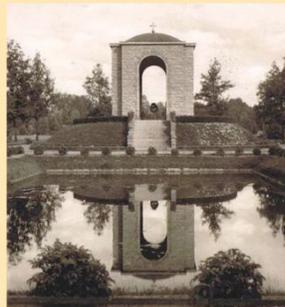


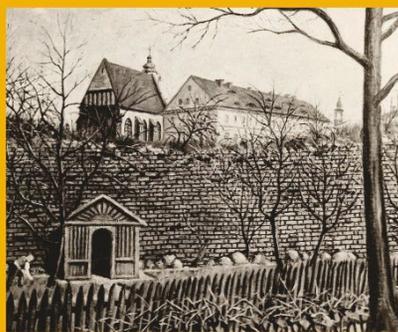
# KLUCZBORK

# HISTORIC



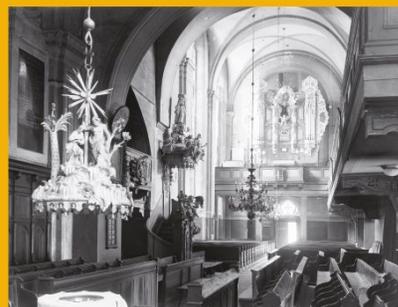
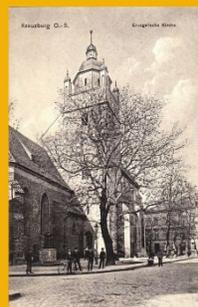
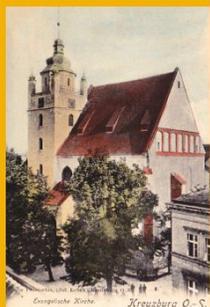
# TRAIL





## 1 THE TOWN WALLS

The curtain walls in Kluczbork were built in several stages. Earthwork embankments were constructed in 1396, whereas the masonry ones were built at the turn of the 15th century into the 16th. In the lower part the walls were built of stones, while in the upper part they were built of brick using Gothic bonding. The curtain walls surrounded the town on three sides: from the south, from the east and from the west. From the north the natural defense was a wet and swampy area of land and a wooden palisade built on the earthwork embankment. You could enter the city through the German gate (located in the current Mickiewicz Street) and the Polish gate (located in the current Krakowska Street). Neither of the gates has survived into modern times. The best preserved part of the walls is located on the southern side of the town. Here you can also see a land depression, which is a trace of the former moat, and a hole in the wall closed by a segmental arch under which the river fed the former castle mill. A part of the town walls has also been preserved from the east, right next to the former castle tower.



## 2 THE EVANGELICAL CHURCH

The first wooden church was already mentioned in 1298. The current temple consisted of a chancel formed in the 13th century and a nave from the 14th century. In 1527 the church was taken over by Evangelicals and, with a short break in the years 1700-1707, it has remained in their possession until today. As a result of frequent fires the church was destroyed and rebuilt many times. The most tragic fire in the history of Kluczbork took place on 23rd April 1737, which consumed almost the entire town. This Great Disaster was described by the local pastor Adam Thuler in his chronicle:

*„On the third day of Easter holiday shortly after midnight, the good town Kluczbork at the will of Almighty God was haunted by a terrible fire from the heavens, which consumed the whole town in two hours and, without the possibility of rescue, the beloved church, presbytery and school turned into ashes. People did not save much or saved nothing from their possessions. On the second day of Easter, we celebrated the last service in peace and quiet, but the third day of the holiday became the day of mourning. (...) Nothing left of the bells, benches, beautiful choir - everything was reduced to ashes”.*

