



elk

I'm back here

Elk I'm back here

Elk is deservedly called the capital of Masuria. The city is situated on the Elk Lake District in north - eastern Poland. It is surrounded by numerous lakes, rivers and forests. Not only the picturesque landscape is impressive. There is also a possibility of spending your leisure time actively.

Anyone who has visited Elk knows that the promotional slogan „Elk I'm back here” is not accidental.

The city of Elk has a very rich history and received city rights in 1425. The historic water tower is one of the most striking objects and originates from the late nineteenth century.



Between the lake and the city

The attractive location on Lake Elk has helped preserve the city's natural uniqueness. The real showpiece is the promenade, running along the shore of the lake. The path for pedestrians and cyclists, stretching for over six kilometres, is a great place for strolling, roller blading or a family bike trip. The spectacular views lift your mood, and the distance from the busy streets allows you to rest. The promenade consists of restaurants and pubs where you can enjoy traditional Masurian dishes.

The avenue of wooden sculptures depicting, among others, historical Polish rulers provides an intriguing view along the promenade.

History inscribed into a brick

Shimmering shades of red edifices of historic buildings create the unique atmosphere of the city. The oldest dates to 1850 and was rebuilt after the Sacred Heart of Jesus church was destroyed in 1925. It is located in the heart of Elk.

It is worth visiting the Elk cathedral of St. Adalbert, Bishop and Martyr dating to 1895. There is a seminary located in one of the historic buildings near the cathedral.



Window to secession

The remarkable story of Elk can be learnt by strolling between historic buildings of the nineteenth and twentieth century. Noteworthy above all are the buildings in the city centre, mainly along Armii Krajowej, Mickiewicza, Kosciuszki and Malecki streets. You can recognize elements of the late historicist and secession in many of their architecture.

Walking around the centre, take just a moment to slow down or stop at one of the old buildings to feel the spirit of past times.

The beautiful decorations on building facades are of interest not only to history buffs, but also to tourists.



Walk among the greenery



The unforgettable atmosphere can be felt in Solidarity Park near the town hall. It is the oldest park in Elk. By the end of World War II, it bore the name of Queen Luisa, the wife of Frederick William III.

The park includes memorials by Michał Kajka in memory of those who „Perished for a free and independent Poland” as well as fragments of the infantry Monument of Field Marshal Hindenburg which at one time existed there.



The historic nineteenth-century fountain, monuments and century old deciduous trees provide for a moment of reflection.

John Paul II Square



The John Paul II Square (formerly Sapper Square) is located in the centre of the city. The name was changed after the visit of the Holy Father John Paul II in 1999 in Elk. This is where the Pope celebrated Mass, which was attended by nearly 300,000 faithful from all over the world. By the decision of the Holy See and Pope Francis, Pope John Paul II was named the patron of our city in 2014.

The square consists of a statue of the Holy Father, a concert stage, an illuminated fountain and park benches. The greenery and a beautiful wooden bridge add charm. The River Elk flows right next to the square. Nesting ducks and swans are eagerly fed by passers-by in this area.

Science and nature

The combination of education and fun become possible thanks to Copernicus Park. There is a Solar System made of ten different size granite spheres. Each of them is described. Youngest guests can enjoy the „Little Dipper” and „Big Dipper” constellations that make up the original playgrounds. Nicolaus Copernicus, the discoverer himself, sits on one of the more than 50 park benches, holding an astrolabe.

Exploring nature actively is possible during events organized at the Centre for Environmental Education, which enchants with its thoughtful composition of ornamental plants and flowers. The Centre is located near the lake and the beach and the recreational areas are cherished by locals and tourists.



Passion enchanted in objects



The historic Elk Narrow Gauge Railway was established between 1912 - 1918. It is a tourist attraction in the city and is one of the few narrow gauge rails still operating in Poland. During the summer you can take a scenic trip to the village of Sypitki near Elk with the little choo-choo. The trip will provide joy not only to the youngest travellers. Being at the narrow-gauge railway station, it is worth seeing rolling stock and the Railway Museum or to visit the sculpture studio. Elk chisel masters are willing to talk about their passion and will present some of their works in wood.

Wind noise scent of the water

Spaciousness plays a special role in our city. You can enjoy it also in the centre of Elk.. The squares and parks developed in the vicinity of the lake are ideal places for a brief rest, while the rustle of leaves covered by gusts of wind or the sound of the water cascades and pavement fountains provide respite..

Right on the promenade, silence is broken by the fluttering of sailing boats and the sound of waves bouncing off boats belonging to local fishermen moored at the edge of the shore and... do you still remember the scent of the water?



At night legends come alive

Legendary tales are a peculiarity of each city. They come alive especially at night ... even from the church tower, with a little imagination, silhouettes of Tatar invaders can be seen flitting somewhere.

Many people contemplate about the point at which a tunnel connecting the castle with the mainland ran under Lake Elk. Apparently, many residents held captive were liberated thanks to it.

During one of the largest *Festivals of Fine Pyrotechnics „Elk, Fire & Water”*, for many years at evening time the fireworks reflecting in the depths of Lake Elk can be enjoyed.



There's a healthy mind in a healthy body

Young people develop their passions for sports, among others, riding a bike, skating or skateboarding at the skate park, on parkour and pump track constructions.

In turn, appropriately selected outdoor gym equipment means that everyone can train freely. They are located in different parts of the city, and their use is free of charge.

There is a climbing wall also available in Elk. The maximum wall height is 11 m, while the overhangs reach 6.5 m. They can be safely used by children as well.

The world is a few years old...



