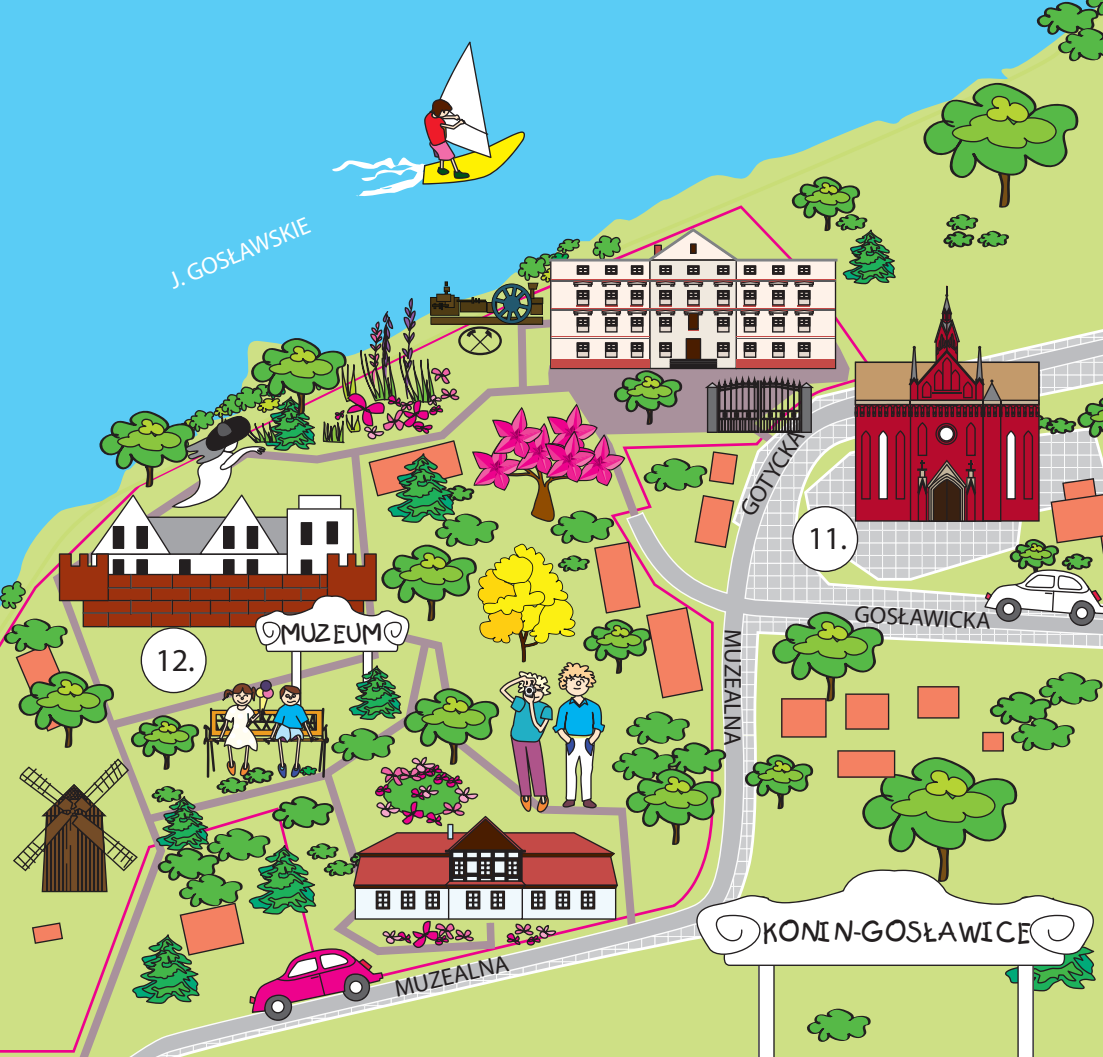


A walk through the Old Town of Konin



LEGENDA

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|----|---|---|-----|---|---|
| 1. |  | THE KONIN POST FROM THE 12TH CENTURY | 7. |  | THE OLD SYNAGOGUE FROM THE 19TH CENTURY |
| 2. |  | THE CHURCH OF SAINT BARTHOLOMEUS FROM BETWEEN THE 14TH AND 15TH CENTURY | 8. |  | FREDERICK CHOPIN'S TOWN PARK FROM THE MID-19TH CENTURY |
| 3. |  | THE TOWN HALL FROM BETWEEN THE 18TH AND 19TH CENTURY | 9. |  | THE EVANGELICAL CHURCH OF THE AUGSBURG CONFESSION DEDICATED TO THE HOLY SPIRIT FROM 1853-1854 |
| 4. |  | THE ZEMEŁKA HOUSE FROM BETWEEN THE 16TH AND 17TH CENTURY | 10. |  | THE CHURCH OF ST. MARY MAGDALENE AND THE FRANCISCAN MONASTERY OF THE REFORMERS FROM 1733 |
| 5. |  | THE REYMOND FACTORY COMPLEX - 2ND HALF OF THE 19TH CENTURY | 11. |  | THE CHURCH DEDICATED TO ST. ANDREW THE APOSTLE - 1ST HALF OF THE 15TH CENTURY |
| 6. |  | THE MANOR HOUSE OF ZOFIA URBANOWSKA FROM THE 19TH CENTURY | 12. |  | THE GOTHIC CASTLE IN GOSŁAWICE |



