The history of Łomża dates back to the tenth century. It received a municipal charter in 1418, and from the mid-sixteenth century, because it was granted the status of a royal town, it became an important political, cultural, religious and economic center of the Eastern Mazovia region. Jews who previously lived in Łomża were expelled in 1556 when the town granted the privilege de non tolerandis Judaeis [of not tolerating Jews]. They were not allowed to return until 1815. In the latter part of the nineteenth century, many Jews were involved in the grain and timber trades. By the twentieth century, Łomża had developed a politically and culturally active Jewish community represented by such institutions as a yeshiva, several Jewish schools, newspapers and political parties, and a Jewish hospital. On the eve of the Holocaust, Jews made up slightly over half the population of the town.

Łomża was in the part of Poland seized by the Soviets in 1939. In June 1941, it was occupied by the Germans, who imposed a ghetto two months later. Jews were forced to make shoes for the Germans and to clean the streets. From June to September 1941, 3,500 Jews were murdered in the nearby woods. In November 1942, the ghetto was liquidated and the Jews shipped to a camp in Zambrów, where some were murdered on the spot and others were sent to Treblinka.

**Location**

79 km W of Białystok  
53°11′/22°04′  
Voivodship: Łomża

**General Population, 1939**

20,000 (55% Jewish)

**General Population, 1994**

54,800

**Synagogue**

Corners of ul. Senatorska and Gielczyńska  
Great Synagogue built in 1880.  
Destroyed in September 1941.
JEWISH CEMETERIES

ul. Węska 69

ul. Rybki
Old cemetery dates back to 1820. Remaining tombstones: 200.

HOLOCAUST MEMORIALS

ul. Senatorska 8
Memorial plaque (site of former synagogue).

Village of Gielczyn
Memorial dedicated in 1989; commemorates place of execution of several thousand Jews, including Jews from Łomża.

ul. Węska 69 (Jewish cemetery)
Monument.

DEPORTATIONS

Zambrow, Auschwitz-Birkenau, Treblinka.