Table of contents

Nature in Northern Kashubia 9

Protected areas – reserves, sanctuaries, and geosites 25

Discovering Norda 51

History and culture 67

Practical information 73

INVITATION TO NORTHERN KASHUBIA

The Baltic shores swept by bitter northern winds and the sunniest bay in Poland, Puck Bay. In summer, the longest days and the most beautiful beaches on the longest Polish peninsula; in winter, the longest nights, providing a chance to see the Northern Lights. Travelling birds herald seasonal changes here as each spring and autumn they stop on their way between the Arctic and warmer climes. Still young, geologically speaking, the coastal landscape is constantly changing: the sea devours some elevated places and gives us a glimpse into past chapters of the Earth's history; elsewhere, the waves, winds, and plants form dunes which are the youngest scraps of land. Plant species from the times when tundra grew in this region are preserved here. Even though it is not an area full of lakes, the cleanest Polish lakes are here. This unique region formed the identity of the Kashubians, who have been living by the sea for a dozen centuries. We call it Northern Kashubia; its residents simply call it Norda.

Let's discover these amazing landscapes, natural phenomena, plants, and animals that can't be found in other regions of Poland. Coming to Norda in summer is not enough to appreciate its diversity. Many natural peculiarities can only be seen in winter, autumn, or spring, when the nature changes more quickly.

To make your discoveries easier we have prepared a tourist guide that highlights where seasonal wonders of nature can be seen. The descriptive part of the guide focuses on the secrets of the animate and inanimate nature which make this land so exceptional: nature sanctuaries and protected areas, often unmatched in the whole of Poland, the educational paths that run across them, tourist trails for hikers, bikers, and drivers.

It is impossible to describe this part of Pomerania without talking about its natives – the Kashubians. Their culture and customs, as well as the regional folklore visible at their regular social events, are what the last part of the guide briefly outlines.

Enjoy getting back to nature with glee and gusto!