A touch of the sun

Guide book

Let's meet up in Łeba!

Archive photographs constitute part of the Collection of the Municipal Public Library in Łeba

Łeba is a town located in the northern part of the Lębork District, between Łebsko and Sarbsko lakes, in the mouth of the Łeba River on the coast of the Baltic Sea, surrounded with the forests of the Slovincian National Park (Słowiński Park Narodowy) and the Sarbsk Spit (Mierzeja Sarbska) Reserve.

Łeba received the municipal rights in 1357. Although it was a small town at that time, it extensively traded with Hanseatic towns.

The development of railway and road communication initiated the touristic history of Łeba. Due to its landscape and natural values, the town became a favourite leisure place of the German celebrities and artists in those days. Łeba started developing its touristic value only in the post-war period. Starting April 1945 until today, the town has been a very popular summer resort as well as a fishing centre.

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1. Łeba in spring, the Seaside Park – the Swan Pond, photo Łukasz Kaźmierczak
2. The amber fishers, photo Łukasz Kaźmierczak
3. The fishing wharf – Abrahama Street, photo Radosław Czyżewski
4. A cruise boat, photo Radosław Czyżewski
5. The marina in Łeba, photo Radosław Czyżewski
6. The cruise boats, photo Radosław Czyżewski
7. Young OPTIMIST class sailors, photo Radosław Czyżewski

There is a town in Poland, located at the Baltic Sea, enwrapped by two lakes, interwoven by picturesque river, lying among forests abundant in treasures and exuberant nature. It is a magical place where you and I can feel like someone very special all year round - Łeba

In springtime it is both an immediate destination and a home for the flocks of wild geese, cormorants, swans and ducks. Birds' sounds always wake Łeba inhabitants from the winter sleep.

Łeba's therapeutical microclimate, high content of salt and iodine in the air, high insolation as well as extraordinary dynamics of the atmospheric changes have a positive impact on human organisms.

Łeba is also a paradise for fishers, Nordic Walking enthusiasts, cyclists and the fans of such sport disciplines as windsurfing, diss wave, kite surfing or sailing. An interesting attraction is a modern yacht marina with excellent facilities able to house even up to 120 units.

Amber, richly provided to Łeba by the sea, attracts a multitude of collectors searching for natural treasures on the local beaches each year.

Łeba city

A touch of the sun

Summer

1. Western B Beach – Windsurfing, photo Radosław Czyżewski
2. Łeba – the Kingdom of Golden Beaches, photo Radosław Czyżewski
3. Łeba – the Kingdom of Golden Beaches, photo Radosław Czyżewski
4. Beach activities, photo Radosław Czyżewski
5. The sunset cruises, photo Łukasz Kaźmierczak
6. The town's main street – Kościuszki – the Alley of the Presidents of the Polish Republic, photo Łukasz Kaźmierczak
7. The Western Pier, photo Radosław Czyżewski

In the summer time Łeba turns into a big maritime resort. Its cafes, stores, stalls and discos throb with life since the very morning. Everyone will find something for themselves here and a friendly atmosphere accompanied by the hospitality of the local people allow using the sweets of this incredible place in full.

Łeba is beloved not only by the enthusiasts of active leisure and lying on the beach but also water sports celebrities, actors, painters and writers. It is undoubtedly a place which may successfully compete with the world's best resorts.

During the summer season Łeba never falls asleep, it hosts a grand fiesta which is a compensation for those weary with work, those awaiting a love of their life, an adventure or extraordinary attractions. Only here will you spend your time in a friendly atmosphere: barbecuing, sitting by a bonfire, walking or having fun on a beautiful and unique beach.