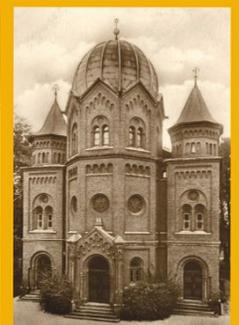
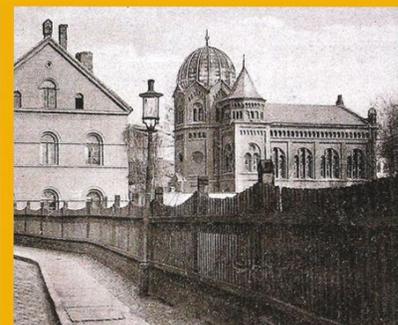
After this great fire, the interior of the church was thoroughly rebuilt. The present interior of the temple was made by the Wrocław sculptor Leopold Jaschke in the years 1750-1760. The altar, pulpit, baptismal font and organ casing were made in the Rococo style, in which white and gold dominate. In the years 1795-1797 the upper storey of the tower was added, and in 1806 a clock was mounted on it. In the years 1708-1769 the square around the church served as a cemetery.

At the end of the 1980s the Foundation for Musical Evenings in Kluczbork was established, thanks to which every year from May to September church organ concerts with the participation of well-known national and international performers take place in the church.



### 3 THE MARKET SQUARE - THE TOWN HALL

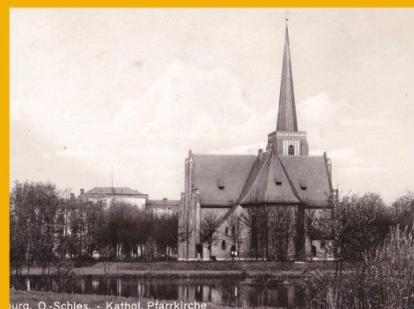
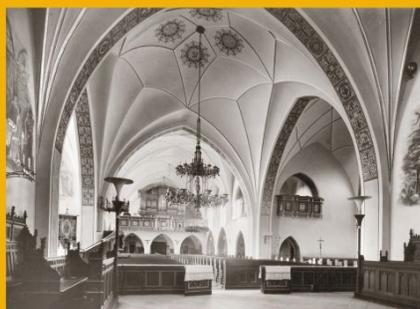
The first town hall was probably built at the beginning of the 15th century. The town hall burned down during the great fire of the town, which took place on 23rd April 1737. After the fire, it was not until 1752 that the building was rebuilt using the surviving fragments due to the Austro-Prussian War lasting from 1740 to 1741. 12 merchants' houses adjoined the town hall, situated in two rows and abutting against the back walls, called 'Twelve Apostles' by the residents because of their number and grandness. On 25th June 1925 the fire destroyed most of the buildings leaving only the town hall building and the four nearest tenement houses. Three people died in the fire. Four least damaged tenement houses were rebuilt in 1926 according to the design of the town architect Alfred Lenz. In place of the remaining tenement houses a market square was created, and the west side of the tenement houses was enriched with arcades with a terrace. In the pediment on the roof a relief was cut depicting the town hall with Baroque tenement houses before the fire. In the years 2011-2012 the town hall was renovated together with the market square. During the renovation in July 2012 documents regarding the construction and redevelopment of the town hall were found in the spire of the town hall tower (the documents are dated 1752, 1858 and 1926). Thanks to these documents, the exact history of the town hall in the years 1737-1926 is known.



### 4 THE FORMER SYNAGOGUE

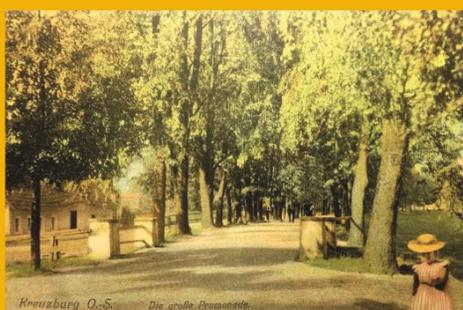
In the 19th century the followers of Judaism in Kluczbork made up about 10% of the total population of the town. The first synagogue was established in Kluczbork in 1856 in a private house. However, it turned out to be too small for the followers of Judaism. Then, it was decided to build a synagogue. Its ceremonial opening took place on 15th September 1886 performed by rabbi Dr. Munz from Gliwice. The synagogue was built in the Romanesque - Moorish style according to the design of the district builder Friedrich.

