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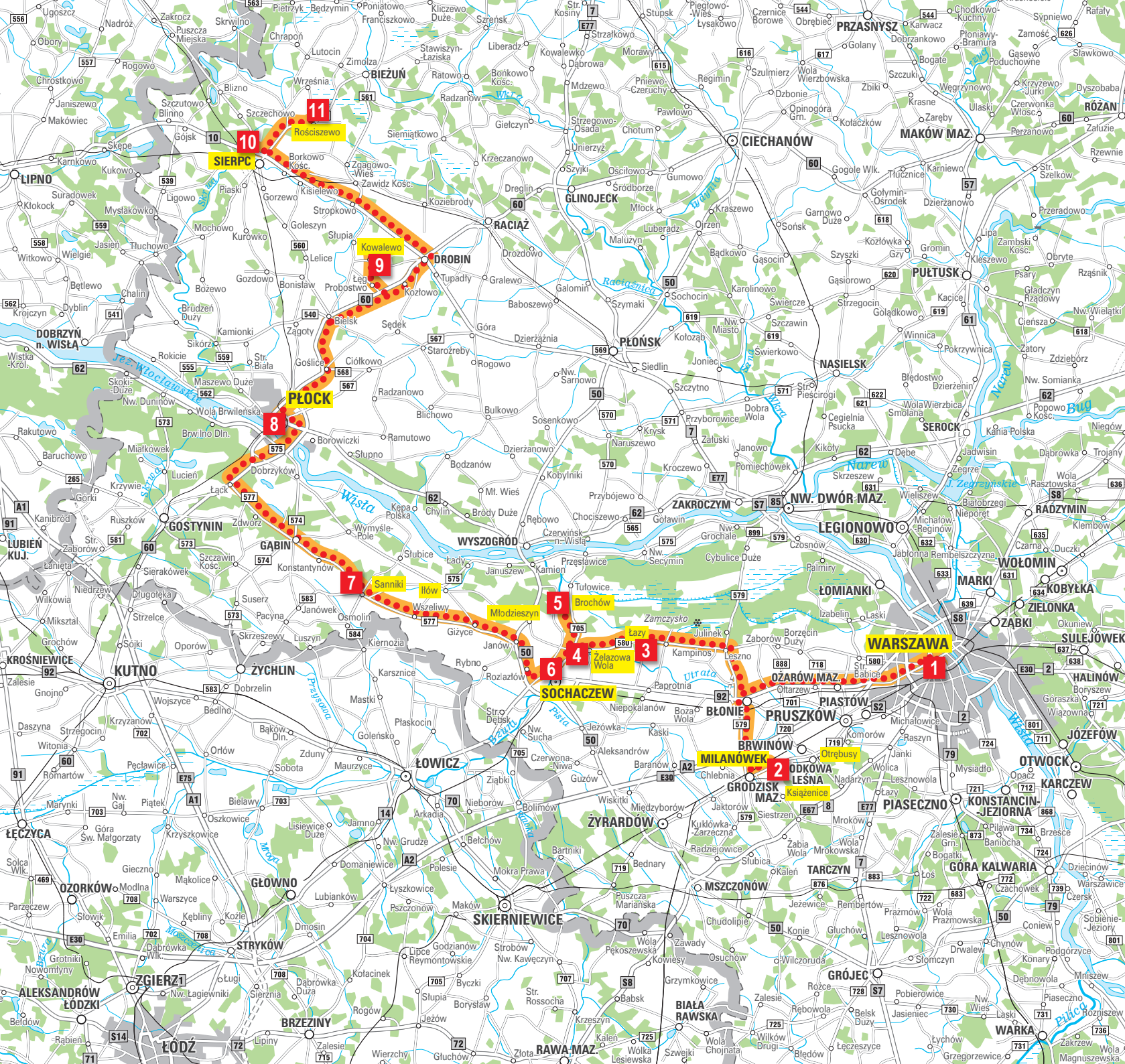
tourist
guide

CHOPIN ROUTE

Mazovia.
heart of Poland

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MAZOVIA. Today, it is the heart of Poland. At the time when the Republic was being formed, it had been a separate state for more than three centuries. In the centre of the region is the bustling metropolis of Warsaw, surrounded by towns, villages and landmarks yet to be fully explored. Curious travellers will discover mysterious castles, great manor houses, historic churches and quaint little villages, as well as old battlefields and landscapes that have been attracting filmmakers to the area for many years now. Mazovia is a treasure house of historical, cultural and natural wealth. All you have to do is stand at its border and say the magic words: Mazovia, open sesame! An then follow the route of your choice.

This is the **CHOPIN ROUTE** – a journey into Mazovia before the Industrial Revolution, and to Warsaw at the beginning of the 19th century, when the classicists vied with the romantics. Following in the footsteps of the young composer, you can imagine the quickly-growing capital of 200 years ago, with its neo-classical architecture, and the noisy cafes, theatres and aristocratic salons in which its cultural life was led. The stations at the corner of Trębackiej and Krakowskie Przedmieście streets were crowded with people leaving for distant places by stagecoach. From there the young Fryderyk set off to his birthplace of Żelazowa Wola, where today you can still hear the music of Chopin emanating from the manor house. On to Sochaczew, where the young pianist performed for a general who was impressed with his great talent. Then on to Brochów and its famous fortified basilica, in which Chopin was baptised in 1810. It was also from here that, at the age of 20, the composer journeyed to Vienna, and onwards towards fame that knows no bounds of time or place.

The Chopin Route is one of three new routes that will enable you to discover the Mazovian Heritage. It is also worth exploring the other two. The Dukes of Mazovia Route is a journey into a world of medieval castles, valiant knights, and the wise, ambitious rulers who governed Mazovia as an independent state for three centuries. The Battle of Warsaw 1920 Route is a trek back in time and space that will help you understand why a battle that took place almost a century ago is considered one of the crucial events in European history.

For more information, visit www.dziedzictwomazowsza.pl

The Chopin Route

Life of Fryderyk Chopin – key dates

1810

1 March, Fryderyk Chopin is born in Żelazowa Wola. In the autumn, the Chopin family moves to Warsaw.

1823-1825

Fryderyk, previously tutored at home, becomes a pupil in the fourth grade at the Warsaw Lyceum. In 1824 and 1825 he spends his vacation in Szafarnia, in the Ziemia Dobrzyńska region.

1826-1827

Chopin begins studying at the School of Music of Warsaw University; his composition teacher is Józef Elsner. In the summer, he visits the spa in Duszniki. In 1827, after the death of Fryderyk's youngest sister Emilia, the family moves to a new flat in Krasiński Palace on Krakowskie Przedmieście. In that same year, Fryderyk composes his first serious pieces: *Variations in B major* op. 2 on the theme *Là ci darem la mano* from Mozart's *Don Juan*, and *Sonata in C minor* op. 4. In the summer he journeys to Gdańsk.

1830

In March, Chopin performs at two concerts at the National Theatre during which the young composer also performs his own works, including the *Concerto in F minor* and *Fantasia in A major* on Polish themes, which are received enthusiastically by the public. In the summer, Fryderyk begins his preparations to leave the country; he visits Poturzyn and spends several days in Żelazowa Wola. On 2 November, he bids farewell to his family and friends, and leaves Warsaw, to which he will never return.

1815-1818

Fryderyk begins studying the piano under Wojciech Żywny. In 1817 the first composition by Chopin appears in print – the *Polonaise in G minor*. In 1818 the young pianist gives his first public recital, which brings him renown and marks the beginning of



his career. In the Warsaw Diary, we read: *"a true musical genius: not only does he play the most difficult piano pieces with great facility and extraordinary taste, but he has also composed a number of dances and variations which connoisseurs of music cannot stop extolling."*

1828-1829

Fryderyk spends his 1828 summer vacation in Saniki with the Pruszek family. In September, on a short trip, he encounters the musical life of Berlin. In 1829 he completes his studies, with the following comments by Józef Elsner: *Szopen Fryderyk – exceptional talent, a musical genius*. In the summer he travels to Vienna, where he has a successful European debut. In the autumn he visits his godmother, Anna Wielewska, in Strzyżewo and the family of Prince Radziwiłł in Antonina.



1831-1832

Chopin spends eight months of 1831 in Vienna. In Stuttgart he is crushed by the news of the outbreak of the November Uprising. Around the same time, he moves to Paris, where he will live for the rest of his life. In February 1832 he gives a public concert in the Pleyel salon, of which it is written: *"He simply slaughtered all other pianists hereabouts, all of Paris was stunned."* The concert establishes Chopin in musical circles, and he begins to earn money by teaching piano.

1835

In Karlovy Vary, Chopin meets his parents, and later stays briefly in Decin and Dresden (where his acquaintance with the Wodsiński family from Służew results in his engagement to the young Maria Wodzińska), as well as in Leipzig, Frankfurt, Heidelberg and Strasbourg.

1838-1843

Beginning of his relationship with George Sand. In the autumn, Chopin travels with her and her children to Majorca. In 1839, despite failing health, he spends much time composing. He spends the summer at George Sand's estate in Nohant. In 1840, he works intensively and takes part in the social life of Paris. Over the next few months, he divides his time between Paris and Nohant. He works very intensively, and spends much time composing.

1847-1848

The conflict between him and George Sand reaches breaking point, and they part company. In 1848, though suffering much from ill health, Chopin goes on a seven-month concert tour of England and Scotland. On 16 November, at the Guildhall in London, he gives the last public performance of his life. Gravely ill, he returns to Paris.



1833-1834

Months full of work. Chopin spends his time giving concerts, teaching piano and composing. He spends the summer of 1833 in Coteau, and visits Brussels and Lille. In 1834 he establishes contact with Mendelssohn, Liszt, Hiller and Berlioz. He visits Aachen, Dusseldorf, Cologne and Koblenz.



1836-1837

In the summer, Fryderyk visits the Wodzińskis in Marienbad, and later travels to Dresden, Leipzig, Kassel and Frankfurt. He meets George Sand. He spends an increasing amount of time composing. In 1837, he spontaneously decides to travel to London with the piano manufacturer Camille Pleyel. In August, his engagement to Maria Wodzińska is broken off.



1844-1846

Fryderyk experiences serious health problems. On 3 May 1844, Chopin's father Nicholas dies. 1845 sees Chopin working in Paris and spending the summer in Nohant. The first serious misunderstanding with George Sand occurs. In 1846, he becomes involved with the émigré community at the Hôtel Lambert.

1849

His deteriorating health forces Chopin to limit the number of guests he sees and lessons he gives. He writes to his sister, Ludwika: *"Come if you can. I'm frail, and no doctor will help me like you would... Today the weather is lovely, I'm sitting in the salon admiring my view over the whole of Paris."* Endless consultations with doctors result in no improvement in his state of health. Fearing the worst, the composer takes care of his publishing matters and bids farewell to those closest to him. He dies on 17 October.

Father – Nicholas Chopin

(15 April 1771 – 3 May 1844, Warsaw)

Nicholas was born in a French village in Lotharingia; his family lived on the grounds of an estate belonging to a Pole – Michał Jan Pac. The administrator of the estate, Adam Weydlich, also a Pole, took an interest in the intelligent youth, and hired him to help in the castle. When the Weydlich family moved in Warsaw in 1787, Weydlich took the teenager with him. Nicholas had a general education, knew the basics of foreign languages, and was talented musically. He played the flute and violin as an amateur. After arriving in Warsaw, he worked in a boarding house, and later many gentry families employed him as a teacher. His last such engagement was at the estate of the Skarbek family in Żelazowa Wola. There the French immigrant met Justyna Krzyżanowska, whom he married in 1806. In 1810, when Nicholas obtained a permanent position teaching French at the Warsaw Lyceum, he took his young family to the capital, where they settled. In addition to working at the Lyceum, he also ran a boarding house for boys, which soon enjoyed a good reputation.