KONIN – a royal Town

The very first mentions of a town now seen by archeologists as Konin's predecessor, come from Ptolemy's Roman maps which mark a trading settlement named Seditava. Archeological finds suggest, however, that the settlement itself has existed long prior to Ptolemy putting it on his map – even as far back as 9 thousand years B.C.E. The history of this place has been written in amber. It is where merchants' caravans have travelled through the ancient Amber Road, from the mediterranean lands to the farthest Baltic shores, full of "the gold of the North", as amber was frequently called. Konin has gained its rights as a town before 1283 CE. It was completely ruined

by the Teutonic Knights in 1331 and was later rebuilt during the reign of king Casimir the Great (1333-1370). It is also when a castle and a fortification system in the form of town walls and two gates – Calisian and Torunian – were raised to increase the settlement's safety. The old town itself still is home to interesting historical monuments, such as unique examples of sacral architecture as well as secular in the form of the old houses left behind the wealthy, most notable citizens of their respective eras.



The Konin Post

The milestone located in modern Konin is the oldest road sign in Europe set beyond the borders of the ancient Roman Empire. The stone pillar was raised on the orders of the voivode (governor) Piotr Włostowic in 1151 CE as a milestone marking half the distance between Kalisz and Kruszwica, both important medieval trading settlements. The purpose of the milepost is known from the Latin inscription on the stone which is a priceless artifact of historical writing regarding Poland.



The Church of Saint Bartholomeus

It is a gothic sanctuary raised at the turn of 14th and 15th century. Two adjacent chapels adorn the church on the south side: a gothic one with the tombstone of Krzysztof Przyjemski, and a second, younger, renaissance chapel, in which there is the baroque epitaph of Jan Zemelka. The doors to the church are embellished with two 15th century handles in the shape of lion heads. The polychromes and stained glass windows in the sanctuary were created by Eligiusz Niewiadomski.



The Town Hall

A classicist building from the turn of 18th and 19th century, raised on a trapezoid plane. Its facade is ornamented with tuscan-style columns. At the back of the Town Hall, there is the building of former "jatk" – old merchant booths from the early 19th century. Every day, at noon, the Hall's tower resounds with Konin's own bugle call, created by Witold Friemann.



The Zemelka House

The Zemelka House is the oldest burgher brick building in Konin, raised on the turn of 16th and 17th century. The founder of the house, Jan Zemelka (born in 1539), a doctor of philosophy and medicine, was one of the most illustrious townspeople in Konin, in his time.



The Reymond Factory Complex

The first ever factory of farming machines and tools set in Konin was built in the middle of the 19th century by a Swiss entrepreneur, Edward Raymond. The factory owner, while tending to his business, lived next to the complex, in an eclectic palace with very unique and distinctive figurines of angels holding a sign with the following inscription: "work is the source of success".



The manor house of Zofia Urbanowska

The gable roof manor was raised in classicist style in the second half of the 19th century. It is the place where Zofia Urbanowska lived – a renowned journalist and a prolific writer of children's stories penned in the philosophical spirit of Polish Positivism. Nowadays the manor serves as Konin's registry office.



The old Synagogue

Once a religious sanctuary, currently a historical artifact in private ownership, the Synagogue building from 1832 is an example of richly ornate and uniquely designed sacral architecture, all of which can be seen on the southern facade of the building. Inside of the sanctuary, in the main hall, there still remain the original, partially reconstructed paintings adorning the east wall and four of the hall's columns.



Frederick Chopin's Town Park

Named after the famous Polish composer, the town park in old town Konin is one of the oldest of its kind in the country, as it was founded back in 1843. The 10 hectare large park in the past was referred to as "the garden of walks". Today, its main attractions are the animals inhabiting the mini zoo part. In the park can see, among others, african ostriches, emus, mules, ponies, stags, squirrels and vietnamese pigs, all of them living comfortably in their respective runs and paddocks.



The Evangelical Church of the Augsburg Confession dedicated to the Holy Spirit

The church was raised between 1853-54 and the tower was added to the building in the year 1872. In the years 1900 to 1915 the sanctuary underwent modernization. Next to it, there is a classicist parish house from the year 1840.



The Church of St. Mary Magdalene and the Franciscan monastery of the Reformers

Nonexistent today, the wooden church burned down in 1661, and its current shape is dated to the year 1727, while the monastery adjacent to the church's east side, was raised in 1733. Inside of the baroque church, there are three wooden altars from the mid 18th century, a late baroque crucifix, confessionals and organs created in the rococo style and a gothic sculpture of Madonna and Child Jesus.



The Church dedicated to St. Andrew the Apostle

The gothic sanctuary was founded in the first half of the 15th century by Bishop Andrzej Łaskarz. This church is a unique Polish sanctuary and typologically it belongs to the group of the conceptual copies of the Tomb of Saint Jerusalem's rotunda, built in the shape of a cross-type octagon. One of the most relevant relics of the sanctuary is the 16th century baptismal bowl embellished with a renaissance ornament and medieval crests.



The gothic castle in Gosławice

The towerless, brick castle is located by the Gosławice Lake. It was built by the Posnanian Bishop Andrzej Łaskarz of crest Godziemba – a diplomat of the King Władysław Jagiełło and Queen Jadwiga. The castle consists of two parallelly placed buildings covered with a gable roof. The local legend has it that the complex is haunted by the alleged owner of Gosławice, Konstanty Lubrański. Today, the castle is home to the Regional Museum of Konin.



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