

A week in the Park

Day one

Walking along the trails of the Field Education Centre of the BNP and visiting the Museum at the Fortress Osowiec.

Day two

Hiking trip along the „Grobla Honczarowska” trail (4-6 hrs) - walk from the „Tsar’s Route” to the observation tower in the Ławki marshes in the Lower Biebrza Basin, across scrublands to open sedges of „Batalionowa Łąka”. Observations of Elks, Beavers, Aquatic Warblers and many other Biebrza’s rarities.

Day three

Hiking trip on the „Barwik-Gugny” trail (4-5 hrs) - the trail begins at the Barwik forester’s lodge (parking lot, campsite and place for bonfire) through the open landscapes of the Lower Biebrza Basin. You can encounter Elks, and many bird species including Snipes and Cranes. In the village of Gugny there are agro-tourist farms.

Day four

Hiking on the „Czerwone Bagno” - round-trip (18 km) and several linking trails. The trip starts from the „Grzędy” forester’s lodge or Kopytkowo village. The destination is the observation tower on the Wilcza Góra hill, with a broad view of the Middle Biebrza Basin. It is easy to spot Elk from there. There are broad views of both extended mires, and beautiful forests, as well as patches of sandy dunes. The ground under your feet is also worthy of attention: tracks of wolves quite often can be seen.

Day five

A kayak trip along the Biebrza river. For beginners - a short trip along the river stretch between Goniądz and Osowiec (some 3 hrs). For the more experienced: the Osowiec-Biały Grąd stretch is worth of visiting (some 3 hrs plus return on a truck transporting the kayaks), which should be the most attractive for bird-watchers.

Day six

Around the Lower Biebrza Basin, by car or by bike (some 100 km). You leave the Osowiec-Twierdza towards the south, taking the unique “Tsar’s Route”, or follow the blue-marked tourist path through the dry pine forests. There are several interesting places to visit: observation tower on the Ławki fen, an

observation point on the Góra Strękowa hill, being also the site commemorating 1939 battles of the World War II, site of an medieval stronghold at Sambory, a splendid view of the Biebrza marshes from Burzyn (observation platform), the place where cattle cross the Biebrza river to reach natural pastures in Brzostowo and walking from the Mścichy village to an ultimate remote observation tower at „Biały Grąd”.

Day seven

Trip to the Upper Biebrza Basin. In Lipsk you can walk through the „Folk Handicraft Trail” or take a raft trip downstream from Lipsk to Jałowo. Near Nowy Lipsk there are several hiking trails, that cross unique calcareous fens.

Basic information about the Park

Location: north-eastern Poland, along the Biebrza river.

Area: 592.2 km²

Elevations: between 100 and 122 m a.s.l.

Established: 1993

Landscape type: lowland and flat, with marshes (50%), grasslands and swamps (18%), forests and shrublands (26%), rural areas (6%).

Accommodation

Campsites along the Biebrza river water route are open from May to September.

BNP Forester Lodge „Grzędy”: 5 twin rooms (additional beds available). Private lodges and agrotouristic farms: there are some 100 of such places, offering accommodation in towns and villages adjacent to the valley.

Hotels in Goniądz, Rajgród, Moriki and Wozławies.



Biebrza National Park

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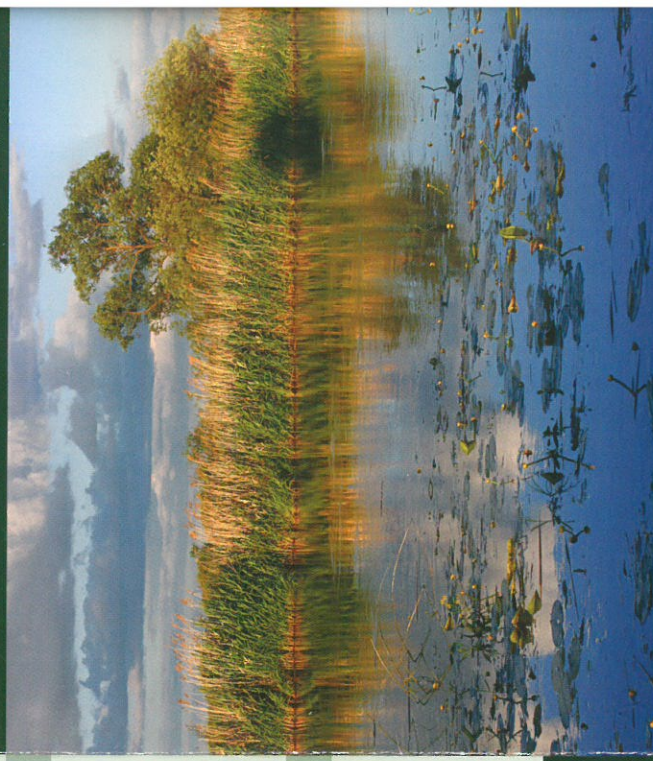
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This brochure was financed by:
Wojewódzki Fundusz Ochrony Środowiska
i Gospodarki Wodnej w Białymstoku



