

Węgorzewo Municipality (commune)

BASIC INFORMATION

Węgorzewo district is situated in the west part of Węgorzewo County. It borders the following districts: Pozezdrze, Budry, Srokowo and Russian Federation (Kaliningrad Oblast).

Area: 341,1 km² (34110 ha)
Share in the County area: 49,19%
Lakes: whole area about 6150 ha
Forests: whole area about 6300 ha
Population: about 17300

CHARACTERISTICS OF THE DISTRICT

Węgorzewo district makes great conditions for doing active forms of tourism, dealing with history, traditions and folk culture of the earlier inhabitants of Masuria. Also visitors looking for association with nature will find here a number of worth seeing objects and those longing for escape from the big city bustle – calm, peace and lots of space for resting. Territory of the district are completely free from the industry; agriculture and small business overweigh it. Thanks to that original and natural character of the terrain has been preserved. It ideally favours the health and rejuvenation. Varied relief, picturesque landscapes, numerous field paths and forests, create fantastic conditions for hiking, cycling and horse riding. Surrounding the commune forests are home for lots of wild animals, mushrooms and undergrowth fruits. Nature fans may admire unique bird species, animals and plants. One can find here frequently occurring the very far south species of the boreal style, protected in the following reserves: Oświn, Mokre, on the Lake Rydzewskie and the Upały Island. Rivers that flow across the territory: Węgorapa and Sapina are perfect for the canoeists. The greatest wealth of the commune, though, are the lakes concerned as a paradise for sailors, water sports amateurs and anglers. The biggest popularity has got the Lake Mamry reservoir – the second largest in terms of size in Poland (104 km²). On the lakes there are lots of sailing centres, port and marines located: Węgorzewo, Kal and Sztynort among others. Convenient staying conditions are assured by the varied accommodation bases. There are a lot of agricultural farms, rural accommodation, marinas, campings and mid-forest campsites.

WORTH SEEING

WĘGORZEWO COUNTY AND ITS SURROUNDINGS

Church of St. Peter and Paul

Built 1605–1611, in the late Gothic style. The church's stellar vault, which cannot be seen anywhere else in Masuria, is its most prominent feature. The church also has the oldest Masurian organs (1647-1648) and a richly ornamented Baroque main altar made in Królewiec (Königsberg) in 1652.

The Węgorapa River Ethnographic Park

On the grounds of the Folk Museum, there is a little heritage park. It displays the samples of traditional Masurian architecture, such as wooden cottages from 18th and 19th centuries, a 19th-century farm building and a half-timbered dwelling house.

Folk Museum

The museum has been collecting its exhibits since 1969. The main building – one of the oldest in Węgorzewo – dates back to the first half of the 18th century. The museum has valuable ethnographic and historic collections connected with the past of Węgorzewo land and the area of former East Prussia. The museum has arts and crafts workshops (weaving, pottery and florist ones), an archive and a library. Every year, at the 1st weekend of August, the Museum organizes International Folk Fair. The event gathers folk artists from Poland and abroad who present traditional folk arts achievements, such as handicraft, folk customs, music and dances.

Mamerki – the Werhmacht headquarters „Anna”

During the World War II, the Headquarters of the Werhmacht (responsible for coordination and management of the German Army operations) was situated in the „Mamrzański Forest”, 8 kilometres from Węgorzewo. Originally, there were over 200 objects (including 34 reinforced concrete bunkers and 2 armoured shelters). 30 bunkers in perfect condition have survived until present. One of them houses a wooden tower overlooking the view of Lake Mamry. The tower view also proves how skilfully the military installations were camouflaged.