

On the way to St. Mary's Market we pass the original gate decorated with two sculptures of sandstone - herms from the second half of the seventeenth century depicting Hercules and Diana, probably originally intended for a palace park.



Kościelna Street brings us to the representative town square: St. Mary's Market. There are located: the Town Hall, Minor Basilica, Library, Registry Office, shops, service facilities, catering, banks. It is a meeting place for locals and cultural events. Once the Town Hall was in the middle of the market and it was immortalized in 1712 on the portrait of John Dobrogost Krasiński.

Apparently in his dungeons Twardowski experimented with alchemy and during frequent visits in Węgrów he "parked" in the basement of a flying rooster, so as not to arouse sensation.

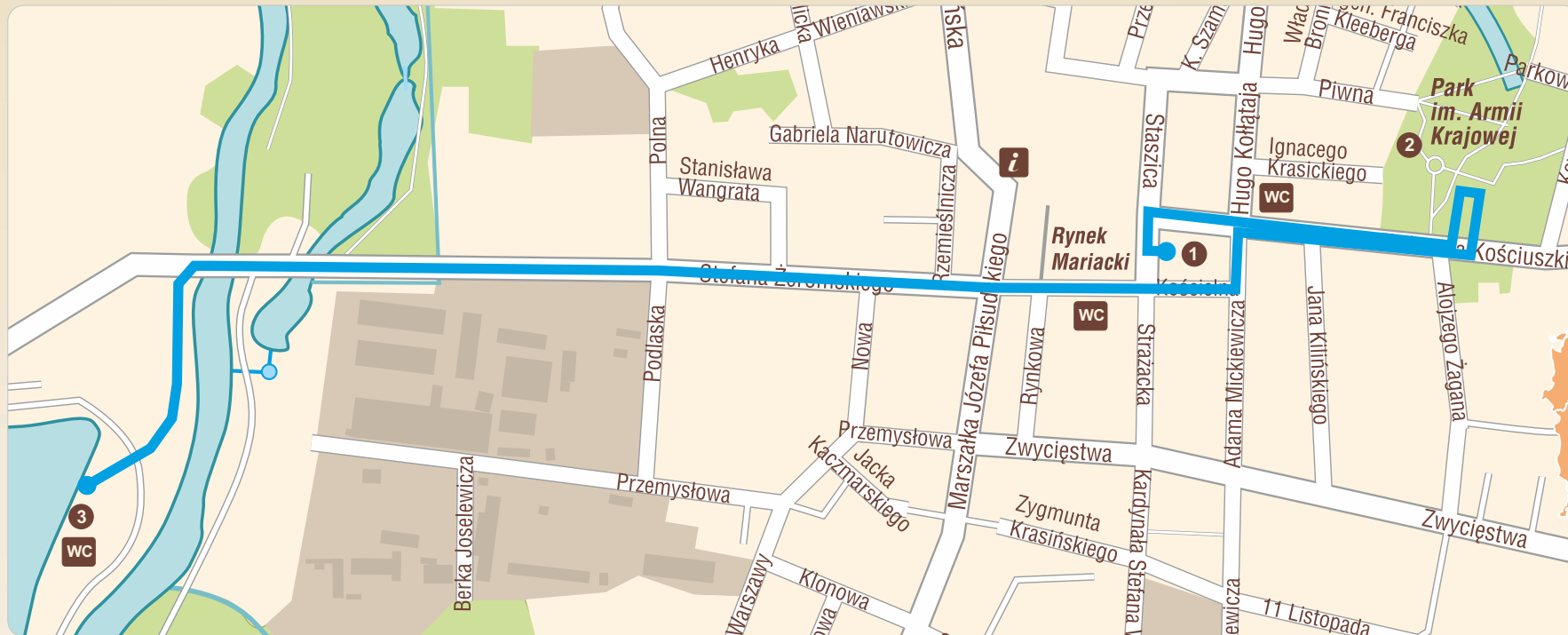
The revitalization of St. Mary's Market was co-financed by the European Regional Development Fund under the Regional Operational Program of Mazovia Region 2007-2013.



We cut across the entire market in a westerly direction passing by colorfully illuminated fountains at night and come to the intersection of Marshal Józef Piłsudski Street. We go through the zebra crossing and turn left at the corner next to the house built-in plaque commemorating the death of 10 Polish hostages shot by the Germans in 1944. Going straight cross the street and turn right into Stefan Żeromski Street.



Following this street we achieve after 300 meters the intersection with Podlaska Street. In the nearby of "EVEREST" hotel we find interesting reliefs of Alexei Pawluczuk illustrating the legend of Master John Twardowski and his mirror.