Mother – Justyna Chopin, née Krzyżanowska

(14 September 1782 – 1 October 1861, Warsaw)

She came from an impoverished noble family. Her father, Jakub Krzyżanowski, managed the estate of the Skarbek family in Izbica, where Justyna grew up. She left those parts around 1800-1805 to live in Żelazowa Wola, where she helped Countess Ludwika Skarbkowa manage her estate and run the house. It was here that she met the tutor Nicholas Chopin, whom she married in 1806 in the nearby parish of Brochów. In 1807 she gave birth to a daughter, Ludwika, and three years later to a son, Fryderyk. In 1810, when Nicholas Chopin was given a job at the Warsaw Lyceum, the family moved to Warsaw. There, two more daughters were born – Izabella in 1811 and Emilia in 1812. Apart from her own four children, Justyna also took care of running the family boarding house for boys from the gentry class. Late in life, Justyna and Nicholas lived at the home of their daughter Izabella and her husband Antoni Barciński (currently No. 47 Nowy Świat Street).

Fryderyk Chopin's Family

Sister – Ludwika Jędrzejewiczowa, née Chopin

(6 April 1807 – 29 October 1855, Warsaw)

Fryderyk Chopin's eldest sister was educated at a boarding school for girls, and studied music under Wojciech Żywny. After the defeat of the November Uprising, she took an active part in patriotic associations. In 1832, in Brochów, she married the Warsaw attorney Józef Kalasanty Jędrzejewicz, with whom she had four children. From childhood, she was very close to her brother. After Fryderyk left Warsaw, Ludwika corresponded with him and his friends. She visited him twice in Paris and was with him at his death. In January 1850, in accordance with her deceased brother's wishes, she secretly brought the heart of Fryderyk Chopin to Warsaw.

Sister – Izabella Barcińska, née Chopin

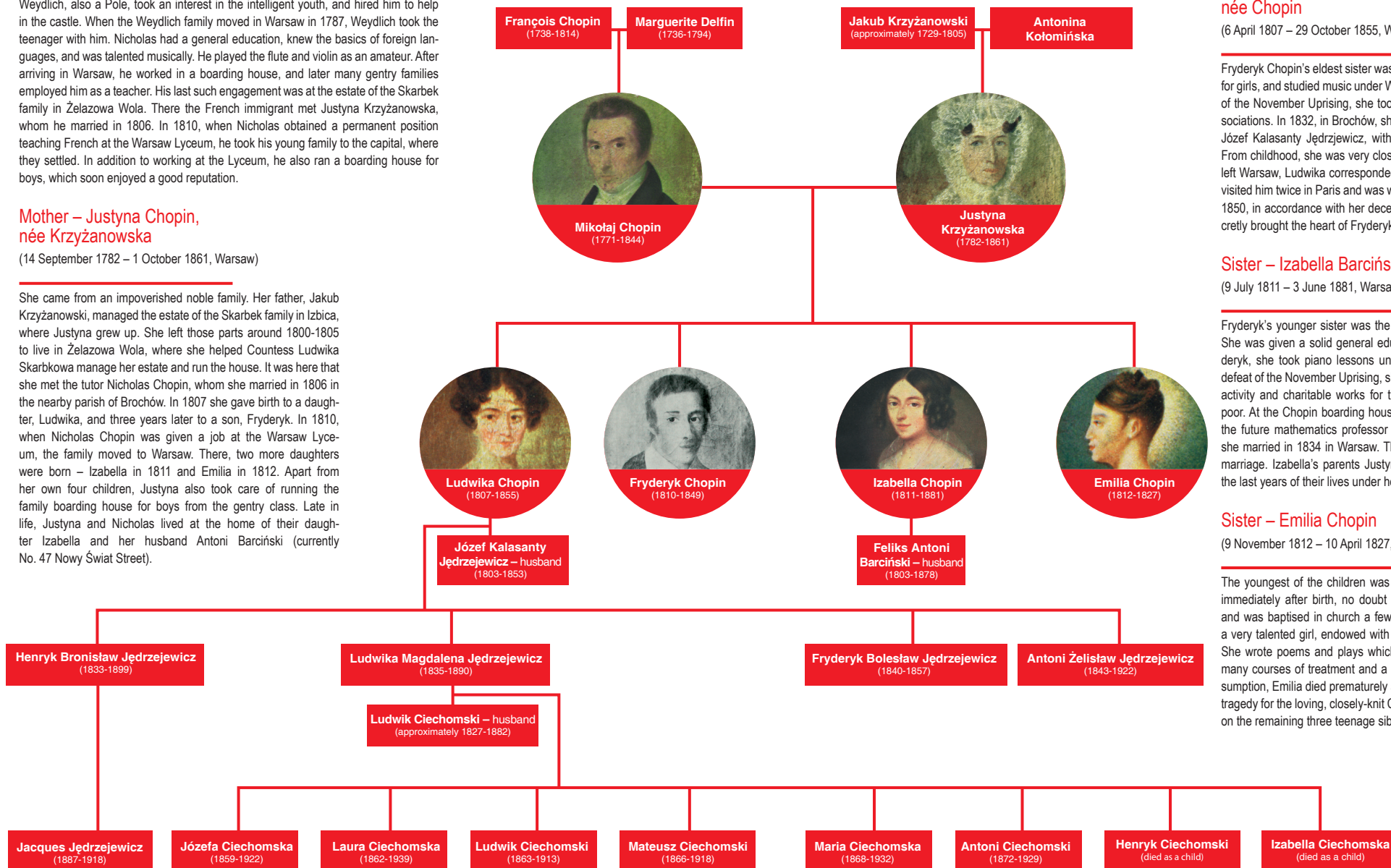
(9 July 1811 – 3 June 1881, Warsaw)

Fryderyk's younger sister was the healthiest of the four children. She was given a solid general education. Like Ludwika and Fryderyk, she took piano lessons under Wojciech Żywny. After the defeat of the November Uprising, she became engaged in patriotic activity and charitable works for the benefit of orphans and the poor. At the Chopin boarding house she met her future husband, the future mathematics professor Feliks Antoni Barciński, whom she married in 1834 in Warsaw. There were no children from the marriage. Izabella's parents Justyna and Nicholas Chopin spent the last years of their lives under her roof.

Sister – Emilia Chopin

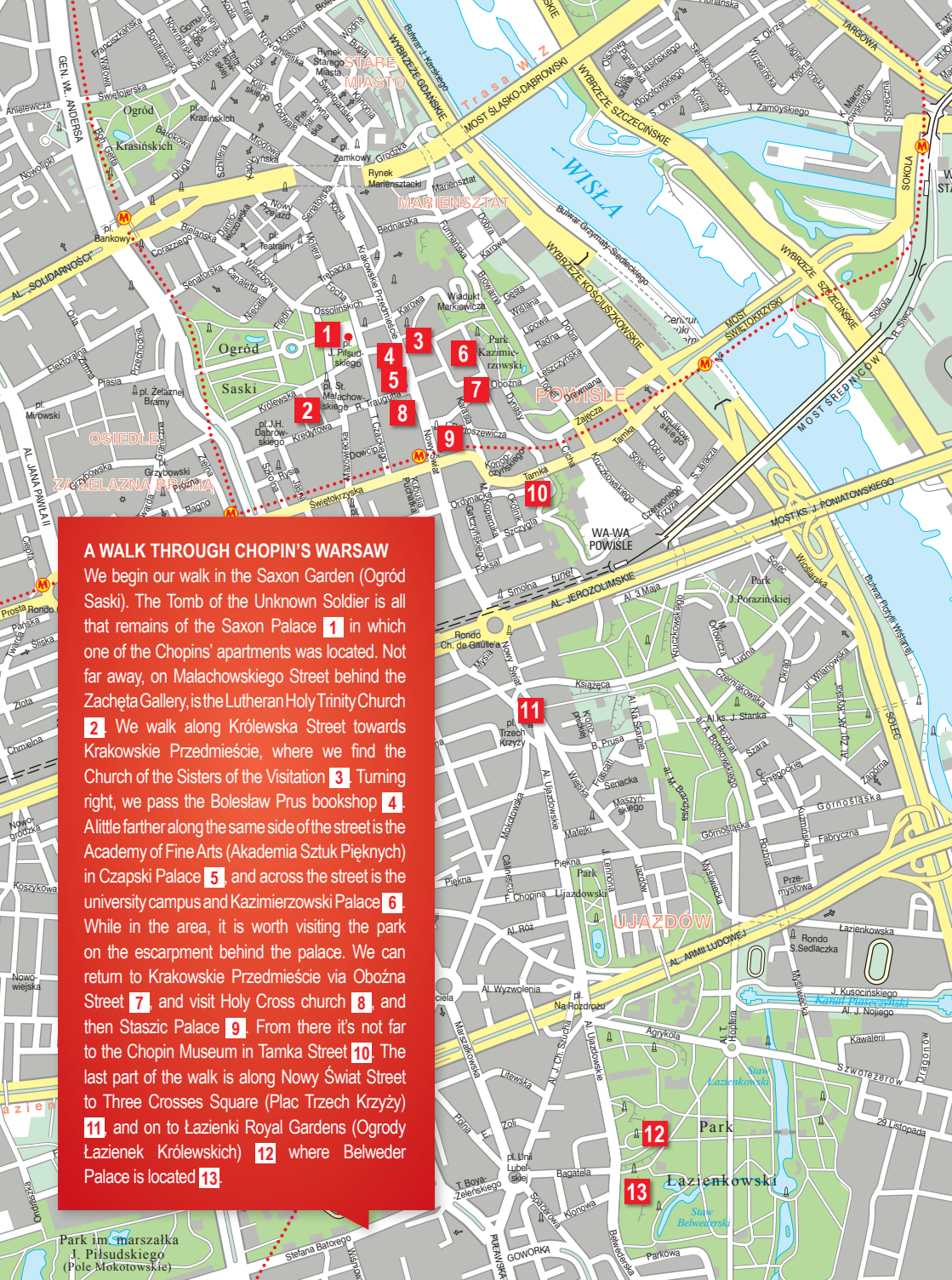
(9 November 1812 – 10 April 1827, Warsaw)

The youngest of the children was baptised at home "with water" immediately after birth, no doubt because of her frail condition, and was baptised in church a few years later, in 1815. She was a very talented girl, endowed with grace and a sense of humour. She wrote poems and plays which delighted her family. Despite many courses of treatment and a hard-fought battle against consumption, Emilia died prematurely at the age of fifteen. This was a tragedy for the loving, closely-knit Chopin family which left its mark on the remaining three teenage siblings.



Portraits of Chopin's family (except Emilia) – reproductions (1930) of lost paintings by A. Mieroszewski (1829). Portrait of Emilia – miniature by unknown author.

A plaque based on the book Fryderyk Chopin. Roots by P. Mysłakowski and A. Sikorski, NIFC, Warsaw, 2010. The book focuses on Fryderyk's immediate family – his parents and sisters. It is worth remembering that Nicholas Chopin's descendants are still alive today. From among Ludwika's grandchildren, Józefa, Mateusz and Antoni Ciechomski all had descendants.



