



The river valley is flat as a table, periodically flooded by floods of Liwiec why there is the lack of building across the east of the village. The only hill is the gable on which the castle stands. You can see the massive silhouette of a brick gate tower and red mansard roof of white Baroque mansion. The mood of the place comes from the combination of an ancient architecture with landscape untouched by civilization the landscape of the riverside closed meadows in the background - green streak of the forest in Jarnice. Near the gate there is a restaurant "Inn at Castle".

#### km 5,1

We are at the castle. Since 1429 the construction of the fortress was conducted by master Niclos (Nicholas) on behalf of the Duke of Masovia, Janusz I the Elder. Bolesław (1437) appreciated the strategic importance of Liw he also developed the town, later Princess Anna Mazowiecka (1506) and Queen Bona Sforza (1550-1555). The castle had its heyday in the fifteenth and seventeenth centuries as a castellany and offices of Liw's lands.

The fort had a tower with a gate and drawbridge, and the high walls surrounding the two parallel buildings separated by a courtyard.

Its current view is largely due to the Swedes, who twice won and destroyed the stronghold (in 1656 - "flood" and 1703 - northern war). In 1782 a governor Tadeusz Grabianka built in the ruins of a Baroque mansion county office. This mansion was burned down in the 40s of the nineteenth century. In World War II German occupiers had earmarked the ruins for demolition of a brick that they needed to build in Treblinka the death camp. These plans were thwarted by Polish archaeologist Otto Warpechowski tricking the Nazis that the castle was built by the Teutonic Knights. Germans accepted the fable and 1942-44 rebuilt the Piast castle at the expense of the Third Reich.



Since 1963 there exists the Armory Museum at the Castle in Liw. The collection consists of mainly military (I-XX c.), paintings, prints, antique furniture, textiles, archaeology and numismatics. The castle is the seat of the Brotherhood of the Knights of Mazovia and Podlasie, which organizes the National Tournament in August the Ring of Princess Anne, an emotional event reminiscent of the chivalrous past of the castle. On the Foot of the Castle there are also held: archaeological festival, International Tournament of Tastes, motorcycle rally the Neck Party and Hubertus.

An amazing and interesting stories are connected with the castle: a Legend about coat of arms "Doliwa", the tale of the sleeping knights of the forest in Jarnice, a story about an underground corridor and the devil, and the most famous treasure, the spirit of the castle - Yellow Lady.

(more on [www.liw-zamek.pl](http://www.liw-zamek.pl))

#### km 5,2

At the entrance from the Stefan Batory street there is a visible tall oak cross set on the site of the first parish church of St. John the Baptist, existing probably from the mid-fourteenth century until 1700, when an accidental fire destroyed it.

We can go back to Węgrów driving Nowomiejska Street on the right. For the amateurs of sights we offer a little trip to the side of the track - 300 meters on the left of Nowomiejska Street to the neo-Gothic church of St. Leonard Abbot from 1905 - 1907 a project of the famous Joseph Pius Dziekoński. The peculiarity of this place are 34 metal plates, with couplet of organic content, placed at each of the trees, for example: "Druheneczko our nice /Have you already planted a tree?"; "In spring a leaf shield you/ Giving the image of the Resurrection". The statue of Our Lady in front of the church founded by pastor Charles R. Leszczyński as a vote for his survival during World War I, when close to the church exploded artillery shell not doing anyone harm.

We are going down to Węgrów toward Nowomiejska Street while watching the houses of the nineteenth/twentieth century with interesting architecture and details (studded doors, fittings blacksmith) now largely uninhabited. We drove to the former market town stretched along the historic route Warsaw - Vilnius highway called the Great Highway of Lithuania. In the depth the cross on the left so called choleric, and 100 m away - forged iron cross from 1905 embedded in the granite pedestal.



#### km 5,5

Behind the bridge over the brook, on the right side of the street a classical chapel from 1838. It is dedicated to St. Mark, despite the fact that the church stands on the site of the sixteenth century hospital of St. Spirit, burnt by the Swedes in 1657. In the vicinity in 2003, the excavator encountered with the bucket on a treasure: a pot of 400 silver coins of John Casimir, John III Sobieski and the Prussian King Frederick William (now in the collection of the Armory Museum).

We reach the roundabout in Liw, where we see the pillar shrine from 1901 with a stone statue of St. John Nepomucen. This is probably the most frequently occurring at our roads saint. In addition to taking care of the waters, he is also the patron of travellers. We ride on a bicycle path leading to Węgrów (on the left side of the road).