- THE COURSE OF THE TRAIL
- Center of Tourist Information and Promotion
- 1** Bazylika Mniejsza
- 2** Park Armii Krajowej, Plac Zabaw
- 3** Zalew nad Liwcem, Plac Zabaw



Opposite the entrance gate to the city market (fair traditionally on Tuesdays and Fridays). Next, Żeromski Street leads slightly uphill. It is staffed by picturesque old willows. In their rotten trunks might be find a forest odd forest ambiguous. Looking for in the hollows of the form of the legends we come to the bridge on Liwiec. This is an area "Refuge of Liwiec" and Siedlce - Węgrów Protected Landscape Area and the Area of Nature 2000. On both sides of the street picturesque ponds - revitalized oxbow of Liwiec. On the right exit to the parking lot at the cafe on Liwiec and a playground for children. From the bridge we see a wide area of riverside meadows.

After the bridge, turn left and go down the path on the dike and we arrive at the Lagoon. On the edge there are located the beach and swimming, followed by the playground, with touches of the legend of Master Twardowski. Over the magic network towering Twardowski on rooster - this is a logo of the Route of Master Twardowski. A spider web of ropes recalls his servant Jacob. He currently lives with his master on the moon, but from time to time turned into a spider he drains on a thread to listen the news and brings to Twardowski fresh rumors of Węgrów.

On the wall of the building of water sport equipment rental, there are two replicas of Twardowski's mirrors, one of which is made of glass, and the second one - in the glaze. You can browse them without fear that something will happen - the original remained in the sacristy!



At this point, the trail of Master John Twardowski ends.

In the centre of the Lagoon you can relax, play, rent a sports swimming equipment or a bike. For those who thrill or direct contact with nature, you can take part in canoeing on Liwiec river.

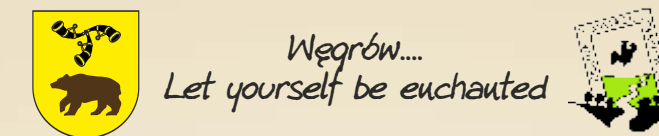
Visiting the tourists attractions on trails: multicultural, a trail of Master Twardowski and a bike trail Nature you can take part in competition sending sms **Bonus on tour**. If you answer 5 questions correctly you will get a coupon that you can use in one of the Partnership Points of the Program.  
More information on: [www.wegrowliwiec.pl](http://www.wegrowliwiec.pl)



Cost of sms at the rate of operator.

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## A TRAIL OF MASTER JAN TWARDOWSKI



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## A TRAIL OF MASTER JAN TWARDOWSKI

### The length of a trail - 2 km

The beginning of a trail - St. Mary's Market Street - Kościuszko Street - Mickiewicz Street - Church Street - St. Mary's Market Street - Żeromski Street - Lagoon on Liwiec river - the end of the trail.

The famous magician John Twardowski is known and popular character by both children and adults. People are trying to do with Twardowski the sinister magician who was sold to impure forces, and the troublemaker in the service of the court clique, the force of the tradition suggests always a picture of swashbuckling nobleman who even will not scared of a devil, which presented the master Adam Mickiewicz in the wonderful ballad "Mrs. Twardowska".

In Węgrów there is only one object that belongs to Twardowski: his famous magic mirror. Inevitably, Węgrów is the capital of the world's famous legends associated with the sympathetic character. It is worth walking along the trail of Master John Twardowski, to see how fairy atmosphere has a charming city.



There is no reason to postpone the meeting with mirror of Master John and therefore we begin a tour starting from Minor Basilica of the Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary, where in the sacristy is kept for almost 300 years this famous souvenir. The Basilica is a church in every way growing out over the scale of a small town.



Never mind if the creator of the project for the reconstruction of the temple in the period 1703-1707 was Tylman Gameren or John Reisner in cooperation with Carl Ceroni. The monumental silhouette of a temple emanates with glow from centuries of great art. Its high class we owe the owner of Węgrów, John Dobrogost Krasieński. This prominent esthete not only financed the restoration of the church, but also hired for the decoration Michelangelo Palloni - then the greatest painter of frescoes. We owe him a team of 9 painted altars, awe-inspiring from the moment of its creation.

The interior of the church also contains other extraordinary works of art: Baroque high altar, choir stalls and confessionals, majestic portraits of the founder (JD Krasieński) and consecrator of basilica (bp. Łuck A. Wyhowski), rococo altars with images of Simon Czechowicz, and amazing picture "Dance of death."

But let's back to the main purpose of our trip. A dark room of sacristy is surrounded by 22 portraits of the benefactors of the church, and the mirror of Master Twardowski shines the dim light of tarnished metal hung over the door. The size of it is 56 to 46.5 cm and a weight is approx. 17 kg, made of an alloy of tin, zinc, silver, bismuth and antimony. It was bound in a dark wooden frame with gilded inscription: LUSERAT HOC SPECULO MAGICAS TWARDOVIVS ARTES LUSUS AT ISTE DEI VESUSU IN OSEQVIVM EST (Twardowski entertained with the magic mirror showing magician art at the service of God but is rotated).