A WALK THROUGH CHOPIN'S WARSAW

We begin our walk in the Saxon Garden (Ogród Saski). The Tomb of the Unknown Soldier is all that remains of the Saxon Palace **1** in which one of the Chopins' apartments was located. Not far away, on Malachowskiego Street behind the Zachęta Gallery, is the Lutheran Holy Trinity Church **2**. We walk along Królewska Street towards Krakowskie Przedmieście, where we find the Church of the Sisters of the Visitation **3**. Turning right, we pass the Bolesław Prus bookshop **4**. A little farther along the same side of the street is the Academy of Fine Arts (Akademia Sztuk Pięknych) in Czapski Palace **5**, and across the street is the university campus and Kazimierzowski Palace **6**. While in the area, it is worth visiting the park on the escarpment behind the palace. We can return to Krakowskie Przedmieście via Oboźna Street **7** and visit Holy Cross church **8**, and then Staszic Palace **9**. From there it's not far to the Chopin Museum in Tamka Street **10**. The last part of the walk is along Nowy Świat Street to Three Crosses Square (Plac Trzech Krzyży) **11** and on to Łazienki Royal Gardens (Ogrody Łazienek Królewskich) **12** where Belweder Palace is located **13**.



Fryderyk Chopin's Warsaw

Warsaw was Fryderyk Chopin's home for twenty years. That is half of the composer's intense, all too short life. In the autumn of 1810, the Chopin family moved from Żelazowa Wola to the capital of the Duchy of Warsaw. On 2 November 1830, the young but accomplished artist left the capital of the Duchy of Warsaw, commonly known as Congress Poland.

The change in the name of the state and international dependencies did not have a negative impact on Warsaw. On the contrary: the city grew very rapidly at that time. Warsaw University and the Polytechnic Institute were established, there was a Society of Friends of Science with an outstanding library, there were elementary and technical schools, and the Warsaw Lyceum in which Fryderyk's father worked; culture and social life blossomed.

The young pianist spent most of his time in Warsaw in the area of Krakowskie Przedmieście and Miodowa Street. Here were the apartments the Chopins lived in, the schools their children went to, and there were cafes, a library, a theatre, and the Brzeziny bookshop with the city's largest collection of sheet music, where later it was possible to buy the first scores issued of Chopin's music.

From childhood, Fryderyk learned to play the piano under Wojciech Żywy, and he later studied composition under the maestro Józef Elsner at the School of Music. Chopin received his general education first at the Warsaw Lyceum, and later at the University.

He began to perform from an early age. Fryderyk Chopin's first public concert took place in 1818. Up to 1830 he performed regularly in Warsaw salons,

and before leaving the city he gave three recitals at the National Theatre.

He also attended performances by other artists, regularly visiting the theatre - he adored opera. He spent some time almost every day in the cafes, where heated discussions took place on art, fashion and politics.

In school and at university, during foreign language lessons and at his father's boarding house, Fryderyk got to know his contemporaries and made his first friendships. He and his colleagues would stroll about the city, and with some Fryderyk went on summer excursions outside of Warsaw. Inevitably, there was his first infatuation - he fell in love with Konstancja Gładkowska, a student at the Warsaw Conservatory.

The locations of these events have been marked on the Chopin Route, which largely coincides with the Royal Route. Important points in Chopin's life in Warsaw are located on the section from Sigismund's column to Three Crosses Square. Walking along this route, you can be sure that almost two centuries ago, Fryderyk Chopin was here.



www.warsawtour.pl

Warsaw Tourist Information Centres:

Tourist Information:

- Palace of Culture and Science (Pałac Kultury i Nauki) (entrance off Emilii Plater Street)
- Old Town Market Square (Rynek Starego Miasta) 19/21/21a
- Frederic Chopin Airport, Terminal A, Gate 2

WARSAW ADDRESSES OF THE CHOPINS

In the autumn of 1810, when Fryderyk was just a few months old, the Chopins moved from Żelazowa Wola to Warsaw. They probably stayed at first in what was known as the Jan Böhm house in Krakowskie Przedmieście (registry No. 411). The building no longer exists, while in its place stands apartment house No. 7, home to the Bolesław Prus bookshop on the ground floor.

As a teacher at the Warsaw Lyceum, Nicholas Chopin was granted accommodation. This was situated, like the school, in the **Saxon Palace**, most likely on the second floor of the right wing. This is another address of the Chopins in Krakowskie Przedmieście (registry No. 413), and another building which has not survived.



The Tomb of the Unknown Soldier is the only part remaining of the Saxon Palace arcade

CHOPIN BENCHES

For the 200th anniversary of the birth of Fryderyk Chopin, a walking route was created connecting 15 places associated with the artist's life in Warsaw. In each of these locations, a 'Chopin bench' was installed which plays a passage of a Chopin composition when a button on the bench is pressed. Each bench also bears a description of



Chopin's connection to its location and a QR code for downloading an application with an audioguide and the music of the great romantic composer.



Warsaw University Pro-rector Building – Fryderyk Chopin lived here from 1817-1827

It was demolished by the Germans in 1944. All that remains of the Saxon Palace is a fragment of the arcade, today the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier.

In March 1817, the Warsaw Lyceum was moved to **Kazimierzowski Palace** on the grounds of the university campus. Teachers at the Lyceum lived in the same building. The Chopins lived on the second floor of the annex, on the right when approaching from the main gate of the university.

In 1827, after the death of Emilia, Fryderyk's youngest sister, the Chopin family moved again to an apartment in **Czapski Palace** in Krakowskie Przedmieście (registry No. 410, now No. 5). For the first time, Fryderyk had his own room. In a small room in the attic, alongside the necessary

furniture stood an old piano. The teenage artist had a place, then, to study, practice, and work on his own compositions.

That palace, which in Chopin's time belonged to the Krasiński family, is now home to the Academy of Fine Arts.

HIGH SCHOOL AND STUDIES

Fryderyk Chopin was educated at home up to the age of 13. In September 1823, he became a pupil of the Warsaw Lyceum, immediately joining the fourth year (there were six grades at the school). The school was located in the main building of Kazimierzowski Palace, while just next door, in the annex, the Chopin family resided in an apartment provided by the school.

In 1826, Fryderyk began studying at the School of Mu-



The Czapski Palace, now home to the Academy of Fine Arts

sic, which was part of the Faculty of Sciences and Fine Arts at Royal Warsaw University. Lectures were held in the buildings of the university campus, and practical lessons at the Conservatory, located in buildings of a former monastery standing between the Church of St. Anne and the Royal Castle. The former cloister also contained the apartment of Józef Elsner – dean of the School of Music and composition teacher – and the dormitory in which Konstancja Gładkowska, Chopin's first love, lived.

BRZEZINY BOOKSHOP

"I go to Brzeziny daily," – Chopin wrote to a friend. The Brzeziny bookshop at No. 8 Miodowa Street had the best selection of sheet music in Warsaw. The latest publications were brought in from abroad, and Polish scores were published on site and sold (including two early works of Chopin). In the bookshop it was also possible to... play on a good piano.

The place where the monastery once stood, now above the East-West Route (Trasa W-Z), contains a square with a view of the Vistula and the right bank of Warsaw.

As a high school and university student, Fryderyk certainly visited the library of the Warsaw Society of Friends of Science. It was located in Staszic Palace at the crossing of Nowy Świat and Krakowskie Przedmieście. In the building at the corner of Krakowskie Przedmieście and Oboźna streets, Chopin and his colleagues went for English language lessons.



Today, Kazimierzowski Palace forms the central part of the campus of Warsaw University.

CHOPIN CONCERTS



CHOPIN AT CONCERTS

Fryderyk Chopin not only gave concerts, but also attended those of other artists. He went to recitals by famous virtuosos in the Town Hall in Senatorska Street, the Royal Castle, and the National Theatre.

In the salons

The artistic development of the young Chopin was greatly affected by the salon life of Warsaw. Almost every aristocratic family (certainly the Czartoryskis, Zamoyskis, Sapiehas, Radziwiłłows, Czetwertyńskis and Wodzińskis) vied to have their salons be the venue for a recital by the child prodigy, and later the young virtuoso genius.



The Presidential/Radziwiłłowski Palace

The eight-year-old pianist's debut on 24 February 1818 at a charity concert in Radziwiłłowski Palace on Krakowskie Przedmieście (now the Presidential Palace) brought Fryderyk Chopin immediate renown and notices in the Warsaw press. This led to further invitations. The young musician performed in the building of the *Res Sacra Miser* Warsaw Charitable Society



The Belvedere

located on Krakowskie Przedmieście near Bednarska Street. He also played at the invitation of the Grand Prince Konstanty, in his salon at the Belweder Palace on the grounds of Łazienki Royal Gardens. At that time Łazienki Gardens were closed to the public, available only to residents and guests of the Belweder. Over time, however, the park became one of the most 'Chopinesque' places in the capital, above all because of the famous statue of the composer which has stood here since 1926, and because of its highly popular summer piano recitals.



The Church of the Sisters of the Visitation of St Joseph Bridegroom of Mary the Immaculate Mother of God in Warsaw

Other Warsaw salons were also concert halls for Chopin, including Morsztyn Palace in Miodowa Street, and the Blue Palace in Senatorska Street, where Chopin performed in both the main



The interior of the Honoratka restaurant, continuing the tradition of the cafe in which Chopin spent time (no longer existing).

building at the Zamoyskis and for Klementyna Tańska Hoffman (entry off Żabia Street). The pianist also gave recitals in Brühl Palace (no longer existing), Potocki Palace (now the Ministry of Culture and National Heritage), Kossowski Palace, in Radziwiłłów Palace behind the Iron Gate where the salon was conducted by Teresa Kicka, and in the house of Friedrich Philipeus in Senatorska Street.

In churches

The young composer played the organ in the Church of the Sisters of the Visitation in Krakowskie Przedmieście during Sunday masses for students of the

Warsaw Lyceum. In May 1825, he also played in the Lutheran Church of the Holy Trinity in Małachowski Square (Plac Małachowskiego).

In the theatre

Fryderyk Chopin was keen on opera and the theatre, and regularly attended the National Theatre, which was then located in a building adjoining Krasiński Palace (no longer existing). He usually sat in the audience, but sometimes appeared on stage. In 1830 he gave three public performances in the National Theatre, a symbolic farewell to Warsaw before his departure from Poland.



WARSAW CAFES

There was a thriving social life in the café society of 19th-century Warsaw. The biggest crowds, and the hottest debates on politics and culture took place in the cafes along Miodowa Street, where the young Fryderyk often looked in, to and from his trips to the Brzeziń sheet music shop. As a teen, Chopin could be found in the "Pod Kopciuszkiem", the "Dziura", the "Honoratka" and the modern Swiss confectioner's "Lours". He also often visited the cafe "U Brzezińska" in Koźia Street.



