

Gdańsk

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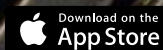
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The Opener in Gdynia takes place 29.06-02.07. Find out what else is on at iyp.me/whatsongdansk Photo by D. Nelke. Courtesy of the City of Gdynia

Foreword

While we love it here at any time of the year, we have to admit that this is the best time to live here. When the sun is out, the temperatures are warm and the three cities of Gdansk, Sopot and Gdynia are full of colour, it really is a wonderful place to be. You have plenty of choice as to where to spend your time and your money and within these pages, we try to give you some tips as to where to do both.

The local beer brewing industry has blossomed in the last couple of years thanks to the work of some talented local brewers and a surge in demand for good quality beer. We look at the history of the local brewing industry and highlight where you can buy locally produced beer. We can also boast an extended 'What's On' section which is merely the tip of the iceberg in terms of what you can entertain yourselves with while you are here. For more options take a look at the What's On section of our website.

Don't forget that you can also download our new apps and please stay in touch via our various social media accounts, details of which you can find dotted throughout the guide. Have a great stay.

COVER STORY

The cover shows a statue of local painter Antoni Suchanek (1901-1982) looking out on his favourite seascape next to the pier in Gdynia Orłowo. Less crowded than nearby Sopot, Orłowo is well worth a visit.



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ABOUT IYP

In Your Pocket, the world's leading publisher of locally-produced city guides since 1992, recently launched a brand new smartphone app: **In Your Pocket City Essentials**. Featuring only hand-picked venues and sights alongside essential travel information, these city guides have been carefully crafted by our local editors and include only the places they are happy to recommend. The app - available on both *iOS* and *Android* - is free, and works offline. Go to iyp.me/app on your smartphone to download it.

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What is the Tri-city?

While this guide is called Gdansk In Your Pocket, it is worth noting that it is a guide to the whole of, what the locals call, *Trojmiasto* (Tri-city). The Tri-city is made up of three cities (Gdansk, Sopot and Gdynia) each proudly independent; each with its own city government and mayor and most importantly each with its own history. For the sake of clarity this guide is named after the city which is the oldest, largest and best known internationally. Gdansk is recognised as being over 1,000 years old, a city that has been fought over for centuries by Poles and Germans, Russians and Swedes to name just a few, but which has a rich yet sometimes tragic history. Sopot developed as a spa resort developing a reputation as a playground for the rich and famous. Gdynia meanwhile is a city which was born with a purpose little under one hundred years ago. Today's city was conceived to represent Polish independence and to give the country access to the sea. It was built to challenge and resist the power of Gdansk and though the world has changed a lot in the last century it still often sees itself playing the role of yang to Gdansk's ying.

The growth of the cities in the past 60 years has meant that the spaces and boundaries between them have gradually been filled and whittled away to the point where there is now an almost seamless conurbation running over 40km along the Baltic coast from Gdansk in the south to Gdynia in the north.

For the purpose of brevity we have joined the three cities together in this guide but please note the city name included next to each review as they may literally be in a different city to the one you are in.



GDANSK

Gdansk has been a cosmopolitan city for centuries and has welcomed people of all nationalities and creeds for the vast majority of them. On two occasions it has even been a state in its own right and traditionally people from here would describe themselves as Danzigers (to use the German name) or Gdańszczanin (to use the Polish) which demonstrates the unique nature of this once great port city. Seen as the main tourist attraction in the region, thanks to its long, rich history and beautifully rebuilt old town, Gdansk is also the region's economic powerhouse.

And don't forget that this is the city where two of the key moments in 20th century history took place – the first shots of WWII were fired here while 40 years later the first cracks in the Iron Curtain were forced open by the Solidarity movement.

SOPOT

Sopot is one of the country's most famous and fashionable towns particularly in the summer months when it often feels that half of the capital has decamped here to see and be seen. The town's modern history began with the building of a bathhouse and spa by a retired French doctor in Napoleon's army and its reputation continued to grow through the first few decades of the 20th century when, as part of the German Empire and then as a part of the Free City of Gdansk, it became the summer home and playground for many of Europe's ruling classes. Kaiser Wilhelm II, for instance, had a summer home here.

Today, Sopot is once again a hip and happening place with its trendy nightlife making it the Tri-city's party town. Its sandy and sheltered beaches and range of top class hotel and spas, kilometres of cycle routes and forest paths makes it a popular place to come and relax.

GDYNIA

Gdynia is a city born out of the Treaty of Versailles in 1919. The League of Nations' decision to create the Free City of Danzig (Gdansk) left the neighbouring village of Gdynia in the newly reformed Polish state and at the end of the infamous Polish Corridor – the narrow strip of land granted to Poland to give it access to the sea. The quiet fishing village became the focus of huge development – construction began on May 21, 1921 and within 5 years a new city and major port had been created. While it lacks the 1,000 year history of its better known neighbour, Gdynia is a wonderful example of a 20th century city with its construction covering the Art Deco period of the 20s and 30s, the Socialist era of post-war Europe and the modern designs of the post-communist Poland. Sometimes seen as the serious brother of the three Gdynia has some beautiful beaches and walks as well as some good little restaurants, cafes and bars.



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The Revival of Local Beer

Gdansk has a rich tradition of brewing and a recent revival in the art has given you more choice than ever. We look at which to choose and where to find them.

Polish vodka, great, Polish beer, not so great. That's not a rare opinion, and one frequently espoused by the staff of In Your Pocket.

This is a line that we had in this guide for many years. When we first started publishing guides in Poland back in the 1990s, beer consumption had only recently begun to increase and was still rather unfashionable – vodka was still the tippable of choice. Then Poles preferred, for traditional and economic reasons, to socialise at home rather than in a bar and to do so with vodka. The level of beer consumption had begun to climb during the nineties as the large international brewing groups snaffled up Polish breweries and invested heavily in capacity and equipment, but even by the end of the nineties, consumption per capita of beer stood at round 40 litres per person per year which, while markedly up on the 24 litres per head recorded in 1965, was still way behind the beer-guzzling levels of their German (approx. 120l) and Czech (approx. 150l) neighbours.

Without wishing to do a disservice to the major brewers (we've donated heavily to the producers of beers like Zywiec and Tyskie over the years) the Polish beer market was still quite immature. The two main requirements for a beer, alongside being wet and cold, was that it was cheap and strong. Many a foreign stag party has fallen and continues to fall foul of the extra strength Polish beer and this satisfied the demands of the bulk of the Polish beer-drinking public. Foreign brands slowly began to appear and those who wanted to drink something other than the standard lager could find some bars offering such exotic beers as Guinness stout or Paulaner wheat beer. But choice remained limited and quality varied hugely due in a large part to the lack of experience and training of most bar owners.

WHERE DID THE BREWERIES GO?

Being here in Gdansk, the lack of good quality beer always struck us as a little ironic. As far back as the early part of the 16th century there is estimated to have been over 400 breweries in the city. The city had a rich brewing tradition with one of its most famous exponents over the centuries being the astronomer Johannes Hevelius. While he is most famous for his celestial discoveries, it must be remembered he paid the bills for many years by brewing, among others, the Jopen beer. Today's ul. Piwna (Beer Street) was called Jopengasse for centuries and the Hevelius family were just one of hundreds of brewery families in the Gdansk area.

By the latter part of the 19th century the numbers of breweries had dwindled to just a couple of dozen but the extension of the railway connected Gdansk (Danzig) with Berlin and markets in the west. This development prompted investors to build a modern brewery on the site of an old wooden brewery in the Kuźniczki (Kleinhammer) area of Gdansk-Wrzeszcz (Langfuhr) district close to the Strzyża river (Strießbach). The production process was industrialised and the modern brewery became the Danziger Aktien



Bierbrauerei with a siding built directly into the brewery from the neighbouring Gdansk-Wrzeszcz railway station. By the 20th century records show that there remained just 14 breweries in the city with much of the city's beer, such as its most famous brand Artus, now coming from D.A.B. and by the time the First World War had ended, they had either taken over most of the surviving smaller breweries or driven them out of business. In the inter-war period the brewery dominated the landscape of Wrzeszcz and is mentioned by Gunter Grass in the third of the Danzig Trilogy, Dog Years.

Possibly the compound rose like a turreted castle behind the gloomy brick wall. Definitely, the high church windows of the machine house were framed in smooth Dutch brick. The chimney was squat but nevertheless, regardless of what direction you looked from, dominated the whole of Langfuhr. I could swear that the Aktien chimney wore a complicated helmet, a knight's helmet.

What was left of the area's brewing industry was nationalised after WWII and with a new population came new brands. The pre-war stalwarts of Jopenbier, Caramel and Uhrbock were replaced although Artus lived on to be joined by Gdanskie, Hevelius and Kaper over the following decades when the plant was first rebuilt and then modernised. Beer carried on being produced right through the Communist era but beer consumption never reached anything near pre-war levels and capacity of the Wrzeszcz brewery, by now called Gdańskie Zakłady Piwowskie (Gdansk Beer Works), was a fraction of the D.A.B. brewery at the end of WWII.

Following the fall of the Communist government the brewery in Wrzeszcz was privatised and it was still possible to buy Hevelius and Gdanskie right up until 2001, when after being bought by the Zywiec Group, themselves part of Heineken, it was closed. With its closure, not only did Gdansk lose its last working brewery but also a favourite beer of ours, Hevelius, went with it.

It all got a bit staid for a few years after that. Tyskie, Zywiec and Lech dominated the market along with the fashionable foreign brands like Heineken and Carlsberg. Things only started to look up for beer aficionados with the launch of the city's first microbrewery at Brovarnia in 2008.

GET OUT AND TRY SOME

So where should you go to sample the different beers mentioned.

BOTTLED BEERS

Most bars have caught onto the popularity of the craft bottled beer at this stage. For the best choice and most enjoyable experience look out for **Amsterdam Bar, Flisak 76, Pułapka, Lawendowa 8, Polskie Kino** and **Absinthe** in **Gdańsk**. **Sopot** has unfortunately lost one of its best bars with the closure of **Czarna Wolga** though the owners have told us that they will be back with the **Konsulat Dobrego Piwa** (The Good Beer Consulate) sometime in May. They are currently renovating the old Keybell Pub set in a former public toilet on ul. Gen. Sikorskiego. Until then look out for **Dwie Zmiany** on the main street who include **Warmińskie Rewolucje** on tap which is brewed just outside Pomerania but gets a vote from us nonetheless.

Up in **Gdynia** you have **Kandelabry, Nonsens** and the aforementioned **AleBrowar** each offering a selection of different bottled beers.

MICROBREWERIES

Browarnia was the first and is still, without question the best, helped by the fact that its beer is tasty, fresh and there's a great food menu to go with it. **Browarnia** is also best because, try as we may, we can't really get enthusiastic about the others. The beers at **Browar Piwna, Browar Lubrow** and the latest to open, **Browar Gdynia Port**, just don't seem to do it for us. That said, this is not about what's 'the best' rather what we like ourselves, so give them a go and let us know what you think.

MULTITAPS

The new kids on the block, offering at least 15-20 different beers each, on tap. Prices are higher than you'd pay for a typical Polish beer but, in our extensive research, we found the extra investment worth it. For the moment you have two to choose from - **Browar Spółdzielczy**, set in the basement of an office building on a modernised army garrison in **Gdańsk Wrzeszcz** or **AleBrowar** in **Gdynia**.

BEER TASTING TOUR

We've teamed up with a local guide who offers beer tasting tours for those wanting to see a little of the city and hear about which beers to try. Our man Alasdair (a Scot) will give you a crash course in Polish beers, tell you where they are from, how they are made and provide you with eight different beers to taste and rate on a scorecard. It's a lot of fun and a great way to spend an evening. The tour costs 25 euros per head and you can find out more by mailing us at poland@inyourpocket.com.

At last there was a choice of light and dark beers and the novelty of the in-house brewing process and the quality of the beers were a bit of a landmark moment. Economics dictated that this didn't signal the start of a microbrewery boom but things did begin to change.

Over the next few years previously unheard of bottled beers began appearing in bars around the city from all over Poland. Hats off to those, such as **Degustornia, Poczekalnia** and **Amsterdam bar** who began the task of introducing new tastes and types of beer with a mix of international beers and small Polish craft brews. What started with a trickle soon turned into a flood and the choice was further widened with the arrival of bottled beers from the **Browar Amber** (Amber Brewery) in nearby **Bielkówek**. Built on the site of a former Communist state farm, **Amber** had been going since 1994, but around 2010 we discovered their **Zywe** non-pasteurised beer, which remains a favourite to this day. Later **Złote Lwy** (Golden Lions), named after the two lions in the **Gdańsk Coat of Arms** appeared and then **Amber** teamed up with the **Gdańsk History Museum** to produce a limited range of beers (named **Johannes**) in 2011 to mark **Hevelius Year**, the 400th anniversary of the astronomer's birth. Despite the increased choice in beers now, you'll still be onto a sure thing if you buy us one of these three.

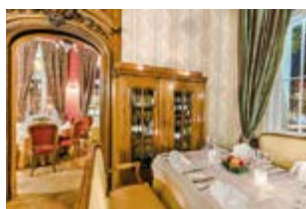
Still they kept coming; new microbreweries such as **Browar Piwna** and **Browar Lubrow** opened their doors while other local breweries began to find their way into the market - **Rycerz** and **Rybak** appeared from a small family brewery near **Kwidzyn** (**Browar Gościszewo**) and another brewery from **Puck**, north of **Gdynia** also began to find outlets for its beers.

Then along came a completely different looking and tasting crop of beers with smartly designed labels but with contents to match. **AleBrowar** beers quickly became firm favourites with us. It was only later that we found out that the brewer who had helped get the ball rolling at **Browarnia** in 2008 had struck out on his own and teamed up with a local small brewery to produce his own beers. The man, a **Sopot** native called **Michał Saks**, has since helped take the whole business a step further with the opening of one of just a few, currently, multi-tap pubs in the city. The Tri-city may still have a way to go to match the 91 taps on offer at **Warsaw's Piv Paw**, but with **AleBrowar** now selling both their own brews as well as guest brews direct to customers and **Browar Spółdzielczy** from **Puck** trying to do the same in **Gdańsk-Wrzeszcz**, the choice in terms of quality and quantity hasn't been as good since, dare we say, the time of **Hevelius** himself.

While that's probably a slight exaggeration, it can't be argued that the choice for the beer lover has improved immensely in the last decade and **Gdańsk**, and the region, is once again developing a name for itself as a beer producing region. Long may that continue.



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ARRIVING BY PLANE

GDANSK LECH WALESZA AIRPORT

The airport, Port Lotniczy Gdańsk im. Lecha Wałęsy (aka Gdansk Lech Walesa airport), is 16km west of Gdansk centre in the Rębiechowo district. The modern, extended terminal (formerly terminal 2) handles both arrivals and departures with the old terminal now closed.

After landing you enter the terminal building from the baggage hall where you'll find a Gdansk Tourist Organisation information point in front of you, car rental desks and ATM machines. A train service connects the airport with the three cities of Gdansk, Sopot and Gdynia although a change of train may be involved. You can reach the platforms, where you will find ticket machines, by taking the escalator to the left as you leave the baggage hall. Tickets cost 3.50zł to Gdansk and 6zł to Sopot or Gdynia. For more information see the PKM section of our Getting Around chapter and check train times at rozkład-pkp.pl/en. Neptun Taxi is the official taxi firm and can be trusted. Look out for their cars with the 19686 logo on the side. Be suspicious if offered a lift by any car not bearing their logo. We quote approximate prices below but these will be more at night and from Saturday at 22:00 until Monday at 06:00. If you want to catch a bus (**210** to Gdansk, **122** to Sopot and **4A** to Gdynia) you will find the bus stops directly across the road as you leave the terminal.

GETTING TO GDANSK

A taxi from the rank in front of the terminal will cost you about 60zł. Apart from early morning and late night trains, you'll need to change at Gdansk-Wrzeszcz and take the yellow/blue SKM train for the final three stops to Gdansk Główny (Main) train station. The journey will take about 45 mins.

GETTING TO SOPOT

You can also take the train to Sopot but you will need to change at Gdansk-Wrzeszcz. From Gdansk-Wrzeszcz you'll need to get on a yellow/blue train running in the direction of Gdynia. Sopot is the sixth stop from Gdansk-Wrzeszcz. The most direct way to reach Sopot is by taking a 19686 Neptun Taxi from outside the terminal building which will cost you around 70zł normally and more at night and on Sundays.

GETTING TO GDYNIA

The easiest way to get to Gdynia is via 19686 taxi and it will cost you 120zł to the centre of Gdynia with prices higher at nights and on Sundays. You can also reach Gdynia directly by train without the need to change thanks to a new connection via Osowa. You'll need to take the train from the opposite platform and be careful to board a train which is going to Gdynia Główna. ► **ul. Słowackiego 200, Gdańsk (Rębiechowo), tel. (+48) 525 67 35 31, www.airport.gdansk.pl.**

ARRIVING BY TRAIN

The city is connected to all major cities in Poland with travel times subject to both delay and improvement as a major investment programme continues.

GDAŃSK GŁÓWNY TRAIN STATION

When you arrive at Gdańsk Główny you are a stone's throw away from Gdańsk Old Town. The building has been renovated and is now a much cleaner and fresher smelling place than before. You'll find lockers, toilets, money exchange and McDonalds and KFC either in or next to the station. ► **A-2, ul. Podwale Grodzkie 1, Gdańsk, tel. (+48) 22 39 19 757 (from foreign mobile phones), www.pkp.pl. Open 24hrs.**

GDYNIA GŁÓWNA TRAIN STATION

The main railway station, built in the modernist style between the wars, has received a well-needed facelift. The city centre is signposted with the main street, ul. Świętojańska, a 10 minute walk away by turning right out of the station and following ul. 10-go Lutego. ► **N-1, Pl. Konstytucji 1, Gdynia, tel. (+48) 22 39 19 757 (from foreign mobile phones), www.pkp.pl. Ticket office open 24hrs.**

SOPOT TRAIN STATION

► **L-4, ul. Marynarzy, Sopot, tel. (+48) 22 39 19 757 (from foreign mobile phones), www.pkp.pl. Open 24hrs.**

ARRIVING BY CAR

There are three main routes into the Tri-city: the E28 from the west via Gdynia; the E77 from the south-east which enters the city via Gdansk and the A1 highway from the south.

ARRIVING BY CAR IN GDAŃSK

Parking is available once you arrive in Gdańsk but remember that the old town area is permit parking only and you will be fined by the city police for driving into the old town without a pass. Watch out for the signs marking the start of the permit parking zone. You will have to use street parking which is paid for (3zł for the first hour) and you will need to buy a ticket at the street machine.

ARRIVING BY CAR IN GDYNIA

If you are coming from the south you will need to negotiate the other two cities first. This is best done by use of the Obwodnica (ring road) which will get you to the centre of Gdynia in about 20 minutes. Gdynia itself is the best laid out of the 3 cities in terms of cars but even parking here is a challenge these days.

ARRIVING BY CAR IN SOPOT

Whether you are arriving from the south (Gdańsk) or the north (Gdynia) you are very likely to make the approach to Sopot via the main Al. Niepodległości road. Sopot city centre is quite small and, can get quite snarled up with traffic during the summer months. There is street parking if you can find it with the area closest to the centre subject to parking tickets.

ARRIVING BY BUS

GDAŃSK GŁÓWNY BUS STATION

Most national and international buses arrive at Gdańsk bus station (Dworzec PKS), up on the hill just behind the train station (Dworzec PKP). Give the main building, one of the decreasing number of remnants from the People's Republic, a quick glance then head downstairs to the bus station hall. From there pass the last remaining stalls selling knickers down the escalator to the underground passage and follow the signs Centrum or Dworzec PKP. Follow the passage until you see the EMPIK bookshop in front of you. Turn right and go up the steps to ul. Podwale Grodzkie and the old town lies about a 5 minute walk from there. ▶ A-2, ul. 3 Maja 12, Gdańsk, tel. (+48) 58 302 15 32, www.pks.gdansk.pl. Open 08:30 - 17:00, Sat 08:30 - 16:30. Closed Sun. Note that on the first two and last two working days of each month the office is open 06:30 - 18:30.

GDYNIA GŁÓWNA BUS STATION

With no stand alone bus station in Gdynia buses and coaches use the area outside the main train station as their terminus. You can get to the main street, ul. Świętojańska by following ul.10-go Lutego, a walk that will take you about 10 minutes. ▶ N-1, Pl. Konstytucji 1, Gdynia, www.pksw.pl.

ARRIVING BY FERRY

GDAŃSK - WESTERPLATTE FERRY PORT

Polferries from Nynashamn, 60km south of Stockholm, arrive at Gdańsk's Westerplatte (after years of docking on the opposite side of the waterway at Gdańsk's Nowy Port). The ferry terminal is about 11km north of the centre. Bus N°s 106 and 138 run from Westerplatte to the Gdańsk Główny railway station. Alternatively, a taxi ride into the centre of Gdańsk costs about 30zł. If you have a car then you should follow signs to *centrum*, a journey that will take you about 15-30 minutes depending on the time of day. ▶ J-1, ul. Sucharskiego 70, Gdańsk, tel. (+48) 58 343 18 87, www.polferries.pl. Open only before ferry sailings.

STENA LINE FERRY TERMINAL

Stena Line ferries from Karlskrona, 500km south of Stockholm, arrive at the Gdynia ferry terminal. From Gdynia ferry terminal, take buses N° 150 or 4F to Gdynia Główna, the main train station in Gdynia (from where there are commuter trains to Gdańsk). A bus ticket costs 3zł (4zł for the faster 4F), and a taxi to the centre should come to around 20zł. If arriving by car you should follow the signs for *Centrum* which will bring you to the centre of Gdynia in about 10 minutes. ▶ ul. Kwiatkowskiego 60, Gdynia (Obłuże), tel. (+48) 58 660 92 00, www.stenaline.pl. Open 07:00 - 21:00, Mon 08:00 - 19:00, Thu 07:00 - 21:30, Fri 06:00 - 19:30; Sat 07:00 - 09:00, 17:00 - 21:00, Sun 07:00 - 09:00, 16:00 - 21:00.



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PKM



The Pomorska Kolej Metropolitalna (Pomeranian Metropolitan Railway) is the latest major infrastructure project to be opened in the region and now connects the three cities with the outlying region. One of the additional benefits is that the airport now has a direct rail connection with the city. Trains run approximately every 15 minutes between the airport's brand new station and Gdansk Wrzeszcz (with just one per hour going onto Gdansk Główny - main station) which means most passengers travelling to and from Gdansk main train station or all passengers for Sopot will have to change at Gdansk Wrzeszcz. There is a direct link with Gdynia but note it leaves from the opposite platform. Tickets can be purchased from ticket offices, one of the frustratingly few ticket machines on the platform or from the conductor and it is possible to buy a single ticket for the journey. You can find the timetable at rozklad-pkm.pl/en ▶ tel. (+48) 58 721 21 70, rozklad-pkm.pl/en. Single ticket to/from Gdansk 3.50zł. Single ticket to/from Sopot or Gdynia 6zł.



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AVIS

BY CAR

Poland remains one of Europe's leading nations in road fatalities, a statistic that will surprise few who have had the pleasure of using the roads here. While the issue of poor roads is being addressed the sheer size of the network means this is still a problem particularly when travelling outside of and not between major cities. The biggest problem though is dangerous drivers resulting in the common sight of mangled wreckages of cars around the country. Yes, the crosses you see beside roadsides are there to mark fatal crashes. While we do not advise against driving in Poland, where new roads and driver education programmes are making driving here less fraught, we do wish to make a number of points clear to the foreign driver.

Firstly, when driving outside of built-up areas you will often find yourself sharing a single lane road with anything from a sports car convertible to a tiny 900cc banger. Throw in the huge fleet of lorries that traverse Poland and you will commonly find yourself in a situation where traffic is blocked behind said lorries/banger. This results in frustrated/impatient drivers overtaking each other at high speed and then braking sharply to avoid oncoming traffic. Be warned and keep a safe distance between you and the vehicle in front.

Secondly beware of the hard shoulders of these roads, the vast majority of which are unlit at night. These are often used as pavements by local people who add to the Russian roulette by venturing out at night wearing their darkest clothing. Add in the odd drunk on a bike and these hard shoulders become a very real problem when facing a set of headlights bearing down on your vehicle.

For those brave enough to venture out the following information should be noted. Poland has strong drink driving laws: **0.2‰ is the maximum blood/alcohol limit**, so forget about having even a single beer. EU citizens may use their home driving licences as long as they are valid, however citizens of countries that didn't ratify the Vienna Convention (tsk, tsk Australia and America) will find their licences invalid (though that hasn't stopped anyone we know from driving their girlfriend's car). Carry your licence and passport at all times when driving and make sure you have the car's documentation with you.

The speed limit is **50km/hr** in cities (**60km/hr** between 23:00 and 05:00), **90km/hr** outside urban areas, **120km/hr** on dual carriageways and **140km/hr** on motorways. All cars are required to carry a red warning triangle, first aid kit, replacement bulbs and a national identity sticker. It is compulsory to have headlights switched on at all times.

GUARDED PARKING ▶ B-4, ul. Św. Ducha (near Wybrzeże Theatre), Gdańsk.

GUARDED PARKING ▶ D-5, ul. Pszenna 1 (across from Novotel Hotel), Gdańsk.

GUARDED PARKING ▶ L-4, ul. Chopina 8, Sopot.

GUARDED PARKING ▶ B-2, ul. Karmelicka 1, Gdańsk.

GUARDED PARKING ▶ O-1, ul. Armii Krajowej 22 (Mercure Gdynia Centrum Hotel), Gdynia.

CAR RENTAL

AVIS® Also at Gdańsk, ul. Podwale Grodzkie 9 (Scandic Hotel)
 ▶ ul. Słowackiego 210 (Airport), Gdańsk, tel. (+48) 58 348 12 89, www.avis.pl. Open 08:00 - 24:00, Sat, Sun 09:00 - 17:00.

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CDi station wagon. All cars are equipped with power assisted steering. Satellite navigation systems are also available. Special rates offered to those who order through the Joka website. ▶ B-2, ul. Wąły Piastowskie 1/1502A, Gdańsk, tel. (+48) 609 23 54 24, www.joka.com.pl. Open 09:00 - 17:00; Sat 09:00 - 12:00. Closed Sun. Outside of these hours open by prior arrangement.

EUROPCAR

▶ ul. Słowackiego 206 (Airport), Gdańsk, tel. (+48) 665 30 16 24, www.eurocar.pl. Open 09:00 - 23:30.

HERTZ

Also at ul. Słowackiego 210 (Airport). ▶ B-2, ul. Heweliusza 22, Gdańsk, tel. (+48) 58 301 40 45, www.hertz.pl. Open 08:00 - 16:00. Sat, Sun open on request.

PRIVATE TRANSPORT

JOVI TRANSPORT

Professional airport transfer to anywhere in the city. Most convenient probably if you are staying in one of their range of apartments. Prices are 80zł one-way. You can book direct online via their website. ▶ tel. (+48) 797 60 11 00, www.joviapartments.com.

TRAVEL GDANSK

A local company offering chauffeur driven car and mini-van services. As well as taking you to and from the airport/port, Travel Gdansk can also transport you to places like Malbork, Frombork, Stutthof and Szymbark (amongst other destinations) or arrange accompanied tours for you. ▶ tel. (+48) 510 31 30 31, www.travelgdansk.pl.

TRIP2GDANSK

A fleet of Volkswagen Caravelle and Mercedes minibuses available for private hire manned by friendly, trustworthy drivers. Good value for a group needing airport transfer, private tours to places such as Malbork, Stutthof or Kashubia or transport to one of the city's attractions such as the golf course or go-carting track. Prices available upon request. ▶ tel. (+48) 533 53 30 33, www.przewozygrupowe.pl.

STRAŻ MIEJSKA



In Polish cities you'll typically see two types of uniformed law enforcement. One is the police, the other is the local City Guard (Straż Miejska) and you're more likely to come across one of them during your stay in the city.

The City Guard was created following the fall of Communism and began appearing on the streets of Gdansk in 1991. Their role is to focus on local law enforcement and although they do not have the full powers of arrest as the police it is their role to maintain public order in the city; manage traffic in the restricted zones of the main town including dealing with parking and traffic violations and above all to assist citizens in the city.

During the high season officers from the region who are able to speak foreign languages are re-deployed to the city and to the nearby beaches. These officers are easy to identify as they wear badges showing which languages they speak.

While the Tri-city is in general a safe city, petty crime does exist and travellers are warned to show common sense with their personal belongings such as carrying your wallet or passport in a secure pocket and not in a jacket left casually lying around. Those travelling by car are asked to beware of the restricted parking zones in the centre of Gdansk and to pay and display a parking ticket where necessary.

The most common reason foreign visitors fall foul of the law is for disturbing the peace by imbibing too heavily or for making too much noise particularly late at night. The other well-known ways tourists fall foul of the City Guard is for jaywalking. You'll undoubtedly be surprised to see a crowd of people standing obediently at a crossing – take heed, they know that being caught crossing on a red signal or at a point where there is no marked crossing can result in an on-the-spot fine of around 100zł. Don't think you are exempt by being a visitor; In fact your non-residency means you will need to pay the fine on the spot (the helpful chaps will even accept foreign currency).

The City Guard have asked us to point out that they sincerely hope everyone who visits the city enjoys themselves and returns home safely. If you do find yourself in need of advice, directions or assistance they are happy to help and will contact the police on your behalf if it is something beyond their jurisdiction.



[pinterest.com/inyourpocket](https://www.pinterest.com/inyourpocket)

Arrival & Transport

PUBLIC TRANSPORT

Travelling between the three cities of Gdańsk, Gdynia and Sopot is a cinch, and best done using the SKM kolejka (commuter train). These yellow and blue trains run more or less every 10-15 minutes between 05:00-19:00 through the Tri-city and less frequently outside of these hours with trains also running occasionally between 00:00 and 04:00. Tickets can be bought from modern ticket machines which can be found on most platforms and have instructions in English and a couple of other languages. Alternatively you can buy tickets in main stations where you see the sign for Kasa Biletowa or as a last resort from the conductor at the front of the train. If you buy tickets from the Kasa Biletowa make sure that you stamp them with the time in the bright yellow boxes on or close to the platform to validate them. Ticket prices are dependent on the number of stops you are travelling but a journey from Gdańsk to Gdynia will cost **6.00zł** and take about 35 minutes (Sopot will cost **4.00zł** and take about 20 minutes). Bikes travel for free and should be carried in a specially marked carriage usually at one end of the train. Children under 4 travel for free although you also have to buy a **0zł** ticket (we kid you not) and you are likely to be requested to provide proof of the child's age so basically keep passports on you at all times. ISIC cards will get you a student discount but only if you're a Polish student, while Euro 26 cards are not valid. You will have to pay a fine if caught travelling without a validated ticket by one of the plain clothes inspectors.

TROLLEYBUSES, TRAMS AND LOCAL BUSES

(ZKM/ZTM) can also zip you around the relevant cities. Tickets are issued by Gdańsk and Gdynia. Gdańsk tickets allow you to travel in Gdańsk (and Sopot) and Gdynia tickets allow you to travel in Gdynia (and Sopot). If buying a ticket in Sopot you will need to buy a ticket for the direction you are heading i.e. Gdańsk or Gdynia.

TICKET PRICES

Single - **3.00zł**, 60 minute ticket - **3.60zł**, Single ticket for use on a 'fast' line - **4.00zł**, 60 minute ticket for 'fast' lines - **4.60zł**, 24-hour ticket - **12zł**

Tickets can be bought from kiosks or an increasing number of ticket machines which have English and German language options.

If you're planning on staying longer then there is the Metropolitan ticket which gives you travel in the cities for 24 hours - the first type covers SKM local trains and then buses, trolleybuses and trams in EITHER Gdansk or Gdynia and costs **17zł (8.50zł reduced)** or a second version which is all travel in all 3 cities at **20/10zł**. These are available from SKM and ZTM points not the machines.

A recommended way to avoid having to decide on which ticket and then having to negotiate how to get it with the woman in the kiosk is to pick up a Gdańsk - Sopot - Gdynia Plus tourist card. As well as the discounts and free entry to many of the sights that the card brings, you will also be entitled to free travel on the whole Tri-city transport network. Pick it up at the tourist information points around the city.

NATIONAL TRAINS AND BUSES

If you are looking to travel out of the city you will need to use the national PKP (trains) or PKS (bus) services. For trains you find arrival (Przyjazdy) and departure (Odjazdy) times marked on a board in the main station building with the timetables displayed on A1 size cards (departures on a yellow card and arrivals on a white card). Main line train services run from all three stations in the Tri-city as well as Gdansk-Oliwa and Gdansk-Wrzeszcz. Regional and national bus services (such as services to Frombork) run from Gdansk Bus Station which you will find perched on the hill overlooking the train station. The bus station can be reached via the tunnel entered via the stairs outside the main train station and KFC.

GDAŃSK GŁÓWNY BUS STATION

► A-2, ul. 3 Maja 12, Gdańsk, tel. (+48) 58 302 15 32, www.pks.gdansk.pl. Open 08:30 - 17:00, Sat 08:30 - 16:30. Closed Sun. Note that on the first two and last two working days of each month the office is open 06:30 - 18:30.

GDAŃSK GŁÓWNY TRAIN STATION

Tickets for international routes can now be purchased from all ticket desks. ► A-2, ul. Podwale Grodzkie 1, Gdańsk, tel. (+48) 22 39 19 757 (from foreign mobile phones), www.pkp.pl. Open 24hrs. Note that due to system maintenance seat reservations cannot be made from 24:00 to 01:00.

TAXIS

Although most taxis are now trustworthy with honest meters, there are still certain drivers who will quite happily take advantage of your ignorance and overcharge for journeys. To guard against this ensure that you use a taxi which is clearly marked. The firms listed below are all reliable with **Neptun** being the only firm allowed to sit outside of the airport terminal building. Look out for **19686** on the sides of their cabs. Taxis are slightly cheaper if called in advance. If calling one of the abbreviated numbers such as **19686** please be aware that you may need to prefix it with **58** if calling from your mobile.

HALLO TAXI (GDAŃSK)

► tel. (+48) 58 301 59 59, www.hallotaxi.gda.pl.

MONTE TAXI (SOPOT)

► tel. (+48) 58 555 14 14, www.montetaxi.pl.

NEPTUN TAXI (GDAŃSK)

The only sanctioned firm at the airport with some English-speaking operators. Mini-vans are also available and if you are planning a journey outside of the city special rates are available for places such as Stutthof, Malbork and Frombork. You can pay by credit card and American Express. ► tel. (+48) 58 511 15 55, www.neptuntaxi.pl.

NON-STOP TAXI (GDYNIA)

► tel. (+48) 58 625 01 01, taxinonstopgdynia.pl.

SUPER HALLO TAXI (GDAŃSK)

► tel. (+48) 602 31 91 91, www.superhallo.pl.