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1. Ship cruises at sunset, photo Łukasz Kaźmierczak
2. A motorcycle rally, photo Łukasz Kaźmierczak
3. The Parade of the Prince's Entourage, photo Łukasz Kaźmierczak
4. Łeba's Day, photo Łukasz Kaźmierczak
5. Sea adventures on a yacht, photo Radosław Czyżewski
6. Windsurfing, photo Radosław Czyżewski
7. Eastern 'A' Beach, photo Radosław Czyżewski

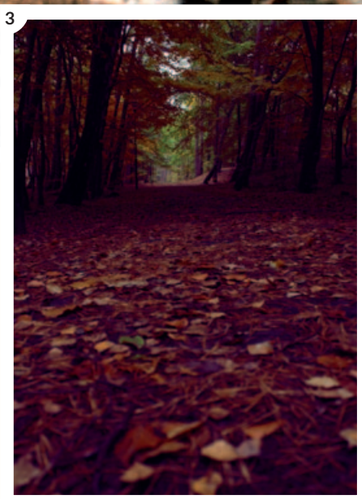
Staying in Łeba provides a perfect chance to compare the values of its varied landscape. Situated in the neighbourhood of the Slovincian National Park (Słowiński Park Narodowy), Łeba allows to use in full the benefits of its unique nature, moving sand dunes, original vegetation and vast forests covering the shores of local lakes.

The sun tan is more intense here due to sun rays reflected in the spotlessly clean sand.

Hospitable Łeba inhabitants do care for comfort and attractiveness of the stay, offering top quality service in hotels, holiday centres, guest houses, camping sites, and private accommodation venues.

Restaurants, bars and pubs serve regional cuisine specialities. In the evening, after an active day, it is pleasant to sit at charming cafes and enjoy splendid drinks and delicious desserts. A well developed tourist infrastructure, numerous entertainment parks, pleasure cruises, fishing cruises and interesting cycling trails allow tourists to taste a range of attractions during their stay.

Autumn



1. The Seaside Park in autumn – the Swan Pond – photo Łukasz Kaźmierczak
2. The park in autumn, photo Radosław Czyżewski
3. The park in autumn, photo Magdalena Horanin
4. The autumn spirit – Wojska Polskiego Street, photo Łukasz Kaźmierczak
5. Autumn fishing cruises, photo Łukasz Kaźmierczak
6. The amber fishers, photo Łukasz Kaźmierczak
7. The fishing wharf – Chełst Canal, photo Łukasz Kaźmierczak
8. Diss Wave autumn contest, photo Łukasz Kaźmierczak
9. The Seaside Park in autumn – the Swan Pond photo Magdalena Horanin

It is impossible to get bored in Łeba in the autumn. Pleasant sun and natural wealth of the land (mushrooms, blueberries, whortleberries) will let you enjoy autumn pleasures of the Pomeranian region to the full. Taking long strolls gives a chance to enjoy peace and quiet, incredible views as well as the town's beauty.

A soothing sound of the sea, waves humming their unvaried melody, the fragrance of leaves, mushroom and pine needle-cover are the assets of the place which cannot be found anywhere else in such incredible scenes. Autumn in Łeba is a time of reflection and relaxation after an intense summer.

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1. A winter evening at the fishing wharf, photo Łukasz Kaźmierczak
2. Port entrance, photo Łukasz Kaźmierczak
3. A fishing boat's winter sleep, photo Łukasz Kaźmierczak
4. The Baltic Sea in winter, photo Łukasz Kaźmierczak
5. A winter landscape of the Seaside Park – the Swan Pond photo Łukasz Kaźmierczak
6. The bridges on Chełst Canal, photo Radosław Czyżewski
7. Winter at a fishing wharf, photo Łukasz Kaźmierczak

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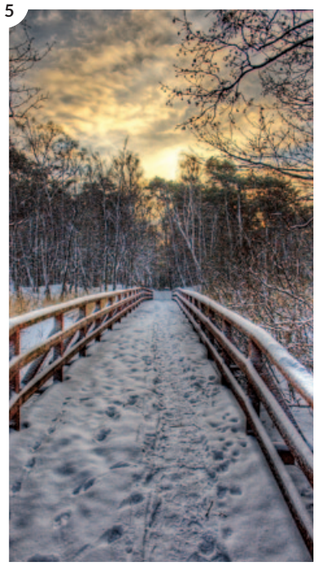

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In winter, when the sun rises lazily, the sea can frequently show its rebellious character. Huge waves invade the beaches. Storms, strong winds or sometimes even strong hurricanes can pester the local inhabitants. The wind casts sand into the eyes and the sea murmurs ominously day and night. During frosty, quiet days, when the sun gets glassily reflected in the snowflakes, you can see beautiful forests covered with feathery snow.