Łazienki Royal Gardens - Palace on the Water

DAILY LIFE IN WARSAW

Miodowa and Krakowskie Przedmieście streets were the hub of social life in 19th-century Warsaw. It was there that the young Chopin was most often seen, since he lived in the area, studied there, and spent time in its bookshops and cafes. He also met his friends from high school, university, and his English

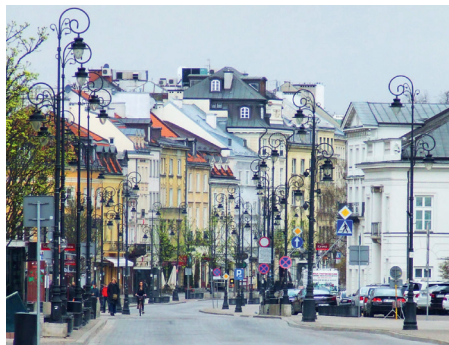


The Church of St. Anne in Krakowskie Przedmieście Street

and Italian lessons. In Chodkiewicz Palace he visited the Wodzińskis, Rembielińskis, and Tytus Woyciechowski. He also went to the Prusaks in Marszałkowska Street and to Alfons Brandt and Romuald Hube in the New



Wessel Palace in Warsaw



Krakowskie Przedmieście Street

Town (Nowe Miasto). He visited Joachim Lelewel in Długa Street. It is also possible that he visited his friend Jan Matuszyński in Elektoralna Street (that part of the street now belongs to Chłodna Street). The teenage Chopin also visited Antoni Odyńca in Senatorska Street and Kajetan Koźmian in Bielańska Street. The meeting at which Fryderyk bade farewell to Warsaw took place in the apartment of Aleksander Reinschmidt at No. 10 Dzielna Street.

Chopin went for walks with his best friend Tytus Woyciechowski throughout the city, as he himself put it, that is, from Plac Trzech Krzyży all the way up to Sigismund's column. He also walked in the New and Old Towns and in Marywilski Square (now Theatre Square (Plac Teatralny). Sometimes he went up to the Żoliborz district to visit Leopold Poletyło in the Piarist Fathers College, and to the Bielany district to the Camaldolese monastery and church.

From Chopin's correspondence with his family and friends, we know that he knew Browarna and Oboźna streets, where as a child he played there on the steep ice.

All of young Fryderyk's journey's outside the city began at Wessel Palace at the corner of Trębacka and Krakowskie Przedmieście streets, where there was a post office and stagecoach station. Today, the fine rococo building houses a prosecutor's office.

HOLY CROSS CHURCH

At the beginning of the 19th century, Holy Cross Church (Kościół Świętego Krzyża) was the largest church in Warsaw. For two centuries, it has contained epitaphs and plaques commemorating distinguished Poles, including Adam Mickiewicz, Juliusz Słowacki, Józef Ignacy Kraszewski, Bolesław Prus and General Władysław Sikorski.

This was the Chopins' parish church when they lived in Krakowskie Przedmieście Street. Two of Chopin's sisters were baptised at Holy Cross: Izabela and Emilia. And it is here that an urn containing Chopin's heart is kept – brought to Poland by his elder sister Ludwika in accordance with the composer's wish.

The church also contains a plaque in honour of Chopin, funded by the Warsaw Music Society (Warszawskie Towarzystwo Muzyczne) in 1880. It bears a quotation from the Gospel of Matthew:



Holy Cross Church



Plaque commemorating Chopin in Holy Cross Church

Where your treasure is, there your heart will be also, and above, a modest bust of Chopin by Leonard Marconi.

During the Second World War, the church was seriously damaged, but the urn containing Chopin's heart had previously been taken away and hidden in a safe place (see Milanówek).

ŁAZIENKI ROYAL GARDENS WITH THE CHOPIN MONUMENT

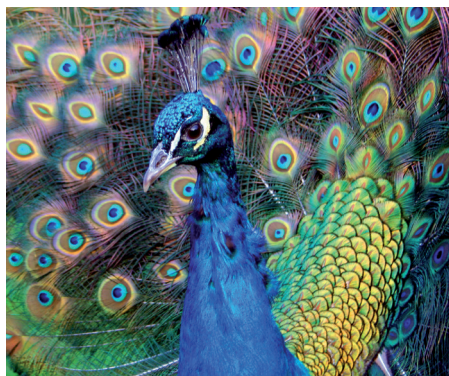
Łazienki Royal Gardens date back to the 17th century, when the owner of the grounds, Stanisław Herakliusz Lubomirski, constructed two pavilions: The Hermitage and the richly decorated Baths pavilion. In the second half of the 18th century, Łazienki became the summer residence of King Stanisław August. A number of buildings date from this period, including the Old Orangery (Stara Pomarańczarnia) the White House (Biały Domek), the island amphitheatre, and the Myślewicki Palace.

In the 19th century, the Łazienki complex saw several new pavilions erected in the neo-classical style. In 1817 Łazienki became the property of Tzar Aleksander I, and the Belweder was occupied by his brother, Grand Duke Konstanty, who, after 1822, invited the young Chopin to perform in his salon. During the Second World War, the park was seriously damaged by a fire, yet it proved possible to restore the historic buildings and create a garden and museum complex open to the general public.

Łazienki Royal Gardens are firmly associated with Chopin because of the presence there of the Chopin monument created by Wacław Szymanowski. It is one of the most well-known and well-loved images of Fryderyk



Chopin monument in Łazienki Royal Gardens



Łazienki is graced with colourful peacocks strutting majestically about the lanes of the park.

Chopin in all of Poland. It stands above a pond near the main entrance to the gardens off Ujazdowskie Boulevard (Aleje Ujazdowskie). It was unveiled in 1926, then destroyed by the Nazis in 1940, hence the inscription on the pedestal: *This statue of Fryderyk Chopin, demolished and plundered by the Germans on 31 May 1940, is rebuilt by the Nation. 17-X-1946.*

After World War II, in 1958, the monument was faithfully reconstructed and restored to its original position. The pedestal bears the words of Adam Mickiewicz:

*Fire eats away at history's leaves,
The sword puts treasure in the hands of thieves,
Song comes away unscathed...*

From 1959 till today, recitals of Chopin's music have been held next to the monument on Sundays. They are organised from the beginning of May to the end of September, and enjoy enormous popularity.

THE FRYDERYK CHOPIN MUSEUM

The main office of the museum is in Ostrogski Castle rising above No. 1 Okólnik Street. At the end of the 16th century, the Krakowian castellan Janusz Ostrogski commissioned the construction of a small fortress here. The building was erected only in the second half of the 17th century, however,

! FRYDERYK CHOPIN INSTITUTE

The Institute, established in 2001 by the Polish parliament, coordinates academic research, popularises knowledge about Fryderyk Chopin and his music, and publishes books, recordings and multimedia. For more than a decade, every year in August the Institute has organised the prestigious Chopin and His Europe International Festival in Warsaw, and since 2010 the Fryderyk Chopin International Piano Competition, which dates back to 1927. It has also initiated concert series, symposia, academic conferences and master classes. Cooperating with other Chopin institutions and organisations around the world, it collects archives and museum artefacts, manages the Chopin Museum in Warsaw, and the Birthplace of Fryderyk Chopin in Żelazowa Wola. On the website www.chopin.nifc.pl the Institute runs an Internet Chopin Information Centre.

after a design by Tylman of Gameren, who was hired by the owner at that time, Jan Gniński. Since then, the castle has been remodelled a number of times, its function changing along with its various owners.

It is not a place historically tied to Fryderyk Chopin and his family, but it was there that The Fryderyk Chopin Institute, in 1934, began to institutionally protect the heritage of Fryderyk Chopin. The building, almost completely destroyed during the Second World War, was reconstructed and, in 1954, became the headquarters of the Fryderyk Chopin Society, which it remained until 2005. It is now the site of the Museum, managed by the Fryderyk Chopin Institute.

The Chopin Museum houses the world's largest collection of Chopin memorabilia. It includes personal items (from the composer, his family and friends), manuscripts (of letters and works), printed documents, pictorial collections including portraits and sculptures, and more.

Since 2010 a multimedia exhibition has been on display in the renovated interior. The concept



Interior of the Chopin Museum

for the interior design and the exhibition was the joint work of Polish museologists, academics, art historians, artists, and Italian designers from the Milan studio of Migliore & Servetto.

The museum also features unusually valuable and original temporary exhibitions. It also functions as an extraordinary cultural centre, conducting educational activities, and organising workshops, concerts and meetings with authors.



www.muzeum.nifc.pl

The Chopin Museum
No. 1 Okólnik Street



The Chopin Museum



Mazovian open-air museum in Sierpc



Park in Żelazowa Wola

Fryderyk Chopin's Mazovia

Fryderyk Chopin was born in Żelazowa Wola, a small village in Mazovia, but Warsaw was the first place he remembered, since his family moved there when he was only a few months old. He was a child of the urban culture of his time, though he also fell under the spell of the Mazovian countryside and its folklore. He had the opportunity to seek inspiration in idyllic landscapes and folk music during the numerous trips he made outside the city.

From his earliest years, Fryderyk spent the summer vacation far from Warsaw. Firstly, his family heeded doctors' recommendations to provide the sickly boy with a change of climate when he wasn't in school, and secondly, Fryderyk's father considered even short journeys an important part of education.

From the little information we have about Fryderyk's first summer vacations, we can assume that these were short trips around Mazovia and visits to the country homes of families who were friends with the Chopins. Above all, though, the Chopins went to Żelazowa Wola. It is possible that, in the first years after moving to Warsaw, Żelazowa Wola was like a second home to the family. During such visits, Fryderyk must certainly also have visited Sochaczew, and the church in Brochów, which the Chopins treated as their home parish.

Fryderyk also got to know other parts of Mazovia during his summer travels. He would spend the summer in some of these places, in others he stayed for a short time during longer excursions to Szafarnia, Duszyni, Gdańsk, Berlin and Vienna.

TRAVELLER

Fryderyk Chopin was not a typical traveller of the Romantic era, but a person who was very mobile. He spent one third of his life on the road, and the tempo and intensity with which the famous artist relocated was more suited to the age of the automobile than the locomotive.

In his maturity, Chopin treated travel as a necessary evil, an inseparable element of the life of a concert musician. His vacation travels as a pupil and student, however, were a permanent element of his education, a way of maintaining social contacts, and a form of recreation. Travelling a lot taught Chopin to organise his trips sensibly. From his correspondence we know that he preferred the newest and fastest means of transport and made use of every existing possibility – from stagecoaches to trains to ships to ferries. He was aware of the distances he was covering and patiently endured the hardships and discomforts of the road.

2 MILANÓWEK

Near the end of the Second World War (from 1944 to 1945) the urn containing Chopin's heart was stored in Milanówek. After the composer's death, his body was laid to rest in the Père-Lachaise Cemetery in Paris, while, in accordance with his last wishes, Fryderyk's heart was taken to Warsaw by his older sister Ludwika. It was walled up in a column in Holy Cross Church. During the Warsaw Uprising, the Germans, sure that the church would be destroyed during the fighting with the Polish insurgents, took the urn away from the church. General Erich von dem Bach-Zelewski handed it over for safekeeping to Bishop Antoni Szlagowski, who was in charge of the Warsaw diocese during the Occupation. The bishop kept the composer's heart in his private chapel on the first floor of the parish rectory by the Church of St. Jadwiga in Milanówek. It returned to Warsaw on 17 October 1945, on the 96th anniversary of Chopin's death. Those events are commemorated in a plaque on a wall of the rectory, next to the entrance. The inscription reads: *In this rectory, the urn with the heart of Fryderyk Chopin was stored from 9 October 1944 to 17 October 1945.* Just beside the church there is also a bust of the composer, which the residents of Milanówek funded in 1998. It was sculpted by Janusz Tomasiński.