BY FERRY

Water trams (basically ferries) sail during the summer season departing the stop in front of the Hilton in Gdansk; the end of the pier in Sopot; and the quayside near the museum ships in Gdynia. In Sopot tickets can be bought from the ticket offices at the end of the pier and from the ticket office in the building along from the Błyskawica battleship in Gdynia. Tickets for ferries F5 and F6 can only be bought on-board. Note that on routes F1, F2, F3 and TLŻ the sailings marked R are subject to demand and will only go if there are enough passengers. **Children under 4 travel for free but you'll need to take a 0zł ticket for them.**

WATER TRAM F1

Direct sailing from Gdansk to Hel on weekends only in May and June and everyday in July and August. ▶ **D-3, Nabrzeże Motławy (Baszta Łabędź), Gdańsk, tel. (+48) 662 15 73 40, www.zegluga.pl. Ticket office open 07:30 - 14:00, 15:00 - 18:00. Tickets 35/25zł. Bikes 5zł.**

WATER TRAM F2

Direct sailing from Sopot to Hel at weekends until the end of June and everyday in July and August. Be warned that you will need to get their early if you want to take the first ferry of the day, plus you'll rather disappointingly also have to buy a pier ticket separately just to get to the ferry itself. ▶ **M-4, Molo (Pier), Sopot, tel. (+48) 606 68 63 06, www.zegluga.pl. Tickets 35/25zł. Bike 5zł.**

WATER TRAM F3

Ferry sailing between the old town of Gdansk and the pier in Sopot. Service runs at weekends until the end of June and everyday in July and August. ▶ **M-4, Molo (Pier), Sopot, tel. (+48) 606 68 63 06, www.zegluga.pl. Tickets 35/25zł. Bike 5zł.**

WATER TRAM F5

The F5 water tram runs daily from the old town stopping at a number of places on its way to Westerplatte. Tram runs everyday until the end of August. ▶ **B-6, Targ Rybny (Baszta Łabędź), Gdańsk, tel. (+48) 58 309 13 22, www.ztm.gda.pl. Tickets 10/5zł. Bike 5zł.**

WATER TRAM F6

The F6 travels via the Sobieszewo Bird Sanctuary (from June 25 onwards) to the National Sailing Centre, at the mouth of the Vistula. ▶ **D-3, Targ Rybny (Baszta Łabędź), Gdańsk, tel. (+48) 58 309 13 22, www.ztm.gda.pl. Tickets cost 10/5zł. Bike 5zł.**

TANIE LINIE ŻEGLUGOWE

Direct sailings from Gdynia to Hel. In May and June only the 10:00 departure from Gdynia and the 15:00 departure from Hel sail on weekdays. Ferries sail everyday in July and August. ▶ **O-1, Al. Jana Pawła II, Nabrzeże Pomorskie, Gdynia, tel. (+48) 58 620 26 42, www.zegluga.pl. Ticket office open 09:00 - 13:30 14:30 - 16:30. From July 08:30 - 13:30, 14:30 - 18:00. Tickets 35/25zł. Bike 5zł.**

WATER TRAM F1

From Gdańsk			To Gdańsk	
Dep.	Arr.	Destination	Dep.	Arr.
08:30	10:20	HEL (R)	10:50	12:40
13:10	15:00	(R) HEL	15:30	17:20
17:50	19:40	(R) HEL (R)	20:10	22:00

Service runs at weekends only in May and June and everyday in July and August.

WATER TRAM F2

From Sopot			To Sopot	
Dep.	Arr.	Destination	Dep.	Arr.
11:00	12:30	HEL		
15:00	16:30	(R) HEL (R)	13:00	14:30
		HEL	17:00	18:30

Service runs at weekends only in May and June and everyday in July and August.

WATER TRAM F3

From Sopot			To Sopot	
Dep.	Arr.	Destination	Dep.	Arr.
11:30	12:30	SOPOT	13:00	14:00
14:30	15:30	(R) SOPOT (R)	16:00	17:00
17:15	18:15	(R) SOPOT (R)	18:30	19:30

Service runs at weekends only in May and June and everyday in July and August.

WATER TRAM F5

From Targ Rybny			To Targ Rybny	
Dep.	Arr.	Destination	Dep.	Arr.
09:53	10:45	WESTERPLATTE	10:49	11:44
12:33	13:25	WESTERPLATTE	13:55	14:50
15:38	16:30	WESTERPLATTE	16:34	17:29
18:18	18:56	WESTERPLATTE	19:00	19:41

Schedule valid until June 25. Note final ferries do not stop at Wiosny Ludów and Twierdza Wisłoujście

TANIE LINIE ŻEGLUGOWE

From Gdynia			To Gdynia	
Dep.	Arr.	Destination	Dep.	Arr.
10:00	11:00	HEL (R)	11:30	12:30
13:00	14:00	(R) HEL	15:00	16:00
16:30	17:30	(R) HEL (R)	18:00	19:00

Service runs everyday until September 30.

FACTS & FIGURES

TERRITORY

Poland covers an area of 312,685 square kilometres and is the ninth biggest country in Europe. It borders the Baltic Sea and seven countries, namely the Baltic Sea (528km), Belarus (416km), Czech Republic (790km), Germany (467km), Lithuania (103km), the Russian exclave of Kaliningrad (210km), Slovakia (539km) and, Ukraine (529km).

LONGEST RIVER

The river Vistula (Wisła) is Poland's longest river at 1,047km and flows through Kraków and Warsaw before reaching the Bay of Gdańsk (Zatoka Gdańska). Gdańsk sits on the Motława river which reaches the Baltic via the Martwa Wisła.

HIGHEST POINT

The highest peak in the country is Rysy (2,499m above sea level) which can be found in the Tatra mountains in the south of the country.

POPULATION (2015)

Poland - 38,478,602	Warsaw - 1,735,442
Kraków - 761,873	Łódź - 706,004
Wrocław - 634,487	Poznań - 545,680
Gdańsk - 461,489	Katowice - 301,834
Gdynia - 247,820	Sopot - 37,654

LOCAL TIME

Poland is in the Central European (CET) time zone (GMT+1hr). When it's 12:00 in Warsaw it's 11:00 in London, 12:00 in Paris and Berlin and 19:00 in Tokyo. Polish summer time (GMT+2hrs) starts and ends on the last Sundays of March and October.

ELECTRICITY

Electricity in Poland is 230V, 50Hz AC. Plug sockets are round with two round-pin sockets. Therefore if you are coming from the UK or Ireland you are definitely going to need a plug converter. The best place to pick these up is at Saturn in Galeria Bałtycka or one of the big electrical outlets situated on the edge of town. Our advice is save yourself the hassle and get one in the airport as you leave.

HEALTH & EMERGENCY

In case of an emergency those dialling from a land line or public payphone should use the following numbers: 999 for an ambulance, 998 for the fire brigade and 997 for the police. Mobile phone users should call 112 to be forwarded to the relevant department. English speaking assistance is not necessarily guaranteed, and rests on the linguistic capabilities of the call operator.

English, German and Russian speakers have the option of using separate lines specifically designed for foreigners in

MARKET VALUES

Prices in Poland are still fairly competitive despite increases over the last couple of years particularly in the prices of cigarettes. Here are some typical everyday products and prices. Market values as of April 29, 2016 based on €1 = 4.38zł

McDonald's Big Mac	9.40 zł	€ 2.15
Snickers	1.69 zł	€ 0.39
0.5ltr vodka (shop)	23.99 zł	€ 5.48
0.5ltr beer (shop)	2.99 zł	€ 0.68
0.5ltr beer (bar)	8.00 zł	€ 1.83
Loaf of white bread	2.49 zł	€ 0.57
20 Marlboros	15.50 zł	€ 3.54
1 ltr of unleaded petrol (98)	4.32 zł	€ 0.99
Local transport ticket (1 journey)	3.00 zł	€ 0.68

distress: dial +48 608 599 999 or + 48 22 278 77 77. Both numbers can be reached from a mobile phone or a land line and are hotlines in case you run into any troubles during your stay. The lines are active year round with later hours during the high-tourist season.

Further help can be provided by embassies and consulates, of which a comprehensive list can be found in the directory section. If you've run out of money, however, then silly you. No embassy will bail you out, and your hopes will rest on a Western Union money transfer. Most banks and many exchange bureaus (kantors) can now carry out such transactions, just keep an eye out for anywhere displaying the Western Union logo.

For a list of clinics and hospitals check the directory section at the back of this guide.

MONEY

Thinking of paying for your tram ticket with one of the 100zł notes in your pocket? Think again. Small shops, newsagents, public toilets, even the occasional fast food franchise and bar, will refuse to break a large note for you. As annoying as coins can be, do carry small change for such moments. Notes come in denominations of 200, 100, 50, 20 and 10 zlotys, and there are 1, 2 and 5 zloty coins. One zloty equals 100 groszy which come in 1, 2, 5, 10, 20 and 50 groszy coins.

Currency can be exchanged at airports, hotels, banks and anywhere with a sign proclaiming it to be a Kantor and you will also be able to withdraw currency at a bankomat using your ATM card. A Kantor will often provide better value than the banks in your home country or the ATM although for obvious reasons be very wary of Kantors in the airports, bus stations and close to tourist sights. Shopping around will reward you with the best rate. Prices for food, drink, cultural venues and transport still remain comparatively cheap in contrast to Western Europe. A ticket to the theatre or cinema will rarely cost more than 20zł while admission to most museums costs around 5-10zł.

RELIGION

For over one thousand years has been a bulwark of Catholicism, fighting against the horrors of pagan invasions and looking to Catholicism for a sense of social and national unity. When Poland was partitioned in the 19th century, many turned to the church for solace and during the communist era, underground resistance meetings were surreptitiously held in churches. The deceased Polish-born Pope John Paul II remains a genuine source of pride for all Poles, and is beloved in a way more profound than cynics in the West can understand. Many Poles genuinely believe that John Paul II single-handedly started the overthrow of Communism in Central and Eastern Europe. Small wonder then, that your average Pole takes Catholicism very seriously. Those used to the more easy-going habits of the West may find the Polish enthusiasm a bit unnerving at first, particularly the solemn and opulent processions that occur from time to time and the droves that flock to mass.

WATER

Water in Poland is officially safe to drink although the quality of plumbing in many places can affect the quality of the water that is delivered from your tap. We therefore recommend that you use bottled water which is widely available and inexpensive. The best known bottled local brands are Żywiec, Cisowianka, Kropla Beskidu and Nafęcowianka. In restaurants many tourists are surprised to find a glass of water is not compulsory, and ordering some typically results in the receipt of a tiny glass bottle that will barely wet your whistle. Beer is often a better bet since it's cheaper and arrives in larger quantities, but if you're set on having water it's best to learn the difference between gazowana (carbonated water) and niegazowana (still water).

NATIONAL HOLIDAYS

Poland has a series of public holidays spread throughout the year. These for the most part will fall on a precise date meaning you could find yourself here in the middle of an otherwise busy week to find the city bolted shut. While more restaurants and bars have appreciated the opportunities of staying open when the rest of the country is taking a free day, do not expect very much open on important religious holidays such as All Saints' Day (November 1) or Easter Sunday.

May 1, 2016	Labour Day
May 3, 2016	Constitution Day (May 3, 1791)
May 15, 2016	Pentecost Sunday
May 26, 2016	Corpus Christi
August 15, 2016	Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary, also Polish Army Day
November 1, 2016	All Saints' Day
November 11, 2016	Independence Day (Nov 11, 1918)

LANGUAGE SMARTS

Attempting discourse in the Polish language can be terrifying and humiliating, but fortunately for you many Poles, particularly young people, have a healthy command of the English language. Though you can probably get by without it, learning a few key Polish phrases will nonetheless smooth your time in Tri-city and may even win you friends and admirers.

On the downside, Polish is officially recognised as one of the most difficult languages for native English speakers to learn. On the upside, however, unlike in English, words in Polish are actually spelled the way they are pronounced. This is a great help once you know how to pronounce each letter/combination of letters. While many letters represent the same sounds as they do in English, below we have listed those particular to Polish, followed by some basic words and phrases. *Powodzenia* (Good luck)!

Basic Pronunciation

- ą** sounds like 'on' in the French 'bon'
- ę** sounds like 'en' as in the French 'bien'
- ó** is an open 'o' sound like 'oo' in 'boot'
- ć** like the 'ts' in 'bits'
- j** like the 'y' in 'yeah'
- w** is pronounced like the English 'v'
- ł** like the 'w' in 'win'
- ń** like the 'ny' in 'canyon'
- cz** and **ć** like the 'ch' in 'beach'
- dz** like the 'ds' in 'beds'
- rz** and **ź** like the 'su' in 'treasure'
- sz** and **ś** like the 'sh' in 'ship'
- drz** like the 'g' in 'George'
- r** is always rolled

Polish Words & Phrases

Yes	Tak	(Tahk)
No	Nie	(NyeH)
Hi/Bye (informal)	Cześć	(Cheshch)
Hello/Good day (formal)	Dzień dobry	(Jen doh-bri)
Good evening (formal)	Dobry wieczór	(Doh-bri vyeH-choor)
Good-bye	Do widzenia	(Doh veet-zen-ya)
Good Night	Dobranoc	(Doh-brah-noats)
Please	Proszę	(ProshEH)
Thank you	Dziękuję	(Jen-koo-yeh)
Excuse me/Sorry	Przepraszam	(PshEH-prasham)
My name is...	Mam na imię...	(Mam nah ee-myeh...)
I'm from England.	Jestem z Anglii	(Yehstem zanglee)
Do you speak English?	Czy mówisz po angielsku?	(Che moo-veesh po an-gyel-skoo?)
I don't speak Polish.	Nie mówię po polsku.	(NyeH moo-vyeh po pol-skoo.)
I don't understand.	Nie rozumiem.	(NyeH row-zoo-me-ehm.)
Two beers, please.	Dwa piwa proszę.	(Dvah peevah proshEH.)
Cheers!	Na zdrowie!	(Nah zdroyeh!)
Where are the toilets?	Gdzie są toalety?	(Gdjeh sawn toe-leth)
You are beautiful.	Jesteś piękna.	(Yeh-tesh pee-ehk-nah.)
I love you.	Kocham cię.	(Ko-hahm chuh.)
Please take me home.	Proszę zabierz mnie do domu.	(ProshEH za-byesh myeh doh doh-moo.)
Call me!	Zadzwoń do mnie!	(Zads-dvoan doh myeh!)
Airport	Lotnisko	(Lot-nees-ko)
Train station	Dworzec PKP	(Dvoar-jets Peh Kah Peh)
Bus station	Dworzec PKS	(Dvoar-jets Peh Kah Ess)
One ticket to ...	Jeden bilet do ...	(Yeh-den bee-leh doh...)



A Prussian-Russian agreement on the second partition of Poland is concluded in 1793. In 1795 Austria, Prussia and Russia impose a third partition of Poland, ending Polish independence for more than a century and wiping the country from the map completely.

Now a bustling conurbation known locally as Trojmiasto (Tri-city), each of the individual members has its own specific history. While colonisation in the Gdańsk area dates back to the 7th century when it was a small group of fishing hamlets, Gdynia's history was changed dramatically as a result of the Treaty of Versailles less than one hundred years ago.

10th Century The first Christian mission comes to the small fishing village of Gdańsk. The Bishop of Prague, Adalbert, christens the inhabitants with the year 997 commonly accepted as the year that Gdańsk was founded.

13th Century Gdańsk welcomes vessels from England, Sweden and the Walloon Lands. The Teutonic Knights penetrate Polish regions from the west in 1226. Gdynia is first mentioned under the name Gdina as a fishing village in 1253. The bishop's document which mentions it says that it belonged to Oksywie, the oldest settlement in the area dating from the first half of the 8th century. Today Oksywie is a part of Gdynia.

Although human settlement in what is now Sopot can be traced back over 2,500 years and a fort is known to have existed between the 7th and 11th centuries, it isn't until the 13th century that the first recorded mention of Sopot can be found.

14th Century The Teutonic Knights make a treacherous assault on Gdańsk in 1308. The Knights also crown Malbork, 60km south, the capital of their Teutonic state. In 1361 Gdańsk joins the Hanseatic League, a mercantile organisation, and its sea port prospers.

15th Century Polish-Lithuanian forces defeat the Teutonic Knights at the Battle of Grunwald in 1410, thereby stopping German expansion eastward. As a result of the Second Peace of Torun in 1466, Sopot becomes part of the Polish state.

16th century Gdańsk enjoys a golden era, prospering into a rich seaport and important centre of trade and culture. Besides Germans, Gdańsk's ethnic make-up is predominantly Polish, Dutch, Russian and Jewish, as well as a large number of Scotsmen.

18th Century Poland becomes a playground for Tsar Peter the Great, and in 1734 Gdańsk is besieged by the Russian army. The siege sees the village of Gdynia burned to the ground and Sopot seriously damaged. In 1772 Austria, Prussia and Russia impose the first partition of Poland and the whole area becomes part of Prussia. Gdańsk, now Danzig, loses its trade routes and falls into decline.

19th Century Napoleon's advance eastwards sees Gdańsk established as a free city, with French troops stationed there. After Napoleon's defeat and the Congress of Vienna in 1815, Poland is partitioned anew: Danzig (Gdańsk), Zoppot (Sopot) and Gdingen (Gdynia) are given back to Prussia. In 1819 Carl Christoph Wegner makes the first attempt to turn Zoppot into a seaside resort by building a bath-house and changing rooms but the venture fails. At this time there are 23 houses in Zoppot and a population of 350. In 1823 Jean Georges Haffner, a doctor in Napoleon's army, starts the building of a seaside resort by building the Zoppot Therapeutic House, wooden baths and the beginnings of the pier. With the opening of a Danzig – Köslin (Koszalin) train line in 1870, which is then extended to Berlin, Zoppot becomes more accessible to holidaymakers. The town quickly grows into an elegant resort and records visitor numbers of nearly 12,500 people by 1900. In 1871 the area is officially incorporated into the German Empire. In 1877 the Zoppot council purchase the bathing houses from Haffner's heirs and build a second bathing house and extend the pier to 85 metres.

20th Century The Kaiser, Wilhelm II, grants Zoppot city rights on the 8th of October 1901, while neighbouring Gdingen develops as a small seaside resort centred around what is today ul. Świętojańska, Pl. Kaszubski, ul Portowa and ul. Starowiejska.

In the days before WWI, Zoppot's population has increased to 17,400 people and visitor numbers have reached 20,000 annually. On 11th November 1918 with Imperial Germany defeated, the partition collapses and Poland regains independence giving birth to what is regarded as the Second Polish Republic. Danzig is caught in a tug of war between Germany and Poland who turn to the League of Nations to decide on control. With the majority of the city's inhabitants considered to be of German origin but with a financially ruined Germany in no state to provide for them plus the worries of the western powers that Poland might fall under the influence of Bolshevik Russia, a compromise is hashed together which sees the creation of The Free City of Danzig. Formerly established on January 10, 1920 the city incorporates Danzig, Zoppot (but not Gdingen) as well as a large part of the surrounding area and sees the creation of a separate parliament, currency and postal stamps. With Zoppot incorporated into the Free City of Danzig its northern border becomes the border between the Free City and the newly reborn Polish state. The Therapeutic House is converted into a casino.

The Treaty of Versailles changes Gdynia forever though. Poland is awarded access to the sea via a narrow strip of land which is to become infamously known as the 'Polish corridor'. Gdingen, now renamed Gdynia finds itself sat at the top of this corridor.

1920s The Polish Parliament passes a bill about the building of a major port facility at Gdynia on September 23 1922. The village expands rapidly as workers from all over Poland are brought in to help with the construction. The first part of the port is opened by the Polish president Stanisław Wojciechowski on April 29 1923 while August 13 of that year sees the first ship, the French ship Kentucky, enter the port. Gdynia is granted city rights on February 10 1926 and at this point has 12,000 residents. The pier in Sopot is extended to its current length of 512 metres in 1928 and becomes the longest wooden pier in Europe.

1930s The Tri-city area prospers but the rise of Adolf Hitler soon sees the government of the Free City of Danzig come under the control of the Nazis. Tensions rise both within the Free City and over the border in neighbouring Poland. In 1939, WWII starts with Nazi Germany's September 1 attack on Poland's military posts on Westerplatte as Hitler invades to re-incorporate Danzig to the German Reich.

1940s In June 1941, Hitler reneges on the Molotov-Ribbentrop agreement, which has seen Poland partitioned between Nazi Germany and the Soviet Union since September 1939, and invades eastern Poland. The Nazis make Poland their primary killing ground. Six million Poles, including three million Jews, are killed. Although most of Free City Danzig's pre-war Jewish population managed to escape in time to avoid the Holocaust, much of the city's Polish intelligentsia is rounded up and murdered in the nearby Stutthof death camp. By the outbreak of war Gdynia has rapidly grown to the 6th largest city in Poland with a population of over 120,000 people. September 1 –19 sees a heroic defence of the city but eventual defeat sees Nazi Germany occupy Gdynia, incorporate it to the German Reich, rename it Gotenhafen and expel the local population.

On March 23rd 1945 the Red Army enters Zoppot and the German population is driven out, in some cases literally into the sea. Around 10% of the city is destroyed with the most serious damage in the baths/casino area. On March 28, 1945, the Soviets seize Danzig, now a smouldering mass of rubble while Gdynia is liberated by Poles fighting alongside the Red Army.

From 1945 onwards Poland is Sovietised. Control of the area is given to Poland and the cities are renamed with their Polish names. Most Germans are exiled westward, replaced by refugees from east Poland. In 1947 the Communists consolidate political monopoly after rigged elections. The 1950s and 1960s mark a time of major urban rebuilding in Gdansk following the large-scale wartime destruction of the city.

1950s In 1953 Gdynia is connected to Gdańsk via the SKM light railway system, while in 1955 the Warsaw Pact is created with Poland a member. In 1961 the first Sopot International Song Festival is held, a festival which goes on to become a huge televised event in the Soviet bloc countries.

1970s The events of 1970 in Gdańsk and Gdynia are the first to rock the system. In December shipyard workers strike to protest poor living standards. The army intervenes on December 17 and open fire on the protestors, resulting in clashes in which 44 are estimated to have died. Events on this day will have profound effects on workers for many years to come. This is also the year that West German chancellor Willy Brandt formally renounces German territorial claims to Danzig/Gdansk. Opposition to the government grows throughout the 1970s although the country is lifted by the 1978 selection of Krakow Cardinal Karol Wojtyła as Pope.

1980s A general strike is called in August 1980 by the fledgling Solidarność (Solidarity) trade union, led by shipyard electrician Lech Wałęsa. After an 18 day sit-in protest, the government gives in and agrees to the strikers 21 demands. These include the creation of the first free trade unions in the Communist Bloc and marks the first peaceful resolution of grievances. The peace is shattered however by the introduction of Martial Law on December 13, 1981. Solidarność is outlawed by the government and its leadership imprisoned. Other union activists are driven underground. In protest, more than 20,000 Gdańsk citizens take sanctuary in St. Mary's Church. In 1983 Martial Law is lifted and Lech Wałęsa is awarded the Nobel Peace Prize. The late 1980s see a period of gradual liberalisation due in part to Soviet President Mikhail Gorbachev's perestroika in the Soviet Union. Renewed strikes in 1988 and a failing economy convince Polish leader General Wojciech Jaruzelski to initiate talks with Solidarność. In 1989 Round Table talks produce a formula for power sharing between the Communists and Solidarność. Partly-free elections result in sweeping Solidarność victories and the communist regime crumbles.

1990s Following Solidarność's victory in 1989 the new Finance Minister, Leszek Balcerowicz, launches an ambitious shock-therapy economic reform programme and Lech Wałęsa becomes Poland's first democratically-elected, post-communist President. In 1995 former communist, Aleksander Kwaśniewski, defeats Wałęsa in presidential elections. The following year the Gdańsk shipyards are declared bankrupt. In 1999 Poland joins NATO.

2000 onwards In May 1, 2004 Poland enters the European Union, while on April 2, 2005, the widely admired and respected Pope John Paul II passes away. 2007 sees Civic Platform (PO) defeat Law & Justice (PiS) at the polls which results in local boy Donald Tusk becoming Prime Minister. April 10, 2010 sees 96 high-ranking Poles tragically killed in the air disaster at Smolensk in Russia. Among the dead are President Lech Kaczyński and his wife, along with a number of well-known Gdanskians, including Solidarity's Anna Walentynowicz, Senator Maciej Płażyński and MP Arkadiusz Rybicki. In December 2014, Donald Tusk becomes President of the European Council. His party are defeated in the following October's general election and PiS are returned to power for the first time in 8 years.



This year's Baltic Sail takes place June 30 - July 3. Check our Facebook page to win tickets. | Photo by Dominik Werner

CINEMAS

CINEMA CITY KREWETKA

► B-2, ul. Karmelicka 1, Gdańsk, tel. (+48) 58 769 31 00, www.cinema-city.pl. Box office open 09:30 - 22:45. Tickets 15-31zł.

GDYNIA FILM CENTRE

► N-1, Plac Grunwaldzki 2, tel. (+48) 58 712 46 14, www.gcf.org.pl. Box office open depending on repertoire. Tickets 16/13zł.

HELIOS

► N-2/3, Gdynia, Centrum Riviera, ul. Kazimierza Górskiego 2, tel. (+48) 58 779 00 03, www.helios.pl. Box office open 30 minutes before first showtime to 15 minutes after last showtime. Tickets 14-30zł.

MULTIKINO

► M-4, ul. Bohaterów Monte Cassino 63, Sopot, tel. (+48) 58 765 94 10, www.multikino.pl. Box office open 15 minutes before the first showtime to 15 minutes after the last showtime. Tickets 23.90-32.90zł.

FOR THE KIDS

29.05 11:00 » ACTIVE CHILDREN'S DAY


A day specifically for overly-hyper children? Well, them too; but more generally, this is a way to spend International Children's Day (quite a big occasion in Poland) doing something athletic and fun. With over 100 attractions, ranging from Kids' Olympics to an Adventure Trail to beginners' lessons in various sports, each child is sure to find something of interest. ► **Energa Stadium, ul. Pokoleń Lechii Gdańsk 1, Gdańsk (Letnica), Admission free.**

CLASSICAL CONCERTS

02.06 20:00 » ANDRÉ RIEU & ORCHESTRA TOUR

André Rieu is here with his Johann Strauss Orchestra, and their main thing, as you'd expect, is the waltz; it's a form André decided to pursue after his university-age performance of Franz Lehár's *Gold and Silver Waltz* was very warmly received. The Orchestra was founded by the conductor and violinist in 1987, and has expanded several times from its original twelve members, touring around Europe, North America, and Japan, and winning two World Music Awards in the process. ► **Ergo Arena, Plac Dwóch Miast 1, Sopot, Tickets 190-360zł. Available at www.eventim.pl and Empik (Gdańsk, ul. Podwale Grodzkie 8, B-2; open 08:00 - 21:00, Sun 11:00 - 20:00).**

What's going on?

 [facebook.com/GdanskInYourPocket](https://www.facebook.com/GdanskInYourPocket)

EXHIBITIONS

13.04 - 14.08 » GÜNTER GRASS – THE COLLECTION PLUS*

In a project inspired by Aby Warburg's *Mnemosyne*, Günter Grass's art from the Gdańsk City Gallery collection has been put side-by-side with contemporary works by TriCity artists.

► C-4, Günter Grass Gallery in Gdańsk, ul. Szeroka 34/35-37, Gdańsk, tel. (+48) 58 304 98 54, Admission free. Open 11:00 - 19:00, Tue, Wed 11:00 - 17:00. Closed Mon.

29.04 - 15.12 » EVERY STEP LEAVES A TRACE

If you're having a Smokey Bear / Woodsy Owl flashback, this is not exactly what you're thinking of - the Archeological Museum in Gdańsk is showing off its shoe collection, amassed during unrelated excavation work (apparently the type of sedimentary deposition in the region is just perfect for conserving footwear). ► D-4, Archeological Museum, ul. Mariacka 25/26, Gdańsk, tel. (+48) 58 322 21 00, Admission 8/6zł, family ticket 15zł.

01.07 - 31.12 » ROMANIAN WEDDING

Traditional colorful, frequently over-the-top wedding customs of Romania will be having some time in the spotlight at Gdańsk's Ethnographic Museum. Expect elaborate clothing, jewellery, and plenty of audiovisual material. ► E-1, Ethnographic Department of the National Museum, ul. Cystersów 19 (Oliwa Park), Gdańsk, tel. (+48) 58 552 12 71 ext. 101, Admission 8/4zł. Fri free.

FESTIVALS

02.06 - 05.06 » GDYNIA BLUES FESTIVAL

For the thirteenth time, blues artists will converge on Gdynia to croon, sway, and bring both melancholy and hope. As per usual, the festival features three days of FREE outdoor concerts taking place on a stage near the Seaside Boulevard and one ticketed indoor concert by a special star.

17.06 - 18.06 » FLĄDER FESTIWAL

Relax on the beach while listening to indie music from little-known Polish artists. As a rule, each festival edition features an all-new line-up - over 250 different bands have performed on the Fląder/Flounder stage so far. No tickets, and no crowding around the stage if you don't want to; just sun, sand, and music. ► Brzezno Pier, Gdańsk. Admission free.

25.06 » CUDAWIANKI

The CudaWianki festival is considered the official start of summer in Gdynia, with live music on the beach and attractions such as workshops, walking tours, street games, dance shows, and plenty of food (foodtrucks!). Based around the Slavic tradition of St. John's Night, or just Midsummer, the festival is meant to celebrate life and love - and so you'll have the opportunity to weave a traditional flower crown (a wianek: this is where the name comes from) and make a wish as you release a lantern into the midnight sky. Performing artists will include Taco Hemingway and OrganeK; check the festival website for more information as the date approaches. ► Admission free.




BALTIC SAIL
 GDANSK
30th JUNE - 3rd JULY
 MOTLAWA RIVER / FISH MARKET





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2016

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FREE ENTRY!

GDYNIA
moje miasto

27.06 - 08.07 » MONUMENTAL ART FESTIVAL

You know what's important in a country with a lot of grey communist-era carbuncles? Murals. The huge block-of-flats neighborhood called Zaspka knows a thing or two about needing to liven up the drab, and it'll be hosting the eighth edition of the Monumental Art Festival, acquiring some cool new wall paintings in the process.

29.06 - 02.07 » OPEN'ER FESTIVAL

Among Poland's biggest and craziest music festivals, Open'er is best experienced by reserving a campsite and coming prepared for four days of partying in the sun as some of the world's biggest touring acts perform on several stages at the Gdynia-Kosakowo Airfield. This year's line-up will include Red Hot Chili Peppers, Florence + The Machine, Wiz Khalifa, Bastille, Foals, and many more. ▶ 1-day ticket 239zł, weekend ticket 369zł, 4-day ticket without camping place 549zł, 4-day ticket with camping place 629zł. Available at www.ebiet.pl and Empik (Gdynia, ul. Świętojańska 68, N-2; open 09:00 - 20:00; Sat 09:00 - 18:00, Sun 10:00 - 18:00).

01.07 - 10.07 » GDYNIA DESIGN DAYS

Organised for the ninth time, the aim of the Design Days is to build a dialogue between representatives of creative business, fans of design, Tri-City residents, tourists, and everybody who's looking for some inspiration. There are workshops, lectures, and exhibitions on art and commercial design. ▶ N-4, Pomeranian Science and Technology Park, Al. Zwycięstwa 96/98.

01.07 - 26.08 » INTERNATIONAL FESTIVAL OF ORGAN, CHOIR, AND CHAMBER MUSIC

Lovers of organ, choir, and chamber music rejoice - the yearly International Festival is here again, with two months' worth of Friday concerts by soloists, camera groups, vocalists, choirs, and orchestras from Poland and abroad. This festival's history dates back to 1978; in that time, over 250 artists have performed for Gdańsk audiences. ▶ C-4, St. Mary's Church, ul. Podkramarska 5, Gdańsk. Tickets 25/15zł. Available 1 hour before concerts. 20:15 Every Friday.

08.07 - 25.07 » LADIES' JAZZ FESTIVAL

Touted as the only women's jazz festival in Europe, Ladies' Jazz has been a fixture of warm July nights in Gdynia for over ten years. Last year's edition welcomed jazz stars Mika Urbaniak, Christine Tobin, Dianne Reeves, and Candy Dulfer. ▶ Ticket prices undecided at press time.

09.07 16:00 » FESTIVAL OF COLOURS

The world might be becoming increasingly Westernised, but - luckily - culture and customs still flow both ways, and the Indian spring festival of colors and love, Holi, seems to have found more than a few enthusiasts in many European countries, including Poland. The date might be wayyyy off, as the real Holi is traditionally celebrated in March (sometimes February), but you've gotta make adjustments for us Northern folk who only get a few months of real warmth. The festival will be taking place at Plac Zebrań Ludowych. ▶ Admission free.

14.07 - 17.07 » FETA INTERNATIONAL FESTIVAL OF STREET & OPEN-AIR THEATRES

It's the middle of summer, aka the perfect time for street performances and general outdoor fun. This year's edition of FETA will take place in an old part of the city which is making a bit of a comeback of late - the Stare Przedmieście and Dolne Miasto (the Old Suburb and Lower Town). Get ready for a long weekend of sketches and plays by international theatre groups. Check the festival website for more details, but be warned that it can make for a rather frustrating browsing experience. ▶ **Admission free.**

20.07 - 24.07 » GLOBALTICA WORLD CULTURES FESTIVAL

Globaltica is an extraordinary summer festival, with multicultural events from a wide variety of traditions and religions. It's about treating performances as living culture and a part of contemporary life instead of as museum pieces. It features modern artists inspired by the traditions and roots of the places they come from, but "translated" into a modern medium for artistic and social communication. This year's performers, which include Fanfare Ciocărlia, Rancho Apache, and Ngawang Lodup, will give concerts in Kolibki Park, Gdynia Orlowo. ▶ **Tickets 18-40zł. Available at www.globaltica.pl.**

29.07 - 31.07 » GDAŃSK DŹWIGA MUŻĘ

With a name that could mean either "Gdańsk Carries the Muse" or "Gdańsk Carries the Music", this festival is a fast-paced, high-temperature summer extravaganza. Taking place at Pl. Zebrań Ludowych, GDM will feature fourteen hours of workshops by world-class dancers (hip hop, popping, house, dancehall) in two dance zones: Art of Dance and Power of Flava, dance battles, twelve concerts on the Main Stage, graffiti artists, and a chillout zone for when you're falling flat on your face from all the dancing. ▶ **Tickets 15zł, festival pass 35zł. Available at www.ticketpro.pl and Empik (Gdańsk, ul. Podwale Grodzkie 8, B-2; open 08:00 - 21:00, Sun 11:00 - 20:00).**

29.07 - 07.08 » SHAKESPEARE FESTIVAL

It's been a whole new world of festival-making since The Gdańsk Shakespeare Theatre finally got a building two years ago, allowing performances can take place on home turf. As always, this festival dedicated to the Bard (the only event of its type in Poland) will feature a generous selection of plays, including the 2016 Golden Yorick recipient. ▶ **B-5, The Gdańsk Shakespeare Theatre, ul. Bogusławskiego 1, Gdańsk, tel. (+48) 58 351 01 01, Ticket prices undecided at press time.**

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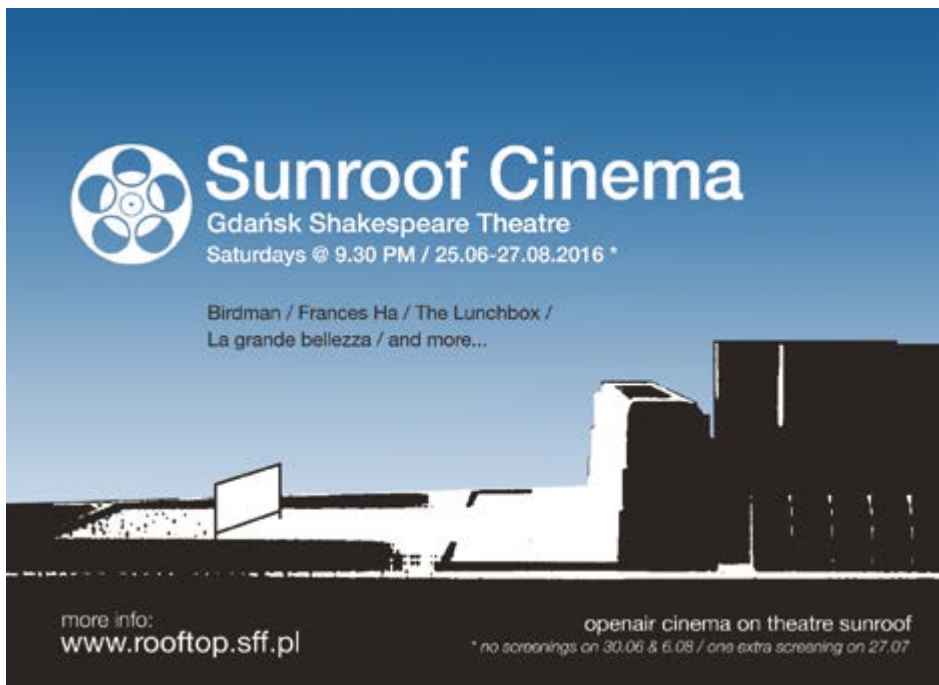
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FORMATION /UK
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FAT WHITE FAMILY /UK
LA PRIEST /UK
SUNFLOWER BEAN /USA
LOR /PL **ERITH** /PL
CALM THE FIRE /PL
NEAL CASSADY & THE FABULOUS ENSEMBLE /PL
LASS /PL **OLY** /PL

Songwriters Stage W4:

1/09 **DANIEL SPALENIAK** /PL
MORIAH WOODS /USA
2/09 **PHILLIP BRACKEN** /AUS
ROSALIE CHATWIN /PL
3/09 **HENRY DAVID'S GUN** /PL
+ **TEDDY JR.** /PL

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openair cinema on theatre sunroof
* no screenings on 30.06 & 6.08 / one extra screening on 27.07

30.07 - 21.08 » ST DOMINIC'S FAIR 2016

St. Dominic's Fair (or Jarmark Dominika or simply Jarmark as it's referred to in Polish), is on par with Weihnachtsmarkt and Oktoberfest when it comes to both size and visibility. The festival dates all the way back to 1260, when it was established by Pope Alexander IVth, the good old days when a fair could persuade you to attend a pardon mass and cut your stay in purgatory by a whopping 100 days.

