

The papal stone



Access from Wałcz: driving along A22 in the section between Ostrowiec and Szwecja (after covering about 8 km from Wałcz), one needs to turn east, according to a signpost indicating Czechyń. In Czechyń, at the junction of roads (by a bus stop), there is a large map placed there by the Płytnica forest inspectorate, which is going to prompt tourists with the way. It is possible to head eastwards from here by car or park there and go on foot. To the next car park near the Wrzosa forester's lodge and camp site, it is about 3.3 km. From there, we can follow a marked yellow trail leading along the shores of Lake Krąpsko Średnie; after less than 500 m, the yellow trail joins the red trail, slightly wandering off the lakeshore. More or less after covering the same distance, following only the yellow trail, we head for the lake. After walking about 500 m, we reach a monument located among trees on a steep lakeshore by a characteristically leant pine, about 800 east of a camp site.

DETAILED INFORMATION

ADDRESS

COORDINATES

53.3192130000, 16.6672879991
53° 19' 9", 16° 40' 2"



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lang=DE style='color:#333333'>In 44,5 km Entfernung davon, in Niechorze, steht an der steilen Kliffküste ein Leuchtturm mit Aussichtsterrasse in 37 m Höhe. In der Nähe befindet sich der Park Miniatur Latarni Morskich (Leuchtturm-Miniaturenpark), ein Highlight für Leuchtturm-Fans.

Ein weiteres sehenswertes Objekt ist der Leuchtturm in Kołobrzeg, 48,3 km von Niechorze entfernt.

Der nächste Leuchtturm ist im Dorf Gąski, 28,5 km weiter, gelegen. Er wurde auf einem flachen Abschnitt der Küste erbaut.

In 67,5 km Entfernung von Gąski, in Darłowo, steht ein weiterer Leuchtturm.

Von dort aus sind es nur noch 24 km bis zur letzten Sehenswürdigkeit an der Route: dem Leuchtturm in Jarosławiec.

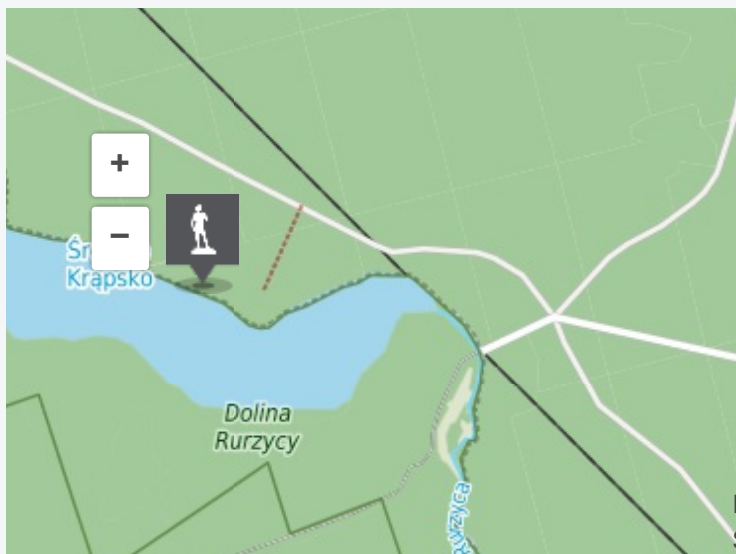
The papal stone, located on a forest clearing on Lake Krępsko Średnie, is the oldest monument commemorating Pope John Paul II in Poland. It was erected in 1979. The stone commemorates the place where the future pope celebrated an open-air church service. This happened during the last recreational stay of Cardinal Karol Wojtyła in the region of Wałcz – two and a half months later he was elected the bishop of Rome.

On July 23rd-30th, 1978, Cardinal Karol Wojtyła along with his friends rested on Lake Krępsko and made a canoeing trip on the Rurzyca River. Year later, when the cardinal of Cracow was the bishop of Rome, the participants of that canoeing trip met by the Rurzyca River and surreptitiously put a round stone with an occasional inscription on the ground where year before a makeshift altar made of kayaks was erected during a camp in order to celebrate Mass. They also hung a birch cross on a nearby tree. The originator and a co-author of this modest, but very important, for the first monument of John Paul II was Mieczysław Wiśłocki MD. The preparations to the construction of the monument were started in Cracow – the material for a medallion and letters was gathered there. It was the period of the People's Republic of Poland, so everything was almost in a clandestine activity. After coming to the lakes around Wałcz, already without "Uncle" (as friends called Rev. Karol

Wojtyła), the further works begun. In the place where Cardinal Wojtyła celebrated Mass as many as seven times, a concrete-stone slab was put, the papal coat of arms was made up of stones, and a brazen inscription “Cardinal Wojtyła – Pope John Paul II rested here in July 1978” was placed on the stone. Pebbles from the Dunajec River, where Rev. Karol Wojtyła liked to canoe, were placed on the medallion.

The monument was cloaked in secrecy; it was not mentioned in any official materials. Throughout the ages, a characteristic sloping pine helped to recognize the place from a distance. In 2003, on a neighbouring tree, the second, more decorative cross with a carved head of Jesus and two crossed paddles was placed. The paddles symbolize camp crosses built during the canoeing trips of Karol Wojtyła. Since 1993, the trail on the Rurzyca River has been named after John Paul II. Currently, occasional Masses have been celebrated there. Some kind of a sanctuary is being created there, and the parish of Tarnówka takes care of the place. In 2003, , an oak cross with carved paddles and a head of Jesus, made by Andrzej Romeyko of Ostrowiec near Wałcz, was hung on a pine nearby the monument.

Geolocation



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