The mirror is an unique in the whole Europe. Why was it placed in church? Probably John Dobrogost Krasieński gave to the priests Communists a mirror inherited among family from the times of Bishop Francis Krasieński, a friend of the most famous Polish magician. A mirror was to remind the faithful about the dangers of contact with impure forces, which confirms the words on the frame of the mirror.



It also constitutes a trophy gained in the battle for the souls of men, because Twardowski managed to escape from condemnation: when the impure forces dragged him to hell from the inn (which was called "Rome") he sang the Canticle to the Virgin Mary, which he composed as a devout young man before moving into magic. The devils at the sound of her name gave up the master on the Moon, where he lives so far and even he undertook the Polish honey to American astronauts.

Three dark cracks intersect the surface of the mirror. The legends join with them. The oldest dates back to the sixteenth century. Twardowski on request of King Zygmunt August caused the spectrum of beautiful Barbara Radziwiłówna by the mirror, who died as a young royal wife. Despite of warnings that the attempt to approach the ghost is prohibited, the king overwhelmed by emotions tried to embrace Barbara. At this point, the spirit disappeared, and the mirror shattered into pieces.

Another story relates to the pastor of Węgrów, vain man who loved to contemplate his face in the mirror until appeared to him mockingly mouth of the distorted devil, which terrified priest and he threw him with a bunch of heavy keys and smashed the mirror.

The protagonist of the next administration is Emperor Napoleon I. Passing by Węgrów during the trip to Moscow he wanted to see these amazingly. He saw not only a mirror but also his future reflection: the defeat of the Grand Army, and his death on the island of St. Helena. He was so angry that he struck in a mirror with a whip, shattering it into pieces.

Another amazing story related to our mirror, Rozwadowski Francis remembered it, an expert in Węgrów: "In 1980 a group of students of art history visited the church. A resolute student climbed the ladder that was left behind in the sacristy by painters and looked up into the mirror. Her face in the misty reflection crossed vertical, dark streaks. As I learned later, a student of the martial law ended up in prison for political activities. These dark streaks marked the prison bars!"



And again, in 2005, the mirror went to Cracow for the exhibition "Legends and mysteries of Cracow" and then appeared in it a famous Cardinal Hosius! It does not the end: on the mirror does not settle the dust. His frame, despite its 300 years, is untouched by wood pests ... And what do you say?

After the experiences of the thrill associated with the mysteries of the mirror of Master Twardowski we come out of the area through the magnificent basilica gate of the eighteenth century and turn right. Ahead of us in the corner of St. Mary's Market former inn with beautifully disheveled peak surmounted by a star. This is a Baroque House of Gdańsk from the mid-eighteenth century probably a project of Vincent Rachtet.

It is now the seat of the Public Library also comprised of Podlasie Textile Museum, dedicated to the art of folk from Węgrów.

However, we are truly fans of Twardowski's fairy tale and most interesting thing would be the Library Magic Cabinet of John Twardowski with curves mirrors and memorabilia associated with him.

At the intersection, we go across the street and turn right into Kościuszko Street. Following its left side cross the intersection with Kołłątaj Street passing further two large wooden houses (No. 17 and 21) of which consisted most buildings in Węgrów. That brings us to the wall - fence the City Park of Home Army. At the entrance to the park there is a magnificent monument of Army Unit.

We go to the park close to the circular flower bed next we come to the playground and exercise equipment with a safe, environmentally friendly and very colorful instruments to play and exercise referring to the legend of Master Twardowski.



In the monastery, we see a monumental Reformed Fathers Church with St. Peter of Alcantara and St. Anthony of Padua/1693-1706/.

Probably the underground monastery combines with the castle in Liw underground corridor. Twardowski ordered to dig it to subordinate themselves devils to silently move around. During the Northern War in April 13, 1703 he used it suddenly popping out of the ground on giant, flying rooster, which so frightened the Swedes that fled from the city like the devil from holy water and thanks to a master John the monastery survived. Currently, we do not know where is the entrance to the underground passage. Apparently it runs exactly at the playground. Maybe we will find it in the sandbox kicking with a paddle?



After having fun and relaxation we go back to the trail of Master John Twardowski. Turn right and follow the signs again, already known to us the way, in the direction of St. Mary's Market.

We come to the intersection of Kołłątaj Street, turn left and after going across the street enter Mickiewicz Street. On Mickiewicz Street No. 2 there is Liw's Municipal Office. We turn right onto Kościelna Street. Its charming mood the street owes its historical building occupying both sides: the Basilica and late Baroque edifice of the Institute Priests Communists (bartoszków) with the seminary and school run by priests to 1833. The building had two towers, only one survived, but very stylish, with a beautiful dome in the Baroque style.