Originally the fair kicked off with bell ringing and the call for around 400 ships to come to Gdańsk to ply their wares. It was always an important event for the town in which the king and nobility took part; the most memorable being in 1310 where Teutonic knights used the absence of the king and invaded. It ran up to World War II when the fair was stopped for 33 years. The modern version pays a lot of mind to Medieval traditions with salesmen from the whole Pomerania area coming to sell their produce mainly along ul. Szeroka and ul. Mariacka, C-3 with the streets around Targ Rybny, D-3 full of antiques and collectors' items. It's a colourful affair and well worth checking out. Though nowadays you can't count on Teutonic Knights to crash the party, you can still buy obscene amounts of amber jewellery, regional arts, sausage, and lard as well as the odd bit of Nazi memorabilia discovered by bounty hunters who are still digging up badges and the like to this day.

Lasting for three weeks this is the biggest event in the Gdańsk cultural calendar and attracts over 6 million visitors annually. The highlight of this year's event will be a London Eye style Ferris wheel with 42 air-conditioned cabins taking

people up to a height of 55 metres above the ground. Find that over on Granary Island opposite the Crane.

You'll find a detailed programme of events at the stands of the event organisers (you'll find one next to Neptune's statue) or you can download a map from the organisers' website.

► **Streets of Gdansk old town, Old Town, Gdansk.**

FILM

18.05 - 25.05 » MILLENIUM DOCS AGAINST GRAVITY

Poland's largest documentary film festival is on for the thirteenth time (and first time in Gdynia) with screenings of over forty best new docs and meetings with filmmakers. Past guests have included Werner Herzog, Michel Gondry, Ulrich Seidl, Siergiej Loznitsa i James Marsh, Jane Goodall, Gari Kasparow, and Daniel Cohn-Bendit. ► **N-1, Gdynia Film Centre, Plac Grunwaldzki 2, tel. (+48) 58 712 46 14.**

23.06 - 26.06 » GDANSK DOCFILM FESTIVAL

Film festivals abound in Poland, and here's one dedicated to documentaries. The focus is on "dignity and work", so a lot of the films will touch on issues of discrimination, exploitation, unemployment, and the worker's place in today's increasingly globalised world. It's more than appropriate that the festival takes place in Gdańsk, where the Solidarity workers' union was formed in 1980 to fight for dignity and decent working conditions. ► **B-1, European Solidarity Centre, Pl. Solidarności 1, Gdańsk, tel. (+48) 58 772 41 11, Admission free.**

**SOPOT
FILM
FESTIVAL**

16. MIĘDZYNARODOWY FESTIWAL FILMOWY
16TH INTERNATIONAL FILM FESTIVAL

09-17.07.2016

WWW.SFF.PL

Mecenas: Organizator: Partnerzy:

Ministerstwo Kultury i Dziedzictwa Narodowego, Urząd Marszałkowski Województwa Pomorskiego, Miasto Sopot, hamulec bezpieczeństwa, Multikino, TU, PASTORAL, PAŃSTWOWA GALERIA SZTUKI

Dofinansowano ze środków Ministerstwa Kultury i Dziedzictwa Narodowego, Polskiego Instytutu Sztuki Filmowej, Urzędu Marszałkowskiego Województwa Pomorskiego oraz Miasta Sopotu.

25.06 - 27.08 » OUTDOOR CINEMA ON THE SHAKESPEARE THEATRE TERRACE

Participants of these outdoor cinema sessions will have trouble deciding whether to look at the screen or the gorgeous city panorama. Inspired by NYC rooftop film screenings, the festival will feature recent movies which have been well received at Sundance, Berlinale, Rotterdam, Cannes, Annecy, and Toronto festivals. ▶ Tickets 10zł. Available before the event. 21:30 Every Saturday.

28.06 - 23.08 » SUMMER CINEMA IN ORŁOWO

Relax and unwind on Tuesday evenings with some outdoor summer cinema viewed from a lounge chair at the Orłowo beach. Expect lots of recent critically acclaimed films, including Damián Szifron's *Wild Tales* and Paolo Sorrentino's *Youth*. ▶ Tickets 10zł. Available before the event. 21:30 Every Tuesday.

01.07 - 31.08 » ORANGE SUMMER CINEMA

One of the high points of the summer season is the two month season of film showings on the pier. There is something great about sitting outside, breathing in the fresh sea air, and watching a movie on a big screen with hundreds of others, which has now become part of the Sopot summer tradition. Films start at 22:00 in July and 21:30 in August. ▶ M-4, Pier, Admission to pier 7.50/4zł.

09.07 - 17.07 » SOPOT FILM FESTIVAL

The Sopot Film Festival may have started as a small autumn event, but today it has become one of the city's major summer festivals with feature-length films, live music playing alongside silent movies, open-air screenings, exhibitions, and meetings with directors. It's also a great chance to move around the city, as festivities take place in various locations. ▶ Tickets 10-14zł, festival pass 50-140zł. Available at www.sff.pl and State Art Gallery.

FOOD & DRINK

20.05 » NIGHT OF RESTAURANTS

Just prior to the Night of Museums is this gastronomic event. This year's edition is the fifth; as always, each participating restaurant will create a special Night Menu with an extra-special Night Dish and host a culinary demonstration. Venues will stay open till late at night.

26.05 - 29.05 » FOOD TRUCK TASTES FESTIVAL

Food trucks are all the rage in PL these days, and late May might just be the perfect time to lounge outside eating yet another plate of delicious street food. Confirmed so far: crepes, burgers, fries, pierogi, and Mexican. ▶ Admission free.

Vine vine.co/inyourpocket

NATIONAL MUSEUM



18.03 - 13.06 » AT THE FOOT OF THE TATRA MOUNTAINS. PODHALE HIGHLANDER CULTURE

See all the characteristic elements of Podhale heritage, like the traditional furnishings of a mountain cottage, folk costumes, musical instruments, a sheep herder's shelter, and tools used in hunting, herding, woodworking, and tanning hide. ► E-1, Ethnographic Department of the National Museum, ul. Cystersów 19 (Oliwa Park), Gdańsk, Admission 8/4zł, Fri free. Open 09:00 - 16:00, Sat, Sun 10:00 - 17:00. Closed Mon.

24.03 - 29.05 » FELIX MESECK - THE DRAGON, THE WITCH, AND THE GOLDEN POT

Born in Danzig (Gdańsk) in 1883, German artist Felix Meseck was most known for his black-and-white illustrations for Johann Wolfgang von Goethe's *Faust* (1914 edition) and "Prometheus" (1920 edition). This exhibition features 44 of his illustrations for E.T.A. Hoffmann's *The Golden Pot* and Ludwig Achim von Arnim's *Isabella von Ägypten*. ► B-6, National Museum Old Art Department, ul. Toruńska 1, Gdańsk, tel. (+48) 58 301 70 61 ext. 233, Admission 10/6zł. Fri free. Open 09:00 - 16:00, Sat, Sun 10:00 - 17:00. Closed Mon.

13.04 - 15.09 » MEDIEVAL TREASURES. GOTHIC ART FROM THE NATIONAL MUSEUM IN GDAŃSK COLLECTION

The National Museum in Gdańsk will take you back to a time when Crusades, the Inquisition, and bouts of bubonic plague were concrete reality rather than the stuff of history books and fantasy series. The collection encompasses alabaster figures from Nottingham, a Romanesque Madonna Enthroned sculpture, a goblet fashioned from bison horn and gold-plated copper, and many other priceless artefacts. ► B-6, National Museum Old Art Department, ul. Toruńska 1, Gdańsk, tel. (+48) 58 301 70 61 ext. 233, Admission 10/6zł. Fri free. Open 09:00 - 16:00, Sat, Sun 10:00 - 17:00. Closed Mon.

01.06 - 05.06 » RESTAURANT WEEK

Calling all foodies (and their kids): for a week this June, you'll have the chance to sample special family-friendly three-course meals from top Gdańsk restaurants for the price of 39/19 PLN each - close to a bargain, given the usual prices.

LIVE MUSIC

18.03 - 27.08 » LIVE MUSIC AT SOPOT'S MUNICIPAL BREWERY

Every Friday, you can relax to blues, jazz, folk, pop, and chillout while enjoying a pint or two at Sopot's first brewery. The venue remains open until the last guests are ready to head home. ► M-3, Browar Miejski Sopot, ul. Bohaterów Monte Cassino 35, Sopot, tel. (+48) 58 342 02 42, Admission free. 19:00 Every Friday & Saturday.

18.03 - 27.08 » JAZZ JAM SESSION

Do seafood and live jazz music make a good weekend night combination? Find out on Fridays and Saturdays at this seaside restaurant. ► M-3, Smak Morza, Al. Mamuszki 2, Sopot, tel. (+48) 58 551 62 68, Admission free. 20:00 Every Friday & Saturday.

18.03 - 26.08 » LIVE MUSIC FRIDAYS AT ZAPPIO

This charming cellar pub located in a historic old town building has live music every Friday. ► D-4, Hostel Zappio, ul. Świętojańska 49, Gdańsk, tel. (+48) 58 322 01 74, Admission free. 20:00 Every Friday.

29.04 - 25.08 » LIVE MUSIC AT SZAFARNIA 10

Three-hour jazz, blues, and swing concerts will be making bi-weekly appearances at Szafarnia 10. Pair the music with some delicious Baltic Sea fish for dinner and make it a satisfying night out. ► D-4, Szafarnia 10, ul. Szafarnia 10, Gdańsk, tel. (+48) 58 600 85 00, Admission free. 19:00 Every Thursday & Friday.

16.03 - 30.08 » JAM SESSION AT BUNKIER

Everyone's invited to these open jam sessions! Guitars, percussion, and other instruments will be available to amateur (and pro) musicians every Wednesday at 8 PM. If you can't play, come listen, or get someone to teach you. ► C-3, Bunkier Klubogaleria, ul. Olejarna 3, Gdańsk, tel. (+48) 531 71 12 07, Admission free. 20:00 Every Wednesday.

OPERA

11.06 12:00 » OPERA? SI!

This "scenic lecture" serves as a gentle introduction to opera or a way to expand your knowledge - filled with dialogues, live music, recordings, and anecdotes, this June meet-up will be part of an ongoing monthly series. ► G-3, State Baltic Opera, Al. Zwycięstwa 15, Gdańsk, tel. (+48) 58 763 49 13, Tickets 18zł. Available at www.ebilet.pl.

ROCK & POP CONCERTS

22.05 18:00 » SCOTT BRADLEE'S POSTMODERN JUKEBOX

YouTube musician Scott Bradlee gained internet fame after covering Miley Curus's hit "We Can't Stop" with his rotating group of musicians called Postmodern Jukebox. The artists remake current pop songs in styles of jazz, ragtime, and swing, which has met with enough enthusiasm to warrant a North America and Europe tour. ▶ Stary Maneż, ul. Słowackiego 23, Gdańsk, Tickets 89zł. Available at www.eventim.pl and Empik (Gdańsk, ul. Podwale Grodzkie 8, B-2; open 08:00 - 21:00, Sun 11:00 - 20:00).

25.05 22:00 » REBEKAH

Techno musician Rebekah draws inspiration from Dave Clarke, Derrick Carter, Richie Hawtin, and Billy Nasty - all artists she saw performing in Que Club in Birmingham as a teen - and is a regular guest in clubs around the world. ▶ B90, ul. Doki 1, Gdańsk, Tickets 25-39zł. Available at tickets.soundrive.pl or before the concert.

05.06 20:00 » JULIO IGLESIAS

Father of the "King of Latin Pop" Enrique Iglesias, Julio Iglesias is a Grammy-winning singer-songwriter and one of the best-selling artists of all time (100-300 million records sold worldwide). Having released over 80 albums, he might be one of the most prolific, as well. ▶ L-4, Forest Opera, Sopot, ul. Moniuszki 12, Tickets 180-550zł. Available at www.bilety24.pl and Empik (Sopot, ul. Bohaterów Monte Cassino 63; open 10:00 - 21:00, Sun 10:00 - 20:00).

09.06 - 11.06 » SEAZONE MUSIC & CONFERENCE

Seazone is a two part event - part music industry conference, part concerts. If you're interested in the conference side we'll let you check out their excellent English website. What we're interested in are the pair of concerts scheduled for the second and third nights of the conference. Taking place in Sopot's wonderful Forest Opera, on the Friday you can get see the wonderful American singer-songwriter Kelis perform. She'll be supported by Polish singer Krzysztof Zalewski and Brodka. Saturday sees Polish hip-hop outfit Kaliber 44 supported by Steve Nash and the Turntable Orchestra among others. Even if hip-hop isn't necessarily your thing, Kaliber 44 are worth a look - they've been around for nearly 25 years during which time they have influenced a whole generation of Polish artists. You'll be surprised that Polish is a language which lends itself very well to rapping. ▶ L-4, Forest Opera, Sopot, ul. Moniuszki 12, Tickets 60-200zł. Available at www.ticketpro.pl and Empik (Sopot, ul. Bohaterów Monte Cassino 63; open 10:00 - 21:00, Sun 10:00 - 20:00).



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STATE ART GALLERY



09.04 - 03.07 » KAZIMIERZ SICHULSKI

Young Poland (Art Nouveau) painter and graphic artist Kazimierz Sichulski was born in Lviv and studied at the Academy of Fine Arts in Kraków under the tutelage of Leon Wyczółkowski, Józef Mehoffer, and Stanisław Wyspiański. This exhibition presents over 145 of his works on loan from the Lviv National Art Gallery. ▶ M-4, State Art Gallery, Pl. Zdrojowy 2, Sopot, tel. (+48) 58 551 06 21, Admission 10/7zł. Open 11:00 - 19:00. Closed Mon.

ORGAN MUSIC FESTIVAL



Photo: Paweł Borsuk | brandspot

05.07 - 23.08 » INTERNATIONAL FESTIVAL OF ORGAN MUSIC IN OLIWA

Organ music in the solemn but beautiful interior of the Oliwa Cathedral is surely an aesthetic experience. Since this is an international festival (the 59th, so they must be doing something right!), you can expect some of the best and most moving pieces by brilliant musicians from all over Europe. This year, 3,500 audience members are expected to attend. ▶ E-1, Oliwa Cathedral, ul. Biskupa Edmunda Nowickiego 5, Gdańsk, tel. (+48) 58 552 47 65, Ticket prices undecided at press time. Available before concerts. 20:00 Every Tuesday & Friday.

11.06 20:00 » ICELAND TO POLAND

This concert series is a musical exchange between Poland and Iceland - Polish bands will travel to Reykjavik later in the year. The line-up includes Ottoman, Churchhouse Creepers, Alchemia, and Oni (plus US band Ledfoot). ▶ B90, ul. Doki 1, Gdańsk, Tickets 85-105zł. Available at tickets.soundrive.pl or before the concert.

16.06 20:00 » ZAZ

French songstress Zaz (real name Isabelle Geffroy) does a soothing mix of music styles (jazz, blues, chansons, African, Brazilian, Latino) seeped in elegant Frenchness. She debuted with an album named after herself in 2010, after winning first place in the 2009 edition of the Tremplin Génération France Bleu/Réservoir competition. In 2014 she came out with her third studio album titled *Paris*. ▶ L-4, Forest Opera, Sopot, ul. Moniuszki 12, Tickets 140-280zł. Available at www.eventim.pl and Empik (Sopot, ul. Bohaterów Monte Cassino 63; open 10:00 - 21:00, Sun 10:00 - 20:00).

24.06 19:30 » JETHRO TULL'S IAN ANDERSON

Ian Anderson, the eccentric and distinctive front man of British prog rock group Jethro Tull, is coming to Sopot's Forest Opera for a special summertime concert with a supporting act by Lion Shepherd. ▶ L-4, Forest Opera, Sopot, ul. Moniuszki 12, Tickets 99-249zł. Available at www.eventim.pl and Empik (Sopot, ul. Bohaterów Monte Cassino 63; open 10:00 - 21:00, Sun 10:00 - 20:00).

24.06 19:00 » ROSETTA / KERRETTA

Exceptionally well-matched as far as names are concerned, Rosetta (Philadelphia post-metal) and Kerretta (New Zealand post-rock) will be sharing the stage at B90 this June. ▶ B90, ul. Doki 1, Gdańsk, Tickets 40-50zł. Available at tickets.soundrive.pl or before the concert.

30.06 18:00 » ESPERANZA SPALDING

Four-time Grammy laureate Esperanza Spalding has a unique musical aesthetic fusing jazz, bossa nova, neo soul, and R&B, following a "wonderful arc that started 40 years ago where people kept incorporating modern sounds into their music". Her most recent, fifth studio album titled *Emily's D+Evolution* came out in March. ▶ Stary Mianeż, ul. Słowackiego 23, Gdańsk, Tickets 149-199zł. Available at www.ticketpro.pl and Empik (Gdańsk, ul. Podwale Grodzkie 8, B-2; open 08:00 - 21:00, Sun 11:00 - 20:00).

15.07 18:00 » AVICII

Creator of "Seek Bromance", "Hey Brother", and "Wake Me Up", Swedish DJ Avicii (real name Tim Bergling) might just be the man behind those summer hits you can't get out of your head. With two World Music Awards, two Grammy nominations, and two released albums - *True* and *Stories* - his career is definitely on the right track. ▶ Energa Stadium, ul. Pokoleń Lechii Gdańsk 1, Gdańsk (Letnica), Tickets 135-699zł. Available at www.ticketpro.pl and Empik (Gdańsk, ul. Podwale Grodzkie 8, B-2; open 08:00 - 21:00, Sun 11:00 - 20:00).

16.07 20:00 » RODRIGUEZ

Seen *Searching for Sugar Man* yet? Sixto Rodriguez, the Detroit-born Mexican folk musician / sweetheart of South African music lovers, has finally gained widespread popularity in the West following the film's release - and now he's in Poland. ▶ L-4, Forest Opera, Sopot, ul. Moniuszki 12, Tickets 170-350zł. Available at www.eventim.pl and Empik (Sopot, ul. Bohaterów Monte Cassino 63; open 10:00 - 21:00, Sun 10:00 - 20:00).

21.07 20:30 » LIONEL RICHIE

"...hello? Is it me you're looking for?" Lionel's faithful fans certainly are. The Alabama-born artist has been active for nearly half a century now, releasing ten studio albums and winning four Grammys in the process. As of this year, the music icon is also MusiCares person of the year. ▶ Ergo Arena, Pl. Dwóch Miast 1, Gdansk, Tickets 220-395zł. Available at www.ticketpro.pl and Empik (Gdańsk, ul. Podwale Grodzkie 8, B-2; open 08:00 - 21:00, Sun 11:00 - 20:00).



youtube.com/inyourpocket

29.07 19:30 » KRAFTWERK 3D

Without a doubt, the German electro giants Kraftwerk are one of the bands that changed the face of modern music, heavily influencing synth pop, electrofunk, hip hop, techno, industrial, and other genres. Their current "3D" concert series are a true Gesamtkunstwerk - total work of art - of the group that pioneered the use of machines (synthesizers, computers, vocoders) in music-making. ▶ L-4, Forest Opera, Sopot, ul. Moniuszki 12, Tickets 199zł. Available at www.eventim.pl and Empik (Sopot, ul. Bohaterów Monte Cassino 63; open 10:00 - 21:00, Sun 10:00 - 20:00).

30.07 20:30 » ALE MUSICALE!

Ale Musicale!, a show by ROMA Music Theatre, is a mish-mash of all your favorite musicals, with hits from *Cats*, *Mamma Mia*, *Jesus Christ Superstar*, *Les Miserables*, *The Lion King*, *Grease*, *Singin' in the Rain*, *The Phantom of the Opera*, and others. ▶ L-4, Forest Opera, Sopot, ul. Moniuszki 12, Tickets 99-299zł. Available at www.eventim.pl and Empik (Sopot, ul. Bohaterów Monte Cassino 63; open 10:00 - 21:00, Sun 10:00 - 20:00).

31.07 20:30 » JOSÉ CARRERAS & JUSTYNA STECZKOWSKA

One of the Three Tenors alongside Luciano Pavarotti and Plácido Domingo, José Carreras is credited with introducing opera to a wider audience - in great style. The Spanish operatic singer will be performing with Polish singer-songwriter Justyna Steczkowska. ▶ L-4, Forest Opera, Sopot, ul. Moniuszki 12, Tickets 145-595zł. Available at www.eventim.pl and Empik (Sopot, ul. Bohaterów Monte Cassino 63; open 10:00 - 21:00, Sun 10:00 - 20:00).



PORTOBELLO
GROUP



OPERA LEŚNA

10/06
FRIDAY

KELIS BRODKA
KRYSZTOF ZAŁĘF ZAŁĘWSKI
HATTI VATTI FEAT. LADY KATEE

11/06
SATURDAY

KALIBER 44
WSPÓLNA SCENA
STEVE NASH & TURNTABLE ORCHESTRA
SOKÓŁ, KOSI,
WŁÓDI, DJ STEEZ,
MR. KRIME, STASIAK
PAULINA PRZYBYSZ

CONCERTS - 2 DAYS & CLUB EVENTS - 3 DAYS!

TICKETS ON



WWW.SEAZONESOPOT.PL

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SPECIAL EVENTS

05.03 - 27.08 » **BIOBAZAAR**



A Saturday market for the health-conscious, eco-friendly, and hippie types. The products are not only eco, they're usually locally produced as well; and you can count on a selection of meats, dairy, fruits and veg, baked goods, oils, cosmetics, and more. ► **ul. Popiełuszki. Open 08:00 - 16:00. Every Saturday.**

21.05 19:00 » **NIGHT OF MUSEUMS**

The first Long Night of Museums took place in Berlin in 1997, and the concept spread through Europe like wildfire: currently over 120 major European cities (and many minor ones) organise their own museum nights. Take advantage of this opportunity to see special exhibitions at cultural institutions like the Gallery of Old Toys, World War II Museum, and the Abbot's Palace in Oliwa. ► **Admission free.**

28.05 - 29.05 » **GDAŃSK DAYS**

Targ Węglowy will be closed to traffic for the weekend as the good people of Gdańsk celebrate 559 years since king Kazimierz Jagiellończyk IV added the golden crown to the two crosses on the municipal coat of arms. Festivities will kick off on Friday at 20:30 with the "Robert Janowski SHOW" at Targ Węglowy; Saturday will bring a sailing race in Brzeźno, an exhibition, concerts (including the Wojtek Mazolewski Anniversary Concert at 20:00), and a family run along Targ Węglowy. On Sunday head to the Energa Stadium for a family fair. ► **Admission free.**

28.05 - 29.05 » **LET'S PLAY - GDYNIA BOARD GAME MEETINGS**

The nineties kids, possibly the last generation raised on analogue games, are now turning a cherished childhood pastime into an acceptable adult activity. The Gdynia Board Game Meetings offer over 400 games to enjoy with friends, so break out the good old Monopoly board or try something brand new. ► **Gdynia Arena, ul. Kazimierza Górskiego 8, Tickets 10-15zł. Available before the event. 10:00.**

29.05 12:00 » **MADE IN USA: AMERICAN CAR SHOW**

From the Ford Model T to the newest Jeep, this car show will present all that was and is best in American car making. The location will be the square in front of the Sopot pier (Skwer Kuracyjny). ► **Admission free.**



Kino Letnie w Gdyni-Orłowie | wtorki | godz. 21.30 | 28.06-16.08.2016
Summer openair cinema at Gdynia-Orłowo | tusedays @ 9.30 PM

Scena Letnia Teatru Miejskiego - wejście nr 17 / Municipal Theatre Summer Stage - beach entry no.17
www.kinoletnie.info

30.06 - 03.07 » BALTIC SAIL GDAŃSK

Sailing, as you might imagine, is a big thing up near the Baltic sea. Baltic Sea festivals take place in seven port cities: Gdańsk, Świnoujście, Rostock, Klaipėda, Karlskrona, Halmstad, and Sassnitz, and their purpose is to promote maritime heritage and revive traditional Baltic shipping. If you own any shipping vessel, you're welcome to take part, and if not, you'll still have the opportunity to go on a cruise, tour yachts, or attend concerts, film screenings, and historical reenactments. Since this is a special 20th anniversary edition of the festival, some bonus events have been planned: Sea Cinema, The Beach Project (manmade beach - not sure why the natural one won't suffice - with lounge chairs and sports activities), Chillout Zone, and an attempt to beat the Polish record for the longest collectively-sung sea shanty. ▶ Tickets available before the event.

SPORT

27.05 20:00 » KSW 35

Stars of the Polish mixed martial arts scene are back on the KSW ring, getting ready to beat the snot out of each other and get paid to do so. If you don't care about anyone else, you should be here to see Mariusz Pudzianowski, five-time winner of the World's Strongest Man title, whom you might have seen on a Lowell pickle jar if you hail from the Land of the Free. Mamed Khalidov

and Michał Materla will also be making an appearance.

▶ Ergo Arena, Pl. Dwóch Miast 1, Gdansk, Tickets 100-330zł. Available at www.ebilet.pl and Empik (Gdańsk, ul. Podwale Grodzkie 8, B-2; open 08:00 - 21:00, Sun 11:00 - 20:00).

01.06 20:45 » POLAND VS. NETHERLANDS

The White-and-Reds will be taking on the Dutch in a pre-EURO friendly at Energa Stadium. Despite a less-than-world-class national team, Poland has an undying passion for football - see its extent during this Gdańsk match. Go, Poland, go! ▶ Energa Stadium, ul. Pokoleń Lechii Gdańsk 1, Gdańsk (Letnica), Tickets 90-180zł. Available at www.kupbilet.pl.

17.06 23:59 » MIDSUMMER NIGHT RUN

See all of Gdynia in a jiffy during this quick 10K run around the very center of the city. If you're worried about June temperatures, don't be - the run starts at midnight to avoid this very issue. A bit of bar-hopping afterwards? ▶ Registration fee 30-100zł.

12.06 - 10.07 » UEFA EURO 2016 FAN ZONE AT TARG WĘGLOWY

Experience all the action and emotions of this year's European Football Championship with other eager fans at Gdańsk's Targ Węglowy. Big outdoor screen, live matches, possibly some beer - what else do ya need? ▶ Targ Węglowy, Gdańsk.



Want a beach B-B-Q with a difference? Malika provide open-fire cooking days out in Gdynia

The choice of dining continues to improve and they really are some top-class restaurants around now with a few offering a ridiculously good quality to price ratio if you are visiting from abroad. The figures in brackets denote the checked price of the cheapest and dearest main course on the menu. The opening hours we list are flexible in that these are the hours the venue has told us you can expect the chef to be working. If business is slow people will have no qualms about shutting early.

Service in general is not very good so please reward polite, pleasant and efficient service to encourage others. Beware of using 'thank you' when paying for your bill. This is often taken to mean 'Keep the change'. Please note that with an ever increasing number of bars and restaurants the following is a list of places, which in our opinion are well worthy of our recommendation (to go to or to stay away from). For many more reviews check out our website at gdansk.inyourpocket.com.

In the meantime here are some tips depending on what you're looking for.

LOCAL

Check out the local Gdansk cuisine in **Gdańska** or try **Kubicki** for a modern take on traditional local dishes. If it's pierogi you want then try **Familia Bistro**, or if you're in **Oliwa Mandu** is the place we (ad lots of other people) like for traditional, homemade Polish dumplings.

Goldwasser is one of our favourites with great food and a view over the river from their terrace. Check out their collectable sets of Goldwasser liqueur. We're by the sea so local also typically means fish. There's a number of good places but our favourites are **Zafishowani**, **Tawerna**, or **Morska**.

CHEAP

The legendary **Bar Pod Rybą** does an excellent line in baked potatoes served with a wide choice of toppings while we love **Naleśnikowo** for pancakes and crepes. Alternatively take a step back in time and eat in one of the **'Milk Bars'** where basic and very cheap food is served up in a pre- 1989 atmosphere. It's **Tesoro Express** for the best pizza in Sopot while **Czerwony Piec** receive the same accolade in Gdynia.

COUPLES

Cyrano et Roxane is good for low key trysts with an owner who will make you feel very important. Along the seafront is **Bulaj** which serves excellent fish, among other dishes, in a wooden beach house among the sand dunes. On a pleasant evening a stroll back to town along the beach can feel very romantic. Not just for couples but **Filharmonia** offers both great food and wonderful views from their terrace. Gdynia is able to boast a couple of the best restaurants in all three cities these days thanks to **Sztuczka**. Bring your better half here to impress with food and service.

SPLURGE

Prices are still competitive compared to Scandinavia and Western Europe so nowhere is going to have you seeing stars. **Mercato** in Gdansk continues to impress and is a great spot right on the waterfront while the jawdropping **Sopot 737 L'Entre Villes** set inside a beautiful villa. Up in Gdynia take a look at the new **Open Kitchen** which manages to be both classy but unstuffy.

SYMBOL KEY

🚭 No smoking	👶 Child-friendly
🐾 Animal friendly	💳 Credit cards not accepted
🚶 Outside seating	♿ Facilities for the disabled
👉 Take away	🚬 Smoking room available
🚚 Home delivery	📶 Wi-fi connection
🎵 Live music	

AMERICAN

BILLY'S AMERICAN RESTAURANT

A bright, 50s style, American diner spread over 2 floors close to the pier. The draw here is the comfort value of the food and if it's ribs and wings and burgers and fries you want this is the place to go in Sopot. The staff is friendly and professional and we love it (our kids even more so) and that's despite the temporary lack of an alcohol licence and the fact that this is another restaurant which has way more seats than the staff in the kitchen can comfortably serve. If they're to be like their other restaurants in Gdansk, they'll need to get this ironed out and we're sure that they will. Also at ul. Warzywnicza 10 a-e (entrance from ul. Długie Pobrzeże), Gdansk and Madison Shopping Gallery, ul. Rajska 10, Gdansk. ▶ M-4, Pl. Zdrojowy 2, Sopot, tel. (+48) 690 03 37 47, www.billys.com.pl. Open 10:00 - 24:00. (22-75zł). 🚭 🚶 🐾 📶 🚚 🎵

HARD ROCK CAFE

Gdansk's Hard Rock Café sits proudly on the main square and its arrival has been well-received judging by the trade it's doing. While the trusted menu of burgers, steaks, ribs, wings and cocktails is instantly familiar, the level of service is a welcome bonus and probably one of the reasons that it keeps drawing the visitors in (competitors take note). There's a stage for live music (check FB for details) and a great terrace for people watching in the good weather. Finish up by making the local authority marketing people happy by purchasing a stack of HRC Gdansk t-shirts in the adjacent store. ▶ C-5, ul. Długi Targ 35-38, Gdańsk, tel. (+48) 58 535 77 04, www.hardrock.com/gdansk. Open 11:00 - 24:00. (33-79zł). 🚭 🚶 🐾 📶 🚚 🎵

PUB CHARLIE

First off, there's live sports on the screens and secondly, some top notch American eats which are good enough to see this place landing a mention in our restaurant section. A better burger you won't find in Sopot, and this being a hotel bar you can also expect it to arrive promptly and without incident. ▶ M-3, ul. Haffnera 59 (Hotel Haffner), Sopot, tel. (+48) 58 550 98 16, www.hotelhaffner.pl. Open 15:00 - 24:00. (16-64zł). 🚭 🚶 🐾 📶 🚚 🎵



PUB CHARLIE

BURGER?

BEST in TOWN!

NOWOŚĆ

**SPRAWDŹ NASZE NOWE MENU!
CHECK OUT OUR NEW MENU!**

CODZIENNIE/EVERYDAY: 15:00 - 01:00

Hotel Haffner**
ul. Haffnera 59, Sopot**

www.HotelHaffner.pl

morska




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restauracja@morska.com.pl
www.morska.com.pl

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TOM'S DINER

There's a lot in Tom's Diner's favour not least the fact that Hard Rock Café is over 20km away in Gdansk, so if it's burgers and wings that you want and you're in Gdynia this is the place for you. To be fair it's pretty good and everything from the strips to the wings to the Bourbon burger to the NY Steak were quickly cleared from the respective plates. Some of the décor might be a bit naff (who makes these Gasoline signs these days?) but if you want to see Mick Jagger's jacket on the wall while you're eating you have to pay more for your burger than you do here. What we particularly liked was the friendly service which managed to deliver everything promptly and in the right order at the right time and the fact they had a genuine play area for small children and a remote control they weren't afraid to use on the big screen TV for the kids (cartoons) and their dad (the match). ▶ N-2, ul. Świętojańska 47, Gdynia, tel. (+48) 58 380 09 11, www.tomsdiner.pl. Open 12:00 - 23:00. (22-85zł). 


BURGERS

BISTRO MAŁPA

Burger joints have been the latest fad to hit the Tri-city and having sampled so many we've started to favour particular places on particular days. Malpa Burger is the place to go if you want a high quality piece of meat, prepared like a steak to all intents and purposes, with a choice of quality buns to match it with. This place, tucked into a less walked street

but just seconds from the Bohaterow Monte Cassino, is the classiest burger we've tried though you might not guess it from the number of customers some days. Do not let that put you off. ▶ L-4, ul. Podjazd 5, Sopot, tel. (+48) 721 84 04 04, www.malpabistro.pl. Open 11:00 - 23:00, Fri, Sat 11:00 - 24:00. (5-29zł). 

CARMNIK KANTYNA

Having developed a strong reputation for good burgers out of their van, the people at Carmnik (a play on the English word 'car' and the Polish word 'to feed') have set down roots in the centre of Gdynia. Unquestionably good burgers but Carmnik get so much else wrong. On our last two visits they've had no fries or vegetables while they've sent customers away because they are too busy or don't have change. If we can we go elsewhere. ▶ N-1, ul. Abrahama 21/23, Gdynia, tel. (+48) 572 51 42 99, www.carmnik.pl. Open 12:00 - 22:00, Fri, Sat 12:00 - 24:00, Sun 12:00 - 20:00. (16-32zł). 