The church in Milanówek



Bust of Fryderyk Chopin in Milanówek

! THE CAPITAL OF KRÓWKI

Krówki, delicious fudge sweets composed mainly of milk, are the flagship product of the Poznań confectioner Feliks Pomorski, and the pride of Milanówek. At the beginning of the Second World War, Pomorski was evicted from his own factory by the Germans and deported from Greater Poland. He ended up in Milanówek, where he set up a new candy factory. His grandson continues the family tradition, producing Poland's most famous krówki in Milanówek. You can buy them in such places as the Paczeński family sweet shop across the road from the Church of St. Jadwiga.



www.milanowek.pl
www.milanowekswjadwiga.pl

Parish of St. Jadwiga of Silesia, No. 41 Kościuszki Street

the local area

OTRĘBUSY

Folk culture and automobiles

In 1948, in the village of Otrębusy near Warsaw, in the historic palace and park complex of Karolin, the State Folk Song and Dance Group "Mazowsze" was formed. Since 2009, the home of this legendary group

has been a new, modern facility which contains an auditorium holding 580 people, rehearsal halls, a costume shop and conference rooms, as well as a museum where Mazowsze's costumes, memorabilia and achievements are on display. In the Matecznik Mazowsze European Centre (ECMM), cultural and educational activities are conducted whose goal is to preserve the cultural heritage of the region and the country, and to train cultural leaders from around the world.

Otrębusy is also home to the Automotive and Technical Museum, in which one can admire over 300 antique cars and motorcycles. The oldest date from the beginning of the 20th century, and the newest from the final years of Communist Poland. The collection is completed by antique devices - from gramophones to military artefacts to a London phone booth.



www.mazowsze.waw.pl
www.muzeum-motoryzacji.com.pl



Automotive Museum in Otrębusy

the local area

KSIĄŻENICE

Young Fryderyk's vacation travels are precisely documented from 1824 thanks to his correspondence, though it is not certain if he spent time outside Warsaw before then. It is likely that he was invited by the parents of his friend Eustachy Marylski to Książenice, not far from Grodzisk Mazowiecki. The Marylskis had an estate there with a manor house surrounded

by gardens, fields, meadows and woods. In this picturesque setting, Fryderyk and Eustachy may have spent at least several summer days. It is true that it used to be thought that the boys might have spent time in Pęcice, but the latest research shows that in those years the Marylski family mainly stayed on the property of Eustachy's mother in Książenice.

The manor in which Chopin probably stayed no longer exists. Nor do various memorabilia of the artist, including Fryderyk's letters to Eustachy Marylski, which were destroyed during the Warsaw Uprising.

3 ŁAZY – PASIKONIE – ZAWADY

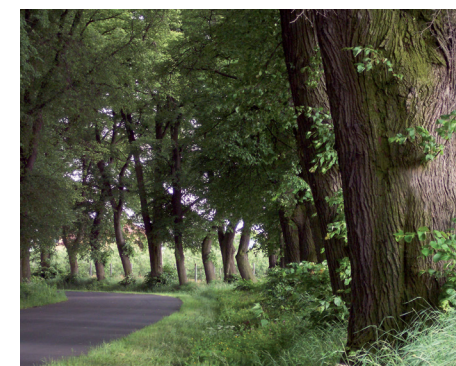
Fryderyk Chopin Lime-tree Avenue

Łazy is a village located along the old Royal Route, between Kampinos and Żelazowa Wola. Here there are remains of an 18th-century manor house belonging to the Bromirskis, and later the Karnkowskis.

A scenic road runs the 3 kilometres from the estate to the 19th-century Church of St. Dorothy in Zawady. Along that road grow more than 850 trees, mainly small-leaved limes, of which almost 780 have been designated as of historic value.



www.kampinos.pl



Fryderyk Chopin Lime-tree Avenue



Fryderyk Chopin monument in the park in Żelazowa Wola

4 ŻELAZOWA WOLA

Birthplace of Fryderyk Chopin

The history of Żelazowa Wola dates back to the second half of the 16th century. Notarial documents show that, in Chopin's time, the estate contained a manor house, annex, orangery, stables and coach house. The manor was typical of its time and region, a brick building, rectangular in plan, with a vestibule running through the centre of the building and ending with an entrance to the garden. On either side of the vestibule were servants' quarters, a large dining room, a kitchen, and a pantry called the treasury. The second floor was a high attic with dormer windows. It mainly contained bedrooms. The estate belonged to the Skarbek countship, who were friends of the Chopin family. The entire property comprised Żelazowa Wola, Orty and their dependencies. The two parts of the land were divided by the swift Utrata river. From 1801 the estate was managed personally by Count Ludwik Skarbek, who lived here with his children, including his eldest son Fryderyk, who would become Fryderyk Chopin's godfather.

It was probably here in Żelazowa Wola that the future parents of Fryderyk Chopin first met: Justyna Krzyżanowska, who lived with the Skarbeks and helped run the house, and the French tutor Nicholas Chopin. After their wedding, the Chopins lived in the left annex of the manor, and there, on 1 March 1810, Fryderyk Chopin was born. Chopin's childhood was not really connected with Żelazowa Wola, however, since in the autumn of the same year the Chopin family moved to Warsaw, where they stayed. Later, Chopin often visited the Skarbeks, mainly on holidays and during the summer vacation.

Fryderyk returned many times to the place of his birth. He probably spent some time here in the summer of 1823, and we know he was here with his sister Ludwika for Christmas and the New Year 1825/26. The last time he visited the Skarbek estate was in the summer of 1830, together with his family. On such visits to Żelazowa Wola, a lot of time was spent in making music together, in the manor or with instruments taken out to the garden.

The idea of converting the manor in Żelazowa Wola to a place for commemorating Chopin arose at the end



The manor in Żelazowa Wola is a venue for summer concerts

of the 19th century. In 1891, a campaign to establish a museum here was begun. In 1894, the tsarist authorities consented to the erection of an obelisk in the park, which still stands today. But Żelazowa Wola gained the status of being of exceptional significance to Polish culture only in the 1920s, After Poland regained her independence.

Thanks to the efforts of a number of societies and enormous public support, a collection of artefacts from the early 19th century was amassed. A grand piano from Chopin's favourite manufacturer, Pleyel,



Fifteen-year-old Fryderyk Chopin to his friend Jan Białoblocki, 24 December 1825:

Dear Jaś! You'll never guess where this letter is coming from! You think from the other doors of the Kazimirowski Palace Pavilion?... No. Or maybe from – don't think in vain, it's from Żelazowa Wola. – So one question answered, but can you guess when I'm writing? When?... Since you'll never guess I'll have to tell you, I'm writing having gotten out of the carriage, in the villa. It was fate, and though Mother wasn't very keen on my going, nothing could stop it and Ludwika and I are in Żelazowa Wola.

was brought to Żelazowa Wola. The many donations made also included seedlings of plants from many countries sent especially to adorn the park, which itself was beautifully designed by Professor Franciszek Krzywda-Polkowski.

During the Second World War, the museum and park were completely destroyed. Only in 1949, the centennial of Chopin's birth, was a completely rebuilt exhibition inaugurated.

Since 2005, the Fryderyk Chopin Institute has been responsible for the property in Żelazowa Wola. After comprehensive renovation and investments, in the spring of 2010, to mark the 200th anniversary of the birth of the composer, the Birthplace of Fryderyk Chopin was officially opened. Thousands of new plants were planted in the park, the banks of the Utrata were redesigned, with the Barcarolle summer stage, and the Preludium pavilion (with a reception area, bookshop and back office for serving tourists), the Etude pavilion (with a cinema and cafe), and the Scherzo orangery designed by Bolesław Stelmach.



ŻELAZOWA WOLA IN FIGURES

The Birthplace of Fryderyk Chopin in Żelazowa Wola is visited each year by more than 100,000 tourists. Members of royal families and government delegations come here during official visits to Poland. For artists, and especially musicians, it is a special, almost holy place. The guest books contains entries by representatives of more than 200 countries around the world.

In the first weekend in June, during the grand picnic, Żelazowa Wola is ruled by children. Every year, to mark Children's Day, several thousand young music lovers come for a visit.

The script for the current permanent exhibition, which opened in 2015, is based on the latest research into the history of Żelazowa Wola and the outhouse where Poland's greatest composer was born. The narrative



Birthplace of Fryderyk Chopin in Żelazowa Wola

focuses on two parallel histories: the history of the Chopin and Skarbek families and the history of founding the museum with a unique, modernist memorial park. An important element of the exhibition are the original objects, for the first time displayed so abundantly in Chopin's Birth House, and the attempts to reconstruct the historic interiors – the Chopins' drawing room and Michał Skarbek's office.

Since 1954, Sunday piano recitals have been organised in Żelazowa Wola. The concert season runs from May to September. These events are special experiences for pianists and the public alike. The recitals take place in the annex, with the doors and windows open so that Chopin's music can be heard by the audience gathered just outside.

For several years Żelazowa Wola has also hosted a series of events for children, including for Children's Day on the first weekend in June - an ideal opportunity

to hear live concerts performed by both professional interpreters of Chopin and talented adolescent pianists. On the same day you can also meet the authors of children's books, listen to passages read aloud by well-known actors, and take part in outdoor workshops and games to develop knowledge about the music and the life of Chopin.



www.chopin.museum

Birthplace of Fryderyk Chopin Monument
and Park in Żelazowa Wola,
a branch of the Chopin Museum
in Warsaw
Żelazowa Wola 15
tel. +48 46 863 33 00



ŻELAZOWA WOLA – ESTATE OF THE SKARBEKS

Countess Ludwika Skarbek née Fenger (born in 1765 in Toruń, died in 1827 in Warsaw) came from the wealthy, noble family of a Protestant merchant and banker. Being well-educated and rich, she was an ideal candidate as a wife. In 1791 she married a castellan from Inowrocław, Count Kacper Skarbek. Five children resulted from the marriage (the eldest, Fryderyk – a successful economist, historian, man of letters, and considered by the Chopins as Fryderyk's godfather; Anna – wife of Stefan Wiesiołowski of Strzyżewo, Fryderyk Chopin's godmother; Anasazy Teodor, Michał, and Kazimierz, who died in childhood). The marriage permitted the Count to get out of debt, but it did not change his spendthrift ways. But for the strong character and abilities of Countess Ludwika and her decision to divorce her husband, the Count would have led his wife into financial ruin. In 1801, Kacper Skarbek fled from creditors, and from that point on the entire burden of managing the property and raising the children rested on Countess Ludwika's shoulders. It may be that the situation she

found herself in led to Justyna Krzyżanowska living in Żelazowa Wola to help the Countess with her numerous obligations. Soon afterwards, the French tutor Nicholas Chopin was hired on a full-time basis. It was probably in Żelazowa Wola that the future parents of Fryderyk Chopin first met. According to Piotr Mysłakowski, *the nature of the relationship between Ludwika and the Chopins can be described as that between employer and employee, but with a definite degree of household intimacy, the differences in social and material status being erased somewhat. It is just this closeness in the relationship that must have been the basis for assertions that Justyna had family ties with the Skarbeks.* The Chopins remained in Żelazowa Wola until the autumn of 1810, when they moved to Warsaw in connection with Nicholas' having been hired at the Warsaw Lyceum. From that time, the two families maintained their friendly relationship and visited each other numerous times, both in Warsaw and Żelazowa Wola, which, in 1818, was sold to the sons of Countess Skarbek (first Fryderyk, later Michał).



The Church of St. Roch and St. John the Baptist in Brochów

5 BROCHÓW

The Church of St. Roch in Brochów was an important place for the Chopin family. On 28 June 1806, Nicholas Chopin and Tekla Justyna Krzyżanowska were married here. And in the same place, on 23 April 1810, Easter Monday, Fryderyk Franciszek Chopin was baptised. The Chopins considered Fryderyk Skarbek their son's godfather, though the baptismal certificate shows one Franciszek Grembecki of Cieplin, who may have acted *per procura* during the ceremony. The godmother of Nicholas' and Justyna's only son was Anna Skarbek, later Wiesiowska. The parish in Brochów also saw the marriage of Fryderyk's older sister Ludwika, who was wed to Józef Kalasanty Jędrzejewicz in 1832. The Chopins probably visited the Church of St. Roch during every visit to Żelazowa Wola.