At this time of the year an unforgettable memory can be a walk in the fluffy snow, a sledge excursion with the family or a sleigh ride by the sea. Or why not putting on a pair of cross country skis or grab some Nordic Walking sticks and try a slightly different form of activity at the Baltic Sea.

Łeba provides visitors with unforgettable activities in each season of the year, which clearly distinguishes it from other seaside towns. Here you can find things which can't be encountered anywhere else throughout spring, summer, autumn or winter – check yourself and visit us now.

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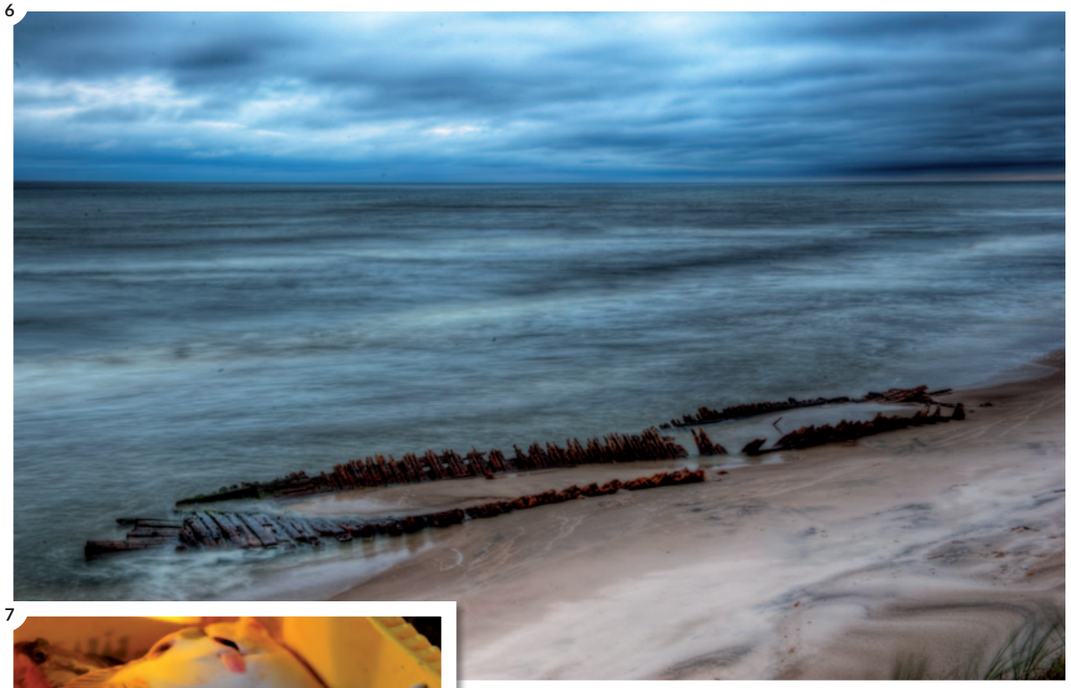