ORIGINAL BURGER

Simple food is done both well and inexpensively here. No prizes for guessing that the stars of the menu are the burgers and the freshly prepared patties are cooked to order and come served on fresh buns with a choice of toppings. Closer to an American style burger than anything you'll likely receive when ordering from a fast food window in Polska, the calorie hit is rounded off by crispy fries and onion rings. There are non-burger options too, such as salads and while

the salad and fish on the adjacent table looked appetising there was no way we'd have swapped it for our Classic with cheese which was very good indeed. Un-town hall prices also mean you leave with a smile. One tip. This being Poland expect gherkins to be included in your toppings unless you specify otherwise. ▶ C-4, ul. Długa 47/49, Gdańsk, tel. (+48) 58 306 77 63, www.originalburger.pl. Open 12:30 - 23:00, Thu 12:30 - 00:00, Fri, Sat 12:30 - 00:30, Sun 12:30 - 22:30. (17-26zł). 🍷 🍴 🍷 🍷 🍷 🍷

SURF BURGER

A really popular burger joint a little way outside of the old town. The Surf Burger people were one of the first to grasp the food truck trend and combined the novelty with a great choice of burgers to build a large and loyal following. ▶ B-3, ul. Garncarska 30, Gdańsk, tel. (+48) 58 526 06 06, www.surfburger.pl. Open 12:00 - 23:00, Fri, Sat 12:00 - 04:00, Sun 12:00 - 22:00. (12-20zł). 🍷 🍴 🍷 🍷 🍷 🍷

CHINESE

YANG GUANG

A good choice for big, greasy helpings of Chinese comfort food. The interiors are an improbable mix of lanterns and fans juxtaposed against dark shadows and Ye Olde Danzig furnishings, and while it doesn't look particularly enthralling it's unlikely you'll come away feeling anything less than deeply satisfied - no small praise in a city still struggling to embrace the concept of ethnic food. ▶ D-5, ul. Stągiewna 1, Gdańsk, tel. (+48) 58 301 58 45, www.chinska-gdansk.com. Open 12:00 - 22:00. (25-68zł). 🍷 🍴 🍷 🍷 🍷 🍷

FISH

BAR PRZYSTAŃ

A legend for Poles visiting the coast, this place has built a reputation since it opened in the nineties operating out of a converted beach-side toilet block. How times have changed and now you'll find a huge villa overlooking the fishermen's dock serving a long line of customers whatever the season. Certainly not as good or as cheap as it once was, this is still the place many people come to enjoy freshly prepared fish and chips, Polski style, and the fish soup here is our favourite. ▶ M-5, Al. Wojska Polskiego 11, Sopot, tel. (+48) 58 555 06 61, www.barprzystan.pl. Open 09:30 - 23:00. (15-50zł). 🍷 🍴 🍷 🍷 🍷 🍷

BARRACUDA

A modern structure with smooth woods, bubbling portholes and aquariums full of nervous looking fish. Seafront views are made all the more accessible by floor-to-ceiling windows, making this sunset dining at its best. Expect high quality fish inside a hip air-conditioned interior, with a menu that also includes a few more carnivorous options and wrought-iron fish-shaped candle holders will tempt the kleptomaniacs among you. ▶ O-3, Bulwar Nadmorski 10, Gdynia, tel. (+48) 58 620 40 00, www.barracuda.net.pl. Open 12:00 - 23:00. (31-72zł). 🍷 🍴 🍷 🍷 🍷 🍷



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Restaurants



Tawerna

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The French-trained chefs display unique pedigree and though the menu is primarily famed for its seafood there's also French-style dishes as well.

The restaurant is decorated with fabulous nautical trinkets, shark heads and paintings of naval engagements.

Restaurant Tawerna
Gdańsk, ul. Powroźnicza 19/20
tel. +48 58 301 41 14
fax +48 58 301 23 45
tawerna@tawerna.pl
www.tawerna.pl

MORSKA

Found on a side street close to Monte Cassino the decor is bright and modern, the service friendly and professional and the dishes original and tasty. The spicy fish soup comes brimming with squid, shrimp, oysters and cod and is delicious and while fish is its strong suit the menu is not limited to that as witnessed by the mouthwatering steak on an adjoining table. A very pleasant experience all round and recommended for an enjoyable romantic meal or evening with friends. A good choice of Italian and Spanish wine as well incidentally. ▶ M-4, ul. Morska 9, Sopot, tel. (+48) 58 351 35 55, www.morska.com.pl. Open 12:00 - 22:00, Fri, Sat 12:00 - 23:00. (27-91zł).



TARG RYBNY - FISHMARKT

Without doubt one of the better restaurants in the town. This place is a visual delight from the moment you enter, with warm light wood furnishings topped with check blue tablecloths and model fishing boats. The seafood is reputed as some of the best in town, and we've found no reason to dispute this. But fishy offerings be damned, we've discovered one more reason to visit and that's the Argentinean steak, nicely concluded with a nip of Danzig liquor made to ancient recipes. ▶ D-3, ul. Targ Rybny 6c, Gdańsk, tel. (+48) 58 320 90 11, www.targrybny.pl. Open 12:00 - 23:00. (39-180zł). A row of four small icons: a wheelchair, a lit cigarette, a Wi-Fi symbol, and a fourth icon that is partially obscured.



youtube.com/inyourpocket

TAWERNA

Entering Tawerna isn't unlike walking the gangplank and boarding an 18th century galleon. Fitted with heavy woods, nautical trinkets and paintings of naval engagements Tawerna is the spitting image of Nelson's cabin. The chefs, trained in France, have cooked for dignitaries like the President of Poland, and while the menu is primarily famed for its seafood there's also some highly rated Gallic dishes on show. ▶ C-5, ul. Powroźnicza 19/20, Gdańsk, tel. (+48) 58 301 41 14, www.tawerna.pl. Open 11:00 - 23:00. (35-99zł). A row of four small icons: a wheelchair, a lit cigarette, a Wi-Fi symbol, and a fourth icon that is partially obscured.

ZAFISHOWANI

An attractive new space overlooking the river and the Soldek, the unusually named Zafishowani is another hotel in-house restaurant that warrants a mention because of quality and location. The menu focuses on fish, though there are a fair number of non-aquatic dishes as well, with particular attention paid to those ingredients the head chef, Daniel Chrzanowski, can get fresh each day. While the whole menu is mouth-watering our tip is to ask the well-trained and friendly wait staff what they recommend on a daily basis in order to get the most out of the talents in the kitchen. ▶ D-4, ul. Tokarska 6, Gdańsk, tel. (+48) 661 51 18 11, www.zafishowani.pl. Open 12:00 - 23:00. (40-85zł). A row of four small icons: a wheelchair, a lit cigarette, a Wi-Fi symbol, and a fourth icon that is partially obscured.

GREEK

EL GRECO

One of the top meals you'll find, hence a location off-centre has done nothing to dent the profits here. It's big fun here, especially when the glittery trousered band appear to make some noise, but this is a restaurant first and foremost, and you won't find the food scoring anything less than top marks. All the typical faves are served here, including superb lamb and octopus. ▶ O-3, Al. Piłsudskiego 1, Gdynia, tel. (+48) 58 622 77 52, www.el-greco.com.pl. Open 12:00 - 22:00, Sat, Sun 12:00 - 23:00. (25-70zł).



FRENCH

A LA FRANÇAISE

This is a fantastic spot on the culinary map as much for its prices as for its wares. In Poland we've come to expect the word French next to a restaurant to equal 'beaucoup d'argent' but not here. The menu is a selection of extremely well-priced, very tasty salads, crepes and filled baguettes with soups and daily main course specials for the hungrier among you. A great lunchtime stop, find it a little hidden away, across the river, 3 minutes walk from the Green Gate. ▶ D-5, ul. Spichrzowa 24/1, Gdańsk, tel. (+48) 58 765 11 12. Open 09:00 - 21:00, Fri, Sat 09:00 - 22:00, Sun 09:00 - 20:00. Closed Mon. (15-50zł).

CYRANO ET ROXANE

A small nugget of France finds itself in Sopot in this tiny rail side cottage. Owned and run by Marc, a real-live native of Bergerac, this tiny treasure has an authentic tavern atmosphere, and wines hand-picked to compliment the nibbles and full mains on offer. Try, for instance, the French sausage platter, or for something more considerable peruse the specials chalked up on the board or concise list of mains whose number include a super duck which is slow-cooked over twelve hours. Amongst the regional specialities on offer the foie gras, reputedly made from the owner's grandfather's recipe, is a memorable pleasure. ▶ L-4, ul. Bohaterów Monte Cassino 11, Sopot, tel. (+48) 660 75 95 94, www.cyrano-roxane.pl. Open 13:00 - 22:00. (39-69zł).

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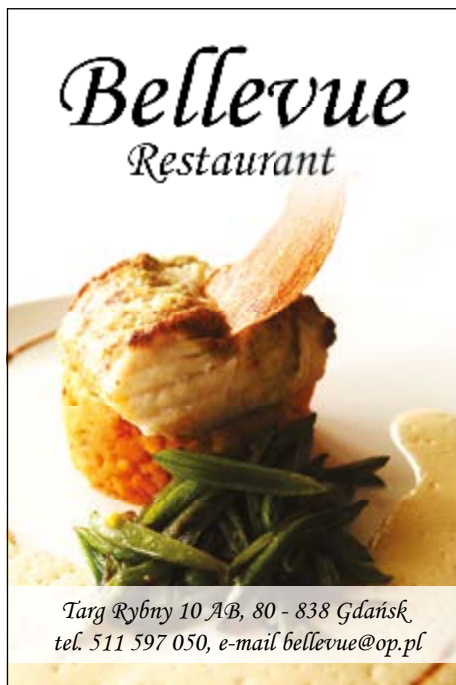
VERRES EN VERS

It might come as a surprise to learn that top quality dining experiences on the central square are very limited. That's not a criticism of what's there, it's just that they're all targeting a different customer. If you are after something better the square-side Verres en Vers (found inside the building housing the Radisson Blu hotel) is for you. The menu as influences from France and Poland but many of the dishes, including our last experience - tuna with celeriac fries, are really international. Everything about the restaurant oozes professionalism and our only comment is that we much prefer visiting in warmer months when we can sit out on the terrace watch the crowds go by. ▶ C-5, ul. Długi Targ 19 (Radisson Blu Hotel), Gdańsk, tel. (+48) 58 325 44 49, www.venv.pl. Open 12:00 - 23:00. (30-100zł).

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Restaurants



FUSION

AVOCADO

Found upstairs over the Unique Club, Avocado is up there amongst our favourite places in Sopot. The menu is more than that though and while the sushi and sashimi sets are excellent we keep coming back to the wide range of fusion dishes with the beef tenderloin wasabi one of our favourite meals of the year. The two young chefs holding court here look like they have learnt their trade in more exotic surroundings than Northern Poland and the flow of local and foreign voices seem to confirm they're getting it right. The balcony terrace is one of the places to head for when the weather permits ▶ M-4, Pl. Zdrojowy 1, Sopot, tel. (+48) 58 585 83 28, www.avocado-sopot.pl. Open 13:00 - 23:00. (20-300zł). 🍷 🍴 🌱 🍷 🍷

GEORGIAN

OCNEBA

This 2014 newbie sums up Tri-city dining perfectly. First, another new cuisine adds to the growing list the city has to offer. Excellent. Secondly, very good food and new dishes to try such as Czanachi (delicious lamb hotpot with potatoes, mushrooms, eggplant and paprika). And finally service that is so far out of its depth if more than two tables are busy that it should be wearing armbands. It's not a big place so here's hoping they get the hang of it - we want to go back. ▶ M-4, ul. Bohaterów Monte Cassino 36/5, Sopot, tel. (+48) 506 26 32 25, www.ocneba.pl. Open 13:00 - 22:00. (18-56zł). 🍷 🍴 🌱 🍷 🍷



INDIAN

MASALA

Don't let the stained tablecloths put you off. Table manners go out of the window in Masala, a small Indian spot attached to the side of the Madison Mall, and you'll find locals and foreigners alike scooping up their curries with thick, fluffy portions of naan. The chefs are imported from Delhi, though clearly enjoy working in Gdańsk - watch them chucking the spices in from behind the glass screen. Enjoy Indian, Thai and Chinese dishes from padded velvety sofas while Bollywood tunes keep the atmosphere authentic ▶ B-2, ul. Rajska 10 (Madison Shopping Mall), Gdańsk, tel. (+48) 58 690 80 40. Open 11:30 - 22:00. (18-46zł). 🍷 🍴 🌱 🍷 🍷

TAJ MAHAL

In a word excellent, though at these prices you'd bloody well expect so. This comes close to one of the best curries in Poland. Sparingly decorated with brass ornaments, wood petitions and a winged horse bursting from the wall, the Taj Mahal's real strength lies in knock out curries that leave you tingling for hours. The Murgh Mekhani is fabulous, and perfectly preceded by a lentil soup with cream, while service is prompt, pleasant and worthy of the tip. Don't miss it. ▶ N-2, ul. Abrahama 86 (entrance from ul. Władysława IV), Gdynia, tel. (+48) 58 664 92 11, www.tajmahal.com.pl. Open 12:00 - 22:00. (24-48zł). 🍷 🍴 🌱 🍷 🍷

TANDOORI LOVE

The people behind this Indian bar/restaurant have a good track record with places like Rucola and Tapas de Rucola and they've carried it over here. The food is good but the portions strike you as small until you realise they've gone for a price range to keep trade brisk. Good for a light meal with a selection of Indian dishes including an acceptable chicken tikka masala and a friendly and helpful staff (which shouldn't be assumed in many Polish eateries). If you're used to eating in Indian restaurants you'll like it but you'd be advised to order double portions. ▶ M-4, ul. Grunwaldzka 41, Sopot, tel. (+48) 58 710 72 07, www.tandoorilove.pl. Open 13:00 - 22:00. (22-45zł). 🍷 🍴 🍷 🍷 🍷

INTERNATIONAL

ART DECO

One of the most revered dining spaces in the north, and justly so. The menu, tinkered to suit the season, is never anything less than a top notch experience involving modern, adventurous even, takes on Polish and more global cuisine. Wrapping it up nicely is the historic venue itself; impeccably elegant and with views of the pier, beach and bay. ▶ M-4, ul. Powstańców Warszawy 12/14 (Sofitel Grand Sopot Hotel), Sopot, tel. (+48) 58 520 60 71, www.sofitel-grand-sopot.com. Open 13:00 - 22:30. (30-85zł). 🍷 🍴 🍷 🍷 🍷

BELLEVUE RESTAURANT

This is very good, with a pleasant setting, friendly efficient service (hooray!) and a mouth-watering menu. The menu is a collection of interesting and tasty combinations of ingredients, such as venison steak and zander, with all main bases covered and your challenge will be deciding what to have. Whichever decision you make you won't go wrong. We can tell you the fish soup is delicious and for less than 5 euros is excellent value; and the sirloin steak and shrimps with risotto was wonderful. Though we recommend this as a place to come to spend a pleasant and relaxed evening, there is a range of lighter bites when you're just looking for a snack. ▶ D-3, ul. Targ Rybny 10 AB, Gdańsk, tel. (+48) 511 59 70 50. Open 10:00 - 23:00, Fri, Sat, Sun 10:00 - 24:00. (17-99zł). 🍷 🍴 🍷 🍷 🍷

BISTRO

A small, modern and friendly bistro close to St. Mary's Basilica sees us make regular visits because of the kind of menu that always has something to offer, whatever the time of day or weather outside. Priding themselves on Polish classics and burgers there's always something tasty, filling, attractively presented and well-priced either on their menu or on the daily specials board. Order one of those with one of their non-alcoholic cocktails. ▶ C-4, ul. Piwna 16, Gdańsk, tel. (+48) 58 304 14 92. Open 09:00 - 22:00, Fri, Sat 09:00 - 24:00. (17-35zł). 🍷 🍴 🍷 🍷 🍷

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Restaurants



BISTRO & BAR

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BOCIAN MORSKI

If you are looking to really treat yourself and your partner during your stay, tear yourself away from the bright lights of Monte Cassino to a this unassuming spot yards from the main square which has become a recent favourite. Set on a newly built square overlooking the fisherman's fountain, this very attractive restaurant is set in one of the fisherman's style cottages and serves up some wonderful examples of modern Polish cuisine. Everything on the concise menu is beautifully presented and although fish, by reputation was and remains their strong suite don't let that stop you from choosing anything on their changing menu. Pricey by local standards - but immensely good value by European ones. ▶ M-4, ul. Pułaskiego 19/1, Sopot, tel. (+48) 58 354 40 40, www.bocianmorski.pl. Open 13:00 - 23:00. (24-100zł). ☎ 📧 📱 📺

BROVARNIA

Words can't begin to do Brovarnia justice. If there's a better beer in Poland we'd like to know about it, but not before we've finished road testing the menu. Indeed, the microbrewery is just one reason to visit. The chow here is top drawer with excellent mains to go with your beer such as traditional Gdansk duck, and a beer bites menu that includes chicken strips and a selection of flavoured lards - from spicy pepper to plum. The waitstaff are great at their jobs too spinning from table to table laden with beer jugs and plate of simple but well-prepared food. Head up the stairs for something a little more formal. ▶ D-4, ul. Szafarnia 9, Gdańsk, tel. (+48) 58 320 19 70, www.brovarnia.pl. Open 13:00 - 22:30, Fri, Sat 13:00 - 23:00. (24-79zł). 📞 📧 📱 📺

BROWAR MIEJSKI SOPOT

This has developed into probably the most popular eatery in Sopot, its menu of Polish staples and international favourites proving a successful combination alongside its four in-house brewed beers from which the Pils is our favourite. An excellent location with a terrace overlooking the church and Monciak don't hurt either and while it might not be the most memorable dining experience you could have in Sopot, sometimes a decent enough family meal at a good price in the centre of town is all you really want isn't it? If that's the case put this on your short-list. ▶ M-3, ul. Bohaterów Monte Cassino 35, Sopot, tel. (+48) 58 342 02 42, www.browarmiejskisopot.pl. Open 11:00 - 23:00. (20-40zł). 📞 📧 📱 📺

BROWAR PORT GDYNIA

A visually impressive place that gives you another reason to head down to the city beach in Gdynia, whatever the time of year. This huge micro-brewery and restaurant offers a concise menu of uncomplicated but very tasty food such as a delicious and meaty-filled fish soup; burgers; salads and a meat plate with baked potato and cabbage for one or two people. There's a gigantic terrace

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and bar on the roof while seating inside is split into benches in one half and a little more civilised tables with napkins in the other. The main focus though is on the beer - brewed on-site with a choice of 4 standard brews and regular promotions of special brews. To help you decide there is a 'Beer plank' you can order which gives you 4 x 0.12l beers to taste test. We tried all 4 and found them a bit watery and lacking in taste but it's early days and the food and location is worth the visit. ▶ **O-2, Bulwar Nadmorski, Gdynia, tel. (+48) 733 00 03 55. Open 13:00 - 23:00, Fri, Sat 11:00 - 01:00, Sun 11:00 - 23:00. (27-58zł).** 🍷 🍴 🍷 🍴 🍷 🍴 🍷 🍴 🍷 🍴

BULAJ

The kind of place we keep re-reviewing for no other reason than we like it so much. The beachside location is idyllic at any time of the year (summer secluded and shaded, winter secluded and cosy) and the team in the kitchen are well-established and know what they are doing. The main man here is well-known and well-respected (and by us well-liked) and his name is often associated with wonderful fish dishes. But there's more to Bulaj than fish though that's what we recommend you try to order. It's a little way along the beach from the centre of Sopot but make an evening of it and you'll not regret it. ▶ **M-3, Al. Mamuszki 22, Sopot, tel. (+48) 58 551 51 29, www.bulaj.pl. Open 13:00 - 22:00. (20-99zł).** 🍷 🍴 🍷 🍴 🍷 🍴 🍷 🍴 🍷 🍴

FIDEL GASTRO BAR

A very good new spot in the cluttered Sopot market. This is a bar/restaurant with a casual atmosphere, a great list of cocktails and an even greater selection of Tapas and main dishes covering Jerk chicken, ribs lighter bites like salads. The dishes are original, beautifully presented and even more beautifully priced with mains rarely topping the 30zł mark. It's an attractive spot as well right on the square and the combination of the food, drinks and well-drilled staff will see us giving this more than the occasional visit. ▶ **M-4, ul. Powstańców Warszawy 6, Sopot, tel. (+48) 607 83 28 44. Open 12:00 - 24:00, Fri, Sat 12:00 - 01:00. (20-59zł).** 🍷 🍴 🍷 🍴 🍷 🍴 🍷 🍴 🍷 🍴

FILHARMONIA

'One of the top three restaurants in Poland', one reader claimed about Filharmonia and we weren't going to argue. What was once a municipal power plant is now an attractive waterside location for the Gdańsk Philharmonic and features this restaurant with a fabulous menu combining the best Polish and Fusion cuisine has to offer with the latest molecular techniques in food science. In good weather take the chance to dine on the rooftop terrace, which comes with its own menu and is home to knock-dead views of Gdańsk's steeped skyline. Alternatively, head indoors to a breathtaking interior of red brick walls and theatrical murals. It's recommended you make a reservation beforehand. ▶ **D-3, ul. Ołowianka 1, Gdańsk, tel. (+48) 58 323 83 58, www.restauracjafilharmonia.pl. Open 12:00 - 22:00. (17-75zł).** 🍷 🍴 🍷 🍴 🍷 🍴 🍷 🍴 🍷 🍴



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Scandic

GŁÓWNA OSOBOWA

A fantastic little place a block away from the main thoroughfare, Swietojanska, with a relaxed atmosphere, a concise but regularly changing menu, great garden and most of all delicious food. Eyebrows were slightly raised at the thought of ribs with peach and rhubarb but the reality was perfect while the duck with roasted orange, courgette and asparagus also won praise. This is the kind of place you can visit at any hour of the day and we suggest you do. The name incidentally refers to the local train station and the theme is visible in the old-school train timetable thing they've got going on with the menu on the wall. ▶ N-1, ul. Abrahama 39, Gdynia, tel. (+48) 730 63 00 00. Open 08:00 - 24:00, Fri, Sat 08:00 - 02:00, Sun 09:00 - 22:00. (20-35zł).

GOLDWASSER

Still one of our favourite places and one of the best places to take guests in Gdansk, this atmospheric riverside restaurant features dishes like duck, fresh fish and delicious homemade pierogi and bread along with locally produced beer served by multi-lingual service. Relax in the classic Gdansk interior or hit the garden the moment the sun appears to enjoy one of the best choices of properly prepared steak in the city in the shadow of the city's signature Crane (Żuraw or Krantor). Souvenir hunters should keep an eye out for the traditional Danzig spirits which have been re-born under the German owner and the Goldwasser liqueur box sets make for an excellent souvenir. ▶ D-4, ul. Długie Pobrzeże 22, Gdańsk, tel. (+48) 58 301 88 78, www.goldwasser.pl. Open 08:00 - 23:00. (63-139zł).

MERA SPA HOTEL BRASSERIE

The in-house brasserie of the Mera Spa hotel primarily serves guests with well-prepared dishes with a Mediterranean accent, in smart surroundings close to the beach and with an attractive outdoor seating area. It gets a mention here for two things - Sunday brunch and its outdoor BBQ. Like Michael and Janet Jackson once upon a time, you'll never see the two in the same place at the same time. Brunches run on Sundays from October to May. You can spend the whole day at Mera with the family for one price which gives you access all areas and as much as you can eat or drink once the brunch starts. In the summer months the brunches take a back seat and they unveil their huge outdoor BBQ and smoker which serves up excellent grilled meats and fish and you can even order the fish to be smoked to take home. A thoroughly recommended place if you want to experience outdoor cooking without the sand and the insects. ▶ M-6, ul. Bitwy pod Płowcami 59, Sopot, tel. (+48) 58 766 60 21, www.meraspahotel.pl. Open 13:00 - 22:00. (30-70zł).

MERCATO

In a word - excellent. The Mercato is the in-house restaurant of the Hilton Gdansk hotel, but do not let that put you off. With a ground floor location opening out onto a terrace overlooking the river, this doesn't feel like dining in a hotel in the slightest. The service is extremely professional as



you would expect but it is the food that demands your visit. The regularly changing menu is wonderfully original and although you might recognise a lot of the Polish ingredients you'll not have seen them combined as you will here. On our visit a tasty sorrel soup was followed by a truly delicious dish of wild boar bacon, smoked prunes, horseradish and mushrooms, while the stewed beef cheeks on our colleague's plate looked equally appetising. We visited at lunch time but you could just as easily come to watch the light fade above the old town in the evening.

► A-4, ul. Targ Rybny 1, Gdańsk, tel. (+48) 58 778 74 42, www.mercatorestauracja.pl. Open 12:00 - 23:00. (39-79zł). 🍷 🍴 🍷 🍴 🍷 🍴 🍷 🍴

MONDO DI VINEGRE

Well worth a visit regardless of whether you plan to visit the Emigration Museum exhibition in the same building. The seasonal menu is concise and comes under the headings Seas & Oceans; Ponds & Lakes; Land & Islands; Sky (desserts) and Neverland (Kids menu). Feel free to pick and choose as we did which saw us presented with a spicy fish soup, shrimp in garlic and butter and one of the tastiest dishes we've tried in ages - a fluffy piece of cod baked in a light French pastry with aubergine and a caper vinaigrette. Views out over the harbour are a bonus and a trip here combined with a visit to the exhibition is absolutely recommended.

► ul. Polska 1 (Emigration Museum), Gdynia, tel. (+48) 500 86 30 30, www.mondodivinegre.pl. Open 12:00 - 22:00. (16-44zł). 🍷 🍴 🍷 🍴 🍷 🍴 🍷 🍴


MONTE VINO

Good food, a great selection of wine and a prime location overlooking the square suggest that while this might be enjoyable it is also likely to be pricey. The truth is not so painful to swallow. While it is by no means cheap, the shrimp and salmon were excellent while the steak was cooked exactly as requested and tasted even better washed down with a recommended wine more than justifying the outlay. ► M-4, ul. Bohaterów Monte Cassino 63/9, Sopot, tel. (+48) 506 07 02 21. Open 12:00 - 23:00, Fri, Sat 12:00 - 01:00. (25-82zł). 🍷 🍴 🍷 🍴

OPEN KITCHEN

This smart new venture subtly embraces the Art Deco style of Gdynia's early years with an exceptionally friendly and very professional staff. The reason to visit though is the food prepared, obviously, in a glass walled kitchen by a team that knows its job. There's a lunch menu on offer until 16:00, when they take an hour's break before returning with a separate dinner menu. Both are excellent and offer a very good quality to price ratio with our white vegetable soup with olive and leek and the duck with radish in a plum sauce both very enjoyable. ► N-2, ul. Armii Wojska Polskiego 10, Gdynia, tel. (+48) 58 354 62 32, www.openkitchengdynia.pl. Open 12:00 - 16:00, 17:00 - 22:00; Sun 12:00 - 19:00. (32-75zł). 🍷 🍴 🍷 🍴 🍷 🍴 🍷 🍴

Restaurants



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PROLOGUE RESTAURANT & BAR

Set in a rebuilt building on the quayside, this former shell stood for decades as a reminder of the destruction of WWII. You'd not believe that now when you step inside. Prologue is not just an attractive eatery in a great location, it's a very good choice for dinner. The regularly changing menu is concise, but has something for everyone and the daily specials marked up the blackboard next to the open kitchen demonstrate good food doesn't need to be complicated. We enjoyed delicious snails in garlic, tender lamb shank with potatoes, mussels and a great burger and thick potato chips (not on the same plate of course) and a bottle of wine recommended by their friendly and professional staff. It's quickly developed an excellent reputation and a strong following so do like we did and avoid disappointment by making a reservation. ▶ D-3, ul. Grodzka 9, Gdańsk (entrance from ul. Warka), tel. (+48) 58 526 59 09. Open 13:00 - 22:00, Fri, Sat, Sun 13:00 - 22:30. (42-125zł). 

RESTAURACJA KREW & WODA

Another reason to travel out of Sopot or Gdansk if you hadn't considered a visit to Gdynia is Krew i Woda (literally Blood & Water) a very attractive casual dining spot which we really like because of the choice. The menu here is fairly eclectic with Thai soup and Thai beef appearing alongside burgers, fillet Mignon and chicken Madras. What they do really well though is seafood and you'll find a choice of dishes featuring mussels, oysters and lobster even if the kids in our group spent the meal praying one of the three lobsters in the homarium didn't get to meet his fate during our visit. ▶ N-1, ul. Abrahama 41, Gdynia, tel. (+48) 570 28 22 82, www.restauracjapieterwas.pl. Open 12:00 - 23:00. (19-100zł). 

RESTAURACJA RITZ

In Poland Basia Ritz is a pretty big name due in no small part to her victory in the Polish version of the Masterchef series. This venture sees Ms. Ritz personally (wo)manning the kitchen and the results are very impressive. We can personally recommend the liver starter which was beautifully prepared (crisp on the outside, melt in the mouth inside) followed by delicious pork steaks, wrapped in bacon with a plum sauce, crispy vegetables and pureed potato, although the changing menu will impress whatever the season. By Polish standards the prices would be regarded as fairly high and the wait times longer than normal, but that reflects the quality of the ingredients and the care taken by the chef. Pretend you're Gordon Ramsay and judge for yourselves. ▶ D-4, ul. Szafarnia 6, Gdańsk, tel. (+48) 58 742 01 74, www.restauracja-ritz.pl. Open 13:00 - 21:00. Closed Mon. (38-120zł). 

RESTAURACJA SZTUCZKA

Probably the most enjoyable meal we've had in Gdynia in years. This small, secluded venue (it's metres from the main street but easy to miss) is an excellent example of the originality that we've always admired Gdynia's restaurant scene for. The cuisine is described as 'Author's Cuisine'

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which in this case means beautifully presented and very tasty dishes which use lots of familiar ingredients but mix and present them in original ways. We could have ordered anything on the menu but plumped for caramelised chicken livers which was excellent. If you've come from abroad we dare you to find food this good at these prices.

► **N-1, ul. Abrahama 40 (entrance from ul. Władysława IV), Gdynia, tel. (+48) 58 622 24 94, www.sztuczka.com. Open 12:00 - 21:00, Fri 12:00 - 22:00, Sat 13:00 - 22:00, Sun 13:00 - 20:00. (35-68zł).** 

RUCOLA

The fact that this restaurant, tucked away in the rear of the Crooked House (Sopot's landmark Krzywy Domek building), has been around for such a long time should tell you all enough about how good the food is. The owners are well-travelled and the menu is a collection of some of the favourite dishes discovered on their journeys, sometimes replicated by using the original recipes; sometimes fused to create new exotic dishes. Our favourite continues to be the Moroccan Tagine, though we've learned to book ahead if there are a few of us planning on ordering it. It's not just North African cuisine mind and you can expect well-prepared dishes from all corners of the globe including India, South America and the Far East. A thoroughly recommendable place with friendly staff. ► **M-4, ul. Bohaterów Monte Cassino 53 (Crooked House), Sopot, tel. (+48) 58 555 53 55, www.rucola.pl. Open 14:00 - 22:00, Fri, Sat 14:00 - 23:00. (24-64zł).** 

SANATORIUM

These days it's one of the longer established places in town but it still attracts the young, professional crowd who while away the hours online while enjoying a range of breakfasts and light meals like a tasty shrimp salad with sweet chilli. Their secret is that they are consistent and morph seamlessly from breakfast café to cocktail bar as the day moves on. Drop yourself down onto one of their colourfully upholstered double sofas and watch. ► **M-4, ul. Grunwaldzka 8-10, Sopot, tel. (+48) 58 550 00 01, www.sanatoriumsopot.com. Open 08:00 - 22:00. (15-35zł).** 

SOPOT 737 L'ENTRE VILLES RESTAURANT


A truly stunning venue with a menu and service to match. The building that houses this two-storey restaurant was for many years an increasingly dilapidated turn of the century Sopot villa, the renovation of which has been beautifully executed. The venue oozes class with a modern look that embraces the historic setting and L'entree Villes serves as a multi-functional venue with a bistro, glazed winter garden, bar and winiarnia on the ground floor and a grand room on the first floor which can be adapted into a series of individual private rooms if required. The reason for your visit is the quite excellent bistro which serves beautifully prepared modern Polish such as venison with celery gratin, carrot and vanilla, strawberry and lavender. Prices are higher than many Sopot restaurants but the all-round return for your money is excellent. Recommended. ► **L-5, Al. Niepodleglosci 737, Sopot, tel. (+48) 58 717 37 37, www.entrevilles.pl. Open 12:00 - 22:00. (36-84zł).** 

Restaurants


MILK BARS

Don't expect a gastronomic experience. Do expect a rare insight into Eastern-Bloc Poland. Subsidised by the state, this was food for the masses back in the day. With the fall of communism many bar mleczny found themselves forced out of business and the survivors, aside from offering an interesting diversion for amateur anthropologists, they make it possible to eat lots in return for a handful of coins.


BAR BURSZTYN

A modern milk bar which has managed to retain the key elements which made them so successful in their prime - value for money and price. The place packed out most days with the prices ensuring returning trade despite the stressed out service and cold veg. ▶ M-5, ul. Grunwaldzka 78-80,80a, Sopot, tel. (+48) 58 718 74 75, www.barbursztyn.pl. Open 08:00 - 22:00. (14-19zł). 


BAR MLECZNY NEPTUN

The most famous milk bar in town, and as such expect it to be rammed with pensioners, builders and weird backpackers queuing for pork chops and mashed cabbage. Get there early as variety diminishes quickly. ▶ C-4/5, ul. Długa 33/34, Gdańsk, tel. (+48) 58 301 49 88, www.barneptun.pl. Open 07:30 - 19:00; Sat, Sun 10:00 - 19:00. (4-17zł). 

BAR MLECZNY SŁONECZNY

Keep an eye out for the 'Sunshine Milk Bar' which has been dishing up extremely good value food for over 50 years. This is still the place to get your fill both of pretty decent food and any nostalgia you may have for the days of the Iron Curtain. ▶ N-2, ul. Abrahama 58-60 (entrance from ul. Władysława IV), Gdynia, tel. (+48) 58 620 53 16, barmlecznysloneczny.pl. Open 06:30 - 19:00, Sat 09:00 - 16:00. Closed Sun. (6-18zł). 


BAR MLECZNY TURYSTYCZNY

A long-standing Milk Bar offering fried cutlets, pierogi, stuffed cabbage leaves and the like which has previously been tipped by the British Guardian newspaper as a decent, local, cheap eat. ▶ B-3/4, ul. Szeroka 8/10, Gdańsk, tel. (+48) 58 301 60 13, www.barturystyczny.pl. Open 08:00 - 18:00; Sat, Sun 09:00 - 17:00. (4-15zł). 


BAR POD WIERZBĄ

While the Milk Bars of the old town have become living museums with the bulk of customers now local or foreign tourists, Bar Pod Wierzbą (Under the Willow) is a Milk Bar still serving those it was designed to serve - the workers. Enjoy a cheap and basic Polish meal alongside dirty but polite shipyard workers. ▶ I-3, ul. Doki 1, Gdańsk, tel. (+48) 608 59 90 90. Open 07:00 - 15:00, Sat 08:00 - 11:30. Closed Sun. (12-17zł). 

SZAFARNIA 10

The chefs, headed up by an award-winning chap called Grzegorz Labuda, prepare delicious original dishes made with local produce - think Baltic sea- and Kashubian freshwater fish; game; local vegetables and dairy products. This is served from an open kitchen into a smart restaurant whose large all-year terrace overlooks Granary Island with the wonderful backdrop of old town Gdansk. This has turned into one of our favourite spots in the city with the quality of the menu and the completely remodelled location a perfect example of how much has changed for the better in Gdansk in a relatively short time. ▶ D-4, ul. Szafarnia 10, Gdańsk, tel. (+48) 58 600 85 00, www.szafarnia10.pl. Open 07:00 - 22:00. (41-68zł). 