#### km 7,6

Returning the bike path from Liw we do not get to the bridge on Liwiec, but turn left into the road leading to the village Kropy. The road rises and you can admire the picturesque valley of Liwiec extending in the bottom right. With a little luck, you can see here a hawk, a buzzard, and even a deer and goats.

#### km 7,9

From the top of the hill begin buildings and gardens of gardeners. We cross the bridge over the stream and go straight.

#### km 8,4

The beginning of the village Kropy. We ride among rural buildings.

#### km 9,4

Before you turn to Węgrów there is a signpost with the words Lagoon 500 m, shortly after it turn right and we enter the straight section of the road leading to Węgrów.

#### km 9,7

We get to the end of the village Kropy.

#### km 9,8

We get to the parking lot at the Lagoon.

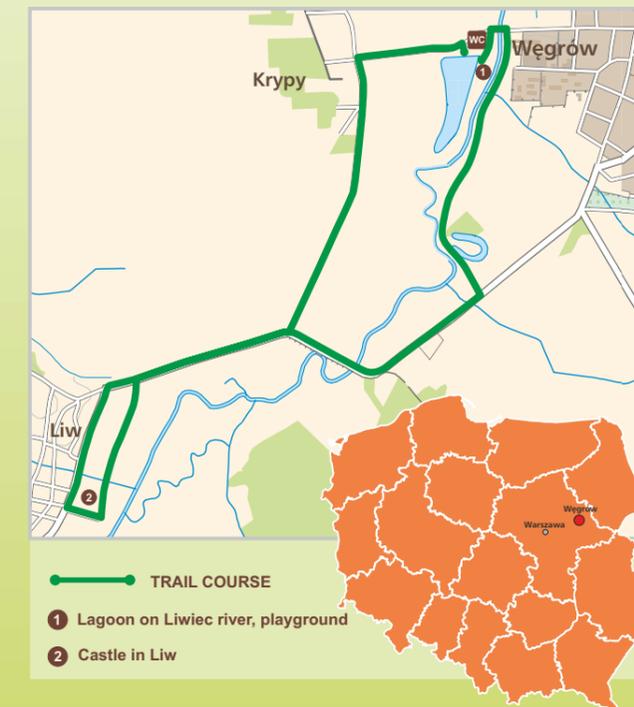
#### km 9,9

Driving a shaft we close a loop of a cycle road Nature.

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Węgrów...  
Let yourself be enchanted



## BIKE TRAIL - NATURE



Liwiec is a unique and picturesque river. The charming scenery is perfect for an active holiday. Nature bike trail begins at the Lagoon Liwiec and runs along the valley of Liwiec directly to a mysterious castle in Liw.

[www.wegrowliwiec.pl](http://www.wegrowliwiec.pl)

## BIKE TRAIL - NATURE

The length of a trail is 9,9 km.

### km 0,0

The trail starts at the rental of tourist equipment at Lagoon in Węgrów. The Lagoon is a great place for fishing and water sports and it is the main swimming pool for residents and visitors of Węgrów.



### km 0,1

We set off in the direction of embankment lane. The shaft has a crown with good paved roads. At the end the sharp road upward and turning in the right onto Żeromski Street behind the bridge, from which you can admire Liwiec and riverside meadows. After crossing the bridge, turn immediately right and go down the slope on the embankment.

### km 0,4

Moving the crown of the shaft we enter into the Area of NATURE 2000. These areas include Siedlce - Węgrów Protected Landscape. The Area which is the mainstay of water - mud birds, among which there are teal, curlew, whiskered tern, spotted shrill, necked grebe. In this area there are many hawks, cranes, herons and storks, and black storks' nest.



### km 0,7

At the bridge on the left side of the embankment there is a pond created by the oxbow, followed by the ADDIT company halls. The edges of Liwiec are wooded and overgrown with bushes of wicker. Part of trees are shrouded safety with an iron net to protect them from beavers. Around you can see a lot of lying and pointed trunks, bitten stumps of the trees fallen by these rodents, damaging trees and causing mass impoverishment of riverside landscape.

### km 1,0

We leave back Węgrów with the towering towers of church over the town. On the left side of the shafts of meadows, to the right of the river stretches out high embankment of the Lagoon. Liwiec is quite broad. Here, regulated river, flowing with light bends. The boundaries are high and reinforced by local stones.

### km 1,4

The surface of the shaft is a bit sandy, but not forced to descend from the bike. The road turns gently to the right, the river forms the visible front of a deep corner called "Circle".