A characteristic element of the synagogue was a large dome topping the facade and two smaller turrets with pointed roofs. The star of David was on the dome. The vault of the main prayer room was made of wood covered with paintings. The building has not survived into modern times. During „the Night of Broken Glass” from 9th to 10th November 1938, starting the pogrom of Jews in the German Reich, it was burned. Afterwards, the remains of the burned synagogue were demolished and dismantled.



## 5 OUR LADY OF SUCCOUR TO THE FAITHFUL CHURCH

The church was erected in the years 1911-1913 in the neo-Gothic style, generally modelled on St. Cross Church in Wrocław. The authors of the project were Oskar Hossfeld and Carl Schabik, while Thomas Skaletz was in charge of construction work. Work on the foundations of the church started in November 1910. In September 1911 a roof framework and a 25-meter tower were installed. In the years 1912-1913 the interior of the church was arranged. Wooden choir stalls and benches were made by carpenters from Żórawina near Wrocław. The main altar with rich woodcarving ornaments and the pulpit were made in Schreiner's workshop in Munich. The side altars, however, are the work of the sculptor Frilhase from Erfurt, and the beautiful stained-glass windows depicting the figures of saints come from the workshop of Linnemann from Frankfurt am Main. The 32-register organ was built by the famous organ master Wilhelm Sauer. Cardinal Jerzy Kopp from Wrocław performed the solemn consecration of the temple on 1st June 1913. Out of the three bells installed in the church in 1911 one was saved as the remaining ones were requisitioned by the German army around 1943.



## 6 MUNICIPAL PARK

Municipal Park in Kluczbork was established at the end of the 19th century. The area of the park is 22.3 ha and it turns smoothly into a forest area. The park was recorded at the register of monuments in 1976. A thorough revitalization was made in 2009-2010.

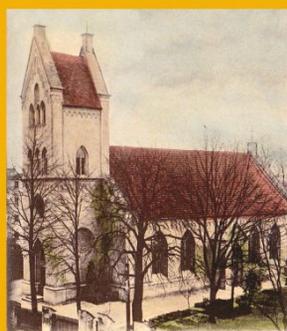
About 200 species of plants grow in the park. The most abundant trees are oaks and lindens, but you can also see rare trees, such as Japanese ginkgo (*Ginkgo biloba*), katsura (*Cercidophyllum japonicum*), American sweetgum (*Liquidambar styraciflua*) and dawn redwood (*Metasequoia glyptostroboides*). In addition, there are rhododendrons, azaleas, Japanese spirea (*Spirea japonica*), boxwoods (*Buxus sempervireus*). There is also a flower meadow with cornflowers (*Centaurea cyanus*), poppies and rose champions (*Silene coronaria*). Water lilies grow in the pond in the park.

In the past, there was a municipal swimming pool in the vicinity of Municipal Park. The swimming pool complex was opened on June 8, 1918. The bathing area was closed in the 1990s. In its place, a pitch with artificial turf, a skate park, an open-air gym, and earth trampolines were built within the last years. The municipal stadium was opened in 1927 on the adjacent bathing area. The sports complex consisted of a soccer field, a cinder track, two long jump areas, a high jump area and a shot put circle. The players could also use fully equipped, modern changing rooms. Currently, the stadium is the main sports facility of the MKS Kluczbork football club.



## 7 THE GLORIETTE

The Gloriette is a monument commemorating the residents of Kluczbork who died during the First World War. The monument was designed by architect Hans Mühlfeld from Lippstadt in Westphalia. The Gloriette was placed on an artificially raised hill. Four limestone pillars covered with a copper roof topped with a gilded ball with an iron cross made the body of the monument. Inside the monument, in the niches, there are sandstone commemorative plaques, in which the names of 448 citizens of Kluczbork who died during the First World War were engraved. Interestingly enough, among most German- and Polish-sounding surnames there are also French-sounding ones. They are the descendants of former Napoleonic soldiers who settled in these areas. Inside, under the dome, there is also an inscription in German: „Im Kämpfen und Sterben, in Treue und Tat sind wird Eure Erben, Alles ist Saat” „In battle and suffering, in hardships and deeds this is and will be your legacy, everything is a seed”. A list of donors thanks to whom the monument was created is placed in the ball on the roof. The ceremonial unveiling of the monument took place on 30th October 1927. About 8,000 people participated in the event. Until the end of the Second World War, patriotic celebrations were held at the monument. From this place, the residents of Kluczbork holding lanterns set out on a silent march to the market square and back. As part of the town park's revitalization in 2010, the gloriette was thoroughly renovated.