TEKSTYLIA

By day, Tekstylia is the kind of unassuming coffee shop/lunch spot in which people feel comfortable slurping the rich żurek soup (laden with sausage) and hefty smoothies from behind laptop screens and newspapers. But as the hours tick by the patio becomes a popular happy hour spot and patrons begin to load up on Tekstylia's meat-centric menu (which comes in English and Russian) that clearly denotes which dishes are traditional Polish entrees. The veal meatballs are a particular favourite, and we couldn't help but order the fruity sangria to accompany it all. Of course the bar, which is illuminated by a large backlit sewing machine image, is happy to mix up coffee drinks along with cocktails well into the evening. ▶ B-3, ul. Szeroka 121/122, Gdańsk, tel. (+48) 58 304 77 63. Open 09:00 - 23:00. (21-49zł). 

TRAFIK

It's been around for some time now but Trafik doesn't tire in our book. To be fair to them they were offering original, well-prepared and priced dishes before it caught on in many places and they are still a good spot for a decent lunch menu or evening meal. It's modern and trendy without making you feel you've got to revamp your wardrobe to go there and the friendly staff contribute to the relaxed atmosphere. ▶ O-1, Skwer Kościuszki 10, Gdynia, tel. (+48) 58 620 79 25, www.trafikgdynia.pl. Open 09:00 - 22:00, Sat 09:00 - 23:00, Sun 11:00 - 20:00. (22-65zł). 

TU'GETHER!

A young team have set up this rather excellent little bistro just outside the centre of Sopot which is worth seeking out. The menu is very original and though we weren't that keen on our starter of lavender, smoked sardines and mussels we can honestly say we've never tried that combination of tastes before. Everything else our group tried though was top-class particularly the wild boar with baked leeks, salmon caviar and potato gratin. They also offer an evening tasting menu which offers 7 dishes priced at 120zł per person if you fancy making an evening of it. ▶ M-5, ul. Grunwaldzka 65, Sopot, tel. (+48) 506 20 97 65. Open 12:00 - 22:00. (24-59zł). 

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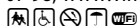
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VINEGRE

Located on the top floor of the Naval Museum, enter via the museum entrance even if it looks closed during the evening and take the lift up to the third floor where the doors open onto an extremely attractive modern space with a large terrace, which despite its size still feels like a perfect spot for an intimate dinner. The menu is heavily influenced by the Mediterranean region and you'll find a mouth-watering menu of tapas, salads, pastas, thin crust pizza, seafood and meat dishes. Professional and friendly service add extra points for one of our favourite places for entertaining visiting guests ▶ **O-1, ul. Zawiszy Czarnego 1b, Gdynia, tel. (+48) 798 08 07 98, www.vinagre.pl. Open 12:00 - 22:00. (24-82zł).**



WAVE

During the week find a design space offering duck to die for and surf-and-turf dishes you just won't find anywhere else. Naturally the prices are five star, yet represent one of the wiser investments you'll make. Friday night's Italian Buffet which runs from 18:00 to 22:30 is a pleasant way to spend an evening close to the beach. Worth noting is their Sunday Brunch (13.30-18.00). ▶ **M-4, ul. Powstańców Warszawy 10 (Sheraton Sopot Hotel), Sopot, tel. (+48) 58 767 10 61, www.sheraton.pl/sopot. Open 06:30 - 10:30, 12:00 - 23:00; Fri 06:30 - 10:30, 12:00 - 17:00, 18:00 - 22:30; Sat 06:30 - 11:00, 12:30 - 23:00; Sun 06:30 - 11:00, 13:30 - 18:00, 19:00 - 22:00. (45-150zł). Sunday Brunch 130zł per person (4-12 year olds pay 50%, under 4s are free).**




WILLA LUBICZ

Beautifully prepared food served in an elegant dining room which is designed to recall the halcyon days of the 1930s when Gdynia was at the cutting edge of everything in Poland. Set out in the peaceful Orłowo district, a couple of minutes walk from a quiet beach and small pier, in the summer you can sit under the stars while dining on wild boar, while in winter enjoy the warmth of a log-burning fireplace. Well worth a visit if you appreciate a bit of peace and quiet in civilised surroundings over a glass of good wine. ▶ **O-6, ul. Orłowska 43, Gdynia, tel. (+48) 58 668 47 40, www.willalubicz.pl. Open 07:00 - 13:00, 17:00 - 22:00; Sat, Sun 08:00 - 13:00, 17:00 - 22:00. (20-80zł).**





WINE BAR LITERACKA

Set in one of the chocolate box houses on the wonderful ul. Mariacka, this is a cosy three level bar with a comprehensive drinks list including an excellent selection of wine. Then there's the menu so that you have another reason to visit. The wild boar tenderloin is a recommended dish, surrounded as Gdansk is by forests full of the beasts, while the tasty salad creations are recommended for those who want a lighter meal but not a plain one. There are over 100 hand-picked



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wines available of which you can try about 40 by the glass thanks to a device that the owners have invested in which allows bottles to be resealed. When the weather allows, head out onto the terrace to enjoy this great combination on one of the country's most magical streets. ▶ C-4, ul. Mariacka 50/52, Gdańsk, tel. (+48) 500 43 14 51, www.literacka.gda.pl. Open 12:00 - 23:00. (21-89zł). 🍷 📶 📺 📺

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ZURAW

A small and cosy restaurant cafe which sits directly next to the city's landmark Crane overlooking the waterfront. Despite its excellent location the prices of the salads, pierogi, meat and in particular fish dishes are kept reasonable and this is not the tourist trap you might expect. A breakfast menu featuring eggs with extras like salmon or cottage cheese or croissants makes this a notable place to start your day and their heated terrace allows you to sit out whatever the weather. ▶ D-4, ul. Długie Pobrzeże 32, Gdańsk, tel. (+48) 58 301 25 38, www.restauracjazuraw.pl. Open 09:00 - 22:00, Fri, Sat 09:00 - 23:00. (28-82zł). 🍷 📶 📺 📺

'MONCIAK'

One may wonder why Sopot's main street, Bohaterów Monte Cassino (The Heroes of Monte Cassino), carries the name of an Italian town. The truth is that it commemorates one of the proudest achievements in modern Polish military history. In 1943 the Allies, after a successful invasion of Sicily, moved to the continent. It seemed nothing could stop them until they approached a mountain range on the way to Rome. The area was occupied by the Germans defending what was called the Gustav Line, at the heart of which lay Monte Cassino. The battle that followed was actually a series of four intense battles which took place between January 20 and May 18, 1944, culminating at a 1,300-year-old Benedictine monastery on the top of the 1,100 metre Monte Cassino. Involving British, US, French, North African, New Zealand, Gurkha and Polish troops, fierce fighting raged against the Germans on a slow and brutal advance towards the monastery. At a cost of over 25,000 lives the final battle ended on the morning of May 18 when a reconnaissance group of soldiers from the Polish 12th Podolian Uhlans Regiment finally fought their way through to the completely devastated monastery. The Battle of Monte Cassino was won, the Gustav Line broken and the Allied advance on Rome continued. Today it is one of Poland's most famous streets, frequently clogged in high season, and fondly known as Monciak to the locals.

Restaurants




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ITALIAN

FELLINI

A modern looking Italian with plush violet touches and light wooden panels which lend a chic, sexy swagger. Both menu and chef appear Italian guided rather than Italian focussed, and the result gives the menu a scope not enjoyed by the direct competition. The lamb is reputed to be the best in Gdańsk while they have now enclosed their terrace with glass and installed heating allowing you to sit outside during chillier weather. ▶ D-3, Targ Rybny 6, Gdańsk, tel. (+48) 58 719 76 20, www.restauracjafellini.pl. Open 12:00 - 22:00. (35-99zł).



GRONO DI RUCOLA

Another winner from the Rucola team. You'll need to head out of the centre to the edge of the forest where you'll find this beautiful wooden cottage overlooking the city's athletics stadium (it is literally on the back straight of the 400m track). The menu is concise, changing and very original with a handful of dishes under the headings 'Earth, Water, Garden and Sky'. Everything we had was top-class with special mention for the wild boar (was it fresh from the neighbouring forest?) A recommended spot for a great meal and a bit of peace and quiet. ▶ L-4, ul. Wybickiego 48, Sopot, tel. (+48) 58 719 65 69, www.gronodirucola.pl. Open 13:00 - 22:00. (17-42zł). 

PESCATORE

We are fans of the Mera Hotel first and foremost because it's a smashing looking building which came and beautified a section of the coast previously filled exclusively by ugly, socialist blocks. But a bit like Gwyneth Paltrow there's more to it than looks. In the Mera's case there's an Italian restaurant on the first floor which combines good Italian cooking with a stylish restaurant that doesn't feel like a typical hotel dining room. This is more upmarket than other Italian restaurants in the city but our duck ensured a return visit while our partner's ravioli with scallops and prawns also met with approval. Prices are higher than in other Italian eateries but this is definitely a case of getting what you pay for. ▶ M-6, ul. Bitwy pod Płowcami 59 (Mera SPA Hotel), Sopot, tel. (+48) 58 766 60 22, www.meraspahotel.pl. Open 16:00 - 22:00, Fri, Sat, Sun 16:00 - 23:00. (40-80zł). 

PIZZERIA MARGHERITA

An encyclopaedic list of Italian classics cooked before your eyes by a chef not averse to bursting into the occasional song. The pizza is conceived inside a traditional brick oven and this charming spot breathes an air of familiarity, making it popular with families fresh from the trials of a day spent observing the beasts of Oliwa Zoo. ▶ E-2, ul. Cystersów 11, Gdańsk, tel. (+48) 58 552 37 16, www.pizzeriamargherita.pl. Open 12:00 - 21:00. (16-30zł). 

RISTORANTE LA CUCINA

La Cucina is an attractive addition to the city's dining scene and delivers good renditions of Italian classics in a light, bright space. Italian cuisine is done best, in our book at least, when it's done simply and that is what we like about La Cucina. The pasta was cooked well and the accompanying sauce was tasty while the salad was fresh and not overdressed as can often be the problem. Prices are fair; the setting relaxed and perfect for a quiet meal without any unnecessary formality while the staff, by local standards at least, is friendly and efficient. They take the service that little bit further by bothering to provide the menu in the languages of their largest customer groups - good news if you speak English, Russian, German or Norwegian. ▶ C-4, ul. Tandeta 1 (entrance on ul. Szeroka), Gdańsk, tel. (+48) 58 573 34 44, www.lacucina.pl. Open 12:00 - 23:00, Sun 12:00 - 22:00. (29-65zł).

RISTORANTE SEMPRE

Sempre have now established themselves in one of the city's landmark villas which once housed one of the country's most famous clubs. There is a clean (some might suggest sterile) look featuring the chain's trademark black and white flooring and simple furnishings in which you can enjoy their choice of very good pizza. Realistic pricing, particularly on the house wines and a wonderful location (especially in the warmer months when they open the best garden in any restaurant in Sopot) mean we'll be going back despite the service regularly being, er what's the word, oh yes - crap. Also at ul. Bohaterów Monte Cassino 49, Sopot (M-4); ul. Długa 6/7/8, Gdańsk (B-4) and ul. Targ Rybny 11, Gdańsk (D-3). ▶ M-4, ul. Grunwaldzka 11, Sopot, tel. (+48) 58 341 91 78, www.semprepizza.pl. Open 13:00 - 22:00, Fri, Sat 12:00 - 23:00. (15-45zł).

SERIO

We like. The first thing that struck us was how polite and professional the staff were when we walked in. Smiles and a sense that they were actually pleased to see you made for an untypical but excellent start. It didn't end there. The décor of exposed brick and lots of wood makes it very cosy while the aromas coming

GRONO di RUCOLA

RESTAURANT AND ROOMS FOR RENT



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gronodirucola@wp.pl, www.gronodirucola.pl
www.facebook.com/gronodirucola

from the cooking areas certainly were encouraging. The menu is concise with the antipasti, primi and secondi dishes all demanding due diligence. But it was for the pizza we came, prepared as we'd heard in a specially built oven imported from Naples. Those expecting the heavy topping of Pizza Hut style pie might be a little disappointed on first sight but don't be. Our Salsiccia with home-made sausage was wonderful and surprisingly spicy while the home-made lemonade and dessert made for one of the best experiences of recent times. And all for less than 10 Euros. ▶ N-1, ul. 3 Maja 21, Gdynia, tel. (+48) 534 58 83 88, www.pizzaserio.com. Open 12:00 - 23:00, Fri, Sat 12:00 - 24:00, Sun 12:00 - 22:00. (12-56zł).



Restaurants



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f Familia bistro - Kuchnia Wileńska

TESORO

Italian owned and run Tesoro is a pasta/pizza restaurant which has split opinion right down the middle. Some think it's great, others say it's excellent. Popular with the region's growing Italian community, and a spread of local celebs, the weekly menu here has got the plaudits clapping till their hands hurt. This is the real deal, and highly recommended.

► M-5, ul. Polna 70, Sopot, tel. (+48) 793 34 44 97, www.restauracjatesoro.pl. Open 13:00 - 23:00, Fri, Sat 12:00 - 24:00, Sun 12:00 - 22:00. (30-85zł).

TOSCANA RESTAURANT

Tucked away in a tiny cottage close to the Southern Park, many espouse this to be the best Italian restaurant in the north, and while the local competition has increased and improved in recent years they may still have a point. The Polish/Italian chef is a master of pasta, while Anna and her staff have perfected the art of spoiling their guests. ► M-4, ul. Grunwaldzka 27, Sopot, tel. (+48) 58 341 86 65, www.moja-toscana.pl. Open 13:00 - 22:00. (19-92zł).

TRATTORIA ANTICA

A subterranean venue whose menu is short, sweet and very good. The antipasto proves divine, the seafood and steaks are very good and the desserts delicious. Search it and its friendly owner out down a staircase half-way up Monte Cassino 60 seconds from the Crooked House. ► L-4, ul. Bohaterów Monte Cassino 43, Sopot, tel. (+48) 58 765 00 98, www.trattoriaantica.pl. Open 16:00 - 22:00; Fri, Sat, Sun 13:00 - 23:00. From July open 13:00 - 23:00. (20-60zł).

JAPANESE

DOM SUSHI

Sushi is big in Poland being one of the fads of the mid-noughties. This place offers the whole caboodle of Japanese classics, from sushi to sashimi and is the one of the few places in town offering sushi on those little wooden boats. Popular and long-standing despite a secluded location close to the main street confirms this is one of the preferred sushi joints in town. Of note are their 20zł lunch specials (served Mon-Fri 12:00-16:00). Find them also in Gdansk at ul. Targ Rybny 11 ► M-4, ul. Bohaterów Monte Cassino 38, Sopot, tel. (+48) 58 550 70 07, www.domsushi.pl. Open 12:00 - 22:00. From June 12:00 - 23:00. (25-50zł).

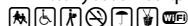
SUSHI 77

A very decent sushi stop located just off Sopot's main pedestrian street, though a quick visit determines that this is not the only reason for the custom this venue generates. Expect a huge range of fresh maki as well as a number of set menus to pick from. Also at ul. Długie Pobrzeże 50, Gdańsk (D-4). ► M-4, ul. Bohaterów Monte Cassino 53, Sopot, tel. (+48) 58 555 53 85, www.sushi77.com. Open 12:00 - 22:30. (15-60zł).

TOKYO SUSHI

A fine-looking sushi house with a crisp design that includes weird prints, stark colours and toilet entrances covered in oyster shells. The sushi and sashimi choice is exhaustive, and the lunch sets are reasonably priced between 22 and 69 zlots. And the menu also offers a range of hot dishes and includes dishes from Thailand, Korea as well as Japan.

► N-1, ul. Mściwoja 9, Gdynia, tel. (+48) 58 669 60 80, www.tokyosushibar.pl. Open 12:00 - 22:00. (12-50zł).



LITHUANIAN

FAMILIA BISTRO

The cuisine is described as Wilenska, meaning from Vilnius, the capital of Lithuania and Familia Bistro is another to look east rather than west for its inspiration. We love the pierogi which comes in different forms (Kibiny - dumplings with crispy pastry; Manty - steamed dumplings and Kolduny) and our latest favourite - Czanachy - a kind of beef stew. There is a choice of soups and mains as well all hailing from the family recipe book and this is a great place for a lunchtime snack washed down with a glass of compote or the homemade Kwas Chlebowy (Kvass). ► B-4, ul. Garbary 2/4, Gdańsk, tel. (+48) 512 92 25 14, www.familiabistro.pl. Open 09:00 - 21:00, Fri, Sat 09:00 - 22:00. (12-42zł).

MAGHREBIAN

Maghreb is a region encompassing the land of north-western Africa around Libya, Algeria, Morocco, Tunisia and Mauritania. These countries share a similar culture in food which combines the staple diet of couscous with influences of the Mediterranean due to the region's historical connection with Italy and Spain. For that reason you'll find vegetables, meat and fish common to the coastal regions also appearing.

MALIKA

Probably one of the most interesting newbies we've ever come across and a sure sign that Poland's culinary tastes have widened hugely in recent years. Promising tastes from the Mediterranean basin, the menu includes dishes from southern Europe and colonial French North Africa, running from soups, salads, couscous and hummus up to a delicious sounding choice of mains which included some very tasty lamb tagine which we loved. ► N-2, ul. Świętojańska 69b, Gdynia, tel. (+48) 58 352 00 08, www.restauracjamalika.pl. Open 12:00 - 22:00. (26-69zł).

MEDITERRANEAN

SENSO RESTAURANT & BAR

A smart restaurant and bar attached to the Hotel Scandic which serves well-priced, well-prepared, uncomplicated food in comfortable surroundings. A regular joint for us either when meeting for a business lunch or waiting for a train to depart the station opposite. The burgers are very good and the service professional and there's also a choice of pastas,

Restaurant created with passion by a woman raised surrounded by oriental flavours, fascinated with amazing Polish products and open-fire cooking techniques, TOP CHEF finalist.

Świętojańska 69b, Gdynia
phone: +48 58 352 00 08
info@restauracjamalika.pl

www.restauracjamalika.pl

BEACHSIDE FISH & CHIPS



From late spring to late summer a whole host of wooden huts open up along the coast selling summer's favourite meal - fish & chips. These huts, boarded up for a large part of the year, are pretty basic affairs and most include wooden terraces and furniture while the food comes served on disposable plates with throw away knives and forks. These are an integral part of any summer season and the increased competition in recent years has seen huts being rebuilt or cleaned up with many now boasting new furniture and baskets of flowers. You'll find a choice of fish which is pretty much the same right along the beach and will include (subject to availability) cod (dorsz), salmon (losos), halibut (halibut), trout (pstrąg) and flądra (flounder). Price and quality in each place varies from season to season with one of our favourites from one summer often turning into a disappointment the following year. Please let us know which you visited and what you thought in the comments section or with a mail to editor_poland@inyourpocket.com

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www.restauracjatesoro.pl

salads, fish and other meat dishes available. Also worth noting as a good spot to bring the kids. ▶ B-2, ul. Podwale Grodzkie 9 (Scandic Gdańsk Hotel), Gdańsk, tel. (+48) 58 300 60 06, www.restauracja-senso.com. Open 12:00 - 22:00, Bar open 12:00 - 23:00. (27-70zł). 

MEXICAN

PUEBLO


Pueblo is one of the few restaurants in the country (its sister restaurant in Gdynia being one of the others) where Tex-Mex cuisine doesn't get the equivalent of the fire extinguisher treatment prevalent in so many ethnic diners. The burritos are the real deal (not a cabbage in sight), and while the house salsa is weak meals come accompanied by a selection of bottled sauces imported straight from Latin America - some of them could knock the spots off a cow. You can expect to see some additions to the menu in the coming months and a smart pricing policy means the cocktails are some of the best value you'll find in town. Also at ul. Abrahama 56, Gdynia (entrance from ul. Władysława IV, N-2). ▶ B-4, ul. Kołodziejska 4, Gdańsk, tel. (+48) 58 322 24 70, www.restauracjapueblo.com.pl. Open 12:00 - 23:00, Fri, Sat 12:00 - 24:00. (25-55zł). 

PERUVIAN

LA MAREA

The Tri-city is getting more cosmopolitan. It can now boast a Peruvian restaurant in Sopot and the first impressions are very good. A smart, modern décor and recommendations from a German friend of ours had us really looking forward to seeing what the Peruvian chefs were going to rustle up. We'll not claim to be particularly knowledgeable about Peruvian cuisine (we live in Poland), but the staff were happy to tell us that the cuisine has been heavily influenced by settlers from Spain, Africa and Japan from among others which have combined with the traditional Inka cuisine. We were recommended to try the Ceviche, a dish using raw fish marinated with limes and chilli and that and the Parihuela (a spicy Peruvian seafood soup) were very tasty. ▶ M-4, ul. Bohaterów Monte Cassino 38, Sopot, tel. (+48) 518 38 00 34, www.lamarea-restauracja.com. Open 12:00 - 22:00, Fri, Sat 12:00 - 23:30. (28-50zł). 

SOUL KITCHEN INTERNATIONAL

Not long opened, we're in two minds about whether to describe this as a bar with good snack food or a good snack food bar with beer. Owned by an American with a stellar reputation for running a bar in the city (see Absinthe), this is a whole lot more civilised with the feel of an inter-war parlour. The beers are an excellent choice of the best of the local brews while the menu hints at the owner's Californian roots with the Chillli Lime Chicken quesadillas and burritos our favourites. A good place for lunch or to kick off your evening bar-hopping. ▶ B-4, ul. Węglarska 1, Gdańsk, tel. (+48) 58 303 69 27. Open 09:00 - 22:00, Fri, Sat 09:00 - 24:00. (7-16zł). 

Polish food is famous for being simple, hearty and filling and while there are now many chefs re-inventing the image of Polish cuisine you really haven't had a thorough sampling of it until you've tried all the traditional dishes below. Most can be found at almost any Polish restaurant or milk bar in town. Smaczne!

BIGOS



A hearty stew made in large batches. Though there is no standard recipe, ingredients usually include lots of fresh and pickled cabbage, leftover meat parts and sausage, onion, mushrooms, garlic and whatever else is on hand. In fact, metaphorically bigos

translates to 'big mess,' 'confusion' or 'trouble' in Polish. Seasoned with peppercorns, bay leaves, caraway and the kitchen sink, the stew is left to gestate for a few days for full flavour infusion. A Polish restaurant or prospective bride can be fairly measured on the strength of their bigos, so put it to the test.

GOŁĄBKI



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Translating to 'little pigeons,' this favourite dish consists of boiled cabbage leaves stuffed with beef, onion and rice before being baked and served in a tomato or mushroom sauce. Polish legend claims King Kazimierz fed his army gołąbki before a battle outside Malbork against the Teutonic Order, and their unlikely victory

has been attributed to the hearty meal ever since.

GOŁONKA



Photo by Zakwitnij!pl Ejdzaj & Iric
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Pork knuckle or hock, as in pig's thigh, boiled, braised, or roasted and put before you on a plate, typically with horseradish sauce. A true Polish delicacy, the meat should slip right off the bone and be washed down with beer. Go caveman.

KIEŁBASA

Sausages, and in Poland shops you'll find an enormous variety, primarily made with pork but also everything from turkey to bison. A few varieties to look for include *Krakowska*, a Krakow speciality which uses pepper and garlic; *kabanosy* which is a thin, dry sausage flavoured with caraway seed and *wiejska*, a monster looking u-shaped sausage. Kiełbasa was also the nickname of one of Poland's most notorious gangland figures of the 90s.

NALEŚNIKI

The Polish equivalent of French crepes, these are thin pancakes wrapped around pretty much any filling you can dream of, savoury or sweet. Generally the easy way out in any dodgy Polish dining establishment.

PIEROGI



Doughy dumplings traditionally filled with potato (*ruskie*), sweet cheese, meat, mushrooms and cabbage, strawberries or plums, though if you nose around you will find plenty of maverick fillings like broccoli, chocolate or liver as the possibilities are truly limitless and they are served

almost everywhere in the city.

PLACKI



These greasy, fried potato pancakes are very similar to Jewish latkes and best enjoyed with goulash and best enjoyed with goulash on top (*placki po węgiersku* or *placki po cygansku* – Hungarian pancakes or Gypsy pancakes). Highly caloric, they're also a tried and true hangover cure.

SMALEC



Vegetarians who broke their vows for a bite of sausage or a taste of *żurek* generally draw the line here. An animal fat spread full of fried lard chunks (the more the better, we say) and served with hunks of homemade bread, *Smalec*

is a savoury snack that goes great with a mug of beer. Any traditional Polish restaurant worth its salt should give you lashings of this prior to your meal, or offer it as a side dish.

ZAPIEKANKA

Also known as Polish pizza. Take a stale baguette, pour melted cheese on it and then cover it with mushrooms and ketchup from a squeezey bottle. Best eaten when absolutely plastered. Where to buy it: various fast food cabins dotted around the city.

ZUPA (SOUP)

Poland has two signature soups: *barszcz* and *żurek*. A nourishing beetroot soup similar to Russian 'borscht,' *barszcz* may be served with potatoes tossed in, with mini-pierogi floating in it, or with a croquette for dunking, but we prefer to order it 'solo' - in which case it comes simply as broth in a mug expressly for drinking. *Żurek* is a unique sour rye soup with sausage, potatoes and sometimes egg chucked in, and sometimes served in a bread bowl.

Restaurants

POLISH

BIAŁY KRÓLIK

Keeping with the Alice in Wonderland theme, the quite wonderful Quadrille palace is home to the Biały Królik (White Rabbit) restaurant. In keeping with the rest of the building the setting is classy but relaxed with lots of windows looking out onto the park outside. The menu is Polish but the aims are set much higher than bigos and pierogi. The aim is not only to demonstrate the wonderful possibilities of modern Polish cuisine but also to show the quality of local produce. So determined are they to do this that you will not find a single ingredient on the menu not produced in Poland - hence no orange juice on the menu. The restaurant is now open for lunch and special evening 'tasting menus' which offers either 6 courses for 150zł or 8 for 180zł. ▶ N-6, ul. Folwarczna 2, Gdynia (Quadrille Hotel & Spa), tel. (+48) 691 98 04 78, www.bialy-krolik.pl. Open 13:00 - 17:00, 17:30 - 21:30; Sun 13:00 - 19:00.



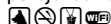
CAŁY GAWĘŁ CANTINE BAR CAFE

If the new train station development is going to attract customers, then it's going to need more places of this standard. The place has an industrial look inside and a pleasant enough terrace outside but it's a combination of the food and hospitality which draws people from the nearby main street and beach. The menu makes great use of local produce and the very friendly owner, Gawel (English Gallen) hasn't just put his name over the door, but appears to have put his heart into the place. We loved the wooden board of starters (pickles, beef, cheeses and sauces) while the salad with roasted vegetables and 'Kashubian' burger were both delicious. Also of note is the breakfast menu and the homemade lemonades. Well-worth coming off the main drag for. ▶ L-4, ul. Dworcowa 7, Sopot, tel. (+48) 604 17 37 17, www.calygawel.pl. Open 09:00 - 23:00, Fri, Sat 09:00 - 24:00, Sun 09:00 - 22:00. (22-44zł).



KARCZMA IRENA

An inn-style restaurant where tourists and locals consume big helpings of hearty Polish food at solid wooden tables surrounded by Halberds, paintings of trolls and even a winged Hussar. Loved by many, the only improvement would be the addition of silver goblets and obliging wenches. A very recommendable local experience. ▶ M-4, ul. Chopina 36, Sopot, tel. (+48) 512 51 69 10, www.pensjonat-irena.com. Open 13:00 - 23:00. (18-40zł).



KARCZMA POLSKA ZAGRODA


Destroyed by a huge fire in the spring of 2011 the Karczma rose from the ashes and the menu and atmosphere are just as good as they ever were. Probably the best option in Sopot for that traditional country Polish dining experience so the 15zł cab fare out to it from the centre is well worth the investment. Expect friendly and competent service (some might say that was worth the cab fare alone) which

brings very good and very filling portions of pork knuckle (Golonka), pork cutlets, bigos et al for you to enjoy at your wooden bench seating with its faux animal fur covers. Recommended ▶ L-5, Al. Niepodległości 625, Sopot, tel. (+48) 58 550 72 59, www.karczmazagroda.pl. Open 12:00 - 23:00. (19-48zł).



KOTLET

The best traditional, homemade Polish food available in the country is available at our granny's. As friendly as she is, unfortunately an 83-year woman is not in the mood for feeding a bunch of Norwegians looking for a bit of local culture after enjoying the joys of a Polish bar. So that's where Kotlet comes in. Homemade, simple, well-prepared dishes in a pleasant little space off the main square makes this worth searching out as is Monika, our wonderfully friendly waitress, also made us feel right at home. Our only concern is they might have our granny tied to the cooker out back. ▶ M-4, ul. Morska 16, Sopot, tel. (+48) 733 29 51 00. Open 11:00 - 20:00. (15-29zł).



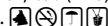
MOCNO NADZIANE

It's not exactly correct but we'll translate the name of this place as 'Well stuffed'. The name refers to the handmade pierogis at the heart of this peculiar pierogi/cocktail bar combo that's got us heading off the main street more regularly of late. We like the original fillings such as Kashubian cod and pork and beef with bacon and onion as well as the original lemonade flavours. As the night moves in the bar takes on a more prominent role with the pierogis a great bar snack. Very good and worth a visit. ▶ M-4, ul. Haffnera 7/9, Sopot, tel. (+48) 58 355 15 15. Open 12:00 - 22:00. (10-22zł).



NOVA PIEROGOVA

This place has impressed quickly with its range of traditional Polish pierogi (filled dough pockets) with a creative list of fillings which sees the cuisine of India and Mexico collide headlong with that of Poland. The menu claims the Russian pierogi (cheese field) are the most popular in Poland although we'd argue with that (surely it's cabbage and mushroom) and recommend you try the Mexican which were excellent. ▶ D-4, ul. Szafarnia 6, Gdańsk, tel. (+48) 516 41 42 00. Open 12:00 - 21:00. (15-27zł).



PANORAMA

While not exactly the height of dining in the conventional sense, it is the (maximum) height to dine at in the city. Negotiate the office building security and climb to 16th floor of that green office block near the railway station where you'll find a pretty decent set of Polish staples such as zurek, pork chop and pierogi. Worth a visit for a sightseeing tour and grub in one place. Pop yourself in the right-hand room overlooking the shipyard, order up a couple of vodkas and salute what's left of the birthplace of Solidarity before it's redeveloped. ▶ B-1, ul. Wały Piastowskie 1, Gdańsk, tel. (+48) 58 307 42 51, www.panoramarestauracja.pl. Open 10:00 - 22:00, Mon 10:00 - 20:00, Sat, Sun 09:00 - 22:00. (23-59zł).



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PIEROGARNIA MANDU

They're only pierogi you might argue, but this lot are clearly doing something incredibly right as finding a table in either of their restaurants can sometimes be a huge challenge. The masses are attracted by the tasty choice of Polish dumplings with a whole host of traditional and unique fillings. The 'novelty' is provided by the head-scarfed ladies in the open preparation area making pierogis that taste as good as our grandma's (although we daren't tell her that). If you want a light meal and a piece of local flavour rolled into one put this place on your list. ▶ B-3, ul. Elżbietańska 4/8, Gdańsk, tel. (+48) 58 340 55 44, www.pierogarnia-mandu.pl. Open 12:00 - 21:00, Fri, Sat 12:00 - 22:00. (14-28zł). 🍷 🍴 📱 📺 📺 📺 📺 📺 📺

PIEROGARNIA PIEROŻEK

The portside block in which its located might not be the most attractive but do not let that put you off. The interior is beautifully decorated and is warm and inviting but that's not the reason we recommend you head here. If you want to try local cuisine there is nothing more Polish than pierogi (meat, vegetable or fruit filled dough pockets which come either boiled or baked) and this has to be one of the best pierogarnia we've come across anywhere. The Mexican themed pierogi with minced beef, beans and corn were excellent but friends also rave about the Ruskie (cheese), mozzarella version and the fruit options on offer. Recommended. ▶ O-1, Al. Jana Pawła II 11A, Gdynia, tel. (+48) 58 620 95 67. Open 11:00 - 20:00. (11-18zł). 🍷 🍴 📱 📺 📺 📺 📺 📺

PIEROGARNIA U DZIKA

To the uninitiated a dzik is local lingo for boar. And not only has the owner included the noble dzik in the name, he's included these little guys in the design. Where do boars go when they die, to this place of course, where the proprietor has them skinned, stuffed and nailed to every surface available. Stranger still, the absence of anything resembling boar on the menu - work that one out. This place has dedicated itself to pierogi, and the ones here are quite simply the best in the biz. If you don't mind dead animals staring reproachfully at you, then knock yourself out on delicious pierogi stuffed with a variety of sweet and savoury fillings. ▶ C-4, ul. Piwna 59/60, Gdańsk, tel. (+48) 58 305 26 76, www.pierogarniaudzika.com. Open 11:00 - 23:00. (15-77zł). 🍷 🍴 📱 📺 📺 📺 📺 📺

PIWIARNIA WARKA

A good option as both a place to eat and to drink in Gdynia. Warka is one of Poland's big beer brands and this is a bar and restaurant set up to help you enjoy as much of the product as possible. But there is so much more than the beer. A well-prepared range of Polish mainstream dishes like pork steak in garlic, pastas, burgers, ribs and Tex-Mex selections help to soak up the grog while you focus on the match on one of the 13 screens available. Well worth the visit if you want a relaxed place with reasonable prices to watch the sport over a pint or two. ▶ N-2, ul. Abrahama 64 (entrance from ul. Władysława IV), Gdynia, tel. (+48) 58 380 05 01, www.piwiarniagdunia.pl. Open 12:00 - 22:00, Fri, Sat 12:00 - 23:00. (18-69zł). 🍷 🍴 📱 📺 📺 📺 📺 📺

M
MERCATO

One out of the 10 BEST Restaurants in Poland according to the 2016 Gault & Millau restaurant guide.

Mercato is a member of the Slow Food Association and specialises in regional Pomeranian cuisine, using only fresh, locally-sourced ingredients.

The dishes are based on traditional recipes, but prepared and presented in a sophisticated modern way.

Wine Spectator honored Mercato Restaurant with Award of Excellence 2015 for having one of the most outstanding restaurant wine lists in the world.

Targ Rybny 1, 80 – 838 Gdańsk, tel. +48 58 77 87 442
mercato.gdansk@hilton.com, mercatorestauracja.pl

TŁUSTA KACZKA

The name translates as the Fat Duck and though you shouldn't expect Heston Blumenthal style experimental cuisine, this is a good place to experience tasty Polish cuisine produced with imagination. The menu, prepared by chef Tomasz Mroziak, has a modern Polish feel as has the restaurant which is bright and stylish. Go for the slow cooked, stuffed, whole duck with fried potatoes, red cabbage and cranberry sauce and you will not be disappointed. Located on the Sopot/Gdynia border, you are minutes from the centre by car even though it is tucked away close to the forest. Take a taxi and spoil yourself. ▶ N-6, ul. Spółdzielcza 2, Gdynia, tel. (+48) 58 580 08 08, www.tlustakaczka.pl. Open 13:00 - 22:00. (32-98zł).