### km 1,6

Liwiec sweeps to the south. The river begins to meander.

### km 1,7

The poplar wood on the left, in which the number of trees systematically are depleted by beavers inhabiting swamps, where they have their own paradise. Pets running with branches treaded deep, visible paths. In the thickets a famous communist pumping from the time of pipeline "Friendship".

### km 1,9

Visible on the left side the oxbow lake surrounded by a thicket of alders, then cut off by meander of Liwiec shaft. Overgrown area with weed and U-shaped is a stronghold of wild birds surrounded by a bushy thicket alders and reed.

### km 2,1

Taking leave of Liwiec we go straight on the shaft section along the oxbow lakes. After a few minutes, and travelling the grove, turn right and drive to the new paving stones and lined bike path extending along the Avenue of Solidarity.

### km 2,9

We turn to the right, behind the fence there is a restaurant "Inn on the Bridges". Before turning on the road to Wyszaków there is brown - white signpost directing to Owl Mountain - viewpoint. But we leave the Owl Mountain itself on another occasion continuing our journey the Nature Trail and we enter the bridge spanning on the Liwiec.

### km 3,0

On the bridge it is worth stopping for a moment, because we got to an extraordinary place where the West for centuries met with the East. Liwiec since 1569 marked the border of two states - the Polish Kingdom and the Grand Duchy of Lithuania. It is now also geographical border - Mazowsze separating from Podlasie.



The river crossing was used in Roman times. It was called the Bridges on Liwiec due to the 2 and sometimes 3 bridges once trafficked between islands in the wetlands when during the bridge disaster in 1703 sunk here 2 guns of army of the Swedish king Charles XII. Difficult conditions and the associated costs so far do not allow for the extraction of the guns and the art of war monuments must wait for their re-occurrence.



The Bridges engraved in the history of glorious battles of the November Uprising. The first shots in the campaign in February 12, 1831 gave 7 soldiers trying to stop an army of Dybicz marching to Warsaw. For the second time Bridges became the scene of bloody battles in April 9-15, 1831 after which the Russians withdrew to Siedlce. Brilliant victories of insurgents may include cavalry charge under Jarnice during which lancers crushed Russian gunned down 40 opponents and taking 230 prisoners.

### km 3,2

We leave the bridge and Liwiec. After driving a few hundred meters we pass a branch road to Kropy.

### km 3,8

We continue along the straight section of the path passing through a chapel built in fence with a statue of Christ the Merciful. We pass the exit of a dirt road to the right and after a few meters go after the stripes on the left side of the road. On the left of the dirt road lanes (Zamkowa Street), which is going south towards the castle.



### km 4,3

After 50 m it starts very high slope. After defeating the exit we enter in a meadow. The road is bumpy, some sections are spilled with rubble, so you'll need to be careful on the wheel.

Please note that during the long rain or snowmelt the road can be impassable, then better to choose Nowomiejska Street through the centre of Liw.

We are plunging into the atmosphere far removed from the hustle and bustle of modern civilization. In the longer term draws red and brown, powerful silhouette of a Gothic castle lurking in the valley of Liwiec like a prehistoric animal leering black eyes of the shooting tower. On the right we see the buildings of the village Liw listed on the slope of the valley of Liwiec. This place, thanks to the convenient location, it was inhabited early in the first century AD. Since the days of feudal disintegration Liw was in the principality of Mazovia.

The first written text about Liw comes from 1304. It was established as a settlement with wood - natural bulkheads, the guards on the eastern border of the duchy. A life on the border was not like an idyll: the inhabitants were harassed by the Russians, Lithuanians and Yotvingians raids. Liw was a town before 1421. In 1446 it was burned down. The Duke Bolesław IV granted city rights to the New Liw, which was adjacent to the first Liw rebuilt from the ruins and called Old Liw. Both cities, separated by the river Miedzanka, existed side by side for more than 200 years.

In 1564 Old Liw counted 211 homes inhabited by 171 artisans, including 60 brewers, 14 distillers, 27 shoemakers, a goldsmith, 2 sword-bearers, 24 bakers and 7 butchers. In New Liw there were 130 houses and lived there 102 craftsmen. The destruction during the Swedish "flood" in the years 1656-1657 and the neighbouring of Węgrów caused stagnation and since 1678 it is written only about one Liw. The rights of the city were taken away by the tsarist warrant. In 1869, however, retained the urban footprint of Liw history: tradition of selecting two mayors.