## 8 THE CATECHIST CENTRE (FORMER HOLY TRINITY CHURCH)

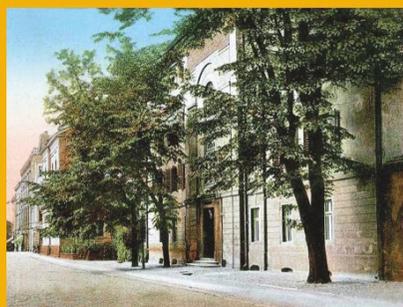
In this place, probably in the Middle Ages, there was already a wooden church of the Holy Trinity called a cemetery church. The church belonged to the parish church of the Saviour. In 1558 the church was taken over by Evangelicals. In 1659 the church was extended. From 1708 the church became a place of worship for Catholics. In 1713 church towers were built, and in the years 1725-1726 the church was enlarged again and the entire building was fenced. In 1823 the wooden church was replaced with a brick one of Sts. Peter and Paul. In 1929 it was bought by the authorities and served as a chapel for patients of a mental hospital. In 1945 the building suffered a fire. It was rebuilt in the 1950s and is now a catechist centre. Next to the church was the oldest municipal cemetery, used from the foundation of the town until 1886.



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## JOHANN DZIERZON MUSEUM (FORMER PRINCELY CASTLE)

In the place of the current Johann Dzierzon Museum, already in the 13th century, there was a princely court, replaced with a brick castle in the 14th century. The oldest preserved record in the sources about the castle dates back to 1581. In 1590 the princes of Legnica and Brzeg, the then owners of Kluczbork, transformed the castle into a multi-storey building with Gothic windows. In 1720 the castle was converted into the administrative headquarters of Kluczbork's imperial estate. In the 19th century there was a tax office and courts of various instances. It was not until 1854 that the building received the second floor. In 1907 the former castle tower was raised and turned into a water tower, receiving a new double tier tent roof. In order to improve communication in this part of Kluczbork and lead traffic outside the town walls, in 1931-1932, the lower part of the building was demolished along with the royal salt warehouse standing at its rear. In 1959 the Johann Dzierzon Museum was created as a branch of the Museum of Opole Silesia in Opole. In 1962 it was



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## FORMER POORHOUSE

The building was built on the site of the former Commandry of the Knights of the Cross with the Red Star, destroyed in the years 1736-1737 during the town fire. In 1776 the Prussian King Frederick II the Great set up a foundation whose aim was to build a building that would be a shelter for the poor, disabled, homeless, beggars. The classical building was erected on the plan of an elongated rectangle with two transverse lateral wings forming a plan similar to the letter H. The author of the design was Carl Gotthard Langhans, a famous architect of the turn of the 18th century into the 19th (he designed, among others, the Brandenburg Gate in Berlin), who also personally directed construction works. The grand opening of the national poorhouse took place on 23rd May 1779. The building could accommodate about 500 poor, disabled and homeless people and beggars. From 1804 the building also housed a hospital. As a result of the fire in 1819, the building was significantly destroyed. In the years 1820-1823 the building was rebuilt with architectural changes and simplifications, and in 1874 it was converted into a local hospital for the mentally ill. On 14th December 1939 the first prisoner-of-war camp called Oflag VIII A Kreuzburg was created in Silesia. In 1942 it was transformed into Ilag, a camp for interned citizens of the countries remaining at war with the Third Reich, which functioned until January 1945.

# KLUCZBORK HISTORIC TRAIL



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