Set on the banks of the Bzura river, the church is one of only a few fortified basilicas in Poland. The first church in Brochów was erected probably before 1113, during the reign of Władysław Herman. About 1350 the construction of a brick church was begun. The basilica obtained its current form after

! In the parish baptismal register, the date of 22 February 1810 is entered as the birthdate of Fryderyk Chopin. For many years this date was given in the literature on the composer and became considered to be correct. Yet Chopin and his family always gave 1 March as his real date of birth.

The controversy around the composer's birthdate is not limited just to the day of his birth. Circumstances exist for also doubting the month, and even the year, in which Chopin was born.

rebuilding under Olbracht Adrian Lasocki was completed in 1665. Built of red brick, the church is crowned with three cylindrical towers and surrounded by a wall with bastions at the corners. Inside the church (now the Church of St. Roch and St. John the Baptist), a plaque reminds visitors of the history of the Chopins, as does the baptismal font, in use in the parish since the first half of the 19th century.

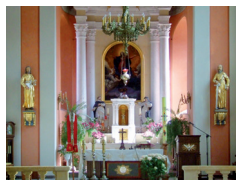
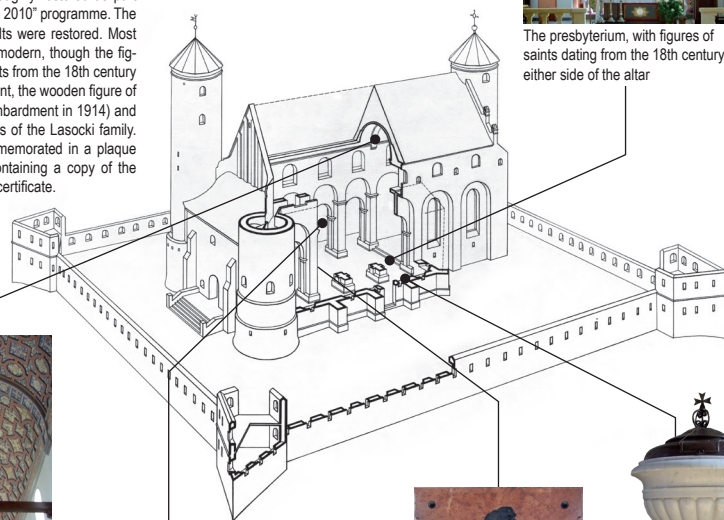
Approaching the main gate of the church, it is worth taking a look to the left at the statue of St. Roch, patron of the parish.



Interior of the church in Brochów

The Church of St. Roch in Brochów according to Oskar Sosnowski

In both the First and Second World Wars, the church in Brochów was seriously damaged and afterwards rebuilt. In the years 2008-2009 it was thoroughly restored as part of the "Fryderyk Chopin 2010" programme. The wall paintings and vaults were restored. Most of the furnishings are modern, though the figures of Dominican saints from the 18th century are original, as is the font, the wooden figure of Christ (saved from bombardment in 1914) and the subterranean tombs of the Lasocki family. The Chopins are commemorated in a plaque and a display case containing a copy of the composer's baptismal certificate.



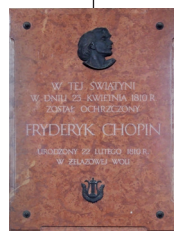
The presbytery, with figures of saints dating from the 18th century on either side of the altar



The decorative paintings on the vaults and walls were restored as part of the general programme of renovation in 2010.



The figure of Christ was saved from destruction during the First World War.



A plaque commemorates the baptism of Fryderyk Chopin, and next to it another plaque commemorates the wedding of Chopin's parents and his sister Ludwika.



The baptismal font at which little Fryderyk Chopin was baptised on 23 April 1810.

www.brochow.pl
www.brochow-parafia.pl

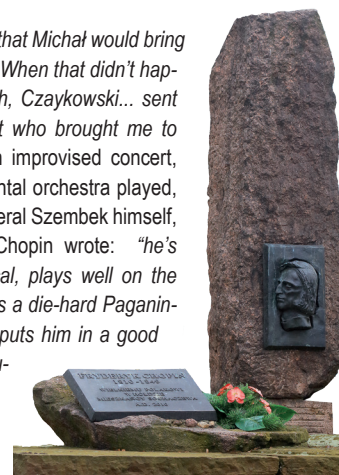
6 SOCHACZEW

Sochaczew lies along the road from Warsaw to Silesia and the Ziemia Dobrzyńska region, which Chopin travelled through on numerous trips. It is also known that Chopin visited Sochaczew when staying in Żelazowa Wola.

The most interesting story connecting Chopin with Sochaczew occurred in the summer of 1830. The twenty-year-old composer came here with Michał Skarbek to the camp of the third infantry brigade at the invitation of

a great music lover – General Piotr Szembek. At that time the soldiers were stationed in a former Dominican monastery at the top of a hill near the ruins of the Castle of the Mazovian Dukes. Nothing came of their playing together then, but shortly afterwards another opportunity came up. Or rather, was manufactured: On 29 August 1830, Fryderyk was practically taken from his home in Warsaw by a special "fast carriage" with spare horses provided for him, and was whisked to the military camp. "The other day I was again in the camp of Gen. Szembek," Fryderyk wrote in a letter. *You should know that he's always in Sochaczew, and*

I arranged that Michał would bring me to him. When that didn't happen, though, Czaykowski... sent an adjutant who brought me to him." In an improvised concert, the regimental orchestra played, as did General Szembek himself, of whom Chopin wrote: "he's very musical, plays well on the violin and is a die-hard Paganinian, which puts him in a good caste of musicians". In the camp there



Fryderyk Chopin monument in Sochaczew

Chopin lived his life at a dizzying pace. He could travel to Sochaczew, give a concert, have lunch, return home in Warsaw, and still make it to the National Theatre just in time to hear the first act of an opera.

! CHOPIN MONUMENT

In the park at the crossing of Warszawska and Traugutta streets in Sochaczew stands a monument to Fryderyk Chopin. On the stone base, a bronze plaque pays tribute to the greatest Polish composer, and the obelisk standing next to it bears a relief of the composer's head in profile. The monument was designed and built by the well-known sculptor Miroslaw Biskupski.

was a piano on which Fryderyk performed his own compositions, including the Adagio from the *F minor Piano Concerto*. At the end of the musical display, Chopin was just as quickly brought back to Warsaw.

A stronghold of the Mazovian Piasts already existed in Sochaczew in the 13th century, and the first brick castle was erected in the 14th century. After the city came under the Crown of the Kingdom of Poland in the 15th century, the castle was reconstructed numerous times. The biggest changes, in the early baroque style, were made in the 17th century by order of King Sigismund III Vasa. Today, only fragments of the walls survive, for the castle was destroyed many times, including during the Swedish Deluge and the Kościuszko Insurrection.



Remains of the castle in Sochaczew in a lithograph by Kazimierz Stronczyński, 1851 – the castle was already in ruins by Chopin's time

INTERNATIONAL CHOPIN FESTIVAL IN MAZOVIA

In Sochaczew, since 1993 a Chopin festival has been held which has become an international event. Participants perform the works of Fryderyk Chopin and of Jan Sebastian Bach, whose creative ideas found particular expression in the works of Poland's greatest composer. The performers are evaluated by a jury of distinguished music educators and pianists from Poland and abroad.

Since the beginning of the 19th century, no further attempts at reconstruction have been made, and so the view of the ruins on Castle Hill has changed little since the time of Chopin's visits to Sochaczew. In recent years the remains of the castle have been revitalised and made available to visitors.

Narrow-gauge Railway Museum

The Narrow-gauge Railway Museum is located on the grounds of the former Sochaczew Access Railway station. The exhibition rooms feature artefacts relating to the work of railwaymen. Outside there is an open-air railway museum in which you can admire more than 140 steam engines, locomotives, wagons and other railway vehicles. It is one of the largest collections of its type in Europe. The collection contains such unique items as: a wagon which resembles a car, made for Marshall Józef Piłsudski, the salon car of General Wojciech Jaruzelski, a Warszawa car adapted for use on rails, and a Koziółka Matolka (a children's book character) wagon.

Through meadows and woods

From April to October, an added attraction of the museum is the Saturday excursions in a retro train (also on Wednesdays during vacation). The journey starts with a guided tour of the museum. Visitors then board the train, which lets out a whistle and heads off through the city towards Kampinos.

At the first stop, Wilcze Tułowskie, the guide takes all those interested for a half-hour walk in Kampinos Forest. Another attraction along the way is the Puszczańska Settlement in Tułowice. Just next to the old station is a lovely corner with a large, well-kept clearing where you can have a campfire picnic. You can buy everything you need for a pleasant stay at the spot.

Chopin delicacies

In Sochaczew you can have a unique experience – savouring dishes inspired by the culinary tastes of the composer. In the Chopin Hotel restaurant, from May to October a special Chopin menu is served which combines traditional Polish cuisine with influences of French cuisine. The confectionery Lukrecja offers a special product – “Chopin Mazurek”, packaged as a charming souvenir of your stay in town.



www.sochaczew.pl
www.mkw.e-sochaczew.pl
www.naszzamek.pl



Meringue cake with Russel coffee cream from the Chopin menu

ŁÓW

the local area

Though from 1506-1863 Łów had the status of a city, today it is a village. Its urban past is evident in its layout, with a square in the centre. In 1506, the owners of Łów, the Radzanowskis obtained a privilege from King Aleksander to establish a city under the laws of Chelmino and to hold four fairs yearly and one market weekly. Large markets are held in Łów to this day, on the first Wednesday after the first and fifteenth of every month.

The most important historical site in Łów is the late baroque parish Church of the Finding of the Holy Cross and Our Lady Queen of Poland, funded by the Sochaczew castellan Adam Lasocki. The brick church was built in 1781 in the form of a hall with a narrower, closed, three-sided presbytery. Over the centuries, the church has been damaged and rebuilt many times. The District of Łów features the Uroczysko Rzepki nature reserve. Its 43.94 hectares are covered with mixed pine and deciduous forest growth. The reserve protects beautiful old stands of pine mixed

the Turk's-cap lily, glossy buckthorn and guelder-rose, and with a bit of luck, to catch sight of one of the black storks which nest here. An educational path runs through the reserve for a length of 7 kilometres.



Uroczysko Rzepki nature reserve

the local area

MŁODZIESZYN

The picturesque landscapes of the Vistula and the Bug surround the village of Młodzieszyn, not far from Sochaczew. One of the most interesting places in Młodzieszyn is its park, created in the 19th century over an area of almost 5 hectares. Today the park has fallen into neglect, and the manor house on its grounds is a ruin. Next to the parish Church of the Birth of the Blessed Virgin Mary is a belfry, open to visitors, a relic of the old church from 1875. During the Occupation, the Germans murdered about thirty prisoners here.

In nearby Kamion it is worth visiting the church, while historic manor and park complexes can also be found in Ruszki and Witkowie. Both of these, however, are in private hands and not open to visitors. The manor in Witkowie has been carefully restored and the grounds of the park put in order. The manor in Ruszki is falling into ruin.