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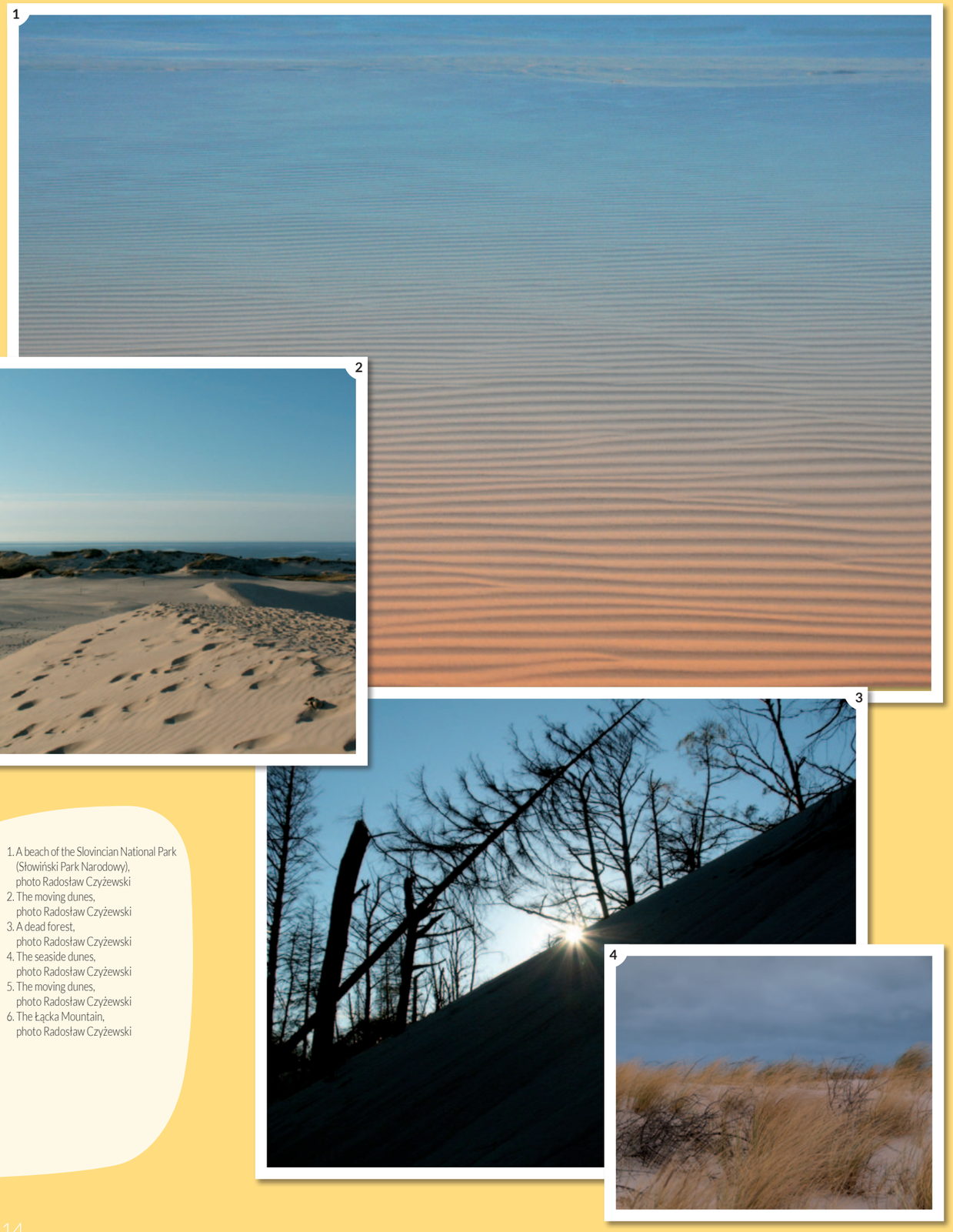
1. A fishing boat at a harbour wharf, photo Radosław Czyżewski
2. Sorting the catch – fishermen at work, photo Łukasz Kaźmierczak
3. The sea rescue team in action, photo Łukasz Kaźmierczak
4. A winter return from the sea, photo Łukasz Kaźmierczak
5. Fishermen returning from fishing, photo Radosław Czyżewski
6. A wreck of a fishing boat, photo Łukasz Kaźmierczak
7. A successful catch, photo Łukasz Kaźmierczak
8. Fishermen at work, photo Łukasz Kaźmierczak

People and the sea

An inseparable element of the town are the fishermen – they have created Łeba's history and economy. Fishermen struggled against the forces of nature, trying to feed their families, since the very old times. Nowadays, due to modern technology, fishermen's everyday work does not require fighting against natural elements any more. After a lot of rebuilding and modernising Łeba's harbour, it has become a significant fishery and angling tourism centre. Most of all, however, sea fishing is the key element of the local economy and the town's showpiece.

