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**History of
Żnin**

**City Tour
Żnin**

**Photo Gallery
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History of Żnin

[Żnin](#) ^[4] – this 14 thousand stronghold town is situated at two lakes: Duże Żnińskie and Małe Żnińskie. In the 12th century, Żnin was the seat of a castellan. From the first half of the 12th century to the year 1772, the Archbishops of Gniezno (the first capital of Poland) had their dominions here. In 1263 it was given the municipal rights. In 1331 the town was looted by the Teutonic Knights. The town sustained damages also during local wars between knights from Wielkopolska and wars between Poland and Sweden. After the partitions of Poland, the town belonged to Prussia. In 1794 it saw battles of Kościuszko's uprising. The townsmen from Żnin took part in the events of the Spring of the Nations in 1848 and the successful Wielkopolska Uprising in 1918-1919. After World War II it was part of the Poznań Province and, for some time, the Bydgoszcz Province.



City Tour Żnin, Wenecja and Biskupin

When in [Żnin](#) ^[5], you are welcomed to go to [Wenecja](#) ^[6] and [Biskupin](#) ^[7] by a narrow gauge railway. The station can be found at 4 Potockiego Street. Railway was built here in the years 1893-1894, connecting Żnin, Biskupin and Rogowo, and then Biskupin and Szelejewo. Its track gauge is 600 mm. The lines had the joint length of 28 km. They transported beetroot and other crops, as well as people. It was soon extended to 80 km. In Wenecja we can visit a Museum of Narrow Gauge Railway, a department of the Museum of Pałucka Land. The collection includes 17 steam locomotives, the oldest

from 1899, 60 various railway track vehicles (diesel locomotives and various cars for cargo and passengers transport.) Moreover, the old station with all its equipment and infrastructure can be admired. All this makes the Museum in Wenecja a great tourist attraction, unique in the whole Europe. Another attraction is the castle of Mimosa Nałęcz, who was known as the Bloody Devil from Wenecja. It was built in the Gothic style in 1390, partly in stone and granite and partly in brick, on the plan of a rectangle, with a donjon at one corner and an impressive entry gate. It was demolished soon after. In 1420 its new owner, Achbishop Mikołaj Trąba, used it as a jail for priests. Then, in 1451, a stronghold was built on the site of the castle, still in use in 1511. Since then, the castle came to ruin, still vast parts of the stone and brick walls are preserved and the divisions of the interior are clearly seen.



Our next station is Biskupin. The Museum of Archaeology in Biskupin includes a partly reconstructed defensive settlement that dates back to 2700 years ago and belongs to the people of Łużyce. Biskupin is known as Polish Pompeii. It was discovered by a local teacher, Walenty Szwajcar, in 1933. He informed Prof. Józef Kostrzewski from Poznań about his discovery and a year later, archaeological works were launched. They were stopped by the World War II. Resumed after the war, they were concluded in 1974. The area of nearly the whole settlement was examined. The research showed that the wood used for the construction of the settlement dates back to 740 B.C. The settlement was located on a peninsula of the Biskupin Lake. There were over 100 houses, arranged in 13 rows along 11 streets. Each of the streets was 2.5 meters wide and laid with wood. It could hold 1000 people at a time and was inhabited for over 150 years. The settlement was embraced by a wood-earth dyke, 400 meters long, up to 3.5 meters wide and, in average, 6 meters high. In addition, the settlement was protected by a breakwater, 2-9 meters wide, constructed of stilts rammed askew, partly preserved. Available for tourists is the exposition "The Dawn of History at the Biskupin Lake" (Świt historii nad jeziorem Biskupińskim) and the defensive settlement with reconstructed fragments of the dykes, houses, streets, the breakwater and the entry gate. The archaeological reserve in Biskupin is a Monument of Polish History.