TŁUSTA KACZKA

Help yourself from the range of fresh, locally produced bread and Polish appetizers before the modern Polish dish you've chosen arrives beautifully presented courtesy of a friendly and professional staff. While it was a shame to destroy our wonderful pork steak on mashed potatoes and sour cream it's something we only momentarily regretted so good was the taste. The stylish decor is classy without making you feel you ought to have donned a dinner suit (as so many restaurants which aim high in Poland do). Find it on the edge of the forest a few minutes from the centre of Sopot by car. Take it from us - hail a taxi and spoil yourself ▶ N-6, ul. Spółdzielcza 2, Gdynia, tel. (+48) 58 580 08 08, www.tlustakaczka.pl. Open 13:00 - 22:00. (32-98zł).

U KUCHARZY

Aside from a reputation for preparing Polish dishes simply but imaginatively the attraction here is the ability to sit in a room where the chefs prepare the food while you watch. Centred around an open cooking area a team of chefs buzz back and forth chopping, boiling, flipping and frying as you watch from the kitchen side tables. It's never quite reached the impressive levels of its sister restaurant in the capital described by one reader using the words 'chaotic.. efficient..delicious' but the novelty value and location make it worth including. ▶ M-4, ul. Bohaterów Monte Cassino 60, Sopot, tel. (+48) 58 554 14 76, www.gessler-sopot.pl. Open 12:00 - 23:00. (22-65zł).

VILLA UPHAGENA

A very classy venue set out in the Wrzeszcz district in a listed villa built in 1908 by Gdansk businessman Rudolf Patschke and originally known by the name of its owner. Following the war the building was home to the British consulate in the city. The cuisine is European and Polish with dishes influenced by ingredients and traditions from the local region. The menu is concise and features beautifully presented local dishes, such as Kashubian herring, Polish sour soup and roast duck in a cranberry sauce. The venue itself is worth the visit - keep an eye out for some beautiful original features such as the Maiolica tin-glazed pottery and the marble fireplace. ▶ G-3, ul. Uphagena 23, Gdańsk, tel. (+48) 602 72 26 02, www.villauphagena.pl. Open 12:00 - 22:00, Sun 12:00 - 21:00. (35-75zł).

Restaurants



GDAŃSKA
RESTAURACJA

Während Ihres Aufenthalts in Gdańsk dürfen das Restaurant mit typischer Danziger Innenausstattung, mit Danziger Küche sowie mit Danziger Bürger als Bedienung nicht verpassen.

Będąc w Gdańsku nie można ominąć restauracji o wystroju gdańskim, kuchni gdańskiej i być obsługiwanych przez gdańskich mieszczan.

When in Gdańsk don't forget those Gdańsk interiors style restaurants, and make sure you are served by genuine Gdańsk people!




*Specjalność restauracji:
potrawy kuchni starogdańskiej i międzynarodowej.*

Organizujemy przyjęcia okolicznościowe i spotkania towarzyskie oraz jubileuszowe.

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REGIONAL

GDAŃSKA

One of the city's longest standing restaurants has the feel of a museum with all the armour, statuettes, model ships and portraits of famous Gdanskians/Danzigers. This is one of former President Lech Walesa's favourite haunts and you can try his favourite dishes by ordering his set menu which includes a shot of strong, peppery Wałęsówka vodka. ▶ B-4, ul. Św. Ducha 16/24, Gdańsk, tel. (+48) 58 305 76 71, www.gdanska.pl. Open 12:00 - 23:00. (16-69zł).   

KUBICKI

The oldest remaining restaurant in town dates back to 1918 when it traded as the Cafe International run by Bronislaw Kubicki and his family. A breathtaking remodelling has seen it combine period pieces like the fireplaces with a modern aesthetic look in which to enjoy Danzig/Gdansk dishes like herring with pickled cucumbers and capers and a Gdansk pork chop with cabbage and potatoes, while our most recent visit saw us enjoy a delicious herring starter following by a tasty roast duck with red cabbage. Very impressive from the food, to the ambience to the service and well worth a visit. ▶ D-3, ul. Wartka 5, Gdańsk, tel. (+48) 58 301 00 50, www.restauracjakubicki.pl. Open 12:00 - 22:30. (39-86zł).   

POD ŁOSOSIEM

Gdańsk's most famous restaurant? Quite possibly. It's here that Goldwasser vodka was first distilled back in 1598 when it went under the name Der Lachs (the Salmon) a reference to how addresses were often identified by the figure above the door. Today being run by the third generation of the same family who took it over after the war, this is signature Gdansk dining with a recommended dish being the traditional roast duck with apple followed by a glass of Goldwasser. The original Goldwasser recipe went west after the war and this is the one place in the city where you can taste the original 'Der Lachs' Goldwasser distilled these days in Germany. ▶ C-4, ul. Szeroka 52-54, Gdańsk, tel. (+48) 58 301 76 52, www.podlososiem.com.pl. Open 12:00 - 22:00. (60-110zł).   

RUSSIAN

KUCHNIA ROSYJSKA

Pad out your stomach lining with a visit to Kuchnia Rosyjska, a cheap, cheerful venture presenting strange mashed dishes that defy efforts at identification. Still, the pielmieni are good, and the service rarely goes wrong. All this in an interior that looks like a really naff gift store - lots of dolls and unwanted craftwork. Increasingly popular since an agreement was signed allowing the population of the neighbouring Russian oblast of Kaliningrad to travel to Gdansk visa-free. ▶ C-5, ul. Długi Targ 11, Gdańsk, tel. (+48) 58 301 27 35, www.kuchnia-rosyjska.aleks.pl. Open 12:00 - 23:00. (19-42zł).   



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Menu languages



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SCANDINAVIAN

GÅRD – NORDIC KITCHEN

Set in the Courtyard Marriott hotel overlooking the quay and museum ships, Gard is an extremely attractive eatery with a menu inspired by dishes from our Scandinavian neighbours across the water. The single sheet menu is concise but has all the bases covered with a great selection of original dishes featuring the kind of ingredients you might expect and some you might not. The Trilogy of Danish Smørrebrød (including fish and salted beef) is a great way to start before following up with a more traditional Swedish meatballs and mashed potato dish or perhaps one of the grilled meat dishes (choose from lamb, pork, chicken, steak, salmon or Polish sausage) mixed with potatoes and a small salad from the selection of sides on offer. This is a great spot with a professional staff, separate kids' menu and surprisingly reasonable prices considering the location and quality on offer. ▶ O-1, ul. Jerzego Waszyngtona 19, Gdynia, tel. (+48) 58 743 07 15, www.gard-nordickitchen.com. Open for breakfast Mon-Fri 06:30 - 10:30; Sat, Sun 07:00 - 11:00. Open for lunch and dinner Mon-Fri 12:00 - 22:00; Sat, Sun 12:30 - 22:00. (34-62zł).

SPANISH

PATIO ESPAÑOL

A very attractive looking venue in a new development which is helping attract people onto the previously quiet


ul. Szeroka. With the car parked outside we were forced to reluctantly skip the wine list which caught our eye and settled instead for a selection of Tapas and a seafood paella for two, both of which were delicious. The multi-language menu features other attractive dishes and a scan of neighbouring tables suggests that we weren't the only ones to leave happy. ▶ C-4, ul. Tandeta 1 (entrance on ul. Szeroka), Gdańsk, tel. (+48) 58 573 34 11, www.patiospanol.pl. Open 12:00 - 24:00, Fri, Sat 12:00 - 01:00, Sun 12:00 - 22:00. (25-70zł).

STEAK

CRUDO

An extremely smart space with steak as the cornerstone of the menu. Found a little way up Monciak towards the church, Crudo's single-sided menu comes presented on a wooden board offering five types of steak including a salmon option. We could talk about the chowder or the beefburger option but that would be to miss the attraction of the place which is the steak. Cooked as requested (not a given in many places), the 300g of beef was very good and washed down with a glass of red wine which complemented the food perfectly. Recommended both as a place to take the important business client or simply as a place to get back to carnivorous basics. ▶ M-4, ul. Bohaterów Monte Cassino 36/2, Sopot, tel. (+48) 512 82 45 00, www.crudogrill.com. Open 13:00 - 23:00. (35-90zł).

Restaurants




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LA PAMPA STEAKHOUSE

La Pampa are clearly doing such a great job that they've expanded into a new venue right outside the front door of St Mary's Basilica. And good luck to them. The friendly staff welcome you to the restaurant by explaining the concept of the menu - in a nutshell we're talking steak - a choice of prime round, rump, rib-eye or fillet beef prepared to order on a open grill. There are other dishes to choose from including the 'La Pampa specialties' which feature skewers of meats, onions and peppers as well as pork, chicken and fish dishes and huge salads but the draw here is the steak. The Argentinean fillet was cooked to perfection and was complimented by the additional sides of fried vegetables and potatoes which came mixed with bacon and onions. There is a decent selection of wines as well to pair with your meal. Also at ul. Szeroka 32/35, Gdańsk (C-4). ▶ C-4, ul. Szewska 1/4, Gdańsk, tel. (+48) 798 19 71 97, www.lapampa.pl. Open 12:00 - 23:00. (26-88zł). 

THAI

BUDDHA LOUNGE

The limitations on the Gdańsk culinary scene are demonstrated in the serious lack of choice for ethnic food in the old town. Buddha is therefore up there as one of your best options and with authentic Asian chefs in the kitchen the results are pretty decent. Choose from a range of Asian dishes, not just limited to Thai while seated in a colourful and cosy room overlooking the main pedestrian street in the centre of the old town. A top summer garden, a professional and courteous staff and an adjacent late night cocktail bar keep this place constantly busy. ▶ B-4, ul. Długa 18/21, Gdańsk, tel. (+48) 58 322 00 44, www.buddhalounge.pl. Open 12:00 - 23:00. (16-49zł). 

LAO THAI

An extremely good Thai restaurant which boasts views over the river and Philharmonic building. On the menu are very tasty classics of Lao-Thai cuisine which come with just the right amount of spice (not always a given in ethnic eateries in Poland). A recommendable destination if you've had enough of the local cuisine and want to put a bit of spice back in your diet. ▶ D-3, ul. Targ Rybny 11, Gdańsk, tel. (+48) 797 33 40 00, www.laothai.pl. Open 12:00 - 22:00. From June 12:00 - 23:00. (24-50zł). 

THAI THAI

Our favourite Thai restaurant to emerge in Sopot. Set on the ground floor of a design hotel this venue has it all, from a great team of chefs through a professional staff to delicious food. Dine on exotic noodle and wok dishes inside a fine interior embellished with Buddha's. Certainly not the cheapest meal around, but certainly one of the best, with the green chicken curry winning particular praise. ▶ M-4, ul. Bohaterów Monte Cassino 63, Sopot, tel. (+48) 58 551 11 00, www.thaithai.pl. Open 13:00 - 22:30. (39-80zł). 



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VEGETARIAN

AMSTERDAM BOX

Vegetarian food in a fast food style. Mixed vegetable chips, falafel and veggie burgers on offer in this tiny joint on the main street. With a hostel upstairs and a laundrette next door, this is a building focussed on the budget traveller and well worth a visit. ▶ N-1, ul. Świętojańska 85, tel. (+48) 695 12 23 69. Open 11:00 - 21:00. (10-17zł).



AVOCADO

A recommended Vegan restaurant which serves up dishes which are not only healthy but also look and taste great. Our vegetable tart, salads, pancakes and falafel were all delicious and would nearly make us become vegetarian full-time, if it weren't our job to check out restaurants which serve meat as well. ▶ F-3, ul. Wajdeloty 25/1, tel. (+48) 534 50 36 66, www.avocado.info.pl. Open 11:00 - 20:00. (12-18zł).



GREEN WAY

Greenway was one of Poland's great success stories, starting off as a cheap veggie bar in the Gdańsk district of Zabianka, the winning formula of good-quality, tasty, vegetarian, affordable food literally mushroomed into one of Poland's most successful restaurant chains. They seem to have shrunk in recent years but you should still expect a decent range of meat free dishes with daily specials marked up on the board, a great choice of juices and a primarily young, studenty crowd. ▶ M-4, ul. Bohaterów Monte Cassino 47, Sopot, tel. (+48) 58 340 47 23, www.greenway.pl. Open 09:00 - 20:00; Sat 10:00 - 21:00; Sun 10:00 - 19:00. (6-17zł).



I KROWA CAŁA

You'd think a burger place called the 'And the whole cow' would serve up the biggest beefburgers and steaks in town but you'd be wrong. First of all the 'cała (whole)' in reference to this krowa (cow) means 'unharmmed as in the Polish saying 'Wilk syty i owca cała' (The wolf is full and the sheep is unharmed)'. Polish lesson over. Everything served and prepared here is vegan from the burgers to the tacos to the pitta to the sandwiches. And as much as we like meat in our burgers we love this as well. The lentil (Soczew) burger with mustard sauce was delicious. Keep an eye out for their lemonades and Smufis (a great example of an English word being put through the Polish press). ▶ N-1, ul. Dworcowa 11, Gdynia, tel. (+48) 665 78 20 25, www.ikrowacala.pl. Open 11:00 - 21:00, Fri, Sat 11:00 - 22:00, Sun 12:00 - 20:00. (9-17zł).



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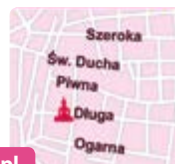


THAI RESTAURANT

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Restaurants

BAR POD RYBĄ

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QUICK EATS

AMSTERDAM BAR BEER & BAGEL

Find a selection of grilled dishes, bagels, salads, sweet and savoury pierogis and a mind-boggling choice of over 180 Polish and foreign bottled and draft beers just off the main street - Długa. ▶ B-4, ul. Garbary 6/7, Gdańsk, tel. (+48) 58 717 29 39. Open 13:00 - 23:00. (10-20zł).

BAR POD RYBĄ

More places now offer filled potatoes but 'Under the Fish' continues to serve the best in town in our opinion. For less than 7 euro, diners get a huge roasted potato split open and topped with one of seven sauces and then heaped with anything from salmon to sausage to beans or veggies; you will not walk away hungry. We love the gouda and

bacon, the Hungarian sausage, the Mexican beef - hell we'd happily eat them all. The venue itself is cosy enough, has a warm brass bar, plenty of Danzig-era signs and paintings on the wall. ▶ B-4, ul. Piwna 61/63, Gdańsk, tel. (+48) 58 305 13 07, www.barpodryba.pl. Open 10:00 - 22:00. (10-30zł).

GALERIA BAŁTYCKA FOOD COURT

Find KFC, McDs, Burger King, North Fish, a vegetarian bar, a good Asian option in the food court as well as a Pizza Hut restaurant downstairs. ▶ F-4, Al. Grunwaldzka 141, Gdańsk, tel. (+48) 58 521 85 50, www.galeriabaltycka.pl. Open 09:00 - 21:00, Sun 10:00 - 20:00.

KFC

Also at Al. Grunwaldzka 141, Gdańsk (Galeria Bałtycka, F-4); Al. Niepodległości 635/637, Sopot (L-6) and ul. Kazimierza Górskiego 2, Gdynia (Centrum Riviera, N-2/3). ▶ A-2, ul. Podwale Grodzkie 2c, Gdańsk, tel. (+48) 71 386 15 20, www.kfc.pl. Open 07:00 - 01:00; Fri, Sat 07:00 - 03:00. (5-23zł).

MCDONALD'S

Also at Al. Grunwaldzka 141, Gdańsk (Galeria Bałtycka, F-4); ul. Bohaterów Monte Cassino 21, Sopot (M-3); Al. Zwycięstwa 256, Gdynia (N-6); ul. Kazimierza Górskiego 2, Gdynia (Centrum Riviera, N-2/3) and Pl. Konstytucji 1, Gdynia (N-1, Gdynia Główna Train Station). ▶ A-2, ul. Podwale Grodzkie 1, Gdańsk, tel. (+48) 694 49 59 10, www.mcdonalds.pl. Open 04:30 - 01:00. (15-17zł).

SUBWAY

Also at ul. Rajska 10, Gdańsk (Madison Shopping Centre, B-2); ul. Bohaterów Monte Cassino 39, Sopot (M-4); ul. 10 Lutego 11, Gdynia (Batory, N-1) and ul. Kazimierza Górskiego 2, Gdynia (Centrum Riviera, N-2/3). ▶ B-4, ul. Długa 56, Gdańsk, tel. (+48) 58 305 46 22, www.subway.pl. Open 08:00 - 23:00, Sun 09:30 - 22:30. (10-20zł).

TAKO

A great little bar on the main street serving tacos, quesadillas and burritos with a variety of fillings and vegetarian and gluten-free options. Choose from the selection of sauces described on the blackboard alongside a drawing of a



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www.nalesnikowo.com.pl

thermometer - the hot one is really hot. A great spot for a lunch or snack. ▶ N-1, ul. Świętojańska 21, Gdynia, tel. (+48) 575 13 12 12, www.takogdynia.pl. Open 12:00 - 24:00, Fri, Sat 12:00 - 01:00. (9-29zł). 🍷 🍴 🚰 📶 📱 📺

PANCAKES

CUDA WIANKI

The Pancake Shop (for that is literally the meaning of Nalesnikarnia) is a bright, modern space located between the two tunnels at the top of Monte Cassino. Choose from a menu of sweet and savoury fillings as well as some of the tastiest salads we've had the pleasure to try in the city. We have to admit to being fans of the Mexican pancake as well as the salads while we know children who are unable to pass without begging for a mixed fruit pancake with whipped cream. Delicious. ▶ N-4, ul. Bohaterów Monte Cassino 9, Sopot, tel. (+48) 58 555 12 12. Open 10:00 - 22:00. (10-17zł). 🍷 🍴 🚰 📶 📱 📺

FANABERIA CREPES & CAFE

A summery looking creperie with a breezy, blue design and windows that fall open to allow maximum sun. The fruit cocktails are great, even better when the asphalt is melting, though the real point of this place are the pancakes, fast being hailed as the best in the city. ▶ N-1, ul. Świętojańska 33/35, Gdynia, tel. (+48) 785 78 17 81, www.nalesnikarnia-fanaberia.pl. Open 10:00 - 21:00, Sun 11:00 - 20:00. (10-18zł). 🍷 🍴 🚰 📶 📱 📺

NALEŚNIKOWO

If our mother had let us open up a café at the age of eight, it would have looked exactly like Nalesnikowo. It would probably have the same crepe-centric menu, too, though Nalesnikowo takes it a step further by offering options we couldn't conceive of. Sure there's countless pillowy sweet crepes (Oreo biscuit, banana and Nutella! Swoon!) and savoury choices like chorizo, bacon and pickles but why not go for the exotic noodle-laden spaghetti crepe or the pancake lasagne which also comes with a vegetarian option? The service is quick and attentive and the menu is in English, German and Russian. Drag yourself away from busy Długa and you'll be in for a treat. We're pretty sure your inner eight-year-old will thank you as will any real ones with you when they see the children's menu. ▶ B-5, ul. Ogarna 125, Gdańsk, tel. (+48) 58 682 30 82, www.nalesnikowo.com.pl. Open 10:00 - 21:00. (11-19zł). You can pay in \$, €, or £. 🍷 🍴 🚰 📶 📱 📺

PIZZA

CZERWONY PIEC

An excellent and very popular spot that doesn't just serve excellent pizza and panini but also allows you to learn two more words of Polish. The Red Oven, is a smart two-floored restaurant with a strong local following, great pizza (we love the spicy salami), street seating and bottles of chilli olive oil on the tables to add a bit of extra spice. The other thing we like is that despite having beer on sale themselves,

Tesoro Express

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www.restauracjatesoro.pl



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they are not at all precious about you bringing in a glass of the AleBrower beer from next door which has seen these two neighbours become very popular together. Good job everyone. ▶ ul. Starowiejska 40c, Gdynia, tel. (+ 48) 730 531 314, www.czerwonypiec.pl. Open 11:00 - 22:00, Sun 12:00 - 20:00. (9-24zł). 🍷 🍴 🚰 📶 📱 📺

SEMPRE PIZZA E VINO

A classy little venue with friendly staff on the quayside at the reawakened Fish Market end of town. Where once there was nothing, you'll now find a selection of the city's best restaurants in the shadow of one of the city's best hotels. Sempre have got the pizza covered and you'll find freshly made Italian style pizza prepared in proper pizza ovens in a jiffy. Although this is quick food, it is a galaxy away from the fast food Targ Rybny has been traditionally associated with and is a sign of the area's upward mobility. Also at B-4, ul. Długa 6/7/8. ▶ D-3, ul. Targ Rybny 11, Gdańsk, tel. (+48) 58 719 19 19, www.semprepizza.pl. Open 12:00 - 22:00, Fri, Sat 12:00 - 23:00. (15-37zł). 🍷 🍴 🚰 📶 📱 📺

TESORO EXPRESS

An excellent Italian owned pizza parlour, where your pizza is accompanied by imported Italian soft drinks, wines, and more often than not a little song from one of the Italian chefs. ▶ L-4, ul. Bohaterów Monte Cassino 11, Sopot, tel. (+48) 531 04 40 04, www.restauracjatesoro.pl. Open 12:00 - 21:00; Fri, Sat 12:00 - 23:00. From July open 12:00 - 23:00. (17-38zł). 🍷 🍴 🚰 📶 📱 📺



Sit back and enjoy the weather and the view from Lookier Cafe on ul. Długa

CAFE KAMIENICA

Drink under the gables and gargoyles of Mariacka in this standout café/bar, a boho space set on two levels. Consisting of strip-wood floors and arty loot this is a place not short on charm and, when the weather is warmer one of the biggest and best terraces in Gdańsk. Winter or summer, there are few more atmospheric places for a coffee or beer. ▶ C-4, ul. Mariacka 37/39, Gdańsk, www.cafekamienica.com. Open 11:00 - 22:00, Fri, Sat 11:00 - 24:00.



CAFE LIBERTAS

They've gone for the pre-war feel here with lots of dark woods, smartly dressed waiters, inter-war tunes and a picture of the Graf Zeppelin airship floating above old Danzig for the nostalgic among you. Coffee, cake, shakes, non-alcoholic cocktails and a notable choice of breakfasts make this worth inclusion. ▶ ul. Chlebnicka 37/38.

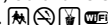
CHWILA

Chwila means moment in Polish and you'll find it underneath its sister establishment of that name in the Infobox building. The draw here is the selection of freshly made breads, quiches, panini and desserts which combined with its central location make it well worth taking a 'chwila' to stop by. ▶ N-1, ul. Świetojańska 30 (Infobox), Gdynia, tel. (+48) 58 623 34 69, www.chwilamoment.com.pl. Open 07:30 - 18:00, Sat, Sun 08:30 - 18:00.



CUKIERNIA DELICJE

This is a bit of a legend in the Tri-city and harks back to a day when the only thing linking Gdynia and Seattle was a long-range ballistic missile. Opened at the end of the 1970s, Delicje built a reputation for turning out wonderful cakes at a time when small things like cake were valued even more in Poland than they are now - Poles like cake. A marvel of classic 1970s design: the murals, carpets and white leather stools are all tasteless but strangely cool. Upstairs is a spacious café with plenty of seating on couches; downstairs is the bakery popular for its cakes, tarts and pastries. ▶ N-1, ul. 10 Lutego 27, Gdynia, tel. (+48) 58 620 73 37, www.delicje.com.pl. Open 10:00 - 20:00.



CYGANERIA

This was at one-time Gdynia's number one 'bar noir' and the name still conjures images of when it was a place student revolutionaries sat smoking and plotting revolution over the Commie government. While the national revolution took place at the end of the eighties, it took Cyganeria a quarter of a century to follow suit (although we might need to organise a demonstration to revolt against the same old selection of beer). Today it is a warm and inviting space set on the ground floor of one of the city's modernist apartment building which is shaped like an ocean liner and today's Cyganeria offers a more remarkable menu than most cafes in town. As day becomes evening it morphs into an inviting place for a glass of wine while you have your own whispered conversation. ▶ N-1, ul. 3 Maja 27, Gdynia, tel. (+48) 58 620 77 22, www.cafecyganeria.pl. Open 10:00 - 23:30, Fri 10:00 - 01:30, Sat 12:00 - 01:30, Sun 12:00 - 23:30.



DRUKARNIA

A smart café on the picturesque Mariacka street which is located in what was once a printing house (hence the name - Drukarnia means just that in English). The look is quite modern and industrial reflecting the premises' previous incarnation though the reason to visit is the coffee which is excellent. Take a slice of one of their freshly made cakes as we did and you'll be set up perfectly for your next leg of sightseeing.

► C-4, ul. Mariacka 36, Gdańsk, tel. (+48) 510 08 70 64. Open 10:00 - 22:00, Fri, Sat 10:00 - 23:00.

**GOLDWASSER COFFEE SHOP**

Gold it certainly is. Walk past the narrow room selling pralines and gift sets, and duck upstairs to find a posh cafe space primed for an afternoon sit-down - choose from great snack options, including a tasty gulaszowa. Very nice indeed, though the primary reason for visiting is the small list of old local liqueurs, the recipes for which were painstakingly researched and recreated by the owner, as well as some great wine including the house fave: Grauer Burgunder Blanc. German Chancellor Angela Merkel, clearly an avid IYP reader, choose Cafe Goldwasser to spend a relaxing time discussing business with the then Polish President Bronislaw Komorowski on a visit to the city. ► C-5, ul. Długi Targ 28/29, Gdańsk, tel. (+48) 58 320 90 12, www.goldwasser.pl. Open 09:00 - 21:00. ☎ ☎

KVASS

Kvass or as it is more commonly known in Poland 'Kwas Chlebowy' is a soft drink made from fermented dark rye bread and historically very popular in this part of the world. While you'll not find it being sold on the street from large tanks, like you do in nearby Kaliningrad, you will find it making a bit of a

comeback in local bars and restaurants. Kvass has a very low alcohol content (generally less than 1%). It is thought to have arrived in Poland from the east in about the 10th century and has been popular for most of the time since. Between the wars Kvass made a strong comeback after its popularity suffered during the century of partition but it lost ground again later on in the communist era as Coca-Cola became the fashionable drink.

With the growth in small, traditional bars and restaurants who are reviving traditional recipes, Kvass has started to make a bit of a comeback here. Described by Michael Palin on his travels through these parts a few years ago as having 'A curious taste which I can only describe as a mix of Pepsi-Cola and gravy' it might not be for everyone. Give it a try at places like Familia Wileńska.



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Weekends open until last guest

ICE CREAM

If you have a strong sweet tooth and ice cream is your particular favourite, buckle up: Poland will seem like paradise. It's hard to walk more than half a block without seeing a sign - or better yet, a large fibreglass likeness - promoting soft serve ice cream cones or flavoured ice creams.

If you see a sign for lody (the ubiquitous Polish word for ice cream) you're in luck, but you've also got some serious decisions ahead of you. Do you choose lody amerykańskie, which is the tall, skinny and icy version (and also not like any American soft serve we've ever had)? Or the lody włoskie, which is a creamier and squatter version? Not to mention they all come with various flavour and coating options, making the selection a veritable mathematical nightmare. And then there are the ice cream stands selling delicious flavoured ices by the scoop. Pay for the number of scoops you want and then run wild. Ices usually run for 3zł a scoop or 5 or 6zł per cone, depending on the size.

ESKIMO

This place has absolutely nothing to do with Gunter Grass but it is recommended as a great spot to sample homemade ice cream while exploring his former stamping ground. Using a serving system and in surroundings that will give you a picture of the communist People's Republic of Poland, you decide on the number of scoops that you want, hand over your money through the little window in the wall and then hand your token to the white-coated lady and pick your flavours. Delicious ice cream and a local legend.

► F-3, ul. Stanisława Wyspiańskiego 22, Gdańsk, tel. (+48) 58 341 89 10. Open 10:00 - 19:00. ☑️📶📶

MIŚ

Trading since 1962, Miś is a local legend for its delicious homemade ice cream and the summer months see queues of people waiting to get a chance to enter these tiny premises to order ice cream, in 12 different flavour, by the scoop. State the number of scoops you want, hand your money to one lady and a second lady takes your order. Unfortunately, a change in ownership has seen the taste change and locals are not happy. Nor are we. ► D-3, ul. Sukiennicza 18, Gdańsk, tel. (+48) 58 300 03 77, www.lodziarniamis.pl. Open 10:00 - 19:00. ☑️📶📶



KAVA

A friendly little cafe/bar at the bottom of Monte Cassino which offers a range of coffee and alcohol until late evening. They also have a concise but decent choice of food including breakfasts featuring a choice of scrambled eggs, croissants and the like from early morning and a good lunch menu through the rest of the day. Found on the side of the main street which catches the morning sun, the garden is perfect for watching the world go by over an early morning coffee (when weather permits). ► M-4, ul. Bohaterów Monte Cassino 61, Sopot, tel. (+48) 503 09 76 20. Open 07:00 - 24:00. ☑️📶📶

KAWIARNIA FILMOWA W STARYM KADRZE

A wonderful little cafe in a quiet street found in the shadow of St Mary's next to the Four Quarters Fountain. While the menu offers a wide range of teas, a choice of generously sized cups of coffee (unlike most) and brownies and szarlotka (apple cake) with ice cream it's the place itself that gets our nod. For not only is it wonderfully atmospheric, with old family pictures on the walls adding to the feeling that this is a real old-time Gdanskian's living room, it also has a totally unique gimmick. Tucked away in the back is a 12-seater cinema which shows films three times daily (14:00, 17:00 and 20:00) with a different theme each two weeks. The films are International rather than Polish meaning you, the foreign visitor, can watch most. Add to that the choice of locally produced beer and film themed shots and this place gets our vote as one of the most original to open in recent years. Love it. ► C-4, ul. Grobla I 3/4, Gdańsk, tel. (+48) 58 682 15 67, www.wstarymkadrze.pl. Open 12:00 - 22:00. ☑️📶📶

LOOKIER CAFE & RESTAURANT


An extremely smart cafe on Gdansk's main street recommendable for the concise but impressive menu of salads and light meals, not to mention an alcohol license as well. The ability to get something to eat that was tasty, light and well-priced would normally be enough of a draw for us, but there are two additional boons here. Firstly a good selection of breakfast sandwiches which is a pleasant change from the typical roll + cheese+ ham/salmon breakfast offering. Secondly the cakes. Delicious. ► C-4, ul. Długa 39, Gdańsk, tel. (+48) 514 92 59 39, www.lookiercafe.pl. Open 08:00 - 22:00. 📶📶📶📶📶

MŁODY BYRON


Located inside the historic Dworek Sierakowskich, this small cafe and bar has an intimate, modern feel, as well as an arty resident crowd appreciative of both the adjacent gallery and the weekend cultural happenings: poetry evenings, concerts, the whole shebang - take it all in with a glass of one of their locally brewed bottled beers. In warmer months the shaded garden out back with its deck chairs scattered inside an area guarded by photos of old Sopot plays host to occasional open-air concerts while a gate to the adjacent playground makes it very parent-friendly. ► M-4, ul. Czyżewskiego 12, Sopot, tel. (+48) 796 27 76 28. Open 12:00 - 23:00, Fri, Sat 12:00 - 02:00.

📶📶📶📶📶

PIJALNIA CZEKOLADY E. WEDEL

Wedel is the oldest chocolate brand in the country, and as such has a special place in every Polish heart. The interiors are typical of an upmarket tearoom and feature a wood panelled bar and crimson walls, pralines sitting behind a glass front and a menu that wouldn't be out of place in Willie Wonka's Chocolate Factory. ► M-4, ul. Bohaterów Monte Cassino 36/4, Sopot, tel. (+48) 58 550 03 35, www.wedelpijalnie.pl. Open 09:00 - 22:00. 

PIKAWA

The perfect café to while away an afternoon sipping on a latte or discreetly downing a lavish dessert, Pi Kawa has the soft lighting and mismatched furniture that creates instant atmosphere. The perfect hideout from the throngs that crowd nearby Długa, especially when only szarlotka (traditional Polish apple dessert) will do. ► C-4, ul. Piwna 14/15, Gdańsk, tel. (+48) 58 304 14 88, www.pikawa.pl. Open 10:00 - 23:00. 

RETRO CAFE

A stylish cafe in the shadow of St. Mary's Basilica, the retro should conjure up images of handsome and comfortable furniture with black and white prints of old Gdańsk rather than the hippy collection of old plastic furniture you might think. You'll find a comprehensive range of tea, smoothies, chocolate and a specially selected coffees along with their signature item - cakes. Find a delicious range of cheesecakes and tarts which are all home baked using high quality ingredients. The perfect place to take a break from sightseeing in the old town. ► C-4, ul. Piwna 5/6, Gdańsk, tel. (+48) 665 21 79 65. Open 10:00 - 23:00, Fri, Sat 10:00 - 24:00. 

THAT ENGLISH PLACE


A bright, airy spot just off Swietojanska in which to enjoy a range of delicious homemade cakes, a choice of good coffee and, this is its number one draw for us, REAL English tea. For those who miss a 'proper' cup of tea this is the place for you to go with a lovely piece of chocolate cake. This is more than a café though and the couple who opened late on in 2015 are clearly trying to build a community around the café with English-speaking workshops, parents and children groups and charity events. Give their Facebook page a look and stop



healthy, homemade cakes
exceptional teas & coffees
unforgettable atmosphere



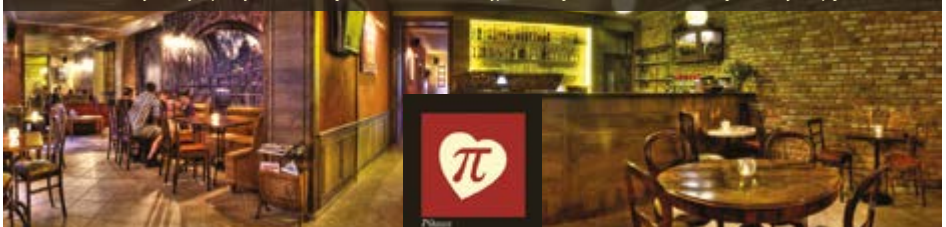
Retro
ul. Piwna 5/6, Gdańsk
tel. 665 217 965
facebook.com/RetroGdansk

by for a cuppa. ► N-1, Józefa Wybickiego 3/1, Gdynia, tel. (+48) 512 80 77 19. Open 08:30 - 20:00, Sat 10:00 - 21:00, Sun 10:00 - 19:00. 

Z INNEJ PARAFII

The kind of place which makes you wish you hadn't just binned the furniture from granny's old flat but had hung onto it to sell to places like this. Creaking and rickety furniture apart this is a friendly little cafe on Targ Rybny. Coffee, cake, *nalewki* and Silesian craft beers make this worth a visit during the day to take a break away from the crowds. A side note, we liked the upbeat, guitar music they played. ► Targ Rybny 6a, Gdańsk, tel. (+ 48) 505 840 243. Open Tue, Wed 10:00 - 21:00, Thu 10:00 - 22:00, Fri 10:00 - 23:00, Sat 11:00 - 23:00, Sun 12:00 - 20:00. Closed Mon.

Pikawa is located in the centre of Old Town Gdańsk on Piwna Street. Visit this cosy and intimate café where you can enjoy fine coffee, excellent tea from a fairytale forest and unique desserts that will satisfy both the palate and the aesthetic experience of every person.



„Pikawa” | ul. Piwna 14/15, 80-831 Gdańsk | tel. 58 304 14 88 | www.pikawa.pl



Work your way through the fridges of bottled beers at bars such as Amsterdam

There was a time when Gdansk's nightlife seemed a bit limited but that's changing. While Sopot is still recognized as the Tri-city's party town there are more than enough good bars and the odd club which will keep you in the old town. That said Sopot is the centre of Tri-city with most of the action centred around the main drag, Monte Cassino where most clubs will apply a cover charge - expect to pay 10-30zł to get into the better ones. Gdynia has a fair selection of options and while most of the nightlife is concentrated near the sea around Al. Jana Pawła, Skwer Kościuszki and Bulwar Nadmorski there are a bunch of less rowdy bars worth searching out.

