next to the sugar factory) – 23 km to the Bug, from Hrubieszów (the bridge



A kayaking trip along the Huczwa under the bridge near Hrubieszów, *photo J. Tworek*

and weir before the fork) – 9 km to the Bug, from Gródek (near the fort hill, footbridge) – 1 km to the Bug. Despite the lack of tourist facilities, the Huczwa can be a very attractive change for kayakers travelling along the Bug.

Km	Bank (L/R)	Places, hydraulic structures, facilities etc.	➡
55.0		Łaszczów – reinforced-concrete bridge, road. No. 852	0.0
54.5		Czerkazy – concrete bridge	0.5
50.5		Kol. Dobużek – bridge used by farmers	4.5
47.0		Mikulín – wooden bridge	8.0
44.0		Tyszowce – reinforced-concrete bridge, road No. 850	11.0
43.5		Tyszowce – bridge	11.5
38.0		Turkowice PTR – weir	17.0
36.0	L	Czermino – hill fort	19.0
34.0		Wronowice – bridge	21.0
29.0		Malice – needle weir, bridge	26.0
28.0		Konopne – bridge	27.0
25.0		Werbkowice – bridge	29.5
25.5		Werbkowice – bridge	30.0
24.5		Werbkowice – Terebiniec – bridge	30.5
23.5		Werbkowice – reinforced-concrete bridge, road No. 847	31.5



23.0		Werbkowiec sugar factory. weir	32.0
17.5		Podhorcie – bridge	37.5
17.0		Podhorcie – bridge	38.0
12.0		Brodzice – narrow-gauge railway bridge	43.0
11.0		Sławęcin – bridge	44.0
9.0		Hrubieszów – weir & bridge	46.0
8.0		Hrubieszów – reinforced-concrete bridge, road No. 844	47.0
6.5		Hrubieszów – barrage	48.5
4.0		Hrubieszów – reinforced-concrete bridge, road No. 74	51.0
1.0		Gródek – footbridge	54.0
1,0	R	Gródek – settlement	54.0
0,0		The Bug mouth	55.0

### Huczwa: Werbkowice – Hrubieszów – mouth



**THE UHERKA** – a left-bank tributary of the Bug, it flows through Pagóry Chełmskie and the Dubienka Lowland. 44 km long, basin area 575 sq. km. It flows from near the village of Zagroda south of Chełm. Its right-bank tributaries are the Słyszówka and Gdola and its left-bank tributaries are the Janówka, Garka and Lepietucha. Significant towns and villages on the Uherka: Chełm, Stańków, Zarzecze, Ruda, Rudka and Siedliszcze. It flows into the Bug downstream of the river Siedliszcze by Uhrusk. The kayaking trail on the Uherka: Stańków – Zarzecze – Siedliszcze (28 km).

- River length: – 44 km.
- Trail length: – 28 km.
- Difficulty: – easy, open to everyone.
- Complexity: – low.
- Picturesqueness: – high.

Km	Bank (L/R)	Places, hydraulic structures, facilities etc.	➡
27.8		Concrete bridge Stańków – artificial lake	0.0
27.5		Concrete ramp	0.3
26.0	L	The mouth of the Garka	1.8
25.0		Small wooden bridge – Wólka Czułcz	2.8
23.4		Concrete bridge – Zarzecze Hołówka	4.6
21.2		Wooden bridge	6.6
21.1		Needle weir	6.7
21.0		Concrete bridge with barrage	6.8
19.2		Concrete bridge – Sajczyce Majdan	8.8
16.0		The mouth of the Lepietucha	11.8
16.0		Remains of a wooden bridge	11.8
13.3	R	Łłowa – Sykowie	14.5
10.0		Concrete bridge – Ruda	17.9
8.9	L	Water gauge	17.9
8.3		Needle weir	18.9
6.5		Rail bridge	21.3
5.9	R	The mouth of the Gdola	22.1
3.2		Concrete bridge – Rudka	25.5
1.3		Concrete bridge – Siedliszcze I	26.6
0.8		Low concrete bridge – Siedliszcze II	26.9
0.0		The Uherka feeds into the Bug	27.8

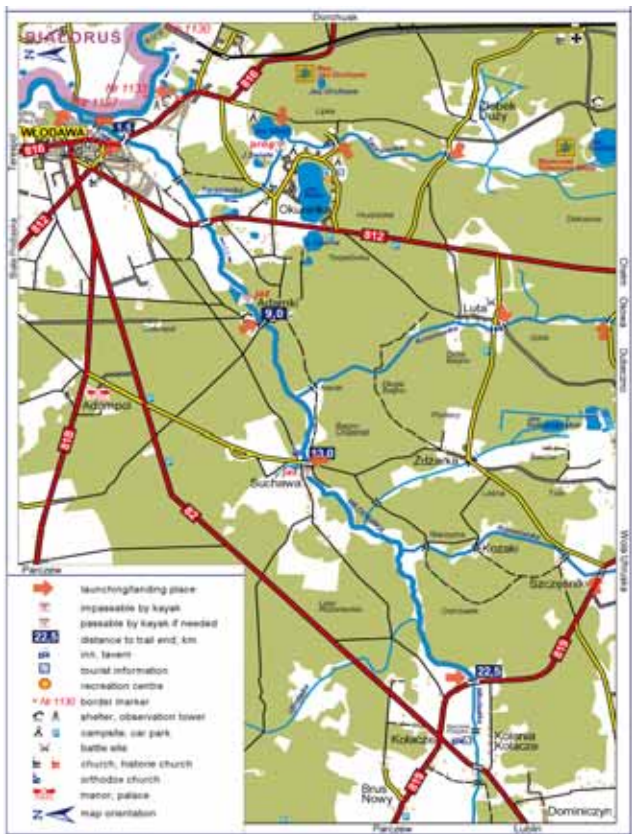
Convenient stage points and stopover points on the trail are: Stańków - artificial lake (trail start), Zarzecze (23.4 km), Sajczyce (19.2 km), Łłowa-Sykowie (13.3 km), Ruda (10.0 km), Rudka (3.2 km) and Siedliszcze (0.8 km).