Łeba is famous among anglers for being a perfect fishing site. The town frequently houses sea fishing championships. Each year the enthusiasts of this sport discipline arrive to Łeba to fish cod.



1. A beach of the Slovincian National Park (Słowiński Park Narodowy), photo Radosław Czyżewski
2. The moving dunes, photo Radosław Czyżewski
3. A dead forest, photo Radosław Czyżewski
4. The seaside dunes, photo Radosław Czyżewski
5. The moving dunes, photo Radosław Czyżewski
6. The Łącka Mountain, photo Radosław Czyżewski

The Slovincian National Park

The Slovincian National Park (Słowiński Park Narodowy)

The Slovincian National Park (Słowiński Park Narodowy) was established in 1967 and pronounced the UNESCO's World Biosphere Reserve one year later.

A detailed nature inventory carried out by the scientists has evidenced a great variety of living and non-living monuments of nature in the park, thanks to which fact it has earned its permanent and unquestionable place on the international list of the world's most environmentally precious regions.

The Slovincian National Park (Słowiński Park Narodowy) stretches along Łebsko Lake, which is the third largest lake in Poland.

In the park you can see the moving sand dunes, commonly named "the Polish Sahara", as they proceed eastwards towards Łeba from 3 to 10 m per year. The highest sandy elevation in the park is the Łącka Mountain (Góra Łącka) of even up to 42 m above sea level.

The moving dunes have covered with sand the old Łeba town and the neighbouring villages Chusta and Łączki.

There are over 200 of bird species in the park, out of which ca 140 are the breeding species.

The park not only encompasses the sand dunes but also forests, meadows, lakes and peatbogs.

An interesting fact is that the famous Africa Corps were conducting their trainings there before the WW2.

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1. A brass band – opening of the Alley of the Presidents of the Polish Republic, photo Radosław Czyżewski
2. Łeba's princedom parade along the Alley of the Presidents of the Polish Republic, photo Łukasz Kaźmierczak
3. The Alley of the Presidents of the Polish Republic – Kościuszki Street, photo Radosław Czyżewski
4. The inauguration of the Alley of the Presidents of the Polish Republic – Ms Jadwiga Kaczorowska, photo Magdalena Horanin
5. A brass hand cast of Ryszard Kaczorowski – the President of the Republic of Poland, photo Magdalena Horanin
6. Guards at the brass hand cast of Ryszard Kaczorowski – the President of the Polish Republic, photo Radosław Czyżewski

"The Path of Time" – an Alley of the Presidents of Polish Republic

It is an innovative and the only such educational attraction in Poland. The idea of setting up the Association of Tourism and Economy Forum in Łeba was realised by Andrzej Strzechmiński – the town's mayor. Massive, bronze, cast hands of the Presidents of the Republic of Poland (post 1989) have been placed on stones along the revitalised stretch of the historical Kościuszki Street. Everyone may lay on their hand to the handprints of such presidents as: Ryszard Kaczorowski, Wojciech Jaruzelski, Lech Wałęsa, Aleksander Kwaśniewski, Lech Kaczyński and Bronisław Komorowski. The alley was officially opened by the daughter of the last President of the 2nd Republic of Poland – Jadwiga Kaczorowska.

The Union of the Baltic Cities awarded Łeba the prize of the "2011 Tourist Hit of the Year" for accomplishing the enterprise.