www.wfoi.gov.bialystok.pl



The land of marshes

Biebrza

National Park

Editor: **Biebrza National Park**

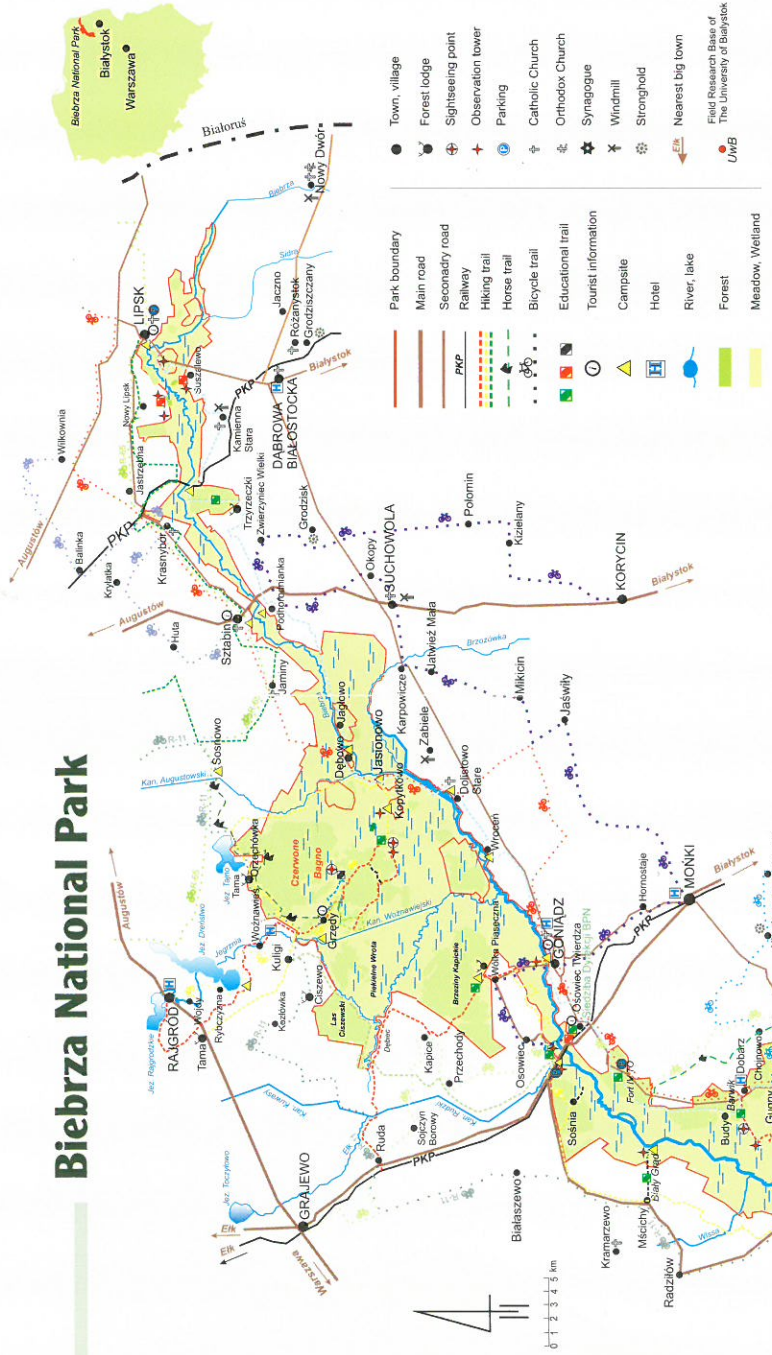
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Biebrza National Park

