

OFFER AND PURPOSE OF TOURIST TRIPS ON BARBARKA

Agnieszka Dorawa, Joanna Martewicz
Leading person – dr Anna Dubownik
Nicolaus Copernicus University in Toruń

Barbarka is the recreation and relaxation area located in the administrative boundaries of the city of Toruń, however it is far away from the city. It was intended mostly for citizens but also for arriving tourists. The very first mention of the forest settlement “Barbarka” took place in 1299. It was connected with worship of Saint Barbara – even up till today there is antique chapel of St. Barbara from 1842 where masses have taken place during summer time (W. Rozynekowski, 2005). In this place there was also a mill – it was teeming with life settlement (there are plans to rebuild this mill). This area is connecting two historical moments – the old one, during St. Barbara’s worship and more recent from World War II. During autumn 1939 mass execution has taken place there on the prisoners of VII stronghold Toruń in order to eliminate polish intelligentsia (S. Grochowina, J. Szeling, 2009).

We can reach Barbarka using car, bus or bicycle (even city bike). This area is full of hiking and bike trails which makes this place much more attractive for active people. There is Nature Reserve nearby called “Las Piwnicki” and astronomic observatory in Piwnice.

One of the first building there were forester and stable. In the next steps accommodation base was build –in 2008 “Dworek” was created and one year later, “Gościniec”. There is also something like forest school, which is organizing activities for children and teenagers in order to expand their knowledge of flora and fauna, ecology, environmental protection or culture and history of this region. Despite above-mentioned infrastructure there is also separated area for family picnics with bonfires. For those who likes

climbing there is rope park, furthermore there is playground, places for playing team games, bicycle and sport equipment rental and amusement park with mini golf and bowling.

Equally at Barbarka there is Association "Tilia" which was founded in 1995. Its creating their own education programs, contests in order to popularize nature conservation and ecological view, mostly for kids. There are workshops for adults too. In 2018 this association has planned 4 projects. In 2017 there were 12 projects completed and in 2016 – 16. Their range contains whole [Kuyavian-Pomeranian voivodeship](#).

Below will be shown characteristic of chosen projects and their main assumptions in 2017. Project "Akademia przyrodników. Edukacja ekologiczna dzieci i młodzieży" (Academy of naturalists. Ecological education of children and youth) was meant to raise ecological awareness and popularize ecological life style. During classes children were taught simple ways to protect the environment like sorting waste. Despite that they also learned some of tourist attractions of this voivodeship.

"Akademia artystyczna seniorów" (Senior artist academy) is a project directed for elders and disabled living in Toruń. Its main purpose was to raise activity of elders and limiting their marginalization process. Participants had opportunity to learn new plastic techniques and learn about healthy life style. There were basketry classes, ceramics, decoupage, sewing and decorating Christmas baubles.

"Człowiek, środowisko, integracja. Ekowakacje na Barbarkę" (Human, environment, integration. Eco-vacations on Barbarka) is another project executed by association. It was directed for children in school age. During 6 days participants had opportunity to take part in educational and artistic workshops where they raised their consciousness about ecology in simple way through recognizing plants. They started to love nature and have more respect for it knowing how important it is in modern world to keep natural environment.

"Plener malarski" (Pictorial plein-air) is an European project. Its main purpose was to develop contacts between communities. At the symposium there were artists from European countries i.a. Norway, Italy or Sweden.

Summarizing, variety of projects being executed by association is big and interesting. Even the youngest or the eldest can find suitable subject for them. What's important, association doesn't discriminate disabled, they even encourage them to spend their time actively with other participants.

Forest school on Barbarka is being visited by 15.000 pupils, who are taking part in ecological classes in sustainable development spirit, every year. Many schools in Toruń and nearby cities are taking part in those events. Forest school even offers 2-3 days accommodation, so called "Zielona szkoła" (green school). Barbarka has 2 accommodation facilities. In "Dworek" there are 21 accommodations and conference room which can hold 110 people. "Gościniec" has 49 accommodations. It sums up to 70 accommodations which makes this place even better and encourage to take part in more events in this forest school.

According to a research carried out with representative method, open and closed questions there are many answers for different questions about Barbarka. Among others with whom people usually visit Barbarka, how often, how long do they spend here, what activities do they take part in, pros and cons of this place and if they would recommend this place to others.

Among 30 asked people, 100% would recommend Barbarka as great place to relax. It's quiet with rich infrastructure, it attract elders, youths and children. Among examined most people are families with children (35%) who came here actively spend their free time and children (20%) who play football or playing in rope park. 30% of those people are young ones who want to get out from their daily responsibilities, they can grill and spend time together away from noisy city centre. Rest of examined (15%) are people who do sports here, mostly jogging. Most people (80%) came here with relatives or friends. On the average this place is being visited by examined once a week for about 1 hour and 25 minutes. 45% came here to rest passively, take care of their children or rest while grilling. Rest of them combine resting with physical activity. Among upsides of this place examined pointed out peace and quiet (50%), rich infrastructure and many variety of spending time (20%), being away from city noise and others (30%). Main downsides were too little amount of toilets (15%), not enough bins (20%), poor public transport (38%) and others (27%).

Summarizing, Barbarka is ideal for citizens to rest. Huge offer of forest school's projects and Association "Tilia" enables many activities for each of age groups.

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