Joyful childhood memories are priceless. They remain stored deep in the memory for many years and return in time by their scent, colour or place. Therefore, we have created numerous playgrounds located mainly in the city centre and the promenade in Elk. There are places in our city designed for our youngest residents and tourists, out of concern for their well-being. Various elements, obstacles and attractions mean that certainly no child will be bored while having fun.

Road to the Olympics

There are two fully equipped full-size football pitches within the city stadium, which favours the development of this sport.

Athletes can train on one of two available tracks in the city. There are also tennis courts as well as volleyball and basketball for team games. Children with parents are eager to also use the mini golf area



May the force be with you



fot. Rafał Galicki

Elk is definitely a city of active people. Bike lovers can't complain because the *Mazovia MTB* race and the *Northern Star* series race takes place in this area. The most persistent competitors can try their hand in the *RUNMAGEDDON* competition.

It is worth overcoming the fear of heights in the Elk rope park, stretching between the crowns of trees, right on the shore of the lake. Children can benefit from the facility due to the availability of the three routes of varying difficulty.

A feast for the eyes and soul

A full range of musical sounds can be heard in Elk. Starting from popular music, concerts by icons of Polish songs, classical and jazzy compositions, sung poetry, shanties up to hip-hop concerts. We care about the good humoured atmosphere during the *Mazury Cabaret Summer* known as MULATKA.

The appearances of colourful and gleeful groups in the *International Folklore Festival RAINBOW* provide joy. A flight at a height of more than half a kilometer during the Masurian Balloon Competition takes your breath away „with your heart being in your mouth”.



Elk, yummy...

As the culinary capital of Masuria, the city organizes many events connected with the whole collage of flavours and aromas. The season begins with the *Contest for the ladle of the Elk Mayor*, which is contested by restaurants in the region. During the summer we embark on journey of taste combined with a show chefs cooking.

Healthy eating is promoted during the *Frutti di Lago* and *Fiesta Kartofella* - the feast of potato dishes. Last season the Regional Festival of Honey, a culinary event, was dedicated to the richness of nature.



Institutions

Elk Cultural Centre

19-300 Elk, ul. Wojska Polskiego 47, www.eck.elk.pl
e-mail: sekretariat@eck.elk.pl, tel. +48 87 621 52 50

Municipal Sports and Recreation

19-300 Elk, ul. Piłsudskiego 29, www.mosir.elk.pl
e-mail: mosir@mosir.elk.pl, tel. +48 87 610 38 38

Zofia Nasierowska City Public Library

19-300 Elk, ul. Armii Krajowej 17 B, www.biblioteka.elk.pl
e-mail: sekretariat@biblioteka.elk.pl, tel. +48 87 610 37 39

Historical museum in Elk

19-300 Elk, ul. Małeckich 3/2, www.mhe-elk.pl
e-mail: sekretariat@mhe-elk.pl, tel. +48 87 732 02 83

Elk Narrow Gauge Railway

19-300 Elk, ul. Wąski Tor 1
e-mail: kolejka.elk@o2.pl, tel. +48 87 610 00 00

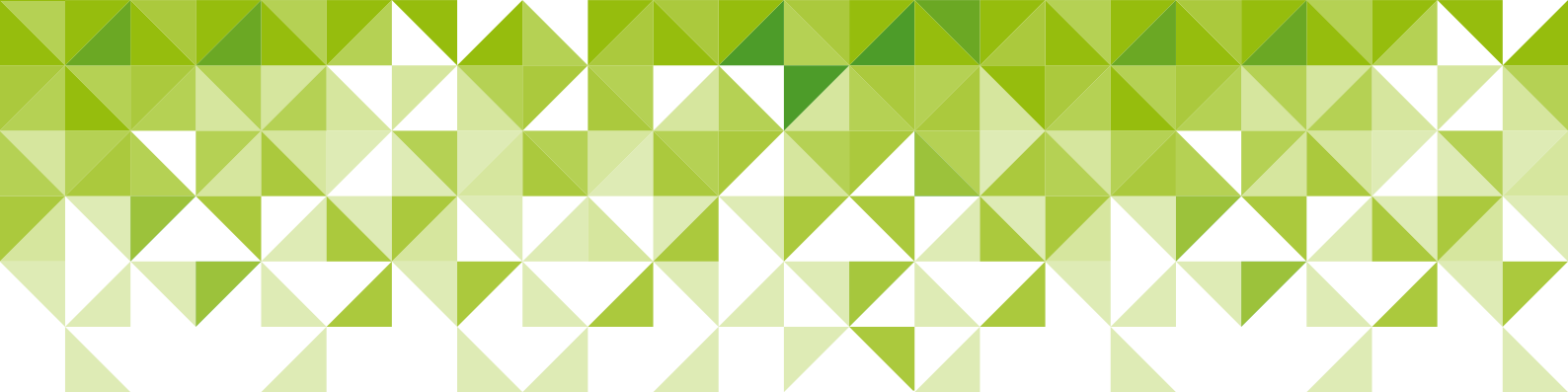
Environmental Education Centre

19-300 Elk, ul. Parkowa 12, www.cee.elk.pl
e-mail: biuro@cee.elk.pl, tel. +48 87 610 16 24

Tourist and cultural information centre

19-300 Elk, ul. Wojska Polskiego 47, www.turystyka.elk.pl
e-mail: info@turystyka.elk.pl, tel. +48 87 621 70 10





Elk City Hall
ul. Marsz J. Piłsudskiego 4
19-300 Ełk

tel. +48 87 732 60 00
um@um.elk.pl
www.elk.pl