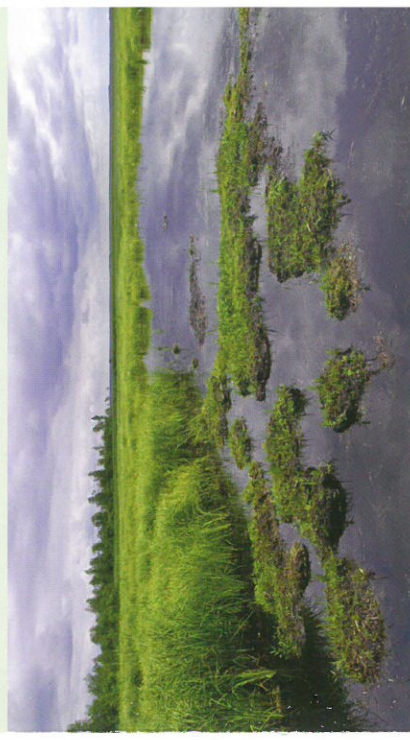


When describing the Biebrza National Park one has often to use superlatives. It protects the largest peatlands in Poland, situated along the Biebrza river. The area is one of the largest marshlands in the European Union. The Biebrza National Park is also the largest national park in Poland; the distance between its limits reaches 100 km. The BNP covers mainly wetlands, which makes it one of the wildest and the most inaccessible areas of Poland. Finally, the Park is the largest Polish refuge for bird species; some 270 species were recorded here of with approximately 180 nest upon Biebrza. There

are some "gems" for birdwatchers' notebooks, such as Aquatic Warbler, White-winged Black Tern, Spotted Eagle, Montagu's Harrier, Fen Harrier, Great Snipe, Ruff and Curlew. The Biebrza river valley abounds also in other animal wildlife. For example, not less than 48 species of mammals live here, including the European elk (moose), which had survived almost complete extinction within the "Czerwone Bagno" as an ultimate place in Poland, and in recent years has reappeared throughout the whole country. Biebrza is a typical lowland river, with a meandering course and slow current. One of the most valuable features of the Biebrza Valley is the well-preserved zonation of its habitats and plant communities, which is characteristic for pristine, natural broad lowland river valleys. When you add the highly natural features of the landscape, then the Biebrza National Park ranks as the best in terms of plant wildlife.

Not less than 70 distinct plant alliances occur here and the vascular plant flora itself consists of more than 950 species. The BNP and its buffer zone have more than

600 km of marked touristic trails: for backpackers and cyclists, as well as water routes for canoeing. Particularly noteworthy among the biking trails is „the Podlasie Stork Trail“. The canoe route on Biebrza's waters runs for 140 km, from Lipsk to Wizna upon the Narew. Passing the whole route takes approximately 7 days. The headquarters of the Biebrza National Park is now located in the building of the Centre of Education and Management in Osowiec-Twierdza (on the Białystok - Grajewo road, 54 km from Białystok, which is 1 hour by train to Osowiec station).



A day in the Park

If you have only one day to get acquainted with the Biebrza Valley, we recommend you an educational trail in the Field Education Centre in Osowiec (some 3 hrs) and a visit to the Osowiec Fortress Museum (at least 2 hours). The trails start at the headquarters of the Park and follow the „Forest“ educational trail to an observation tower. Especially in the spring time, many species of wetland birds can be spotted from there. Then you cross the bridge over the Biebrza river and walk along the ruins of a 19th century fort. There you reach another observation tower and a wooden foot-bridges over the marshes and swamps. The trail ends on the watching tower, from which you can admire the Rudzki Canal and a broad view of the Biebrza Valley. To come back to the BNP headquarters you should turn back the same way or go along the main road, to get a (pre-booked) trip to the Osowiec Fortress Museum.