LOCAL

Try the beers brewed on-site at **Brovornia** or the locally brewed juice at **Flisak 76** and **Amsterdam Bar**. For a taste of something very local and a little bit odd, squeeze yourself into **Vinifera** a mandatory fixture on any decent pub crawl. Sopot has a reputation, amongst others, as being the seaside capital for the country's artist crows and their HQ was famously **Spatif**. We're no great fans but there probably isn't a nightspot which is more 'Sopot'. For local beers with local people there's no better place than **AleBrowar**.

COUPLES

For something really picturesque take an evening stroll down ul. Mariacka and stop for a nightcap in **Café Kamienica** or a glass of wine in **Literacka**. In Sopot try the Blue Poodle, aka **Błękitny Pudel**, an atmospheric, antiquarian bar which comes into its element as evening

draws in. Or for a glass of wine, head to **Cyrano et Roxane**, a rail-side cottage overseen by a Frenchman. You don't have to be on a hot date to enjoy **Śródmieście** which offers a good selection of food to help your date go well.

SPECIAL

Go five star and take drinks in the Hilton's rooftop bar **High 5** as you stare out over the river. Alternatively, in Sopot the **Softel Grand** has hosted names as diverse as Omar Sharif and Marlene Dietrich over the years. Follow in their footsteps by taking cocktails in the hotel bar, **Le Bar** with gardens leading to the nearby beach.

ALL NIGHT

Sopot is the capital of the all-nighter. Greet dawn on the beach by drinking in **Atelier**. Step inside the city's signature building, the **Crooked House**, and take your pick from the selection of late night bars and clubs found upstairs there including the recommended **Zia Kobieta (Bad Woman)** or do as we do and head for the more relaxed **Wtedy**.

LADS

The secret to surviving a night out in the Tri-city is pace. Polish beer and vodka are rocket fuel and many bars and clubs stay open until dawn. And gentlemen be particularly careful if you somehow find yourself in a strip club. Some clubs in Poland hit the headlines after a string of customers accused them of charging astronomical amounts to their credit cards. Be careful.



CRAFT BEER BAR

We invite you to Gdynia
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ALEBROWARGDYNIA







BARS & PUBS

3 SIOSTRY





A local favourite and as the name suggests a cafe/bar/club run by 3 sisters, owners no doubt of the dozens of shoes nailed to the ceiling. These ladies know how to run a bar and the loyal clientele keep coming back to cram onto the tiny floor to dance the night away to classics from across the decades. A great spot to spend the evening where the opportunity to interact with the locals seems to be part of the design. For a bit of local flavour, ask Beata for a shot of her strawberry flavoured vodka. ▶ **M-4, ul. Powstańców Warszawy 6, Sopot, tel. (+48) 58 555 00 00, www.3siostry.pl. Open 13:00 - 24:00; Fri, Sat 13:00 - 03:00. From June open 11:00 - 24:00; Fri, Sat 11:00 - 03:00.**    

ALEBROWAR GDYNIA

The first retail venture of a young Polish brewing company of the same name, this is a great spot on one of Gdynia's less trodden streets. A wide range of tasty beer is on offer from tap and bottles, each coming with a name that could have been stolen from a racehorse. Although pricey by local standards, you get what you pay for here with delicious beers served fresh. As an added bonus the excellent Czerwony Piec pizza joint is next door and that and the street seating have made this a very popular place of late. Well-worth an evening of your time. ▶ **N-1, ul. Starowiejska 40b, Gdynia, tel. (+48) 696 71 56 32, www.alebrowar.pl. Open 14:00 - 24:00, Fri, Sat 14:00 - 02:00.**    

AMSTERDAM BAR BEER & BAGEL

Local bottled brews have made a huge leap forward in the last couple of years thanks in no small part to places like this which are prepared to snub the major brewers and stock independent brewers in depth (over 180 bottled and draft beers available). The broadcast of live sports means it's a good option for watching the match with a beer as well.

▶ **B-4, ul. Garbary 6/7, Gdańsk, tel. (+48) 58 717 29 39. Open 13:00 - 23:00, Fri, Sat 13:00 - 24:00.**    



vine.co/inyourpocket

BIAŁE WINO I OWOCE

Having built a good reputation in Sopot as one of the better Snacks & Shots bars in the city, Biale Wino & Owoce upped sticks and moved to Gdynia where they re-opened in larger more attractive premises with an expanded offer. They still do the classic Polish snack food of herring or tartar with a raw egg washed down with shots of vodka at remarkably cheap prices, but you now visit during the day for a choice of coffee, tea, cake, sandwiches and a choice of mains including ribs and chicken wings. What was once a place we recommended as a good start or end to an evening on the town is now recommended whatever the hour. ▶ **N/O-1, ul. Świętojańska 9, Gdynia, tel. (+48) 511 97 56 87, www.bialewinioiowoce.pl. Open 12:00 - 24:00, Fri, Sat 12:00 - 03:00.**    

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BLĘKITNY PUDEL (THE BLUE POODLE)

Possibly the most underrated bar in town especially considering it sits in the centre of the city's nightlife quietly minding its own business. The Blue Poodle is a bit like entering an old living room (one with cobbled flooring mind) filled with springy armchairs, Grandfather clocks and old pictures and mirrors on the wall. Add to that toilets which have been decorated by local artists and the overall effect feels pleasingly eccentric. Visit at night and the place generates a sleazy decadence that's just ripe for beery whisperings or enjoy the night air under one of their heated lamps.

► M-4, ul. Bohaterów Monte Cassino 44, Sopot, tel. (+48) 58 551 16 72, www.blekitnypudel.pl. Open 09:00 - 05:00. ☺ ☑ ☒

BROVARNIA

Quite possibly our favourite microbrewery in Poland, which is by no means the empty award you might think. The beers - including an award winning dark beer are brewed on-site - are faultless, while the smoking ban does its bit to really exaggerate the pungent smell of malt and hops. Found in a restored granary building, this pub features stout wooden fittings, black and white pics of dockside Danzig, and small little hatches that allow beams of sunlight to slant inside. Even better, if your head goes boom after test-driving their beer menu then just check into the excellent Hotel Gdańsk upstairs.

► D-4, ul. Szafarnia 9, Gdańsk, tel. (+48) 58 320 19 70, www.brovarnia.pl. Open 13:00 - 24:00. ☺ ☑ ☒ ☓

BUDDHA LOUNGE

One of the few decent pre-club spots in the old town with a midnight blue design and some velvety seats. A great (seasonal) terrace on the main street is a great place to sit back with a beer while the food (see restaurants) is some of the best ethnic cuisine in the city. A cunning piece of design also means that the bar is smoking which makes it unique for the centre of town. Friendly staff, late opening hours and a laid back atmosphere make this worth a stop on your way around the old town. ► B-4, ul. Długa 18/21, Gdańsk, tel. (+48) 58 322 00 44, www.buddhalounge.pl. Open 12:00 - 24:00. ☺ ☑ ☒ ☓

COCTAIL BAR MAX SOPOT

Stock up on aspirin, you'll be needing it. Featuring a remarkable choice of booze this air-conned beach bar has spirits from everywhere stacked around a central display by the bar: the higher you look the more premium they are. The standout feature, however, is the fruit cocktail menu - tons of fresh fruit squashed and squeezed into rainbow coloured alcoholic and non-alcoholic bliss. The artistry involved does lead to wait-times, but the young, hip staff make it worth the while. A great place to kick off the night before heading into one of the neighbouring clubs. ► M-4, ul. Grunwaldzka 1-3, Sopot, tel. (+48) 691 13 00 00, www.barmax.pl. Open 09:00 - 05:00. ☺ ☓

☑ ☒

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DONEGAL

As authentic an Irish pub in terms of appearance as you're likely to find in Europe, Donegal is a long-term labour of love for its owners who clearly appreciate there's more to an Irish pub than simply getting some beers in and sticking an 'Irish Pub' sign up outside. There's a healthy selection of whiskey and a none-too shabby collection of whisky as well. The Guinness is as good a pint as you'll get in Poland and a warm (sometimes very warm) atmosphere makes it the kind of place you can pass a few hours gently tipping the pints and sipping the whiskeys. They put on live music and there's also a couple of screens to catch the match.

► N-1, ul. Zgoda 10, Gdynia, tel. (+48) 58 620 46 23. Open 16:00 - 03:00. ☺ ☹ ☑ ☹ ☹

DWIE ZMIANY

A bit bar, a bit cafe, a bit art gallery, a bit good really. This is a magnet for Sopot's hipster crowd attracted as much by the cool reputation it's built up as for anything else. We like it because of the Warmińskie Rewolucje, a really hoppy beer from a brewery in neighbouring Warmia which they have on tap. Food also available although you have to ask the bar staff what, if anything is available to order. If you're doing a crawl of Monciak's bars, this is one worth stopping off at. ► L-4, ul. Bohaterow Monte Cassino 31, Sopot, tel. (+48) 58 380 21 27, www.dwiezmiany.com. Open 10:00 - 22:00, Fri, Sat 10:00 - 01:00. ☺ ☹ ☑ ☹ ☹

FLISAK 76

Cocktails are in vogue in Gdansk these days and Flisak seems to be leading the way once more. Found a short block away from the main square, Flisak is a popular, subterranean bar frequented by a friendly crowd who tend to set not follow local fashion trends. This time it's exotic and affordable cocktails. Some of the concoctions and names are wonderful and it's well worth making this a stop on your way round the town - they also offer some great bottled craft beers as well ► C-4, ul. Chlebnicka 9/10, Gdańsk, tel. (+48) 509 99 48 54, www.flisak76.pl. Open 18:00 - 01:00, Fri, Sat 18:00 - 03:00. ☺ ☹ ☑ ☹ ☹

HARD ROCK CAFE

Hard Rock are known for the food, cocktails and rock memorabilia but the best ones we've been in are the ones who remember they got into this game originally because of music. And when we say music we of course mean rock music. There's a small stage for large performances, a decent sound system and a prime location making this a popular stop. Check out their Facebook page for what's on. ► C-5, ul. Długi Targ 35/38, Gdańsk, tel. (+48) 58 535 77 04, www.hardrock.com/gdansk. Open 10:00 - 24:00, Fri, Sat 10:00 - 01:00. ☺ ☹ ☑ ☹ ☹

HIGH 5

Hitting the fifth floor bar of the Hilton isn't unlike walking on-set of a Ralph Lauren ad. This place is sheer class, with a wood-deck terrace offering rooftop views of Gdańsk from white wicker loungers. Don't be surprised to find hotel guests shuffling around in snow coloured dressing gowns,



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WATCHING THE MATCH



With UEFA EURO 2016 taking place in France this June many bars and restaurants who'd normally never have a television will be getting them in to attract people through

the door. Expect bars and clubs to be thronged when the Polish national team is playing particularly as this is the best team the Poles have had in quite some time. A third place finish, as achieved at the 1974 and 1982 World Cups is unlikely but if you're here on Thursday 16th June, you'll not want to miss them taking on neighbours Germany.

Beyond the Euros you can catch most English, German, Spanish and Champions League games on a television somewhere, as long as you don't mind Polish commentary.

Places where you will find both the channels and a willingness to accommodate you are in Gdansk – Buddha, Irish Station and T29 at the PGE Arena, in Sopot – Tapas du Rucola and the huge screen in Kava and in Gdynia - Piwiarnia Warka. Find where all of these are listed in our guide by checking the index at the back.

BUNKIER KLUBOGALERIA



Jaw-dropping. On ul. Olejarna stands a six-storey, re-enforced concrete cube built as an air-raid shelter, bunker and anti-aircraft battery by the

Germans during WWII. It now operates as one of the most visually stunning clubs in the country. Get past the rather large, black-suited chaps on the door and you'll be met with the original corridors flanked by 1.2 metre thick walls which lead into a labyrinth of bars, dancefloors, seating areas and some of the most fantastic toilets we've ever seen. Each level is different with our favourite being the caged seating featuring military bunks and for some reason an electric chair on level 3 or 4 (or 5 we can't be sure in the light of day). The bars are well-stocked and manned by friendly staff; prices are surprisingly low and the mix of original features (lighting, exposed pipes) and artistic touches will have you reaching regularly for your camera phone. Once you've finished looking around you'll find it's not a bad club either. ▶ C-3, ul. Olejarna 3, Gdańsk, tel. (+48) 531 71 12 07, www.bunkierclub.pl. Open 17:00 - 01:00, Fri, Sat 17:00 - 05:00.

they're fresh from dipping in the rooftop pool. Surprisingly, somewhat, prices are kept at an affordable level, and there's a small glass-encased bar for colder evenings. ▶ A-4, ul. Targ Rybny 1, Gdańsk, tel. (+48) 58 778 74 50, www.hiltongdansk.pl. Open 12:00 - 23:00.

KANDELABRY

Kandelabry is not only a staff favourite, it's also the place hostel staff and Gdynians-in-the-know will send you. The chandelier made of a hodge-podge of bottles lights the way to a beery wonderland of impressive imports (the Belgian selection alone has 23 choices) and deeper pulls from Poland than the typical Żywiec and Tyskie options available elsewhere. Dig into a bowl of peanuts with a fresh lager at Kandelabry and you'll easily feel like a local. ▶ O-1, Al. Jana Pawła II 9, Gdynia, tel. (+48) 509 91 98 84, www.kandelabry.com. Open 14:00 - 23:00, Fri 14:00 - 02:00, Sat 13:00 - 02:00, Sun 13:00 - 23:00.

LAWENDOWA 8

A converted corner shop in what's become Gdansk's Hipster Central. You might ask why on first entering - a design incorporating some leftover black paint, a bar, some furniture nicked off a scrap heap and what looked like a 1980s Space Invader machine hardly scream interior design award nominee. We're guessing the crowds that pour out onto the street are drawn here by the choice of locally brewed ales which include Wing of Hop and Rowing Jack and are reminiscent of British ales in colour and taste. The rest seem to be drawn here to hang out in what people have dubbed 'L osiem'. ▶ C-3, ul. Lawendowa 8 (entrance from ul. Straganiarska), tel. (+48) 58 691 97 40. Open 09:00 - 01:00.

NONSENS

A very popular bar with a young, happy crowd who come to relax in this smart and very laid-back bar just off Gdynia's main Swietojanska street. The two-sided menu card list a range of drinks and snacks with an impressive list of Polish craft beers including the locally produced beers from the Puck brewery. Keep a particular eye for the vodka shot mixes and the statue outside of Poland's most famous communist era spy. If you want to start a conversation ask one of the Poles if they consider him a hero or a traitor. ▶ N-2, ul. I Armii Wojska Polskiego 10, Gdynia, tel. (+48) 733 97 23 25. Open 16:00 - 02:00.

PUB POLSKIE KINO

Granted this is another of the cheap beer and shot places but this one gets mark for trying that bit harder. For one it's not just cheap beer and vodka that you can buy for a few coins, but also 6 flavours of Polish *nalewki* which are spirits flavoured over time with fruit or herbs. As the name suggests the bar is themed on Polish film though if you're visiting from abroad you won't know most if any of the references. Don't panic. Buy your neighbours a couple of shots of one of the 5 *nalewki* and within no time at all you'll be up to speed on Wajda, Kieślowski or the Polish comic actors depicted on the walls. ▶ C-4, ul. Szeroka

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As recommended by Gdansk In Your Pocket

97, Gdańsk, tel. (+48) 506 40 77 18. Open 15:00 - 02:00, Fri, Sat 15:00 - 03:00, Sun 15:00 - 01:00, From July open 12:00 - 02:00, Fri-Sat 12:00 - 03:00, Sun 12:00 - 01:00.



RED LIGHT PUB

We've been fans of the people behind Red Light since they opened in smaller premises on Chlebniczka some years back and were one of the pioneers of promoting local bottled beers. Frequented by locals who make you feel right at home the place has a great atmosphere with a small dancefloor in the basement and a mismatch of seating upstairs. Search it out on a backstreet between Piwna and Długa as it's one of our favourite city centre nightspots. ▶ C-4, ul. Piwna 28/31 (entrance on ul. Kaletnicza), Gdańsk, tel. (+48) 511 53 86 74. Open 15:00 - 02:00, Fri, Sat 15:00 - 04:00.

RETROMANIAK KLUBO GALERIA

Discreetly hidden somewhere behind the train station, seek this one out if you like your dive bars to ooze style. As eclectic as they come, Retromaniak's vintage furnishings range from twin beds to theatre seats, and the décor is an appealing push/pull of glamour and garbage, featuring dancing poles and disco balls against a ceiling covered in aluminium foil, and a shaven-headed barmaid serving drinks on a counter made of old VHS cassettes against a backdrop promotional photos of early film stars. There's no espresso machine, but there is a great selection of craft

beers (they claim over 100), old Polish films screening silently on the wall and a scattered playlist of forgotten pop hits and ethnic rock that seems as cobbled together as the DIY decor. Probably the most gay-friendly venue in town as well. ▶ L-4, Al. Niepodległości 771a, Sopot, tel. (+48) 512 89 84 23. Open 18:00 - 01:00, Fri, Sat 18:00 - 04:00.



SZCZĘŚLIWEGO NOWEGO JORKU

Taking the name of a recommended film about Polish immigrants in New York (playing on the Polish for 'Happy New Year'), the friendly father and son team that run the place have created a more upmarket version of the Polish Snacks & Shots bar while keeping prices low. ▶ M-4, ul. Powstańców Warszawy 19, Sopot, tel. (+48) 608 61 61 90. Open 18:00 - 03:00; Fri, Sat 18:00 - 05:00. From mid-June open 18:00 - 05:00.

ŚRÓDMIEŚCIE

A very attractive cafe/bar tucked away in a central Gdynia street which attracts a friendly, fashionable crowd with its relaxed atmosphere, tasteful design, original menu (featuring burgers and sandwiches) and a well-stocked bar. It's the kind of place you could spend the evening chatting away with friends or a quiet hour in the afternoon with a book and a coffee. Thoroughly recommendable and a great addition to the Gdynia scene. ▶ N-1, ul. Mściwoja 9, Gdynia, tel. (+48) 600 48 87 61, www.bistrosrodmiescie.pl. Open 11:00 - 24:00, Fri, Sat 11:00 - 01:00.

ADULT ENTERTAINMENT

There has been a marked increase in the number of strip clubs opening in prime city centre locations throughout Poland over the last couple of years. This has resulted in the main streets and squares of Poland's major tourist cities now seeing young women handing out leaflets to strip clubs and approaching any male who appears to be foreign, and not obviously in the company of a wife or girlfriend, with an invitation to visit their 'Gentleman's Club'. The situation has turned an evening stroll around Sopot's Bohaterow Monte Cassino for instance into a pretty unpleasant experience. On a recent evening walk down the hill in the company of three visiting male teachers from the UK, we were approached nine times in the matter of less than five minutes. 'Tacky' as one of the group described it.

With three strip clubs on Monte Cassino itself, the competition to attract customers is fierce but the local government seem powerless in preventing these clubs opening in the centre of the city in the first place and then from stopping people having strip club leaflets thrust into their hands along the street. It's not just Sopot – a new club has opened up right in the heart of Gdansk's old town on Dlugi Targ while elsewhere in the country strip joints have opened in the heart of what are the most photogenic places on the tourist trail.

Up until the autumn one network of clubs seemed to be attracting more criticism than most. The Cocomo chain, which had quickly expanded throughout Poland, found itself regularly accused of stealing money from unsuspecting clientele by overcharging or by running up bills of thousands of zloty on their credit cards without the owner's approval. The group were not found guilty by the authorities of any of the accusations against them, with one Poznan prosecutor claiming they had no case to answer as the owner of a card charged with nearly 1 million zloty in one evening (over 200,000 Euros) was responsible for the amount as he must have used his PIN code to authorise the various transactions. The man claimed he couldn't remember anything after having a drink in the club and awoke the following evening in his hotel room with his pockets full of credit card receipts.

The Cocomo group announced in September that they were to close their network with immediate effect because of the negative publicity. Since that time many of the venues occupied by Cocomo, including the one next to the Multikino in Sopot, have opened as strip clubs. The Sopot venue is now called Kittens.

While we do not advise against visiting a strip club in Poland, we do recommend you make sure you check what you are paying for and use common sense regardless of the club you are visiting.

In the meantime we hope that the local government find a way to stop something as simple as an evening walk in the town becoming a poor advert for the town.

TAPAS DE RUCOLA

Combining the trendiness of Poland's current 'przekąski zakąski' phenomenon with the exoticness of Spanish Andalusia, this casual tapas bar has quickly developed into one of Sopot's most fashionable destinations. Serving an array of Andalusia-inspired and authentic small tasting dishes, all for 10zł each, a friendly mix of customers nibble away at chorizo sausages and Serrano ham while slugging down Spanish wines and the excellent, local Złote Lwy (Golden Lions) or Zywe beer on draft. With a colourful interior of imitation-Picasso mural art and a carefree atmosphere, Tapas really packs out after siesta, particularly on weekends when the party lasts long into the morning. Make sure to try their homemade 'pear' spirit (Gruszowka) which is potent and the mutton pierogi. ▶ M-4, ul. Pułaskiego 15, Sopot, tel. (+48) 58 710 55 01, www.tapassopot.pl. Open 12:00 - 23:00, Fri, Sat 12:00 - 02:00. (10-60zł). 🍷🍷



TEKSTYLIA

This popular bar has certainly got the locals talking - and drinking. Few if any places have been busier during Gdańsk's close season, and you'll find no shortage of good lookers both behind and in front of the bar. Big, large windows make it perfect for people spotting, while inside some industrial touches sit comfortably with whimsical touches such as wire-framed corsets and some design mag extras. Highly recommended for both pre-club drinks or afternoon chillout. ▶ B-3, ul. Szeroka 121/122, Gdańsk, tel. (+48) 58 304 77 63. Open 09:00 - 24:00. 🍷🍷🍷



THE OLD GDAŃSK





The old town has been crying out for a place like this - Old Gdansk Pub really ought to be called Slightly Older and more mature Gdansk pub to reflect the clientele. Live music pulls them into this small space where concerts featuring Jazz, Blues, Rock or sometimes Folk music are held every Friday and Saturday (some weeks also on Thursday and Sunday) from 19:00 to 22:00 and they pull in a variety of local and foreign guests happy to relax with a glass of wine, one of the 30 bottled beers, a shot from the generous selection of spirits or some of the simple bar food as their moods are mellowed by the music. ▶ C-4, ul. Piwna 56/57, Gdańsk, tel. (+48) 694 22 51 00, www.gdansk-beerpub.com. Open 10:00 - 01:00. 🍷🍷🍷

VINIFERA





Depicted as the little doll's house in Gunter Grass' Call of the Toad, Vinifera is a tiny (we mean tiny) canal side cottage which features a bar and very limited standing room downstairs and a dark lounge area with mirrored walls upstairs. Find some decent local beers and regular events in this classic bit of old Danzig worth experiencing before you head off to the next bar on your list. ▶ C-2, ul. Wodopój 7, Gdańsk, tel. (+48) 512 76 27 99. Open 12:00 - 24:00, Fri, Sat 12:00 - 02:00. 🍷🍷🍷

CLUBS

ATELIER

Ever had the desire to swim naked in the Baltic after a night getting trolled to punk anthems, 80s remixes and Euroshit dance din? Then step into Atelier, a madhouse venue where good times are as certain as the hangover that follows. The toilets look like they've been hit by a typhoon, but that does nothing to stop the least preened up crowd in Sopot having a right messy knees-up and enjoying life to the max. They've actually had a recent refurb, but would you notice? ▶ **M-3, Al. Mamuszki 2, Sopot, tel. (+48) 58 555 89 06, www.klubatelier.pl. Open 15:00 - 24:00, Fri 15:00 - 05:00, Sat, 11:00 - 05:00, Sun 11:00 - 24:00. From mid-June 10:00 - 24:00; Fri, Sat 10:00 - 03:00.**    





BUFFET CLUB

Found inside the derelict remains of the former Lenin Shipyards, head to the left of the European Solidarity Centre and along the cobbled road there to the two-storey building next to the old blocks of flats (ul. Robotnicza). There you'll find Buffet (pronounce "boo-fett" by the locals, not "buff-fay" like the smorgasbord) located in the Wyspa Institute of Art building. The major pull here though are the truly memorable nights which feature Polish and foreign DJs playing anything from indie to drum n' bass. Do expect a décor that reflects the post-communist fate of the shipyards and nights that finish in daylight. Do not expect Beyonce or bathrooms with toilet paper. ▶ **B-1, ul. Doki 1/145b, Gdańsk, tel. (+48) 534 70 90 40, www.buffet.com.pl. Open 15:00 - 22:00, Fri, Sat 15:00 - 04:00.**    

SPATIF

One of the enduring legends of Sopot, though utterly different from the Spatif of legend. The design is still the same - eclectic art and an avant garde style - the only thing that's changed is the people who visit. What was once a den of beatniks and thespians has morphed into, dare we say it, the sort of place where plastic comes first; be it plastic boobs or the platinum card. It remains, surprisingly, hugely popular and as such has a strict door policy - whether you make it in or not, watch for the stairs. ▶ **M-4, ul. Bohaterów Monte Cassino 54, Sopot, tel. (+48) 58 550 26 83, www.spatif.sopot.pl. Open 18:00 - 02:00, Fri, Sat 18:00 - 05:00.** 

WTEDY

The rapid expansion in the nightlife options in town has seen the overall level move quite sharply towards 'tacky' so it's encouraging to see a place open that is prepared to do more than cheap alcohol. To find Wtedy (Then) head round the back of a bank located in a villa style premises close to the centre of town. That in itself lends it a 'in-the-know' kind of feel. Inside the crowd is a little older than on the 'strip' (but not as older as the dollies at the coat check) while a vinyl-spinning DJ, excellent bar and limited seating mean the place can't help but dance. ▶ **L-4, ul. Kosciuszki 16, Sopot, www.wtedy.co. Open Thu, Fri, Sat only: 21:00 - 05:00.**    

CROOKED HOUSE

The Crooked in the building's name refers to the architecture, not to how most of the clientele look as they leave, although it could. You can knock back shots in exchange for a handful of coins downstairs, sip cocktails with a good-looking crowd or dance the night away while dancers swing above your head on a trapeze on the upper levels.







Cocktail hour at Zła Kobieta

DREAM CLUB

There's wow factor galore inside Dream Club, but unless you take your fashion tips from Maxim and Vogue there's little chance of seeing it. Door selection is tough; for lads a logo on the shirt and some sunglasses on your head work miracles, while for girls a pneumatic set of knockers is guaranteed to do the trick. The rewards are ample, with top DJs, a top lighting and sound set-up and a good-looking crowd. ▶ **M-4, ul. Bohaterów Monte Cassino 53, Sopot, tel. (+48) 605 50 08 00, www.dreamclub.pl. Open Fri, Sat only: 22:00 - 05:00. From July open Thu, Fri, Sat 22:00 - 05:00.**  

NA DRUGĄ NÓŻKĘ

Na Druga Nozke literally means 'For the other leg' which is a Polish phrase meaning something like 'one for the road'. This is cheap and cheerful drinking. They have Tyskie on tap for 5zł and a more wide-ranging choice of cheap eats including nuggets and pierogi. For something different ask for a 'kiwówka' - a kiwi flavoured vodka. ▶ **M-4, ul. Bohaterów Monte Cassino 53, Sopot, www.NaDrugaNozke.pl. Open 16:00 - 04:50.**    

ZŁA KOBIETA

A great looking pre-club spot found up the stairs in the Crooked House. The cocktails come prepared by pleasant English-speaking staff and while this is a great place for pre-club drinks you can also find yourself trapped as the crowd kick off on the small dancefloor. ▶ **M-4, ul. Bohaterów Monte Cassino 53, Sopot, tel. (+48) 606 85 39 30, www.zlakobieta.com. Open 21:00 - 05:00.**    



A must-see is the exhibition to the Solidarity movement at the ECS, winner of the Council of Europe Museum Award 2016.

Tri-city Sightseeing

If it's history you want then you've come to the right place because the Tri-city has sacks of it. So charge up the battery pack, clear the memory and let us point you and your camera in the right direction.



The famous Gate #2 at the former Lenin Shipyard

If you're pressed for time here's a list of those places you might want to make sure you don't miss. More details about each, including addresses and opening hours, can be found within these pages.

Starting off in Gdańsk then. It was in this city that the first fissures in the Iron Curtain appeared, forced open by Poles during the landmark August strikes of 1980. Following this first peaceful victory over the communist rulers, calls for greater freedoms were only nine years away from bringing down the Berlin Wall. The centre of these protests was Gate #2 of the Gdańsk shipyard and this can be found just outside of old town on ul. Doki. While there do not dare miss a visit to the excellent European Solidarity Centre which features a fascinating and very well presented tribute to the Solidarity movement which does a very good job of explaining how and why this movement of 10 million Poles came about and what it achieved. And Gdańsk was not only the city where the fall of communism can be traced but is also where the first shots of WWII were fired. WWII buffs should not miss the ferry ride (in season) up to the Westerplatte peninsula and to the Nowy Port lighthouse where the scars from the first shots of the war can still be seen.

The old town is where you'll find a number of photo opportunities a fact made all the more remarkable when you consider most of it was a smouldering pile of bricks at the end of WWII.

The sensible start point is the Upland Gate, which marks the start of what was once known as the Royal Way. Following this route you'll pass by Amber Museum and the Torture Chamber and then through the Golden Gate. Stop for a moment under the gate to take a look at the pictures of the city once the fighting stopped in 1945 - it will make you appreciate what you'll see on the rest of your walk all the more. As you pass through the Golden Gate you come out onto Long Street (ul. Długa). On the left about half way down is the Main Town Hall which serves as the home of the Gdańsk History Museum and a few metres further on is Neptun's fountain and Artus Court. The Royal Way ends at the impressive Green Gate.

St. Mary's Street (ulica Mariacka) ranks as the city's most picturesque street and is dominated by the biggest brick church in the world St. Mary's (Bazylika Mariacka). Climb to the top for panoramic views of the city. Nearby the 15th century Crane (D-4 Żuraw) stands on the river's edge, a hulking reminder of Gdańsk's merchant past.

Across the river the eerie remains of Granary Island (D 4/5, Wyspa Spichrzow) serve as a somber reminder of the havoc wreaked here by WWII, while the Maritime Museum (including the ship Soldek) provides an interesting look at the history of Polish seafaring.

In Sopot, make a beeline for Krzywy Domek (the Crooked House) on the main pedestrian thoroughfare - ul. Monte Cassino. Probably Sopot's most photographed landmark, the building was inspired by the fairytale illustrations of a Swedish resident of Sopot. From there carry on to the focal point of Sopot - the 511 m pier. Originally built by a doctor in Napoleon's occupying army, the pier is the longest in the Baltic. At one time the gardens surrounding the pier were themselves part of a huge hotel, spa and casino complex. The Sofitel Grand Hotel is one of the few original buildings which survived and has been renovated and modernised in recent years.



Europe's longest wooden pier at Sopot

Gdynia, while younger than its sister cities, does offer a small but interesting selection of sightseeing options. Take a look at the City of Gdynia Museum which does a good job of showing how a fishing village was turned into an international port and commercial centre in under a decade because of the decisions made in the Treaty of Versailles. And being a port it also offers a more nautical set of attractions. Make sure to visit the ships docked on the quayside, the three-masted Polish training ship Dar Pomorza and WWII battleship Blyskawica. And for those with children the Oceanographic Museum and Aquarium (O-1) makes for an entertaining couple of hours. Last but not least in Gdynia, check out the excellent Emigration Museum, which tells the stories of centuries of Polish emigration.



The museum ships in Gdynia port

Sightseeing

THE ROYAL WAY



Golden Gate

When the king of Poland travelled from Warsaw to Gdańsk, he would enter the city through the Brama Wyzynna (Upland Gate), continue through the Złota Brama (Golden Gate), and then head along ulica Długa (Long Street) and Długi Targ (Long Market) to the Zielona Brama (Green Gate). Although he didn't make this journey often, it was highly profitable for him to visit Gdańsk due to the enormous tax revenue the city commanded through its trade. In turn, Gdańsk's predominantly Germanic city dwellers would negotiate with the Polish king for greater rights, gaining substantially more privileges from him than they ever would from the Prussians in the 18th century.

UPLAND GATE

This 16th century gate, the main entrance into the Old Town, was the original starting point for the Royal Way. It was here that the Polish king was welcomed and given the keys to the city. The gate was originally surrounded by a 50m moat and was named for its 'upland' location above the water level. The metal pulleys used for raising and lowering the drawbridges are still visible beneath the coats of arms of Poland, Prussia and Gdańsk. The gate has undergone major renovation work in recent years and now houses a tourist information point. ▶ B-4, ul. Wąły Jagiellońskie, Gdańsk.

PRISON TOWER AND TORTURE CHAMBER

Originally built as part of the city's fortifications in the second half of the 14th century, the complex was rebuilt by Antoni van Obberghen between 1593 and 1604 with the smaller of the two buildings becoming a torture chamber and courthouse while the larger tower became the prison. It was here that executions were carried out until the middle of the 19th century. Damaged during WWII, it has been extensively renovated and now houses the Amber and Torture Museums. There's a viewing platform

in the tower open during the summer months. ▶ B-4, Targ Węglowy 26, Gdańsk. Open 10:00 - 16:00, Tue 10:00 - 13:00, Thu 10:00 - 18:00, Sun 11:00 - 16:00. Closed Mon. From June 15 open 09:00 - 16:00, Mon 09:00 - 13:00; Fri, Sat 10:00 - 18:00, Sun 10:00 - 16:00. Viewing terrace open from June 15 until September 30. Admission (combined ticket with the Prison Tower) 12/6zł, family ticket 20zł, under-16s 1zł. Tue free. From June 15 Mon free. Viewing terrace 5zł.

GOLDEN GATE

The virtues of Peace, Freedom, Wealth, Fame, Piety, Justice and Concord are depicted in allegorical statues adorning the balustrade of this gate overlooking ul. Długa. Built between 1642-44, it was destroyed during WWII and not restored until 1997. An inscription on the gate reads, 'Small states grow by concord, great ones fall by disagreement.' ▶ B-4, ul. Długa, Gdańsk.

LONG STREET

Picturesque **ul. Długa** is one of the city's oldest thoroughfares. From the Golden Gate which protects it, the gently-curving street opens into an array of colourful burgher houses, rococo portals, gothic mouldings and original porticoes. The house numbers run in opposite directions on either side, a feature typical of old Gdańsk streets. N° 12 houses a Museum of Burgher Interiors. N° 71 is one of the few structures on the street to survive World War II and still bears original mouldings from the second half of the 15th century. N° 28 is Dom Ferberów (Ferber's House), dating to 1560, with magnificent sculptures and the three familiar coats of arms. N° 29 has an interesting crew of Roman emperors peering from its baroque façade. King Władysław IV entertained local dignitaries at Lwi



Main Town Hall

Zamek (The Lion's Castle) at N° 35; two lions guard its portal. The house neighbouring it dates to 1563 and is a splendid example of the influence of the Dutch renaissance on Gdańsk architecture. The renaissance house at N° 45 belonged to the Schumann family and is sometimes called the House of the Polish Kings (Dom Królów Polskich); figures of Greek gods stud its alcoves. ▶ B/C-4.