Baroque church in Łów

with hornbeam and oak, exceptional in the Vistula valley. Botanists have identified 14 species of moss and 125 species of vascular plants in the reserve. Tourists who visit Uroczysko Rzepki have the opportunity to see such protected species as

7 SANNIKI

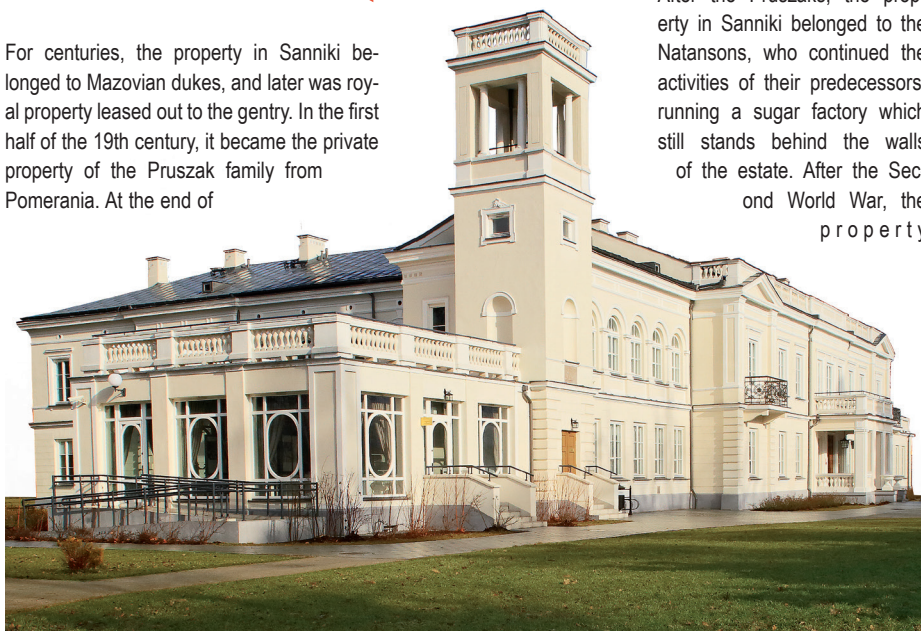
The earliest references to Sanniki date from the Middle Ages. The place name derives from the word for sleigh, since the inhabitants of the village specialised in producing these. This small but quickly-growing village lies in Gostynin County, about 85 kilometres from Warsaw.

! From a letter of Fryderyk Chopin to Tytus Woyciechowski, 9 September 1828: *"Dearest Tytus! You won't believe how much I longed for news of you and your mother; so you can imagine how content I was to receive your letter. At the time I was in Sanniki at the Pruszkaks. I spent the whole summer there – I won't write anything about the fun, since you've been in Sanniki yourself."*

For centuries, the property in Sanniki belonged to Mazovian dukes, and later was royal property leased out to the gentry. In the first half of the 19th century, it became the private property of the Pruszek family from Pomerania. At the end of

the 19th century, Tomasz Pruszek, a Gdańsk castellan, decided to replace the 17th-century wooden manor house in Sanniki with a new brick building. Thus began the construction of a palace in the neo-classical style, designed by Władysław Marconi with references to the Italian villas fashionable at the time. Though the palace was later expanded and renovated numerous times, it is the same building in which Fryderyk Chopin stayed, which makes it a particularly valuable building on the route of Mazovian relics associated with the composer. Fryderyk Chopin spent his vacation in Sanniki in 1828. He came at the invitation of a schoolmate, Konstanty Pruszek, whose father, Aleksander, owned the stately property at that time. Fryderyk spent a wonderful summer playing, resting, and going for walks and trips around the area. At the Pruszkaks there was a good instrument on which Fryderyk could play at will and even work on his compositions - here he re-worked the *Rondo in C major* for two pianos and also worked on the *Trio*. Though perhaps without great enthusiasm, he also gave piano lessons to Konstanty's sister Olesia.

After the Pruszkaks, the property in Sanniki belonged to the Natansons, who continued the activities of their predecessors, running a sugar factory which still stands behind the walls of the estate. After the Second World War, the property



The palace in Sanniki



The interior of the palace

was taken over by the state, and was for years the headquarters of a state agricultural farm. Numerous offices and places of education were also located here. Only in 1981 was a return to the tradition of Chopin begun. After many changes, a thorough renovation of the palace and its surrounding park completed in 2013, the Fryderyk Chopin European Centre for the Arts in Sanniki was established. The restored palace now contains concert, museum, conference and recreation sections and a marvellous new library. The interiors have been renovated with great attention to detail, thanks to which one can admire fragments of the original



A Chopin monument from 1985 designed by Ludwika Kraskowska-Nitschowa

18th- and 19th-century polychrome decorations. With its ambitious concert and educational programme and its large number of exhibitions, the Centre has the chance of becoming an important hub of Chopin activities. Its prestige is augmented by the fact that it is one of only a few original historical sites in Poland connected with the person of Fryderyk Chopin.



www.sanniki.pl, www.ecasanniki.pl

Tourist Information Centre

No. 142 Warszawska Street, tel. +48 24 268 11 08

The Pruszkaks in Sanniki

The Pruszkaks, of the Leliwa coat of arms, came from Pomerania, though at the beginning of the 19th century they possessed numerous properties in Mazovia, including in Sanniki, Żychlin and Śleszyn, as well as a palace, a manor house and an apartment house in Warsaw, in Marszałkowska Street (across from Rysia Street). Aleksander Pruszek (1777-1847) was regarded as one of the wealthiest landowners in Mazovia. He had three children with Marianna Skarżyńska: Tomasz, Konstanty and Aleksandra.

It is not known how the Pruszkas and the Chopins came to know each other, though it seems that they became closer when Konstanty Pruszek attended the Warsaw Lyceum, while during the many times his family went away he stayed in the boarding house of Nicholas Chopin, at that time a professor of the French language. It is worth recalling that the acquaintance with the Pruszkas involved not only masculine friendship. Ludwika Chopin also had many cordial contacts with Olesia Pruszek, Konstanty's younger sister. Olesia was one of Fryderyk's first pupils in his career as a

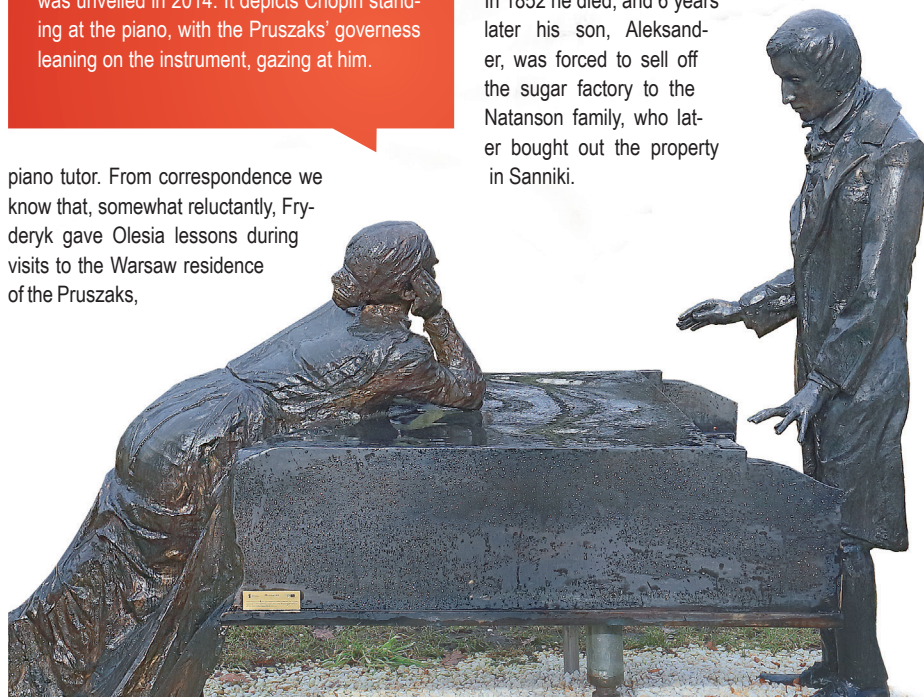
! In 1925 a plaque was put up on the palace wall, with the inscription: *Fryderyk Chopin stayed in this house in 1828*. On the grounds of the park in Sanniki there are two bronze statues of Chopin. The first, put up in 1985, was made by Ludwika Kraskowska-Nitschowa. The second, by Bartłomiej Kurzeja, was unveiled in 2014. It depicts Chopin standing at the piano, with the Pruszkas' governess leaning on the instrument, gazing at him.

piano tutor. From correspondence we know that, somewhat reluctantly, Fryderyk gave Olesia lessons during visits to the Warsaw residence of the Pruszkas,

! During his summer stay in Sanniki, Chopin was accused of seducing the Pruszek's governess, who had become pregnant. The matter was later explained, the accusation turning out to be untrue, and Fryderyk became the godfather of the illegitimate child of the governess.

as well as during the summer he spent in Sanniki. We also know that there is another thread involving Olesia, who Fryderyk considered an ideal match for his best friend, Tytus Woyciechowski. Nothing came of the matchmaking, however. After finishing the Warsaw Lyceum, Konstanty began studying law, and then spent time in the army. He fought during the November Uprising, and was awarded a *Virtuti Militari*. From 1836 on, he ran the property he inherited, including the sugar factory, and raised sheep. Despite his enormous wealth, over time he lost his fortune.

In 1852 he died, and 6 years later his son, Aleksander, was forced to sell off the sugar factory to the Natanson family, who later bought out the property in Sanniki.



Statue of Fryderyk and Governess, 2014

8 PŁOCK

"...today in Płock I'll turn the whole post office upside down to see if there's anything for me," Chopin wrote to his family in Warsaw from Kowalewo on 6 July 1827. Płock is a large, picturesque city overlooking the Vistula, and historically one of the oldest and most important towns in Mazovia - during the Middle Ages it was the capital of the duchy.

At the beginning of 1827, Fryderyk Chopin left with Count Zboiński on a trip to Gdańsk. Previously, the composer spent several days at the Count's home in Kowalewo, not far from Płock. He stayed there with the entire Zboiński family - the Count's wife and three



Doors of the cathedral basilica in Płock

daughters. The time passed in an idyllic atmosphere as they prepared for their further travels. Ksawery Zboiński decided to take Fryderyk to visit Płock, personally acting as his guide around the town. They certainly visited Płock's oldest district and the medieval walls of the castle with its two Gothic towers, the Clock Tower and the Noblemen's Tower. They also went to the Cathedral on Tumski Hill, and inside to



Tumskie Hill

the Royal Chapel, in which in 1825 sarcophagi were installed bearing the remains of two rulers of Poland: Władysław Herman and Bolesław Krzywousty. Chopin was delighted by the panoramic view over the Vistula escarpment. The travellers also visited the belfry, the former Benedictine monastery, the Dominican church, and perhaps the new Płock town hall built around that time. They also went to the post office, where Fryderyk eagerly expected a letter from his family.

Tumskie Hill

Tumskie Hill provides an ideal vantage point. It rises over the Vistula valley, and from it you can admire the panorama of the river and its other bank. Particularly striking from the hill are sunsets and the bridge when it is lit up.

Cathedral basilica of the Assumption of the Most Holy Virgin Mary

The cathedral basilica in Płock stands on Tumskie Hill, which rises above the Vistula valley. The church was consecrated in 1144. Though it has been rebuilt numerous times over the centuries, it still retains original architectural elements. The narthex is divided from the main nave by a replica of the famous bronze Doors of Płock, made for the cathedral around 1154 in Magdeburg. The original doors from the 15th century adorn the orthodox church of St. Sophia in Veliky Novgorod, Russia; it is not known how they got there.