The kayaking trail on the Uherka is the only trail in the area with professional markings. No other facilities are currently provided, but they are planned for Rudka (Ruda-Huta Commune) by the Culture and Recreation Centre (a perfect campsite) – building a jetty, establishing a campsite with facilities (running water, toilets,

showers, kitchen); and at Siedliszcze (Wola Uhruska Commune) – a tourist shelter.

**THE WŁODAWKA** – a left-bank tributary of the Bug, it flows through the Łączna-Włodawa Lake District in West Polesie. 31.5 km long, the river flows out of the Wytyczno reservoir. Right-bank tributaries: the Krzemianka, the Tarasienka, the Więzyenny Rów; left-bank tributaries: the Mietułka, the Ulanówka. Significant villages and towns on the Włodawka: Kołaczce, Suchawa, Okuninka, Włodawa. In the past (from 1387) Włodawka was a border river between the Grand Duchy of Lithuania and the Polish Crown. Kayaking trip on the Włodawka: Kołaczce – Suchawa – Włodawa (24 km).

Włodawka, Krzewianka, Krzemianka, Tarasienka



Km	Bank (L/R)	Places, hydraulic structures, facilities etc.	↻
24.0		Kołaczce – road No. 82 bridge	0.0
23.9		Kołaczce – barrage, steel footbridge	0.1
22.5		Reinforced concrete bridge. Kołaczce road No. 819	1.5

16.8	R	The mouth of the Krzewianka	7.2
13.0		Reinforced concrete weir – Suchawa (I)	11.0
12.9		Reinforced-concrete bridge – Suchawa	11.1
10.4	R	The mouth of the Krzemianka	13.6
8.1		Wooden bridge – Adamki	15.9
8.0	L	Jetty, campsite	16.0
6.8		Reinforced concrete weir	17.2
5.9		Wooden footbridge	18.1
4.6		Reinforced-concrete bridge (Włodawa-Chełm No. 812)	19.4
4.5		Barrage	19.5
3.7	R	The mouth of the Tarasienka	20.2
3.4		Steel footbridge (cycle trail)	20.6
1.5		Reinforced-concrete bridge (ul. Okunińska No. 816)	22.5
1.1		Wooden footbridge (gardens - r)	22.9
0.7		Wooden bridge (Grobla)	23.3
0.0		The Włodawka feeds into the Bug	24.0

- River length – 51.5 km
- Trail length – 24 km
- Difficulty level – easy, open to everyone
- Complexity – low
- Picturesqueness – high

Convenient stage points and stopover points on the trail are: Kołacze (road No. 819 bridge), Suchawa (bridge), Adamki, Okuninka (road No. 812 bridge), Włodawa (road No. 816 bridge). The trail on the Włodawka features a well-organised site in Adamki – a campsite, jetties for kayakers and anglers and dry toilets. There are similar, but less developed facilities early on the trail in Kołacze. From 2012 the last bridge before Włodawa where the river feeds into the Bug features a quay with floating platforms.



A trip along the Włodawka, photo arch. PTTK Włodawa

**Tributaries of the Włodawka:**

**The Krzewianka** (Więzienny Rów) – a 9 km long trail which starts by the bridge in Szczęśniki, and feeds into the Włodawka upstream of Suchawa (km 16.8). The trail is easy and smooth, and offers beautiful views.

**The Krzemianka** – a 9 km long trail which starts by the bridge of the Osowa-Dubeczno road; its mouth is located downstream of Suchawa (km 10.4). The trail is difficult and very arduous, but beautiful.



Tarasienka, photo Kamila Lis

**The Tarasienka** – an 8 km long trail; its mouth is located downstream of Okuninka (km 3.7). The trail is easy, a little arduous, but very beautiful. At lower water levels the shorter variant of the trail is used – between Okuninka and Tarasiuki. As the Tarasienka flows through Lake Glinki (and flows out 100 m left of where it feeds in), it is possible to make a stopover by the banks of the lake (1 km from the place it flows out).

The Włodawka's tributaries lack a tourist infrastructure that would facilitate kayaking.

Tourist development plans involve the construction of facilities for kayakers (jetties, shelters) on the Włodawka and its tributaries in Suchawa (the Włodawka) and at the beginning of the trails on the Krzewianka and the Krzemianka.

