In 2005 a 4km long fortification route was marked leading to the most interesting military monuments on Wolin Island. Because of its historical and educational importance, it gained the status of a didactic route.

The route starts at the EASTERN FORT, also called GERHARD'S FORT, it is the only preserved Prussian fort of the old southern fortification complex.

The next point on the route are the bunkers of the coastal battery, STRANDBATTERIE. These fortifications were built in 1909 – 1910. The name is connected to the location - near the beach (German; Strand – beach). To date the big bunker can be seen with the cannon and a shelter for the artillery headquarters.

The battery was equipped with 4 cannons, each of 283 mm caliber, mounted at the roof of the bunker. It was capable of hitting warships up to 20 km away. There are the ammunition magazine and the maintenance facility of the battery in the underground part of the bunker. Nearby, in a separate bunker an artillery headquarters was situated, equipped with a passive optical rangefinder. From this place targets were observed and the artillery firing was controlled. The battery was used during World War I and in the interwar period. Before the outbreak of World War II, the battery was unarmed and closed down.

Following the "Fortification Route" we pass two firing positions of the Prussian coastal artillery from the beginning of the 20th century. One of these is the command bunker HAUTSTAND OST. It was one of the four such positions built at the mouth of Swina in 1896 – 1911. Two of them functioned on Uznam Island while the other two on Wolin Island. Both of them were rarely used by the navy. Recently, after a total renovation, the bunker serves as a fire protection tower for the management of the Fire Inspectors in Międzyzdroje.

Because of its historical and educational importance, it gained the status of a didactic route. This bunker was supposed to be "the eyes of the battery". The "Göben" battery was ready for a battle in 1939. After the September Campaign the cannons and other equipment were moved to Tarva Island in Norway. After the war, "the bell" was very common on the Polish shore. Their aim was to prevent any airborne attacks of NATO forces.

During World War II a dozen or so fortified anti-aircraft batteries were constructed around the Świnoujście Fortress. Their aim was the protection of the port against air raids. Next to one of these batteries OBERSTRANDBATTERIE, we see the "Fortification Route". The battery was called the anti-aircraft barrage battery, constructed on the sand-dunes in 1937 – 1938, capable of shooting both aircrafts and warships. The battery was equipped with 105 mm anti-aircraft cannons and a rotating optical rangefinder, all hidden under the rotating armoured domes and mounted in the concrete bunkers. The battery complex was composed of barracks, power station and the underground ammunition magazine. The "Oberstrand" battery was operated by the Kriegsmarine artillerymen and was functioning till the very last days of the war. Many times it took part in operations preventing Allied attacks in Swinoujscie. The battery's bunkers are one of the best preserved fortifications of this type in the vicinity of Świnoujście.

Bunkers of the coastal battery "INLAND" are another architectural military monument on the "Fortification Route". The buildings placed in vicinity were built in 1930 – 1933, at some distance from the shore in a way hidden from the view of enemy warships. The name of the battery comes from the fact that it was located in the massive forest (German, Forst – forest).

At the end of the "Fortification Route" lies the "BATTALION REINFORCED DISTRICT," also called FORSTRATE. It was one of the four such positions built at the south of the island, near the border crossing with Germany. The "Battalion Reinforced District" was one of the most interesting military fortifications from the Cold War period. Such system of engineering barriers and reinforcements made of concrete was very common on the Polish shore.

The Göbel Bunker is managed by the Forest Inspectorate in Międzyzdroje, phone no. +48 91 32 80 057 www.szczecin.lasy.gov.pl

www.swinoujscie.pl

Map's project: M. W. Brzeziński

Photo: T. Ambroszczyk, W. Basałygo, K. Kasperska

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FORTIFICATION ROUTE
ACROSS WOLIN ISLAND

Zatoka Pomorska Pomorsche Bucht

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www.swinoujscie.pl
Anger's Fort was erected by the Prussians between the years 1854-1858 as a defensive structure that would ensure protection of western fortifications from the mainland. Initially called Work II, the fort was renamed Gerhard's Castle due to its striking resemblance to the Roman mausoleum erected for Emperor Hadrian, which was later transformed into the Papal seat.

After the second world war Angel's Fort was taken over by the Soviet navy and used at first also as an educational institution on the eastern banks of the mouth of the Świna river. Between the years 1870-1880 the fort's internal embankments were fortified with three field gun bunkers, a small ammunition storage and an artillery bunker. At the end of the 19th century the fort was connected to telegraphic, telephonic and power network. During the first world war a narrow-gauge railroad connection was set up between Angel's Fort and other fortifications of the stronghold, along with machine gun posts.

During the second half of the 19th century Angel's Fort was guarded by a company of nearly 100 infantry members. After the end of the first world war the fort was transformed into the headquarters of a cadet artillery school, which was connected by narrow-gauge railroad to other fortifications of the stronghold.

In the year 1962 the fort was transferred to municipal authorities.

Hours: 9 am to sunset (XI - IV: 10 am – 5 pm)
Admission: PLN 9/PLN 7, groups of 10 and more – PLN 7/person.