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1. The church dedicated to the Assumption of Mary, photo Radosław Czyżewski
2. The Stilo Lighthouse, photo Łukasz Kaźmierczak
3. The Navigation Cross, photo Radosław Czyżewski

Along history paths

Ruins of St. Nicholas' church
The oldest reference to St. Nicholas' church dates back to 1286. Łeba, which still used to be a settlement at that time, was located on the left bank of the Łeba river. In 1570, the storm which afflicted the town, completely destroyed its old part, including St. Nicholas' church. Only part of its brick wall has been preserved until today, and it can still be admired at the same place (Turystyczna Street), constituting the town's historical showpiece. Due to natural elements haunting the town, Łeba inhabitants were forced to move the town to the right side of the river.

The church dedicated to the Assumption of Mary
The church dedicated to the Assumption of Mary is the only historical monument in the town. Part of construction materials used for erecting the church in 1683 were taken from the destroyed church of St. Nicholas, thus decorating the sanctuary with abundance of history and natural elements which affected Łeba. Inside the church it is worth paying attention to the organs, the baptistery, the altar, the figure of St. Barbara, the painting by Max Pechstein (German expressionist inhabiting Łeba after war) as well as the replica of Pomuchel – a silver cod gifted to Pope John Paul II by the fishermen. Presently, thanks to the financial support of the town authorities, reconditioning-preservation works are conducted there.

The Navigation Cross
In September 2000, a cross commemorating sailors, fishermen and seamen as well as those who never returned from their sea adventures, was placed at the foot of the western pier. The cross is an epitaph to the lost ones and the symbol of hope and victory.

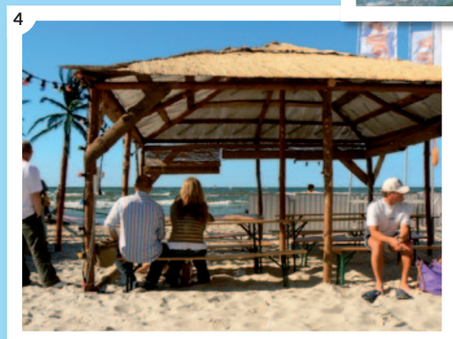
Old Evangelical cemetery
In Rąbka, the settlement neighbouring Łeba, as well as in Parkowa Street in Łeba itself, there are Evangelical cemeteries. Łeba inhabitants of German origin have been buried there. Town authorities see to the aesthetic look of these necropolises. Every two years members of the German Association of the Former Łeba Inhabitants visit the graves of their predecessors there.

The Spruce Raft
A famous sailor, marine writer, ecologist, writer and the master of sailing alone – Andrzej Urbańczyk – reached Gotland (Sweden) in 1957. His raft made of spruce timber was 10 m long and 4.5 m wide, while the sail rigging measured ca 30m^2. In order to commemorate this great expedition, Łeba town authorities sponsored the replica of the "Spruce Raft" which can be admired in the marina now. The event is also commemorated as one of the Łeba's wharf names – "The Wharf of the Spruce Raft".

The Oldest House in Łeba – 86 Kościuszki Street
The house located at 86 Kościuszki Street (formerly 18 Hauptstrasse), was owned by a merchant and consul Johann Mampe. Until today, you can see a Latin inscription on its facade saying: "God is my protector and my Holy Helper. Lord, I shall not abandon you, for you have blessed me. Johann Mampe, 18 July 1723". Another preserved element connected with Johann Mampe is the observation deck, facing eastwards from the Neptune Castle named the Mampe Mountain (or, as the Łeba inhabitants name it – "Mampe-Dune", meaning: "the Dune of Mampe"). In Napoleonic times, when Mampe was the town's mayor, ships smuggling deficit goods were contacted from the dune. Thanks to smuggling, the town enjoyed a substantial economic growth.

The Stilo Lighthouse
The lighthouse construction was placed on a concrete foundation made of white marble. It was erected in the years 1904–06. The lighthouse predominantly serves as a major navigation point, however, it also performs a touristic function, in a sense that it is available for sightseeing. Its height is 34 m.