**THE KRZNA** – a left-bank tributary of the Bug which flows through the South Podlasie Lowland and Polesie Podlaskie. It is 119.9 km long and its river basin area is 3353.2 sq. km. The Krzna begins as two streams that flow out of the marshy forests of the Łuków Plain (the northern Krzna Północna at 165 m above sea level and the southern Krzna Południowa



at 169 m above sea level). In Międzyrzec Podlaski the two streams merge, and, now as the Krzna, flow through the Łomazy Hollow and the Kodeń Plain. The river flows into the Bug 130 m above sea level, downstream from the village of Neple. The Wieprz – Krzna channel, which is 140 km long, connects Borowica on the Wieprz with Międzyrzec Podlaski. Right-bank tributaries – the Dziegić, the Rudka, the Zielawa, the Czapelka; left-bank tributaries – the Krzymosza, the Piszczanka, the Złota Krzywula, the Klukówka. The major towns on the Krzna include: Łuków, Międzyrzec Podlaski, Biała Podlaska and Neple. The kayaking trail on the Krzna – Biała Podlaska – Neple is 44 km long. When the rivers reach higher levels it is possible to begin the journey in Międzyrzec Podlaski.

- River length – 120 km
- Trail length – 68 km
- Difficulty level – easy, open to everyone
- Complexity – low
- Picturesqueness – high

Km	Bank (L/R)	Places, hydraulic structures, facilities etc.	
68.0		Bridge - Międzyrzec Podlaski, ul. 3 Maja	0.0
68.0		Thermal collector - Międzyrzec Podlaski	0.0
67.5		Thermal collector - Międzyrzec Podlaski	0.5
67.5		Bridge - Międzyrzec Podlaski, ul. Lubelska	0.5
67.5		Footbridge - Międzyrzec Podlaski, ul. Zamczysko	0.5
67.0		Thermal collector - Międzyrzec Podlaski	1.0
66.5		Footbridge - Międzyrzec Podlaski	1.5
66.0		Thermal collector, Międzyrzec Podlaski	2.0
63.0		Bridge – Wysokie	5.0
58.0		Bridge – Kolonia Rogoźnica	10.0
58.0		Weir – Kol. Rogoźnica (Puchacze)	10.0
49.0		Bridge – Styrzyniec	19.0
45.0		Bridge – Porosiuki	23.0
45.0		Weir – Porosiuki	23.0
43.5		Wooden bridge – Sławacinek Stary	24.5
42.5		Footbridge – Biała Podlaska, ul. Droga Wojskowa	25.5
40.0		Bridge – Biała Podlaska, ul. Łomaska	28.0
39.5		Bridge – Biała Podlaska Al. Tysiąclecia (road No. 83)	28.5
39.0		Footbridge – Biała Podlaska, ul. Mickiewicza	29.0
38.5		Bridge – Biała Podlaska, ul. Jana Pawła II	29.5
38.0		Footbridge – Biała Podlaska, ul. Kąpielowa	30.0
36.0		Weir – Biała Podlaska (Sielczyk)	32.0
35.0		Bridge – Biała Podlaska, ul. Gwardii Lud.	33.0
31.0		Weir – Czosnówka	37.0
27.0		Bridge – Woskrzenice Duże (road No. 2)	41.0
22.5	L	Husinka – trail board	45.5
22.0		Damaged bridge – Koczukówka	46.0
18.0		Bridge – Kijowiec	50.0
17.5		Weir – Kijowiec	50.5

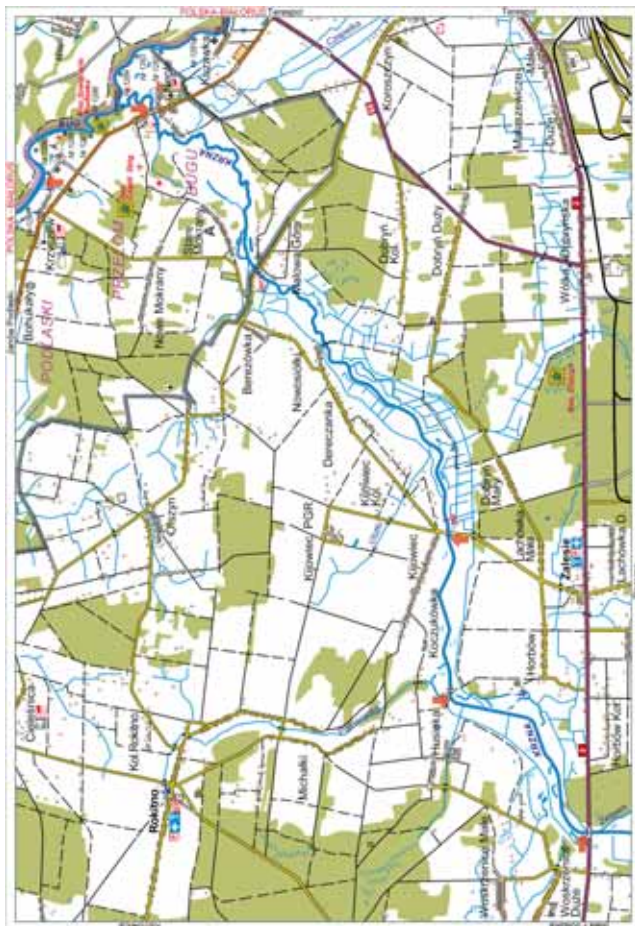
12.0	Bridge – Nowosiółki	56.0
9.5	Weir – Malowa Góra	58.5
9.0	Bridge – Malowa Góra	59.0
2.0	Bridge – Neple (road No. 698)	66.0
0.0	The Krzna feeds into the Bug	68.0

The kayaking trail on the Krzna begins in Międzyrzec Podlaski and is divided into the following stages

- Międzyrzec Podlaski – Biała Podlaska: 25 km.
- Biała Podlaska – Woskrzenice: 19 km.
- Woskrzenice – Neple: 25 km + 2 km to mouth.

