



## Pilot.pl

### Poland “How to” Guide, Intermediate Level: Instruction

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## GOAL

This guide will help you to fully utilize Pilot.pl ([Mapa.Szukacz.pl](http://Mapa.Szukacz.pl)) in determining specific locations in Poland.

## INTRODUCTION

Pilot.pl is a website map resource for traveling in Poland today. As a genealogy tool, it is not only helpful in locating a town, but multiple towns with the same name as well, by listing each town's various jurisdictions. It also quite accurately determines distances between locations in Poland.

It is recommended that you use the Google Chrome browser when using this website to take advantage of its ability to translate foreign-language websites into English.

## HOW TO

### Getting Started

1. Type [pilot.pl](http://pilot.pl) into your browser and click enter. The website will open as [mapa.szukacz.pl](http://mapa.szukacz.pl).
2. The website appears in Polish. If using the Chrome browser, right-click anywhere on the page and select the option **Translate to English**.
3. Click on **load the map**.
4. Click on the **two pink and white X's** in the upper left-hand corner to eliminate the advertisements. If the website reverted back to Polish, right-click anywhere on the page except the map, and choose the option **Translate to English**.

### Introduction to the key

You can search for specific places using the key located in the upper-right hand corner of the screen. In order to successfully search, it is important to be familiar with the different parts of the key. Please note that translations may differ slightly.

**Zoom in**

18 ☐ 37 cm  
 17 ☐ 73 cm  
 16 ☐ 1.5 m  
 15 ☐ 3 m  
 14 ☐ 6 m  
 13 ☐ 12 m  
 12 ☐ 23 m  
 11 ☐ 47 m  
 10 ☐ 94 m  
 9 ☐ 187 m  
 8 ☐ 374 m  
 7 ☐ 749 m  
 6 ☒ 1.5 km  
 5 ☐ 3 km  
 4 ☐ 6 km

**ROUTE** • To calculate the route, select the start and end points in the hit list, using the menu next to each hit.

**FIND and SHOW**

City

Street and house number

**Clear** **show**

**Advanced search**

**Distance** **Center** **Print** **Link**

Hotels

Center:

On the left is the **map's scale**. This allows you to zoom in and out, doubling the detail and halving the distance as one moves higher from one consecutive number to the next.

To the right of the scale, under **FIND and SHOW** is the box where one types in the name of the village or town one is searching for.

The **drop-down** box contains choices on a hide/show toggles that allows you to choose to view various types of businesses now found in Poland. While it automatically defaults to hotels, the drop-down list includes churches, cemeteries, and even sanatoriums – all possibly useful in researching genealogy.

Once you search for a specific place, a new box will appear in the key, labeled **LIST OF TRAFFIC**. This section displays the government jurisdictions in descending size: the province (województwo), district or county (powiat), and commune (gmina). You will need to turn off GoogleTranslate by clicking on the tiny overlapped black and white boxes icon located at the **top-right** side of the window to see the place names in Polish. This box will also display the population and current postal code.

## Search for a place

Once you have accessed pilot.pl, use the key to begin to search for a specific town or city in Poland.

1. Before beginning the search, it can be useful to hide hotels on the map. Click hide to the right of the drop-down box that is currently labeled as Hotels. Note that Hotels now reads Do not show any.
2. Type the name of a town in the place box under Find and Show place. Note as you begin to type at least three letters, a drop-down box will appear with possible matches.

If the place you are searching for appears, you can click the name to auto-fill the remaining letters. If you are unsure of the spelling of a specific town, but know the first few letters, this can be an excellent way to see all the possible towns that begin with those letters.

3. Leave the street and house number box blank.
4. Click show, located directly underneath the street and house number box.
5. The map will automatically zoom in to show the town. The List of Traffic section will appear to give the jurisdiction, population, and postal code for the place.

Sometimes there are multiple towns with the same name. When this occurs, each town will appear under the List of Traffic section, with the number of total corresponding towns showing in bold at the top of the box. A scroll bar may appear to allow you to scroll down to view all the corresponding towns. When this occurs, do one (or more) of the following to determine which is the correct town.

