

QUESTING



a game for everyone that will help you discover Ryn Castle
and its history. With a little effort, you will also solve
the secret password!

Noble Ladies and Gentlemen !

We are delighted that you have brought us joy by entering the hospitable halls of Ryn Castle. Welcome, then, to the threshold of a truly magical place whose host is history itself. Without history—and above all, without you—there can be no adventure. And since almost everyone enjoys an adventure, we invite you to have a taste of one.

You should know that this castle was built by the brothers of the Order of the Hospital of the Blessed Virgin Mary of the German House of Jerusalem, whom we know as the Teutonic Knights. It was erected in the 14th century and originally consisted of two wings. The oldest sources tell us that the castle already existed in 1377, although we do not know exactly what form it had at that time. Nevertheless, the building must have been impressive, because after inspecting it in 1379, the then Grand Master of the Order, Winrich von Kniprode, returned to his seat at Malbork Castle and established a commandery in Ryn. The first person appointed to this office, in 1393, was Frederick von Wallenrode, who was then the vogt of Tczew.

Imagine that the castle was built on a hill between two lakes. The complex consisted of the main castle and the outer bailey. The castle contained living quarters, a dormitory, a refectory, a chapter house, a chapel, the commander's residence, storerooms, cellars and—beside the convent house—internal wooden cloisters. The outer bailey contained stables, barns, a forge and other workshops, as well as one of the three manors that supplied the castle garrison.

Below the castle there were also craft workshops, a watermill, taverns and the homes of local residents. Iron was obtained by smelting bog iron ore in bloomery furnaces near present-day Rudówka, while lime came from the area around present-day Wejdyki.

The main “official” language in those days was Latin. To help you feel the atmosphere of this place, we will refer to that language today as we invite you on a puzzle trail through the castle. Along the way, you will find many Latin maxims that were well known and often quoted in the days of the Order. During your walk, you will need this sheet and something to write with—for example, a pen from your room or from Reception. A flashlight may also prove useful, especially after dark. By reading the Latin maxims carefully, you will solve the password and thus join the select company of Guests Who Know!

Set off, then!

Begin at the main entrance gate on the town side. On the floor you can see the direction of Jerusalem and the distance separating us from it—just in case anyone is planning another crusade! Take a close look at the walls as well.

On the left, you will see a plaque commemorating the people thanks to whom the castle is alive today and has the pleasure of welcoming you. The wooden beams bear carved coats of arms of nearby towns where members of the Order had their seats. On the right, two important visits are commemorated: the first by Grand Master Winrich von Kniprode and another visit to the castle by the then Grand Master. An interesting fact is that in 2010 Bishop Bruno Platter personally unveiled this plaque.

Carved maxims have also been placed on both sides of the corridor. The one on the left [when facing the stairs] means “Where there is concord, there is courage,” while the one on the right means “For the perpetual remembrance of the matter.”

The 19th letter of the maxim on the left will be the 9th letter of our password.

Keep going!

Go up the stairs to the left and enter the corridor through the door.

The Middle Ages were largely devoted to mortification, prayer and concern not for the pleasures of everyday life, but for what awaited people after death. Above the entrance to the corridor you will therefore find what is probably the most famous medieval maxim.

The 6th letter will be the 10th letter, and the 9th letter will be the 5th letter of our password.

You may now take the elevator or use the stairs to reach the 4th floor of the Knight’s Wing, where you are currently standing. The symbol of this part of the castle, shown on the carpet, is Saint George slaying the dragon. From the end of the Second World War until the hotel was established, this was the only wing used in its entirety—it housed the offices of the Town and Municipality.

