



Biebrzański  
Park Narodowy



Ministry of Climate  
and Environment

# Biebrza National Park

## Caring for bogs and people



[biebrzanski.ppn.gov.pl](http://biebrzanski.ppn.gov.pl)

Panorama from the scenic point in Burzyn  
Photo by Piotr Tałałaj





Spring flood waters of Biebrza  
Photo by Artur Wiatr

## Biebrza National Park

The Biebrza National Park covers an area of nearly 60 thousand ha and is the largest national park in Poland. It was established in 1993 for the sake of some of the best preserved peat bogs in Europe with a swampy valley of the Biebrza River. Extensive swamps, inundated by spring flood waters of Biebrza, for centuries have been largely inaccessible to humans. They became a convenient habitat for many interesting animals. Lynx, several families of wolves, numerous otters and beavers live here. Several hundred elk which survived here a period of excessive hunting form the largest population in the country. However, the Biebrza Swamps are known primarily all as a paradise for birds. More than 280 species of them have been recorded here, including many rare species which are dying species in other places, such as the greater spotted eagle, great snipe, black grouse or aquatic warbler.





A ruff (*Philomachus pugnax*) in breeding plumage  
Photo by Bogusław Kierkła

## Our logo

The symbol of the Park is the ruff. He used to be called a “freaky bird”. Maybe for the fact, that it is different from its relatives: lapwings, snipes, black-tailed godwits, dunlins or sandpipers, in which males and females look similar. And in the “freaky bird”, females are modest, while males put on unusual plumage at the time of mating. Feathers grow around their neck and head, forming a collar, called a ruff. They are different in each individual, from snow-white colours through the palette of browns to completely black. There are no two equally feathered ruffs, and breeding plumage is as unique as human fingerprints. Males present themselves to females by ruffling their feathers during simulated fights.

Ruffs cover a long distance during migration. In the spring, they return from wintering grounds (mainly in Africa), up to the Arctic areas of the tundra, where they breed. Their stop on the Biebrza River is a great attraction, and the show of ruffs dancing

and jumping in the meadows attracts not only bird enthusiasts. Until the 60s of the 20th century, ruffs nested in large numbers in the Biebrza swamps, now they breed here only occasionally. To encourage ruffs to build nests in the Park, overgrown swamp meadows are mowed.



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- |  |  |  |  |
|--|--|--|--|
|  | Boundary of the park                                 |  | Museum of Milk                           |
|  | State's road   |  | The Centre of Three Cultures             |
|  | Provincial road                                      |  | Osowiec Fortress Museum                  |
|  | Other roads  |  | Museum of Lipsk Easter Egg and Tradition |
|  | Unpaved road, path                                   |  | Historic church; Orthodox church         |
|  | Forest within the park                               |  | Monastery                                |
|  | Forest outside the park                              |  | Hillfort                                 |
|  | Swamp, meadow  |  | Mansion                                  |
|  | Park Administration Office                           |  | Synagogue                                |
|  | Educational Centre                                   |  | Jewish cemetery                          |
|  | Centre for Conservation Breeding of the Polish Konik |  | Windmill                                 |
|  | Campsite   |  | Military shelter                         |
|  | Look-on tower  |  | Historic park                            |
|  | Scenic point   |  | Tourist information                      |
|  | Car park   |  | Walking trails                           |
|  | Educational paths                                    |  | Biking trails                            |
|  |  |  | Horse-riding trail                       |



Along the „Biały Grad” educational path  
Photo by Piotr Tałaj

## What is worth visiting?



### Biebrza National Park Education and Administration Centre

Environmental exhibition "Discover Biebrza" and exhibition "Birds of the Biebrza swamps"

📍 Osowiec-Twierdza 8, 19-110 Goniądz

🕒 From 20.04-10.09:

Mon-Sun: 09.00-17.00

From 11.09-19.04

Mon-Fri: 07:30-15.30

☎️ +48 85 738 30 35

💰 Free of charge

♿️ Amenities for wheelchair users



### Osowiec Fortress – Central Fort, museum

📍 Osowiec-Twierdza, 19-110 Goniądz

🕒 Mon-Fri

Visiting the museum only with the guides from the Osowiec Fortress Association, after making phone arrangements (special permits are required for foreign visitors).

☎️ +48 600 941 954

💰 Information on the fees available by phone

♿️ No amenities for wheelchair users



### Local Educational Centre in Osowiec-Twierdza

Three educational paths: Las w zasięgu ręki, Góra Skobla, Kładka. Dogs are allowed.

📍 N53.473551 E22.657267

♿️ Partial amenities for wheelchair users



### Grzędy Local Educational Centre

Several loops of tourist trails, three educational paths: Czerwone Bagno, Borek Bartny, Wydmy. Camping site

📍 N53.632057 E22.773752

♿️ Partial amenities for wheelchair users



### Szuszalewo-Nowy Lipsk Educational Path

Wooden footbridges, floating platform on Biebrza

📍 N53.712493 E23.357598

♿️ Partial amenities for wheelchair users

Visiting the Park in groups of more than 7 persons requires a guide of BbNP. Prior to visiting the facilities, please check their availability on the internet.



Website





Elk – king of the Biebrza Swamps  
Photo by Bogusław Kierkla

## Red Trail



Dobarz village – Barwik parking lot – observation tower on Grądzik Występ – bridge over the Kosódka river – Kaliszek field – Gugnyn village – Carska Droga

To learn the nature of the Park best, it is worth taking a trip along the loop in the heart of the Biebrza Swamps, i.e. the Barwik-Gugnyn trail. Here, we can feel the enormous space and observe the changing landscape. From the edge of the valley to the Biebrza riverbed, we cross dry coniferous forests, marshy alder forests, then, willow thickets to open sedges. It is easy to notice how the vegetation changes rapidly in subsequent zones (this is the phenomenon of the so-called transverse vegetation zone of Biebrza). This view makes us realise how the valleys of European lowland rivers looked before having been drained by humans. The path supports bird

watching. We can also notice here the traces of a fox, badger, wolf. We can often see the traces of their existence. There is a good chance to see an elk. The area is full of dune islands called “Grądy”, with an elevation of even a dozen or so meters above the level of peat bogs.

In the spring, it can be very wet here, it happens that ordinary rubber boots are not enough. In order not to deviate from the route, we recommend downloading the coordinates with the description from the BbNP website.

**ATTENTION!** Periodically, the trail is very difficult.

### Tourist trails:



Walking – 17 trails – 127 km\*



Biking – 10 trails – 104 km



Running – 4 trails – 18 km\*



Horse-riding – 2 trails – 21 km



Water – 7 trails – about 214 km

\*In winter, made available for cross-country skiing

### Educational paths:

15 trails – 31 km

For wheelchair users – 2.4 km – 3 wooden footbridges leading through the periodically waterlogged areas. In some cases, the route of the paths coincides with some walking trails.



Biebrza valley – an important place for thousands of migratory birds  
Photo by Piotr Talaaj



## Biebrzański Park Narodowy

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