Płock Cathedral

Under the north tower of the basilica is the Royal Chapel. Below lie the remains of Polish rulers – Władysław Herman and Bolesław Krzywousty, and fifteen Mazovian dukes. The walls are decorated with rich polychrome murals by Władysław Drapiewski.

The former Benedictine abbey and a fragment of the ducal castle

Opposite the cathedral basilica is a former Benedictine abbey and a fragment of the ducal castle with its Clock Tower and Noblemen's Tower. It is now the home of the Diocesan Museum, with a treasury in which priceless objects are kept, including a herma of St. Sigismund from the 14th century, a chalice of Konrad Mazowiecki from the 13th century, and Gothic monstrances. In the museum's other building next to the basilica there is an archaeological collection and a collection of more than 100 kontusz sashes.

Narutowicza Square

Narutowicza Square (Plac Narutowicza) (formerly the Canon Market) is encompassed by many historical buildings. One of particular interest is the Dom pod Trąbami (House Beneath the Trumpets) dating from the turn of the 14th and 15th centuries. It is a former canon's residence and seminary with a coat of arms with a trumpet on the peak of the building. Providence House (Dom pod Opatrznością) now houses the Zieliński Library of the Płock Scientific Society, whose collection contains valuable written artefacts, including a thousand-year-old manuscript in Latin of a text from the Book of Wisdom, manuscripts by



Market square in Płock



Vaults of the Cathedral of the Assumption of the Most Holy Virgin Mary

Adam Mickiewicz and Tadeusz Kościuszki, and rare prints such as *On the Revolution of the Spheres* by Copernicus from 1543. The library also contains Poland's only collection of Goya's eighty-print set, the *Caprichos*.

The Old Town Square (Stary Rynek)

The market square in Płock is as busy as during the Middle Ages, but otherwise a lot has changed. Here there used to be inns, taverns and shops. In the middle stood the Gothic town hall with its tower, and in front, a scaffold. The apartment houses which surround the square today were put up at the turn of the 18th and 19th centuries. The New Town Hall (Nowy Ratusz) was built in the 1820s; it was restored together with its surroundings in 1998.

Parish church of St. Bartholomew

The history of the Church of St. Bartholomew reaches back to 1356, although the original Gothic silhouette of the building is no longer apparent. In the 18th century, an entrance facade in the baroque style was added on the side of the Old Town Square, and the interior of the church was adorned with an early baroque altar. Next to the church stands a belfry from the beginning of the 17th century.



www.turystykaplock.eu
Tourist Information Centre at
No. 8 Stary Rynek Street.
tel. +48 24 367 19 44

9 KOWALEWO

"I wanted, sisters, to send you my little waltz, but I haven't got time to write it down because we're just leaving; now it's eight in the morning (I never get up before seven). The air is fresh, the sun shining beautifully, the birds are warbling, there's no stream or I'd hear it, but there's a pond and the frogs are singing splendidly," Fryderyk Chopin wrote from Kowalewo.

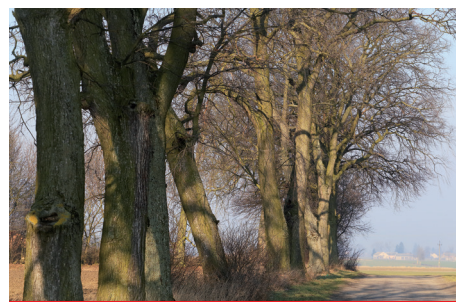


Handwritten letter by Fryderyk Chopin sent from Kowalewo to his family, 6 July 1827

The picturesque setting of the estate of Count Ksawery Zboiński was a starting point for journeys to Pomerania during the summer vacation in 1827. The young Chopin spent only a few days in Kowalewo, but in an idyllic atmosphere and in the company of the Count's closest family - his wife and three young daughters. Chopin mentions one of the girls, Kamila, further on in his letter: "But the funniest is the blackbird that makes a racket outside the window, and just after him is Mr Zboiński's youngest, Kamilka, who isn't even yet two - she's taken a liking to me and burbles, "Kagila like mister cat". It is not known how the estate in Kowalewo looked in the first half of the 19th century. It belonged

! Count Franciszek Ksawery Zboiński was born in 1795 in Kozłowo. His forebears came from the Zboińskis of the Ogończyk coat of arms, from Zbójno and Ossówka. He was the son of a royal chamberlain, Jan Nepomucen Zboiński, and Joanna née Jeżewska, heir to property in Kozłowo in Pomerania. Kozłowo was a grand family property in a secular county in Royal Prussia. Count Zboiński was also the owner of Kowalewo, Lubcza and Dziewanowo. On 4 November 1818 in Radzanów in Mława county, he married Antonina Niemojewska of the Rol coat of arms, and had three daughters by her who Chopin met when they were small girls, during his stay in Kowalewo. The closeness between the Zboińskis and the Chopins is attested to by the fact that in 1815 the Count was invited to become godfather to the Chopins' youngest daughter, Emilia. In later years, Count Zboiński emigrated, returning only in 1839. In the 1840s he took an active part against Poland's occupiers, for which he was sent to prison. He died in 1853 in Świecie.

to the Zboińskis up until 1843, when it was bought by Krystyna Fink. All that remains now are the ruins of a manor house built before 1859 for Antoni Jabłoński, at that time the owner of Kowalewo. The manor was probably put up in the same place as the estate Chopin visited in 1827.



Lime-tree Avenue by the old manor in Kowalewo

10 SIERPC

Sierpc is not connected with Fryderyk Chopin's travels through Mazovia. There are not accounts or documents attesting to the composer's having spent any time here. However, this is the place for tourists to come to see for themselves what Mazovia looked like, and how its inhabitants lived, in the days when Chopin left and created here. A visit to the Mazovian Village Museum in Sierpc is an authentic journey back in time, an encounter with native history and the ceremonies of a Mazovian village.



Manor house in the open-air museum in Sierpc

This open-air museum is situated where the Sierpienica and Skrwia rivers meet, and occupies more than 60 hectares. The exhibition comprises ten peasant farms with thatch-roofed huts and farm buildings together with an inn, a post mill, a church, and a manor complex. The farms look very much as they would have in their heyday. The refurbishments of the huts and the equipment used on the farms indicate the differences in wealth of their owners. Beside well-to-do farms are poor huts having only the bare essentials. What is more, the arrangement of the buildings is not accidental. The spatial arrangement of a row village has been recreated - this was the most common layout among Polish farming settlements. Authenticity is added by the fields which spread out from the village. One can easily imagine that it was among just such villages

that Fryderyk Chopin wandered during his Mazovian travels. Part of the museum exhibition is a manor complex comprising a landscaped park and a reconstructed manor house with wonderful interiors, prepared with enormous attention to detail and historical accuracy. The whole is completed by an original 17th-century chapel. In the new exhibition halls, whose form refers to that of the farm buildings, there is a sculpture gallery with an exhibition entitled *Folk Sculpture from the Collection of the Mazovian Village Museum in Sierpc*, as well as a carriage house in which you can see the exhibition

Manor Transport in the Collection of the Mazovian Village Museum in Sierpc. The Sierpc open-air museum is constantly being expanded, and soon a new type of village will be reconstructed - a roadside village consisting of 38 buildings including an inn, blacksmith's forge, parish buildings and several farms. Not only are the buildings important in the Sierpc museum, but also the area around them. Well-kept vegetable gardens, flowers by the huts, beehives and animals all fill the village with life. On summer weekends, a blacksmith works at the forge, and a folk band plays out in front, while in the inn there is a place to get something to eat and a little shop with souvenirs. The interiors of the buildings are done up in accordance with their function, and the huts are decorated in accordance with the season.



Village farm in the open-air museum in Sierpc

Temporary exhibitions are also organised, and there are contests and events relating to the cultivation of folk traditions. In the springtime you can take part in the old Slavic custom of celebrating the death of winter by preparing, burning and drowning an effigy of the goddess Marzanna. On Palm Sunday, in the church on the grounds of the museum, a mass is held, and there is a competition to see who has made the most glorious palm. Games are accompanied by folk music played live by folklore groups.

In Sierpc itself, it is worth seeing the neo-classical town hall. The building is the property of the Mazovian Village Museum. Inside, temporary exhibitions are organised to promote local and regional culture, as well as the cultures of other nations. There are also meetings for children and school groups relating to holiday and folk ceremonies.

There are several historical churches in Sierpc. The oldest is the Gothic parish church of Ss. Wit, Modest and Crescentia. It dates back to the 14th or 15th centuries, while after rebuilding, its interiors are baroque, and the altar contains rococo elements. Within the walls of the church are remnants of a previous Romanesque building which, according to local tradition, was erected on the ruins of a pagan temple. Also of interest is the Gothic Church of the Holy Spirit from the end of the 15th century. It was built of brick on a rectangular plan. It has a single nave continuous with the presbytery, and was probably built by the mason Jan of Przasnysz and

his sons Mikołaj and Piotr. It stands in the Old Town. The interior of the church features Gothic polychrome decorations from the beginning of the 16th century, discovered only in 1958 during renovation work.



www.sierpc.pl
www.mwmskansen.pl
 Mazovian Village Museum
 tel. +48 24 275 28 83

11 ROŚCISZEWO

"So today in Plock, tomorrow in Rościszewo, the day after in Kikół, a couple of days in Turzno, a couple of days in Kozłowo, a moment in Gdańsk and back again!" Fryderyk Chopin wrote on 6 July 1827 in a letter addressed to his parents in Warsaw listing the further stages of his vacation travel



Scene of Fryderyk Chopin being greeted before the manor house in Rościszewo

plans. The youngster was accompanied on his journey to Pomerania by Count Ksawery Zboiński. Today it is hard to say for sure whether Chopin actually reached the Baltic, but from his surviving correspondence we do know where he stopped on the way. He certainly spent a few days in Rościszewo, the historical nest of the Rościszewski family of the Junosz coat of arms. In Chopin's day the village and property belonged



Room commemorating Fryderyk Chopin in Rościszewo

to the Jeżewski family, to which Count Zboiński's mother belonged. The travellers stayed in the late baroque manor house there, surrounded by a lovely park. The stately building was commissioned by the Jeżewskis, owners of the area since the end of the 18th century. During his stay in Rościszewo, Fryderyk went to the nearby Church of St. Joseph's Care. The parish dates from the 14th century, though the church the composer visited was built from 1779-1781 on the site of an earlier brick church from the end of the 16th century. The church and the manor were funded by Benedykt J. Jeżewski, a general in the royal army. Many valuable elements from the 17th and 18th centuries are preserved within it, including the original baroque pulpit, while the current form of the church is the result of reconstruction in the 1930s. The 18th-century single-story manor with two annexes – the former residence of the Jeżewski family – has

survived. It was rebuilt several times in the 19th and 20th centuries. At the end of the 20th century it had almost fallen into ruin, but in recent years the historical park complex and the manor have been revitalised. You can walk through the park along its restored paths, in the shade of old lime-trees and sycamores which recall Chopin's visit, or rest by the pond. The restored manor now houses the Rościszewo district offices, and also contains a room dedicated to Chopin. In front of the manor stand two life-size wooden figures depicting Chopin being greeted as he arrives at the manor.



www.roszczewo.pl
 District offices
 No. 1 Armii Krajowej Street
 tel. +48 24 276 40 76



Manor house in Rościszewo - current seat of district government

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