An open-air Museum of the Slovincian Village in Kluki
The Museum was set up in 1963 with an aim of creating an image commemorating the Slovincian culture. The museum is located in the centre of a functioning Slovincian population (shrinking each year unfortunately) in the Slovincian National Park (Słowiński Park Narodowy), which adds realistic colouring to the area where it is can be found. The look of the cottage houses mirrors the time span starting from 18 cent. Up until the inter-war years. Each year in July and August the museum offers technique and craft shows harking back to the old times, i.e. weaving and spinning shows, fishing net making, bread baking and tasting, peat digging, etc. The whole charm of the place is intensified by numerous historic events which bring the past epoch nearer. The main event opening the annual summer season at the museum is the so called Black Wedding, visited by crowds of tourists and inhabitants of the surrounding villages.



1. The beach activities, photo Radosław Czyżewski
2. The Abrahama Street, photo Radosław Czyżewski
3. The Diss Wave contest, photo Radosław Czyżewski
4. Beach – a place of tranquility and leisure, photo Radosław Czyżewski
5. The marina in Łeba, photo Radosław Czyżewski
6. The cycling trails, photo Radosław Czyżewski
7. The sea rescue team show, photo Radosław Czyżewski
8. Łeba's Day, photo Radosław Czyżewski
9. Delicacies – smoked fish, photo Radosław Czyżewski

Have fun with us!

Have fun with us!

Łeba attractions

- Tourist sea cruises, cod fishing cruises, seasonal sunset cruises, cruises around Łebsko lake.
- Fairy railway, mini-buses, "Melex" electric cars.
- Bike/motor scooter/quad rentals.
- Bungee jumping, parasailing, wakeboarding.
- Fun fairs, rope parks, entertainment parks, a dinosaur park, a rocket launcher.
- The museum of butterflies, an aquarium, an ornithological garden.
- Stud farms, a sports hall, an "Orlik" soccer/volleyball/basketball field, an ice skating rink, a roller blading rink, nordic walking schools.

Walking and cycling trails

Green trail Łeba – Łącka Mountain (Góra Łącka) (18 km)

The trail begins in Łeba and leads through Rąbka towards the Slovincian National Park, to the Rocket Launcher and towards the Łącka Mountain which is the highest sand dune there, ca 42 m above sea level. The trail leads through the Łeba Spit, allowing to admire Łebsko lake shore on its one side, the sea on the other, and the park's most famous dune in the middle of the Spit.

Red trail Łeba – Rowy (36.5 km)

The trail starts in Łeba and initially overlaps the green trail up until the Łącka Mountain. Next, the trail leads through the beach to the lighthouse in Czołpino. After cycling for ca 4 km, turn towards the northern shore of the Gardno Lake to the village named Rowy, starting from an observation deck in the vicinity of Dołgie Duże Lake. The route runs throughout almost the whole Slovincian National Park, presenting its richness with a beautiful landscape of the Gardna-Łeba Spit (Mierzeja Gardnieńsko-Łebska).

Yellow trail Łeba – Gardna Wielka (39 km)

The trail starts in Łeba and leads through such villages as: Żarnowska, Gać, Kluki, Smołdzino up until Gardna Wielka, where you may stop and do some sightseeing of the historical folk culture buildings. On the way, in Smołodzino, a blue trail named the Łupawa Valley (Dolina Łupawy) diverts, leading to Rowokół observation tower. The trail is rather difficult, even high-performance, but it is worth each kilometre of the effort due to the impressions it offers.

Cycling trail around Sarbsko Lake (31 km)

The trail begins in Łeba and runs from the ending of Nadmorska Street, through the forest along the borders of Sarbsko Lake, through the Sarbsk Spit Nature Reserve (Mierzeja Sarbska). The reserve is located on the borderland of Slovincian and Kashubian water front, between the Baltic Sea and Sarbsko Lake. There are moving sand dunes here, the highest of which reaches 21.8 m above sea level. The green trail leads to the lighthouse from where you should take a southern route, leading along the lower shore of the Sarbsko Lake and leading to Łeba. The route is very interesting due to the beauty of the reserve's nature and its leisure-friendly atmosphere.

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