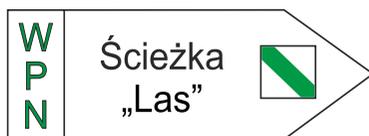


„Las” (Forest) educational path

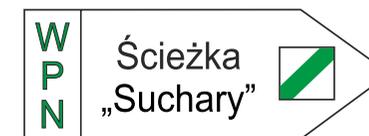
- length 1.5 km
- walking time 1 hour
- 12 stops



- 1 Subcontinental deciduous forest - is most fertile habitat with many species of plants and animals. Many species of deciduous trees, grow here, hence it looks the most beautiful in spring, when, thanks to the absence of foliage, the forest floor is covered with flowering common hepaticas and anemones.
- 2 Reindeer hunters' settlement - the stop is situated at an archaeological site from the Stone Age. The reindeer hunters led a nomadic life, moving after herds of reindeer.
- 3 Riparian alder-ash forest - grows on the bottom of the river valleys, along rivers and streams. The dominant species of trees in the riparian areas are: black alder, downy birch and willow. In dry areas we can also find ash.
- 4 Mixed coniferous forest - a habitat occurring most often on post-glacial forms, known as moraines and outwash fields (where soil is quite poor). The forest is formed mostly by conifers, such as pine and spruce mixed with deciduous trees. Some of the pines here reach the age of almost 300 years.
- 5 Coniferous bog forest and spruce forest on peat - is the final stage of overgrowing bogs. In Suwalszczyzna region it often surrounds small, mid-forest, lakes called Suchary. This kind of forest consists mostly of scots pine. Additionally, downy birch and spruce may appear.
- 6 Resin blaze - an old method of gathering tree resin by cutting grooves in a tree, which resulted in the leak of resin. For this purpose pine trees were the best, since they have a lot of resin canals.
- 7 Anthill of European red wood ant (*Formica polyctena*) - along with southern wood ants (*Formica rufa*), it is one of the most common ant species in the Polish forests. The ants build usually several nests that are connected together with communication routes. In the place where we now stand, the whole slope is occupied by ants.
- 8 Beaver lodge - apart from burrows in banks of rivers and lakes, beavers live in lodges. They are built from the branches, plants and mud. The entrances to the nest chambers in lodges are situated under the water surface.
- 9 Plants visible from the bridge - a typical Suchar lake is surrounded by a ring of peat bog growing from land towards the centre of the lake. The peat bog is composed mainly of peatmoss, however, many other plant species such as: round-leaved sundew, bog-rosemary, marsh Labrador tea or bogbean can be found there.
- 10 Tree-beekeeping in the wigry area - has a long and rich tradition. In specially prepared hollows in trees, the first beekeepers had kept the bees. Honey from the beehive is in the form of a dense mixture of wax, honey and pollen.
- 11 Reptiles - threats and protection - all species of reptiles are protected in Poland, but that does not prevent the drop in their numbers recorded across the country. Therefore, the Park performs all sorts of active actions to protect these animals.
- 12 Protection of the insects nesting in clay - in the Park there are many structures built from clay to create the right conditions for nesting for some species of bees. One of them is very rarely found Hairy-footed Flower Bee (*Anthophora plumipes*).

„Suchary” educational path

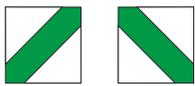
- length 2.5 km
- walking time 2 hours
- 7 stops



- 1 Suchar II - is an isolated lake with an area of 2.6 ha and a maximum depth of 9.5 m. The lake is surrounded by a peat bog. A part of the lake shore is free from the peat bog, in the place where it is bordered by a steep slope. The dark color of the water and its natural acidity result from the inflow of large amounts of humic substances, which are formed in the process of decomposition of leaves and needles. Water bodies of this type are called dystrophic lakes.
- 2 Life in Suchar - acidic water poor in calcium, low availability of nutrients, very strong variations in temperature and oxygen concentration at different depths, as well as many other factors, make Suchar lakes inhabitable only for specific groups of aquatic organisms. They differ significantly from the flora and fauna of meso- and eutrophic lakes.
- 3 Traces and tracks of animals - in the area of Wigry National Park about 2,000 species of animals have been described so far. Most of them are small invertebrates, mainly insects. There are numerous birds - 206 species and mammals - 53 species. Many of them live in the woods. Following the forest path we can rarely encounter large animals. Most often they are active in the early morning and evening. It is much easier to observe traces of their activity, including tracks, characteristic signs of feeding and droppings.
- 4 Trees and shrubs - there are 6 information boards, showing the trees and shrubs growing in the area.
- 5 Suchar IV - (area of 1.15 ha, max. depth 8.0 m) is a place where a family of beavers used to live. On the opposite shore of the lake you can see the remains of the beaver lodge. In several places on the peat bog you can see places, where beavers chew tree branches brought from the forest.
- 6 Subcontinental deciduous forest - is a forest consisting of oak, hornbeam, small-leaved linden, Norway maple and additionally by various species of elm. In the north-eastern Poland there is also spruce and pine.
- 7 Lake Czarne - (area 23.5 ha, maximum depth 8.8 m) is a fertile (eutrophic) water body, with muddy and sandy bottom and rich vegetation. The species of plants and aquatic animals living here are different than those in Suchar lakes. Lake Czarne is situated outside Wigry National Park, but it is located within the boundaries of Natura 2000 area.

Tourists visiting educational paths need to buy entrance tickets to Wigry National Park

Tourist Information Centre of Wigry National Park,
Krzywe 82, 16-402 Suwałki
tel. : (87) 563 25 62, (87) 563 25 77, 510 992 672;
E-mail: turystyka@wigry.org.pl; www.wigry.org.pl



Educational paths near the village of Krzywe