The section of the borderland Bug from Kuzawka to Niemirów (Gnojno) along with the Krzna trail constitute the “BUG-KRZNA TRAIL” complex, which is very attractive, partly developed and marked with fit for kayaking.

### The Krzna: Woskrzanice Duże – Kijowiec – Neple





The mouth of the Krzna, *photo J. Tworek*

## THE KRZNA – detailed kilometrage – trail description at the Woskrzenice – Neple – mouth section

### **Km 27.0 (0.0)**

**Woskrzenice Duże** – road bridge No. 2. Launching place on the right bank, right behind the bridge.

### **Km 24.5 (2.5)**

View on the Orthodox church in Horbów – right bank.

### **Km 22.5 (4.5)**

**Husinka** – trail information board on the left bank. After 600 m an old rail bridge with a damaged wooden surface.

### **Km 18 (9.0)**

**Kijowiec** – reinforced-concrete bridge

### **Km 17.5 (9.5)**

**Kijowiec** – weir. Watch out! Launch only after investigation, when the waters are low.

### **Km 15.5 (11.5)**

Overhead high-voltage power line passes diagonally over the river.

### **Km 15.0 (12.0)**

Another high-voltage power line over the river.

### **Km 13.0 (14.0)**

Medium-voltage power line over the river. A little more downstream, on the left, the village of Nowosiółki.

### **Km 12.0 (15.0)**

**Nowosiółki**. A small reinforced-concrete bridge. The “Michał” silos on the left bank.

### **Km 11.5 (15.5)**

A high, precipitous, but short left bank at a bend with sand martins’ nests.

### **Km 9.5 (17.5)**

**Malowa Góra** – weir. Watch out! Launch only after investigation, when the waters are low.

### **Km 9.0 (18.0)**

**Malowa Góra** – reinforced concrete bridge. A staff gauge on the left bank behind the bridge. On the right a Gothic-Revival Church.

Watch out! After 200 m a stone cataract can cause problems at low water levels – head to the left of the river centre.

### **Km 5.5 (21.5)**

High and sandy right bank with a pine forest.

### **Km 3.0 (24.0)**

On the right and in front stand the buildings of the village of Neple. After a short while, to the left, there is an arm of the oxbow lake and the place of a former campsite.

### **Km 2.0 (25.0)**

**Nepie** – reinforced-concrete bridge on road No. 698. Landing is possible on the left bank under the bridge – good connections for transporting equipment (behind the bridge on the right). Watch out – at low water levels there are riffles and stones under the bridge.

### **Km 0.0 (27.0)**

Here the Krzna feeds into the Bug. The border of the “Podlasie Switzerland” reserve. Before the mouth you can see stratigraphic sections revealed on the left bank.

As there is no car access to the mouth, the trip on the Krzna must end by

the bridge in Nepie. If you intend to continue your journey along the Bug you need to notify the Border Guard in Bohukaly to comply with the Resolution regulating the conditions for tourism on border waters. The nearest convenient landing site on the Bug is located in the village of Krzyczew, 4 km from the mouth of the Krzna (800 m downstream of the church and water gauge). The village of Nepie is described in the chapter “History-Monuments-Nature”.

**Attention!** For a well-organised and smooth kayaking trip on the Bug that starts on its tributaries you need to notify the appropriate Border Guard Post beforehand.



A port on the Włodawka in Włodawa, photo S. Gębski



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## Kayaking safety tips

Chapter 7





Beaver dams can sometimes complicate the trip, *photo J. Tworek*

Kayaking safety covers a broad spectrum of issues and involves, to different degrees, such problems as:

- paddling and swimming techniques;
- being aware of dangers;
- life-saving and using equipment;
- the ability to provide first aid;
- on-water navigation, communications and signalling;
- knowledge of knots;
- navigation signals and kayaking trail signage;
- clothing and equipment;
- predicting the weather and its influence on the programme and participants.

One of the key and frequently underappreciated elements, which is undoubtedly crucial for safety, is the decision on with whom and under whose guidance are you going to set out kayaking. It is particularly novices who have to be sure that their insufficient knowledge, experience, and unfamiliarity with the place will be recognised and they receive friendly support, advice and help from more experienced kayakists. There are no democratic rules governing kayaking and therefore participants must be aware that the main decisions concerning safety are taken by the organisers' representatives who have sufficient knowledge and qualifications. If the trip leader orders that you carry kayaks along the waterside to pass an obstacle, you must follow his or her instructions. Participants should be confident that even during a short-distance kayak trip they are under the supervision of a person holding the licence of a physical recreation instructor, a Polish Canoe Federation (PZK) instructor, a leader of kayak tourism of PTTK, or a person who has knowledge of the trail or has received kayaking awards.

Kayaking is an exceptionally satisfying and healthy way of experiencing nature. It is also safe provided you behave reasonably, following several essential rules given below.

Remember that your kayak might capsize every moment.