### Find churches using the drop-down box

1. Click the **drop-down box** to the left of the **show** button to choose what extra features to show on the map.
2. Select **Churches (Kościoły)** from the menu. Church icons will appear on the map. Hover your mouse over a church icon to, at the minimum, see the name of the church.
3. With the Church option turned on, enter a town name underneath **Find and Show** then click **Show**.
4. The map will zoom into the specific place, allowing you to see all churches within the town. If you hover your mouse over the **church icon**, you can learn the name of the parish, the administrative units it belongs to, and other useful contact information.
5. If possible, click **for more information** to access the church's official website.

### Determine the distance between two places

Once you have located a specific town or city, you can use the map to determine distances between that town and other places of interest. Note that these distances are measured in a straight-line manner, not by travel routes.

1. Once a place has been selected on the map, use the scale to zoom out by clicking on **the dot** directly beneath the current selection. This will allow you to see nearby town. If you've selected for the map to also display churches and/or cemeteries, those will be visible as well.

2. Hover your mouse over a one of the nearby places on the map. A **pink box** will appear on the bottom-right corner of the screen that will give the distance between your selected place and the location underneath your mouse. The distance is measured in kilometers.

## Find towns located in Poland before WWII

Many of the towns in pilot.pl were once a part of Poland, but now belong to other countries. While one could go directly to a gazetteer or to the regular Google Map website to see if it is listed there, the following method will allow you to use features unique to Pilot.pl, such as locating nearby churches or quickly determine the distance between your selected town and nearby places.

1. Type the name of a town in the **place** box under **Find and Show place**, as outlined earlier in the guide.

A popup box will appear stating there are **no hits**, meaning there are no matching locations in the map.

2. Find the **yellow box** at the bottom of the “No hits” message. Under Country you will see **PL**, the country code for Poland.
3. Delete **PL** then type an **asterisk (\*)** into the empty box.

If you know the country or country code where the town is currently located, type the country name or country code into the empty box.

4. Click **Show** and the town will appear on the map.

If the town is currently located in Ukraine, the name will be written in Cyrillic, making them all but impossible to read for those who cannot decipher that alphabet. To read the map, do the following:

1. Click **Photo SAT** at top right of the page.
2. The map will change to a satellite view. One can then see both the Latin and Cyrillic names for the town. Note that the spelling may be different from what you entered into Pilot.pl, depending on the country where the town is currently located.

This method has very limited results. Use **Kami.net.pl/kresy** to find the location of all towns that were in the eastern provinces of Poland (with their names spelled in Polish) between the two world wars but are now part of Ukraine, Belarus, or Lithuania.

## PRACTICE

Let's practice finding a place together. Use the instructions under **Access the Website** to go to pilot.pl and translate the page into English.

## Finding a place and determining distances between the two places

1. Click on **Hide** to the right of the box with the (default) **Hotels** typed in it to get rid of the "H's" all over the map. Note that **Hide** has changed to **Show** and that the box now contains **Do not show any**.
2. Enter "Czubrowice" in the box under **Find and Show Place** and click **Show** just below that. Note that as you type in the third letter in Czubrowice, you will find a drop-down menu with suggestions of all possible town or village names starting with the letters Czu- in Poland. This is especially helpful when one is uncertain as to the current spelling of the name of a town.
3. Note the black dot on 13 (possibly 14 - depending on the size of your computer monitor) of the zoom in and out map scale and the **List of Traffic** (may also translate as **Hit List**) that gives more information about Czubrowice. We can find its three jurisdictions in descending size: Province (województwo), District – or county (powiat), and Commune – or community (gmina). The listing also gives the current population – 1120 people. Czubrowice population: 1120 people as well as the current city postal zip code: 32-049.
4. On the map, hover your mouse over the village of Raclawice located somewhat below the perimeter of Czubrowice (just hover, do not click) and then look at the pink box in the lower right-hand corner to measure the distance between towns in kilometers (km.) Czubrowice and Raclawice are about 2.2 km. apart.
5. Zoom out to see surrounding towns. Click on the circle next to 9 in the **Map Scale** to zoom out. Then, hover over Kraków (to the right and somewhat downward) to determine its distance from Czubrowice – it's about 25 km.