- Non-swimmers who embark on a kayaking trip take the risk involved. You can minimise the risk by wearing a life jacket. If children are kayaking too, remember that in case of emergency one adult person will be able to rescue only one child.
- Should the kayak capsize, the first thing to do is to rescue people. After that, you can take care of their equipment.
- Those who can swim should be aware that their clothes, a fast flowing river, waves on a lake and sea, and low temperatures, limit their strength. That's why you should wear a security vest in difficult conditions and a life jacket at sea or larger inland waters.
- Never swim alone in a difficult river. Always have someone by your side to help you in case of emergency.
- Never swim at night. Providing help in the dark is very difficult and often simply impossible.
- Never get into a kayak under the influence of alcohol or intoxicants.
- These inhibit your reactions and limit good judgment. Alcohol does not warm your body, but accelerates warmth loss.
- Accidents are unexpected. There is no time for democracy in critical situations, so every group should choose a person who in case of doubt will make a quick decision. You will need to follow it unconditionally.

### **Water might be a dangerous and treacherous element**

- Before setting out on a kayak trip learn as much as possible about the trail. Remember that the greatest danger is due to water damming up. You should know if and where artificial falls, dams, and watermills are and take extra care in such places. Flowing water causes horizontal turbulence below the level to which it rises, which is a pitfall for a person facing this kind of challenge. Never try to kayak through such places, as the consequences of capsizing are more severe there than anywhere else.



The Bug River gorge downstream of Ślipcze, *photo J. Tworek*

- Remember that rivers are especially dangerous when in spate; kayaking during flooding is perilous regardless of the place and time.
- Before boating into open bodies of water (large lakes, seas, etc.) always check the weather conditions. Pick the waters on which you can handle in particular hydrological and meteorological conditions, and take into consideration equipment that you have at your disposal.
- Mountain waters and seas are exceptionally dangerous. You should acquire the appropriate skills and equip yourself with the proper equipment.

A kayak is a small boat.

- Pay attention to larger watercraft and always make way for them; your kayak is the smallest, though easiest to manoeuvre. Keep your distance from ships, barges and ferries.

The proper equipment is a must to provide safety conditions.

- Your kayak should be unsinkable (owing to waterproof chambers or ballistic bladders).
- Always have around (but preferably wear) a security vest (and a life jacket on large water bodies).
- Remember about adequate clothing; it can save your life when the weather is bad and the water is cold. Clothes should not constrain your movements or be too heavy; a thick coat and wellingtons can drag you down to the bottom.
- When kayaking on mountain waters, don't forget to wear a helmet and take a heaving line (on lowland waters at least on several kayaks).
- It never goes amiss to take a tightly packed first-aid kit. Whenever you do not have it, it is always needed! Learn how to administer first aid.

Never stop learning new things and improving your skills and knowledge.

- The more you know, the safer you and other kayakers are.
- Practise first aid techniques, handling a heaving line and using knots. There is no time to learn how to tie knots when you have to use them immediately.

## **Watch out for others and help them if necessary**

### **● Knots**

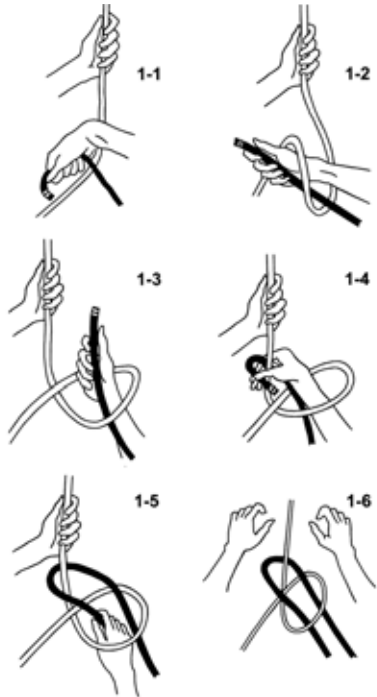
For the vast majority of our society the art of using and knowledge of the practical application of knots are part of the lore of sailors and alpinists. This is quite right. People interested in it themselves build up the lore so it is not surprising. Methods of joining ropes were improved throughout the ages by sailors as a fundamental part of their craft and safety. Obtaining a sailing competency certificate and mountaineering licence involves an absolute requirement, that is, excellent and practical knowledge of knots. It is not a formal prerequisite, but for the purposes of tourist-kayakists, as well as to facilitate everyday

mundane activities, it is worth knowing and learning at least several basic knots. We learn to tie them in advance, not at the very last moment when they are needed.

**Bowline knot** – this is a knot which should be known not only to people practising water recreation. In fact, it is very important in the context of practical knowledge for providing first aid in various circumstances. A bowline knot can be used for pulling a conscious person from the water. If we throw a rope to a person in danger who is conscious, he or she can hold it with one hand and use the other one to tie a bowline knot in order to produce a non-slip loop around the body which allows hauling him or her to a kayak or shore.

The rope should be held in the left hand the whole time. With the right hand, wrap your body under your arms with the free end of the rope. Tying the rope starts from performing an upper grip and a lower grip (Fig. 1-1) around the rope held in the hand. The right hand, together with the end of the rope held in the hand, should be in a loop (Fig. 1-2). The free end should go then round the rope (Fig. 1-3). After that, by pulling the rope in your direction (Fig. 1-4) tighten the loop (Fig. 1-5).

The tied bowline knot takes the shape of an eye (Fig. 1-6) which can also be used for tying boats to jetty-mooring posts, etc. This type of knot is reliable and unties easily.



**The bowline**

More information on safety (and other issues) are available on:

- [www.kajak.org.pl](http://www.kajak.org.pl),
- [www.ktkaj.pttk.pl](http://www.ktkaj.pttk.pl),
- [www.kajaki.nadbugiem.pl](http://www.kajaki.nadbugiem.pl),
- and in a guide entitled **"Kajakarstwo"** [Kayaking]. M. Weckwerth. Pascal, Bielsko-Biała 2006, and in many publications and on websites devoted to kayaking.

# ● INFORMATION AND WARNING SIGNS on kayaking trails



Figure 1. Main sign



Figure 2. Campsite



Figure 3. River campsite



Figure 4. Point of interest on the trail (landmark)



Figure 5a, 5b. Launching site



Figure 6a, 6b. Boat landing sites



Figure 7. Lake (reservoir) outflow to river (canal)



Figure 8. Danger



Figure 9. Piles in the bottom



Figure 10. Floating piles



Figure 11. Suspended line



Figure 12. Non-navigable



Figure 13. Non-navigable barrage



Figure 14. Navigable, if necessary



Figure 15. Stream gauge



Figure 16. Power station



Figure 17. No swimming



Figure 18. Tributary



Figure 19. Warning - possible illegal entry to borderland waters - the Schengen Area border

State border,  
no trespassing



Figure 20. Signpost





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## Practical information




Chapter 8






Kayakers near Kodeń, *photo J. Tworek*

## Local and regional authorities




### MARSHAL'S OFFICE OF THE LUBELSKIE VOIVODESHIP DEPARTMENT OF PROMOTION AND TOURISM

 ul. Lubomska 1-3, 20-072 Lublin  
 sekretariat: tel. +48 81 441 67 89, fax +48 81 441 67 90  
 [www.lubelskie.pl](http://www.lubelskie.pl)




### DISTRICT OFFICE IN HRUBIESZÓW

 ul. Narutowicza 34, 22-500 Hrubieszów  
 tel. +48 84 696 50 68  
 [www.starostwo.hrubieszow.pl](http://www.starostwo.hrubieszow.pl)




### DOŁHOBYCZÓW COMMUNE OFFICE

 ul. Spółdzielcza 2a, 22-540 Dołhobyczów  
 tel. +48 84 653 25 24  
 [www.dolhobyczow.pl](http://www.dolhobyczow.pl)



### MIRCZE COMMUNE OFFICE

 ul. Kryłowska 20, 22-530 Mircze  
 tel. +48 84 651 90 04  
 [www.mircze.pl](http://www.mircze.pl)

### HRUBIESZÓW COMMUNE OFFICE

 ul. Bolesława Prusa 8, 22-500 Hrubieszów  
 tel. +48 84 696 26 81  
 [www.hrubieszow-gmina.pl](http://www.hrubieszow-gmina.pl)

### HORODŁO COMMUNE OFFICE

 ul. Jurydyka 1, 22-523 Horodło  
 tel. +48 84 651 54 47  
 [www.horodlo.pl](http://www.horodlo.pl)

## DISTRICT OFFICE IN CHEŁM

✉ pl. Niepodległości 1, 22-100 Chełm  
 @ tel. +48 82 562 75 01  
 🌐 [www.powiat.chelm.pl](http://www.powiat.chelm.pl)

## DUBIENKA COMMUNE OFFICE

✉ ul. 3 Maja 6, 22-145 Dubienka  
 @ tel. +48 82 566 80 02  
 🌐 [www.dubienka.lubelskie.pl](http://www.dubienka.lubelskie.pl)

## DOROHUSK COMMUNE OFFICE

✉ ul. I Armii WP 50, 22-175 Dorohusk  
 @ tel. +48 82 566 10 89  
 🌐 [www.dorohusk.lubelskie.pl](http://www.dorohusk.lubelskie.pl)

## RUDA-HUTA COMMUNE OFFICE

✉ ul. Niepodległości 44, 22-110 Ruda-Huta  
 @ tel. +48 82 568 60 33  
 🌐 [www.ruda-huta.home.pl](http://www.ruda-huta.home.pl)

## DISTRICT OFFICE IN WŁODAWA

✉ al. Piłsudskiego 24, 22-200 Włodawa  
 @ tel. +48 82 572 56 90  
 🌐 [www.powiat.wlodawa.pl](http://www.powiat.wlodawa.pl)

## WOLA UHRUSKA COMMUNE OFFICE

✉ ul. Parkowa 5, 22-230 Wola Uhruska  
 @ tel. +48 82 591 50 03  
 🌐 [www.wolauhruska.pl](http://www.wolauhruska.pl)

## WŁODAWA COMMUNE OFFICE

✉ al. Jana Pawła II 22, 22-200 Włodawa  
 @ tel. +48 82 572 12 34  
 🌐 [www.gmina-wlodawa.pl](http://www.gmina-wlodawa.pl)

## WŁODAWA TOWN OFFICE

✉ al. Piłsudskiego 41, 22-200 Włodawa  
 @ tel. 82 572 14 44  
 🌐 [www.wlodawa.eu](http://www.wlodawa.eu)

## HANNA COMMUNE OFFICE

✉ Hanna 43b, 22-220 Hanna  
 @ tel. +48 83 379 80 27  
 🌐 [www.gminahanna.pl](http://www.gminahanna.pl)