## Finding the correct location of a town with the same name as another town in Poland

1. Enter the name "Nowa Wieś." It brings up 469 hits or results and generates a pink circle on the map (up to the first fifty listings).
2. As you scroll through the results found under the **Hit List**, you'll find many instances where Nowa Wieś precedes another identifying name that clarifies which town one is looking for, such as Nowa Wieś Malborska – the Nowa Wieś that is located adjacent to the city of Malbork.
3. In other cases, rely upon the jurisdictions to differentiate between towns with the same name. The name of the województwo (province), likely changed several times through the years so the the powiat (area or county) and possibly the gmina (commune or community) jurisdictions should be considered as well.
4. It can also be helpful to know the name of a nearby town or city. Let's look for a Nowa Wieś located near Międzyrzecz.
5. Search for Międzyrzecz. The jurisdictions are listed as Lubuskie, Międzyrzecki, and Międzyrzecz. Now go back to Nowa Wieś and look for possibilities with the same

województwo, powiat, and/or gmina. Entry number 32 has the same województwo and powiat as Międzyrzecz. Hover the mouse over Międzyrzecz to determine that the two towns are only about 15 km. apart.

6. Enter Międzyrzecz again, move the scale down to 12 and drag the map in all directions within 15 km of Międzyrzecz to verify that there are no Nowa Wieś villages any closer to Międzyrzecz than the one that we have already found.

### Determine the spelling of a town using the first three (or more) known letters

1. In some cases, you may not know exactly how a town's name is spelled. You can search for the town by using the first three (or more) known letters. Let's try looking for a town that starts with Gdy-. It's known that this town is located along the coast.
2. In the **Place** box, begin typing in Gdy-. There are three results beginning with the letters G, d, and y: Gdynia, Nowa Gdynia, and Gdyczyna.
3. Enter each of these three towns (one at a time) and then click **Show**. You will find that while Nowa Gdynia, and Gdyczyna are landlocked, Gdynia lies along the Baltic coast, just north of Gdańsk and Sopot.

### Finding churches using the hide/show toggle

1. Click the **drop-down box** to the left of the **Show** button to choose what extra features to show on the map.
2. Select Churches (Kościoły) from the menu. Church icons will appear on the map. Hover your mouse over a church icon to, at the minimum, see the name of the church.
3. With the Church option turned on, enter **Dolistowo Stare** underneath **Find and Show** then click **Show**.
4. The map will zoom to Dolistowo Stare. Hover your mouse over the **church icon**. Not only does it tell you that the name of the parish is St. Wawrzyńca, but also the administrative units it belongs to (Knyszyn Deanery, Białystok Archdiocese), when the mass is celebrated each Sunday (8, 10, 12, 5 pm), the city (zip) code (19-126), and phone number (085 716 15 09).
5. Click **for more information** to access the Białystok Archdiocese website which provides a wealth of information about each individual church within that diocese. Note that not all icons for churches in pilot.pl will provide that much information.

### Find towns located in Poland before WWII

1. Type **Czulowice** in the **place** box under **Find and Show place**, as outlined earlier in the guide.

A popup box will appear stating there are **no hits**, meaning there are no matching locations in the map.

2. Find the **yellow box** at the bottom of the “No hits” message. Under Country you will see **PL**, the country code for Poland.
3. Delete **PL** then type an **asterisk (\*)** into the empty box.
4. Click **Show** and Czulowice will appear on the map.

Because Czulowice is currently located in Ukraine, the name will be written in Cyrillic, making them all but impossible to read for those who cannot decipher that alphabet. To read the map, do the following.

5. Click **Photo SAT** at top right of the page.
6. The map will change to a satellite view. One can then see both the Latin and Cyrillic names for the town. Note that the Ukrainian spelling is Chulovychi.
7. If one needs to know how far away Lviv (Lwów in Polish) is from Czulowice, simply move the map scale from 13 down to 10 and hover your mouse over Lviv (about 30 km away).
8. In addition to the above, you can also use [kami.net.pl/kresy](http://kami.net.pl/kresy) to find the location of all towns that were in the eastern provinces of Poland (with their names spelled in Polish) between the two world wars but are now part of Ukraine, Belarus, and Lithuania.

## ACTIVITY

Now, test your skills you have learned in this “How to” Guide. The Activity is a way to check your knowledge and let you know you’ve mastered the Guide! Click [here to try out the Activity](#).