## DISTRICT OFFICE IN BIAŁA PODLASKA

✉ ul. Brzeska 4, 21-500 Biała Podlaska  
 @ tel. +48 83 343 75 31  
 🌐 [www.powiatbialski.eu](http://www.powiatbialski.eu)




## SŁAWATYCZE COMMUNE OFFICE

✉ Rynek 14, 21-515 Sławatycze  
 @ tel. +48 83 378 33 58  
 🌐 [www.slawatycze-gmina.pl](http://www.slawatycze-gmina.pl)

## KODEŃ COMMUNE OFFICE

✉ ul. 1 Maja 20, 21-509 Kodeń  
 @ tel. +48 83 375 41 55  
 🌐 [www.koden.pl](http://www.koden.pl)

#### TERESPOL COMMUNE OFFICE

 ul. Wojska Polskiego 47, 21-550 Terespol  
 tel. +48 83 576 12 20  
 [www.terespol.ug.gov.pl](http://www.terespol.ug.gov.pl)




#### TERESPOL TOWN OFFICE

 ul. Wojska Polskiego 130, 21-550 Terespol  
 tel. +48 83 375 23 27  
 [www.terespol.pl](http://www.terespol.pl)


#### ROKITNO COMMUNE OFFICE

 Rokitno 39A, 21-504 Rokitno  
 tel. +48 83 345 35 50  
 [www.rokitno.pl](http://www.rokitno.pl)

#### JANÓW PODLASKI COMMUNE OFFICE

 ul. Bialska 6a, 21-505 Janów Podlaski  
 tel. +48 83 341 30 77  
 [www.janowpodlaski.pl](http://www.janowpodlaski.pl)

#### KONSTANTYNÓW COMMUNE OFFICE

 ul. Kard. St. Wyszyńskiego 2, 21-543 Konstantynów  
 tel. +48 83 341 41 92  
 [www.konstantynow.lubelskie.pl](http://www.konstantynow.lubelskie.pl)







A campsite in Adamki, photo Józef Tworek

## Tourist information centres and points





### Lublin

#### THE LUBLIN TOURIST AND CULTURAL INFORMATION CENTRE

 ul. Jezuicka 1/3, 20-113 Lublin  
 tel. +48 81 532 44 12  
 [www.lublintravel.pl](http://www.lublintravel.pl), [www.lubelskietravel.pl](http://www.lubelskietravel.pl)  
 [info@loitik.eu](mailto:info@loitik.eu)

### Biała Podlaska

#### TOURIST AND CULTURAL INFORMATION CENTRE

 ul. Warszawska 11, 21-500 Biała Podlaska  
 tel. +48 83 341 67 20  
 [www.cit.bckbialapodlaska.pl](http://www.cit.bckbialapodlaska.pl)  
 [citbialapodlaska@o2.pl](mailto:citbialapodlaska@o2.pl)

## Włodawa

### FH-U GRAŻKA TOURIST INFORMATION CENTRE

✉ Rynek 4, 22-200 Włodawa

☎ tel. +48 82 572 20 69

🌐 [www.napolesie.pl](http://www.napolesie.pl)

@ [grazka.2@wp.pl](mailto:grazka.2@wp.pl)

! Provision of River Bug water level certificates

### TOURIST INFORMATION CENTRE

✉ ul. Partyzantów 25, 22-200 Włodawa

☎ tel. +48 82 571 70 73

🌐 [www.mosir.wlodawa.eu](http://www.mosir.wlodawa.eu)

@ [it.wlodawa@gmail.com](mailto:it.wlodawa@gmail.com)

## Chełm

### CHEŁM TOURIST INFORMATION CENTRE

✉ ul. Lubelska 63, 22-100 Chełm

☎ tel. +48 82 565 36 67

🌐 [www.itchełm.pl](http://www.itchełm.pl)

@ [itchełm@wp.pl](mailto:itchełm@wp.pl)

## Zamość

### THE ZAMOŚĆ TOURIST AND HISTORICAL INFORMATION CENTRE

✉ Rynek Wielki 13, 22-400 Zamość

☎ tel. +48 84 639 22 92

🌐 [www.zoit.zamosc.pl](http://www.zoit.zamosc.pl)

@ [zoit@osir.zamosc.pl](mailto:zoit@osir.zamosc.pl)

✉ 22-400 Zamość, ul. Łukasińskiego 2e

☎ tel. +48 84 538 70 96

🌐 [www.zoit.zamosc.pl](http://www.zoit.zamosc.pl)

@ [it@osir.zamosc.pl](mailto:it@osir.zamosc.pl)

## Sławatycze

### THE COMMUNE INFORMATION CENTRE

✉ Rynek 14, 21-515 Sławatycze

☎ tel. +48 83 378 34 73

🌐 [www.gci.nadbugiem.pl](http://www.gci.nadbugiem.pl)

@ [arkadiuszmisztal@interia.pl](mailto:arkadiuszmisztal@interia.pl)

## Hrubieszów

### CROSS-BORDER TOURIST INFORMATION CENTRE

✉ ul. 3 Maja 15, 22-500 Hrubieszów

☎ tel. +48 84 696 23 80

🌐 [www.miesto.hrubieszow.pl](http://www.miesto.hrubieszow.pl)

@ [turystyka@miasto.hrubieszow.pl](mailto:turystyka@miasto.hrubieszow.pl)



A view of the Bug River Valley from a slope near Gnojno, *photo A. Łazeba*



## Dorohusk

TOURIST INFORMATION POINT BY THE COMMUNE PUBLIC LIBRARY

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## Dubienka

TOURIST INFORMATION POINT BY THE DK

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☎ tel. +48 82 566 80 83

# Agritourism farms

THE LUBLIN SOCIETY OF AGRITOURISM ASSOCIATIONS

✉ al. Kasztanowa 2, 24-150 Nałęczów  
☎ tel. +48 81 501 43 11  
🌐 [www.agroturystyka.pl](http://www.agroturystyka.pl)  
@ [info@agroturystyka.pl](mailto:info@agroturystyka.pl)

"DISTRICT CENTRE" AGRITOURISM ASSOCIATION IN HORODŁO

✉ ul. Hrubieszowska 1, 22-523 Horodło  
☎ tel. +48 84 651 51 01 (GOK)  
🌐 [www.agroturystyka.pl/hrubieszow](http://www.agroturystyka.pl/hrubieszow)  
@ [horodlo@agroturystyka.pl](mailto:horodlo@agroturystyka.pl)

THE BUG AGRITOURISM ASSOCIATION

✉ ul. Parkowa 5, 22-230 Wola Uhruska  
☎ tel. +48 82 591 51 48  
🌐 [www.wolauhruska.pl](http://www.wolauhruska.pl)  
@ [info@agroturystyka.pl](mailto:info@agroturystyka.pl)

THE PODLASIE AGRITOURISM ASSOCIATION

✉ ul. Piłsudskiego 58, 21-505 Janów Podlaski  
☎ tel. +48 503 010 912  
@ [podlasie@agroturystyka.pl](mailto:podlasie@agroturystyka.pl)

# Kayaking trips, kayak rental

TURYSTYKA POD STRZECĄ AGNIESZKA MAZUR-LEŚNIAK

✉ ul. Krótka, 22-530 Mircze, Kryłów  
☎ tel. +48 606 857 117, +48 692 397 670  
🌐 [www.kajakibug.pl](http://www.kajakibug.pl)  
@ [info@kajakibug.pl](mailto:info@kajakibug.pl)

Kayak rental and transport.

UCZNIOWSKI KLUB SPORTOWY KIKO NEAR PRIMARY SCHOOL No. 4

✉ ul. Zamoyskiego 4, 22-400 Zamość  
☎ tel. +48 84 638 95 00  
🌐 [www.splywynakresach.pl](http://www.splywynakresach.pl)  
@ [flaga-kajaki@wp.pl](mailto:flaga-kajaki@wp.pl)

Kayaking trips according to PTTK/PZK's schedule on the Bug and on the rivers of Roztocze and Ukraine.

PHU RELAKS MARIUSZ SZYMAŃSKI

✉ ul. 2 Lutego 12, 22-470 Zwierzyniec  
☎ tel. +48 609 471 538, +48 505 057 988  
Base: Zwierzyniec  
🌐 [www.splywykajakowe.roztocze.net.pl](http://www.splywykajakowe.roztocze.net.pl)  
@ [szymanskimariusz@op.pl](mailto:szymanskimariusz@op.pl)

## OPEN-BUG HENRYK JÓZIUK

✉ ul. Trubakowska 4a/21, 22-100 Chełm  
 ☎ tel. +48 504 061 040  
 🌐 [www.splywybugiem.szu.pl](http://www.splywybugiem.szu.pl)  
 @ [joziuk44@vp.pl](mailto:joziuk44@vp.pl)

Kayak rental, trips on the Bug. The base is in Świerże.

## COMMUNE SPORTS AND RECREATION CENTRE

✉ ul. Sportowa 1, 22-230 Wola Uhruska  
 ☎ tel. +48 82 591 50 69

Kayak rental.

## F.H.U. „OKUNINKA.INFO” WALDEMAR KAZURO

✉ Suszno 78, 22-200 Włodawa  
 ☎ tel. +48 509 325 666, +48 505 514 813  
 Base: Włodawa, Okuninka

🌐 [www.okuninka.info](http://www.okuninka.info)  
 @ [poczta@okuninka.info](mailto:poczta@okuninka.info)

Kayak rental and transport, boat trips.

## TOWN SPORTS AND RECREATION CENTRE IN WŁODAWA

✉ ul. Szkolna 4, 22-200 Włodawa  
 ☎ tel. +48 82 572 25 87  
 🌐 [www.mosir.wlodawa.eu](http://www.mosir.wlodawa.eu)  
 @ [mosir.wlodawa@gmail.com](mailto:mosir.wlodawa@gmail.com)

Kayak rental and transport.

## AKTYWNY WYPOCZYNEK MAREK POMIETŁO

☎ tel. +48 606 972 793  
 🌐 [www.kajaki.nadbugiem.pl](http://www.kajaki.nadbugiem.pl), [www.kajakowaprzygoda.pl](http://www.kajakowaprzygoda.pl)  
 @ [mp@nadbugiem.pl](mailto:mp@nadbugiem.pl)

Kayaking trips on the Bug, the Włodawka, the Krzna and the Zielawa, kayak rental and transport.



The Bug River gorge in Ślipcze, *photo J. Fuchs*

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