MAIN TOWN HALL

The Town Hall spire, with a golden replica of King Zygmunt August on its pinnacle, dominates ul. Długa's skyline. Built in the late 14th century as the seat of city authorities, the Town Hall hosted many Polish kings. It was almost completely destroyed during WWII but rebuilt with extraordinary care. The tower contains a 37-bell clarion which was inaugurated on New Year's Eve 2000. The interior of the building, home to Gdańsk History Museum today, is lushly decorated with painted ceilings, colourful frescoes and elaborate furniture and carvings. Two solemn lions guard its 18th century portal, from where an elaborate staircase leads to the luxuriant Sala Czerwona, the Red Room. This room was used by the council in summer. Its ornamented ceiling is decorated with 25 paintings surrounding a central piece entitled The Glorification of the Unity of Gdańsk. ▶ C-4, ul. Długa 46/47, Gdańsk, tel. (+48) 58 767 91 00, www.mhmg.pl. Open 10:00 - 16:00, Tue 10:00 - 13:00, Thu 10:00 - 18:00, Sun 11:00 - 16:00. Closed Mon. From June 15 open 09:00 - 16:00, Mon 09:00 - 13:00; Fri, Sat 10:00 - 18:00, Sun 10:00 - 16:00. Viewing terrace open from June 15 to September 30. Admission 12/6zł, under-16s 1zł, family ticket 20zł. Tue free. From June 15 Mon free. Viewing terrace 5zł.

LONG MARKET & NEPTUNE FOUNTAIN

The focal point of Długi Targ, the Long Market, is the Neptune Fountain, a bronze statue of the sea god erected in 1549 and converted to a fountain in 1633 and restored in 2011/12. During WWII, this symbol of Gdańsk was dismantled and hidden with many of the city's other treasures. It was only returned to its rightful place in 1954. The square itself is surrounded by colourful and ornate houses which look magnificent when the sun is beating off their decorated walls. Długi Targ used to be home to Gdańsk's richest, most elite residents and was used for assemblies. Executions took place on the square in front of Artus Court. ▶ C-5.

ARTUS COURT

This impressive mansion, a symbol of the city's power in the 16th and 17th centuries, served as an exchange and as the seat of St. George and the brotherhoods of rich patricians. Founded as a meeting place for merchants and dignitaries, it was named after King Arthur, of round table fame, and hosted many a noble guest. Following a fire in 1841, it was given a more Gothic form, complete with ostentatious sculptures and paintings illustrating man's merits and vices. Inside, the centrepiece of the main hall is a 10.64-metre renaissance tiled stove dating to 1546, made of more than 500 individual tiles and the tallest of its kind in

TOURIST INFORMATION

GDAŃSK TOURIST INFORMATION CENTRE

An air-conditioned TI point on the main square set in one of only two examples of Rococo in the city. Find audio guides, maps, leaflets and get help from the helpful, multi-lingual staff. ▶ C-5, ul. Długi Targ 28/29, Gdańsk, tel. (+48) 58 301 43 55, www.visitgdansk.com. Open 09:00 - 19:00. Also at: Gdańsk Główny Station (in the tunnel) open 09:00 - 19:00 and Gdańsk Airport (Arrivals Hall) open 24hrs.

POMERANIAN TOURIST INFORMATION CENTRE

A tourist office set in the illustrious location of the Upland Gate. ▶ B-4, ul. Wały Jagiellońskie 2, Gdansk, tel. (+48) 58 732 70 41, www.pomorskie.travel. Open 09:00 - 18:00. From June open 09:00 - 20:00; Sat, Sun 09:00 - 18:00.

TOURIST INFORMATION CENTER

Tourist Information office set in the wonderful building that once housed the Polish Ocean Lines company. ▶ N-1, ul. 10 Lutego 24, Gdynia, tel. (+48) 58 622 37 66, www.gdyniatourystyczna.pl. Open 09:00 - 18:00, Sat, Sun 09:00 - 16:00.

TOURIST INFORMATION SOPOT

Info point inside the 'Health House'. ▶ M-4, Pl. Zdrojowy 2, Sopot, tel. (+48) 790 28 08 84, www.sts.sopot.pl. Open 10:00 - 18:00.

Europe. Its adornments portray leaders, coats of arms and allegorical figures. Just to the left is a small pewter surface that claims to be the oldest table in Poland while two stone lions protect the entrance to the cellars of the court. The court still plays an important part in public life today and is the scene of important receptions and meetings. ▶ C-5, Długi Targ 43/44, Gdańsk, tel. (+48) 58 767 91 83, www.mhmg.pl. Open 10:00 - 16:00, Tue 10:00 - 13:00, Thu 10:00 - 18:00, Sun 11:00 - 16:00. Closed Mon. From June 15 open 09:00 - 16:00, Mon 09:00 - 13:00; Fri, Sat 10:00 - 18:00, Sun 10:00 - 16:00. Admission 10/5zł, under-16s 1zł, family ticket 20zł. Tue free. From June 15 Mon free.

GREEN GATE

This magnificent four-arched gatehouse on the waterfront was built as a palace for Polish monarchs. No Polish king ever stayed in the building, but Lech Wałęsa had his office here before moving to the European Solidarity Centre. The gate leads to the Green Bridge, which spans the Motława River and which used to be raised to stop the riff-raff from getting into the Old Town. Today it hosts an art gallery and the Gdansk Photo Gallery. ▶ C-5, Długi Targ 24, Gdańsk, tel. (+48) 58 307 59 12 ext. 102, www.mng.gda.pl. Open 10:00 - 17:00. Closed Mon. Last entrance 45 minutes before closing. Admission 10/6zł, plus additional 2/1zł for the Gdansk Photo Gallery. Free on Fridays.

Sightseeing

TOURIST CARD

Those looking to take advantage of as much as the city has to offer should seriously consider picking up a Gdansk-Gdynia-Sopot-Plus tourist card. The card works on a number of levels depending what you are looking to get out of the city. You can choose just a Sightseeing card or add a Transport option to it. The Sightseeing option gives you entry to 24 museums and the zoo while the transport option buys you unlimited travel on the city's public transport network including the local SKM (local commuter train).

The Sightseeing and Transport packages are available in 24-hour or 72-hour options with prices as follows so that a normal 72-hour card with both Sightseeing and Transport options will cost 132zł:

Sightseeing	72-hour	24-hour
Normal	90zł	60zł
Reduced	60zł	40zł
+ TRANSPORT	72-hour	24-hour
Normal	132zł	81zł
Reduced	81zł	50zł

You can pick a Tourist Card up from Tourist Offices.

DANZIG/GDAŃSK

Anybody vaguely acquainted with history, or indeed heavy metal, will be familiar with the name of Danzig. What you may not know is that Danzig and Gdańsk are one and the same. The Polish name, Gdańsk is actually the real McCoy, meaning 'town located on the Gdania river'. The name Danzig came into usage during the 1300s after the city fell under the influence of the Germanic Teutonic Knights. Danzig came firmly under German control in 1871 as part of the Prussian Empire and would remain so until the end of WWI.

After the war the majority of the towns inhabitants remained German, though the city fell under the jurisdiction of the League of Nations who baptized it 'The Free City of Danzig'. This quasi state functioned until Hitler decided to seize it in the name of the fatherland, thus triggering WWII. The aftermath of the war saw much of the German population exiled westwards, and the city repopulated with Poles, themselves shifted west following the expansion of the Soviet Union. The city was renamed Gdańsk, and a program of heavy propaganda in the 1950s and 60s all but eradicated what remained of the towns German heritage. Today Gdańsk is a popular holiday spot with Germans keen to trace their roots, and you can still spot signs with German lettering in areas like Biskupia Góra.

CEMETERIES

CEMETERY OF THE LOST CEMETERIES

Designed by Jacek Krenz and Hanna Klementowska and featuring sculptures by Zygfryd Korpalski and Witold Gluchowski, this small memorial between the Church of Corpus Christi and the bus station was officially opened on May 24, 2002. Dedicated to the citizens of Gdańsk who were once buried in one of the city's 27 graveyards either destroyed during WWII or bulldozed on purpose after the end of the war, the new Cemetery of Lost Cemeteries was designed to resemble a temple. The main memorial is surrounded by broken gravestones representing all faiths, and includes a poem by the Jewish poetess Masha Kaleko (1912-1975), whose poetry was burnt on the direct orders of Hitler in May 1933. ▶ **A-1, ul. 3 Maja, Gdańsk.**

CHURCHES

CORPUS CHRISTI CHURCH

Once part of a settlement called Grodzisko, a complex of fortifications outside of Gdańsk's main city walls, the Bożego Ciała (Corpus Christi) Church is one of the oldest remaining houses of worship in the city. Dating from the early part of the 14th century, the church was originally part of a larger complex that grew around it including a small chapel, old people's home, a leprosy hospital and a cemetery that was closed by the communists in 1956. The church is not a great looker, but is interesting on two levels. It was here that the city's poignant Cemetery of the Lost Cemeteries was built in 2002, and, along with St. Nicholas' Church, it was the only other church to escape any damage at all during WWII. ▶ **A-1, ul. 3 Maja 19a, Gdańsk, tel. (+48) 58 302 52 38. Open by prior arrangement. No visiting during mass please.**

GARRISON CHURCH OF ST JERZY

Designed by Louis von Tiedemann of Potsdam between 1899 and 1901 under the patronage of Empress Augusta Victoria (who chipped in 1,000 marks of her own money towards its construction), the Neo-Gothic Garrison Church of St Jerzy stands on the site of Sopot's former market square. Originally Evangelist, the church has been Roman Catholic since Sopot's reincorporation into Poland in 1945. The minimalist whitewashed interior comprises three unremarkable stone and brick naves, some charming modern stained glass and a wooden relief of the Virgin Mary by Zofia Kamilska-Trzcicka, which used to be on board the SS Batory as a token of luck during the war. A Neo-Gothic chapel complete with ceramic roof stands in the square outside. Once a well, the chapel now shelters a rather forlorn-looking statue of St. Adalbert. ▶ **L-4, Pl. Konstytucji 3 Maja, Sopot, tel. (+48) 58 551 05 48, www.jerzy.sopot.pl. Open 07:00 - 18:45. No visiting during mass please.**

Full contents online:
gdansk.inyourpocket.com

ROYAL CHAPEL

Often overlooked because of its gargantuan neighbour, St. Mary's Church, this little baroque beauty was built in accordance with the will of the Primate of Poland in 1681 for the city's Catholic minority. ► C-4, ul. Św. Ducha 58, Gdańsk, tel. (+48) 58 301 39 82. Open during Sunday mass only which takes place at 11:00.

ST. MARY'S CHURCH

St. Mary's in the Old Town is believed to be the largest brick church in the world. The interior vault supports 37 windows, over 300 tombstones and 31 chapels. It can hold up to 25,000 people, which was useful during the period of martial law between 1981 and 1983 when members of the Solidarity movement sought refuge here. The church can be accessed through seven gates with intriguing names like the Purse Maker's Door. Interestingly, the sculptor who carved the crucifix of Christ nailed his errant son-in-law to a cross so as to add realism to his work. St. Mary's was seriously damaged during WWII and the original frescoes have since been whitewashed, which far from leaving an impression of stark emptiness bring out the best in the relics throughout and creating a marvellous feeling. Of note is the enormous astronomical clock dating from 1464. Its complex dials show the time and date, phases of the moon, the position of the moon and sun in relation to the zodiac signs, and the calendar of saints. Adam and Eve ring the bell on the hour. According to legend, the clock's creator had his eyes gouged out so he'd never make a clock to better than this one. You'll hear this story about every astronomical clock in Europe, and it makes you wonder why mediaeval clock-makers ever accepted commissions. The 78 metre tower houses a viewing platform with cracking views of old Gdansk and has benefitted from a 3.3 million euro renovation. ► C-4, ul. Podkramarska 5, Gdańsk, tel. (+48) 58 301 39 82, www.bazylikamariacka.pl. Mon - Sat: 08:30 - 18:30. Sun: 11:00 - 12:00 and 13:00 - 18:30. Royal chapel 8:30 - 18:30. Admission 4/2zł. Royal chapel 6/3zł.

ST. NICHOLAS' CHURCH

The first Catholic church in the city and the only one to escape WWII without a scratch. Founded by the Dominican Order in 1348-90, this is a remarkable church with a dark marbled interior, ancient exposed walls and a sombre atmosphere. Of note is the multi-level high altar and Baroque-panelled choir stalls which make it a popular choice for weddings. ► C-3, ul. Świętojańska 72, Gdańsk, tel. (+48) 58 301 35 77, www.gdansk.dominikanie.pl. Open 09:00 - 19:00. No visiting during mass please.



GDAŃSK
English Language
Tours

CONTACT
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🌐 gannon-gdansk-guide.com

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Lancaster, August 2014

ul. Ołowianka 1, Gdańsk, +48 58 323 83 58
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TOUR GUIDES

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A choice of tours through the old town in electric cars seating for 5, 7 and 13 people with audio guides available in English, Polish, Russian, German, Spanish, French and Italian. ▶ **B-4, ul. Kołodziejska 7/9, Gdańsk, tel. (+48) 504 45 88 68, www.citytourgdansk.pl. Open 09:00 - 20:00.**

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Specially tailored tours both on foot and in a car of Gdańsk and the neighbouring cities as well as Malbork and other popular places located around the Tri-city. ▶ **tel. (+48) 790 78 00 32, www.easygdansktraveltours.com.**

GANNON GDANSK GUIDE

Tours of the Gdansk, ECS and all of the other major sightseeing spots in the region provided by a very friendly and knowledgeable Irishman, who's been living in Poland for many years. ▶ **tel. (+48) 600 26 06 78, www.gannon-gdansk-guide.com.**

GDANSK WITH US

Walking tours led by two enthusiastic and qualified locally born tour guides. Both have worked in Scandinavia, hence Norwegian as well as English being a speciality. They'll show you past and contemporary Gdańsk and can organise other specially tailored tours around Poland. ▶ **tel. (+48) 781 18 71 11, www.gdanskwithus.com. Tour prices on request.**

STADIUM TOURS

You can take a full tour of the stadium where Lionel Messi played football and Justin Timberlake and Jennifer Lopez both entertained packed houses which includes a visit to the changing rooms, VIP areas, Lechia Gdansk Museum and even the stadium's in-house chapel. ▶ **ul. Pokoleń Lechii Gdańsk 1, Gdańsk (Letnica), tel. (+48) 58 768 84 44, www.funarena.pl. Open 10:00 - 18:00. Tours take place every 30 mins with the exception of 13:30. Admission 16/11zł, family 32zł.**

TRIP 2 GDANSK/JOANNA TOURS

Discover the stories behind the city's historic attractions as well some hidden gems with tailor-made tours led by two experienced and qualified tour guides - Małgorzata Andrzejewska and Joanna Kruszewska. As well as city tours, these ladies will also organise tours of out of town places such as Malbork and Stutthof while they are also adept at providing genealogy research and ancestral tours. Contact them for prices and details. ▶ **tel. (+48) 734 46 04 44/(+48) 503 11 32 49, www.trip2gdansk.pl.**

MONUMENTS

DISPLACED GDYNIAN MONUMENT

This particularly emotive monument was created to remember those Gdynians deported from the city following the Nazi takeover in 1939. Estimates range from 120,000 to 170,000 people and included an estimated 30,000 who were interred or sent as forced labour elsewhere in the Reich. The homes and property left behind were taken over by Germans resettled in the city as the Germans fortified it as a Naval base and renamed the city *Gotenhafen*.

When the war ended many of those deportees who had survived the war returned on foot to try to find their loved ones and reclaim their homes.

The statue depicts a mother, her son and daughter with nothing more than a suitcase walking in the direction of the railway station as the daughter reaches out to her dog which she has been forced to leave behind. It was designed by Paweł Sasin and Adam Dziejowski was unveiled in October 2014. ▶ **N-1, Pl. Gdynian Wyszędionych, Gdynia.**

FATHER JANKOWSKI STATUE

A 3.7m tall statue dedicated to Father Henryk Jankowski, the chaplain of *Solidarnosc* (Solidarity), stands in a square named after the controversial priest and was unveiled in 2012 two years after his death. Born in 1936 in nearby Starogard Gdański, Father Jankowski came to the fore during the strikes of the 1980s when he was the parish priest of the nearby St. Bridget's church, which became the parish church of the *Solidarnosc* movement. Father Jankowski was a fearless and outspoken critic of the regime, a trait that carried on into post-communist times. He found himself in trouble with the new government for comments he made about the European Union and then with the Roman Catholic authorities who eventually banned him from preaching for a year in 1997 after a series of anti-Semitic comments made from the pulpit. Despite the controversy that surrounded him in his later years Father Jankowski retained many admirers (including local bakers the Pellowski family) who organised a fund to create the statue you see today. The three crosses you see on the priest's chest represent the Monument to the Fallen Shipyard Workers found on Solidarity Square. ▶ **ul. Stolarska, Gdańsk.**

GUNTER GRASS MONUMENT

Unveiled on October 16, 2015 six months after his death and on the 88th anniversary of his birth, this statue pays tribute to the Danzig-born writer Gunter Grass in the heart of the district where his most famous story was set. The statue shows Grass in middle-age sitting on a bench opposite a statue of possibly his most famous character - Oskar Matzerath. The two appear to be in conversation or perhaps Grass is reading to Oskar from the book on his lap which has a snail crawling across it - a reference to the most autobiographical of Grass' works *From the Diary of a Snail*. Despite Oskar and his regularly disappearing drumsticks having sat here alone for 13 years the two statues were actually made together from a design by Sławoj Ostrowski,

a lecturer at the Academy of Fine Arts in Gdansk. At the time Grass caused a bit of controversy by telling the city authorities that he didn't want a statue made of him while there were still homes in his childhood district which still didn't have bathrooms and so the statue was put into storage. With the district markedly improved from those days in 2002 and with the author's passing, the city dusted the statue off and Grass is back home in Langfuhr for good.

► F-3, Pl. Wybickiego, Gdańsk.

HAFFNER MONUMENT

A monument to the French doctor (1777 - 1830) who came to Sopot while serving in Napoleon's army. Once the fighting was over, Haffner returned and built a bathing complex, sanatorium and spa as well as the beginnings of Sopot's signature pier. He is widely regarded as the founder of modern Sopot and he died here in 1830. ► M-4, ul. Powstańców Warszawy, Sopot.

JOSEPH CONRAD MONUMENT

The work of Danuta and Zdzisław Koseda and Wawrzyniec Samp, and unveiled in 1976, Gdynia's tribute to Poland's most famous sea-faring author (born Józef Teodor Konrad Korzeniowski, 1857 - 1924), who hailed from Berdychiv in what is now Ukraine and who as far as anyone can tell had no connections with Gdynia, sits splendidly opposite the city's Oceanographic Museum adding a touch of class to the pleasant concrete spit of land on which it's placed. The delightfully stylised monument is one of only a few in the world dedicated to the great man, and the only to depict his likeness. ► O-1, Al. Jana Pawła II 1, Gdynia.

JÓZEF PIŁSUDSKI MONUMENT

A statue dedicated to the man who is widely recognised as having been the key figure in Poland regaining her independence after 123 years in 1918 and then preserving it by defeating the Red Army on their advance westward in August 1920 in what came to be known as the 'Miracle on the Vistula'. Marshall Piłsudski distrusted Polish democracy, which he considered weak and corruptible, in the years following her independence and eventually took power by a coup in 1926. Despite ruling by what even supporters described as authoritarian methods, Piłsudski is still widely respected for his strong leadership in the nine years before his death in 1935 and his body is buried in the crypt of the royal castle of Wawel in Krakow. This 3.5 metre tall statue located outside of the Gdynia City Hall was designed by Stanisław Szwechowicz and was unveiled on November 10, 2013 after money was collected by the Piłsudski Association and the local government. ► N-2, Al. Piłsudskiego, Gdynia.

MONUMENT TO THE EVACUATED CHILDREN

Between 1938 and 1939 some 10,000 Jewish children were evacuated from Gdańsk to Britain in what became known as 'kindertransports'. Sculptor Frank Meisler was one of them, and on May 6, 2009 his memorial to this exodus was unveiled outside Gdańsk Główny train station. ► B-2, ul. Podwale Grodzkie, Gdańsk.

ANNA WALENTYNOWICZ



ANNA WALENTYNOWICZ MONUMENT

This monument to the Solidarity activist whose dismissal from the Lenin Shipyards on August 8, 1980 sparked the August strikes was conceived by the Godność (Dignity) organisation, designed by Stanisław Milewski and largely paid for by Solidarity trade union members. It stands in a small square named in Walentynowicz's honour next to the block of flats where she lived in later life. The inscription on its base is a famous line used during the fight against communism 'There is no freedom without solidarity' ► F-3, Skwer Anny Walentynowicz (Al. Grunwaldzka/ul. Waryńskiego), Gdańsk.

RYSZARD KUKLIŃSKI



RYSZARD KUKLIŃSKI MONUMENT

Ryszard Kukliński was a colonel in the Polish Army during the Cold War era who began spying for the US in 1972. Over the next nine years he was to pass countless secrets to the CIA before he and his family were whisked out of the country on the eve of Martial Law being imposed in December 1981. In his absence he was sentenced to death by a Polish military court in 1984 but pardoned in 1995. He died in Florida in 2004 aged 73, but only after his two sons both died mysteriously in the US. Interestingly, even today he divides opinion among Poles about whether he was a hero or a traitor. This statue, the work of Tomasz Sobisz of the Academy of Fine Arts, was unveiled with military honours on September 17, 2015, the anniversary of the Soviet Union's invasion of Poland in 1939. In 2013 a film about Kukliński's life was released entitled Jack Strong, his CIA codename. ► N-2, ul. I Armii Wojska Polskiego 10, Gdynia.

OLIWA CATHEDRAL



Oliwa's towering Cathedral taking pride of place at the western end of Oliwa Park was originally built as a simple wooden structure in the 12th century, and it was only in 1224 that the brickwork was added. The year 1350 saw a fire that engulfed the whole building. Reconstruction began immediately, but in 1626 the building was again destroyed, this time by marauding Swedish soldiers. Not content with stealing its bells, altars and valuables, the Swedes kidnapped Oliwa's hapless monks for good measure and in a twist of irony, it was in this very building that Poland and Sweden finally put the past behind them and signed a peace treaty in 1660. Built along a classic three-aisle design with a vaulted basilica and shaped in the form of the Latin cross, today's interior is dominated by the extraordinary organ over the main entrance. Built between 1755 and 1780 by the organ master Johann Wulf, and at the time the largest organ of its type in Europe, it features moving cherubs, trumpet-playing angels and comes with a staggering 7,896 pipes and 110 registers allowing for an incredible range of pitch and sounds including rippling water, animal cries and human voices; hear it for yourself at the hours listed. A couple of other points of note are the memorial plaque to inter-war Danzig bishop Edward O'Rourke and at the other end of the church, a strange and beautiful canopy around the high altar, covered with stars and featuring 150 angels poking out of a mass of clouds.

► E-1, ul. Biskupa Edmunda Nowickiego 5, Gdańsk, tel. (+48) 58 552 47 65, www.archikatedraoliwa.pl. Open 09:00 - 17:30, Sat 09:00 - 15:00, Sun 14:00 - 18:00, Admission free unless visiting during a virtuoso organ performance (entry 4.50/2.50zł). **Organ recitals take place at the following times. May:** 10:00, 11:00, 12:00, 13:00; Sun 15:00, 16:00. **June and July:** 10:00, 11:00, 12:00, 13:00, 15:00, 16:00, 17:00 (July only); Sat 10:00, 11:00, 12:00, 13:00, 14:00, 15:00; Sun 15:00, 16:00, 17:00

MUSEUMS

AMBER MUSEUM

Housed in Gdańsk's mediaeval Fore-gate building (once home to the Prison Tower and Torture Chamber), this multi-story exhibit delves extensively into the history of Baltic amber. The impressive collection of "inclusions" (when bugs or plants are caught inside the amber) is intriguing to look at, and the many amber creations, from inkwells to spoons to a stunning Fender Stratocaster guitar, shows the material's diversity. A large open room at the top of the building houses an impressive array of modern amber jewellery that appears more artistic than wearable. Many find the separate exhibits on the building's past as a torture chamber uncomfortable - and considering the piped-in soundtrack of pained cries, we understand why - but they are a must-see, if for no other reason to find out what "thumb screwing" and a "heretic's fork" are. The lower part of the building also housed the city's courthouse from where convicted criminals would be sentenced to hang on the square outside. Many of the exhibit rooms throughout the ancient building are small and cramped, and if you happen to visit on the same day as a school group it's a nightmare, but it's well worth a visit nonetheless. In the summer months take advantage of the viewing platform in the tower. ► B-4, Targ Węglowy 26, Gdańsk, tel. (+48) 58 301 47 33, www.mhmg.pl. Open 10:00 - 16:00, Tue 10:00 - 13:00, Thu 10:00 - 18:00, Sun 11:00 - 16:00. Closed Mon. From June 15 open 09:00 - 16:00, Mon 09:00 - 13:00; Fri, Sat 10:00 - 18:00, Sun 10:00 - 16:00. Viewing terrace open June 15 - September 30. Admission (combined ticket with the Prison Tower) 12/6zł, family ticket 20zł, under-16s 1zł. Tue free. From June 15 Mon free. Viewing Terrace 5zł.

ARCHAEOLOGY EDUCATION CENTRE - "BŁĘKITNY LEW"


Short of building a time machine this is the closest you'll ever get to seeing what local life was like hundreds of years back. Set in the only granary building to have survived the bombing of WWII you can watch an interesting film, available in English showing the history of the island. Complete with background noises of peeling bells and animals braying, this museum presents a series of life-size dioramas designed to show what Gdańsk once must have been like. Among the recreations are a cobblers store, a bath house and an inn, and even the smells have been recreated and piped into the rooms. The mannequins aren't exactly Madame Tussaud's, but this is still loads of fun, and far removed from the standard museum experience in Poland. ► D-5, ul. Chmielna 53, Gdańsk, tel. (+48) 58 320 31 88, www.blekitnybaranek.pl. Open 09:00 - 17:00. Closed Mon. From July open 09:00 - 18:00. Admission 10/8zł. Family ticket (2 adults, 2 children) 26zł. Guided tour 60zł. 📄



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CITY OF GDYNIA MUSEUM


A modern museum which presents a changing series of temporary exhibitions all related to the short but fascinating history of this relatively young city. For more information about what's on check our 'What's On' section. ► **O-2, ul. Zawiszy Czarnego 1, Gdynia, tel. (+48) 58 662 09 10, www.muzeumgdynia.pl. Open 10:00 - 18:00, Thu 10:00 - 20:00, Sat, Sun 10:00 - 17:00. Closed Mon. Admission 7/4zł. Family ticket 15zł. Kids under 7 free. **

DAR POMORZA

This three-masted Polish training ship has visited 383 ports and travelled more than 800,000km in her time at sea. Constructed in 1909 in Hamburg to train cadets for the German navy, she was after World War I given to the French who, in turn, gave her to an Englishman in French service. The ship was subsequently bought by the Pomeranian National Fleet. Since 1972 she has taken part in numerous sailing competitions, winning the Cutty Sark Trophy in 1980. A year later she was bestowed the highest Polish State decoration: the order of Polonia Restituta. ► **O-1, Al. Jana Pawła II (Nabrzeże Pomorskie), Gdynia, tel. (+48) 58 620 23 71, www.nmm.pl. Open 10:00 - 16:00. Closed Mon. From July open 10:00 - 18:00. Last entrance 30 minutes before closing. Admission 8/5zł. Under-16s 1zł.**

FREE CITY OF DANZIG HISTORICAL ZONE


Found tucked away in the shadow of the Green Gate, what looks like little more than a three minute diversion transpires to be one of the most fascinating surprises in the city. From 1920 until 1939 the city you stand in found life as a semi-independent state, better known as the Freie Stadt Danzig (Free City of Danzig).

This exhibition aims to celebrate those times, and more specifically the positives that came about. And there were many; while the rise of fascism will always cast a pall over the city, it must also be remembered this was far from the nationalist hotbed that is always assumed. The campaign for long term Germanization had been reasonably effective, yet still over 80% of the population regarded themselves as Danzigers first and foremost - not Germans, and not Poles, but the citizens of a unique melting pot in which two nations co-existed. This heyday is remembered by way of dozens of everyday treasures rescued from the inter bellum: on show are reams of collectibles, from bank notes to beer bottles, from tourist guides to cigarette packets. The exhibition features multimedia displays as well as exhibits connected with Danzig trams. While all the texts next to the displays are in Polish make sure you ask for one of the guidebooks available downstairs which clearly describe each display in English (or Russian or German). ► **C-5, ul. Długi Targ 25/27, Gdańsk, tel. (+48) 602 27 80 51, www.strefahistorycznawmg.pl. Open 12:00 - 18:00. Closed Mon. Admission 8/5zł. **

BŁYSKAWICA

With the Treaty of Versailles Poland found itself a nation state once more, granted access to the sea via what was to become the infamous 'Polish Corridor'. For the first time in a century Poland had coastline and her own waters, the only thing missing was a navy to guard it. Polish defensive bods designed a new fast attack class of destroyer, and the tender was won by the JS White firm based in Cowes on the Isle of Wight to build two such destroyers, the Błyskawica (Lightning), and a sister ship, ORP Grom (Thunder). Measuring 114 metres in length, powered by turbines rated at 54,000hp, armed to the teeth and boasting a top speed of 39 knots, these were to become the fastest destroyers in the world when launched in 1936.

Both boats were spirited to England on the eve of war as part of the Peking Plan, where they came under the command of the British Royal Navy. Based in Cowes the Błyskawica saw action several times, including in the Mediterranean, Normandy and as an Atlantic convoy escort. However, her finest moment was to come in Cowes. Captained by Wojciech Francki, on the night of the 4th May 1942 the town came under attack from up to 160 Luftwaffe bombers. Anticipating an attack Capt. Francki had ensured the Błyskawica was well-armed, despite a ruling stating the vessel should have been decommissioned while in port. In a further breach of regulations Francki ordered his crew to fight off the waves of bombers, and what followed was a ferocious battle between sea and air. The heroic defence and the smokescreen that was lit were enough to thwart the Luftwaffe, and the captain and crew were hailed as the 'saviours of Cowes'. Less forthcoming in their recognition were the pedants in the British Admiralty; conscious of condoning a blatant violation of the rules they sent a tight-lipped dispatch commending the good work done by Francki.

At the end of the war the Błyskawica returned to Poland, though without its captain and many of its crew. Francki chose a new life in Australia, away from the suspicions and hostility of the new communist government, and it was a lead followed by many of his ratings. In 2004 the actions of the Błyskawica were formally acknowledged, and a plaque unveiled in the port of Cowes by Francki's daughter. The ship itself was retired from service in 1969, and has since served as a museum ship held in the sort of regard the Brits reserve for the HMS Victory. It's the only ship to be awarded Poland's highest military decoration, the Gold Cross of the Virtuti Militari Order. ► **O-1, Skwer Kościuszki 12, Gdynia, tel. (+48) 58 620 13 81, www.muzeummw.pl. Open 10:00 - 12:20, 14:00 - 16:20. Closed Mon. From July open Open 10:00 - 12:20, 14:00 - 17:20. Closed Mon. Admission 12/6zł and family ticket 20zł. There's a joint ticket available which gives you access to the naval museum and Błyskawica which costs 13/7zł and 22zł for the family ticket. **

THE MUSEUM OF WWII



A conflict that would go on to claim 55 million lives started here and therefore it seems appropriate that a new museum to commemorate this and to be called The Museum of the Second World War is being built in the city.

With the encouragement of the Gdansk-born former Prime Minister Donald Tusk (now President of the European Council), a competition was opened to find a design for the new museum. With a judging panel which included the likes of Daniel Libeskind and the art historian and Director of the Museum of London Jack Lohman, the Kwadrat architectural studio from the nearby city of Gdynia was chosen to design the new museum. They have created a design which they claim will become a symbol of the city in much the same way that the Crane or St. Mary's church are today.

Currently being built on land on (D-2) ul. Wałowa donated to the museum by the city of Gdansk, the museum will find itself next to the Radunia Canal and the symbolic Polish Post Office building on Pl. Obrońców Poczty Polskiej. With over 7,000 sq. metres of exhibition space the museum is planned to cost around PLN 230 million and will create a centre for education, culture and research as well as show the tragic fate of Poland in the years 1939-1945 set against the broader background of the global conflict. The museum still does not have a confirmed opening date but is expected to open at the end of 2016 or beginning of 2017. For the moment you will find a permanent outdoor exhibition located on the Westerplatte.

In preparation for the opening of the new museum, the organizers have appealed for personal belongings linked to the stories of individuals and families in order to show how the huge scale destruction, terror and suffering that the war brought, touched individuals. They ask that anyone interested in making a donation to the new museum contact them using the details here. N.B. Since the election of the Law & Justice party to government, the museum has been subject of a number of rumoured changes although no information has been confirmed. We're eagerly awaiting the opening and hoping that the original idea for the museum is the one that comes to fruition. ► **ul. Długa 81-83, Gdańsk, tel. (+48) 58 323 75 20, ekspozony@muzeum1939.pl, www.muzeum1939.pl.**

GDANSK HISTORY MUSEUM

The History of Gdansk museum calls the impressive Main Town Hall home, a Gothic-Renaissance structure originally built in the 14th century and painstakingly repaired following World War II. Inside visitors immediately see the ornate Great Council Hall and Red Hall, the latter of which features an impressively-sized fireplace and lavish ceilings paintings, including The Glorification of the Unity of Gdansk. Subsequent rooms feature vintage 16th and 17th furniture and a sampling of the museum's 600 silver pieces, which highlight Gdansk's silversmithing era. The top floor of the museum features a delightful exhibit showcasing what life was like in everyday Gdansk right before the war - visitors get a glimpse into the homes and businesses of residents and see a period in time that was about to come to an abrupt end. The stairwell back to the main floor shows what happened to that lifestyle via stunning photographs of the complete levelling of the city at the hands of the Red Army. In between the old council chambers and the exhibition showing pre-war Gdansk is where temporary exhibitions are held. ► **C-4, ul. Długa 46/47, Gdańsk, tel. (+48) 58 767 91 00, www.mhmg.pl. Open 10:00 - 16:00, Tue 10:00 - 13:00, Thu 10:00 - 18:00, Sun 11:00 - 16:00. Closed Mon. From June 15 open 09:00 - 16:00, Mon 09:00 - 13:00; Fri, Sat 10:00 - 18:00, Sun 10:00 - 16:00. Viewing terrace open in good weather from June 15 until September 30. Admission 12/6zł, family ticket 20zł, under-16s 1zł. Tue free. From June 15 Mon free. Viewing terrace 5zł.**

LECHIA GDANSK MUSEUM

Lechia Gdansk is most famously the local football team but the Lechia Gdansk club has representative teams in a multitude of sports. This museum is dedicated to all of these sports although it is the football club and their most famous era which always captures our attention. Despite coming from one of the country's biggest cities, Lechia Gdansk have rarely troubled the trophy engravers over the decades since the club was re-activated here after the war having left its spiritual home of Lwow (now Lviv in Ukraine). Their biggest moment came in 1983 when they lifted the Polish Cup for the one time in their history, despite being a third-level side at the time. The following season they came up against the mighty Juventus in the European Cup-Winners' Cup in a match that became the stuff of legend more for what the club and the fans represented rather than what happened on the pitch. If you like your football it's worth a visit. If you like your history you'll really enjoy it. ► **ul. Pokoleń Lechii Gdańsk 1, Gdańsk (Letnica), tel. (+48) 58 768 84 45, www.lechia.pl. Open 10:00 - 18:00. Admission 5/3zł.**

NATIONAL MUSEUM OLD ART DEPARTMENT

Located in a former Franciscan monastery, the National Museum is a work of art itself with vaulted ceilings and a large staircase that houses an impressive collection of equally beautiful objects. The main draw is Hans Memling's highly detailed triptych The Final Judgment, which was returned to Gdańsk from the Russians in 1956 after a circuitous journey through the hands of Napoleonic troops and Nazis. Paintings showing pre-destruction Gdańsk and its wealthy residents as well as the work of Dutch artists in another room. The room

of China dishes is still entirely in Polish, but worth a wander along with the collections of ceramics, furniture and fabrics that dot the museum. ► B-6, ul. Toruńska 1, Gdańsk, tel. (+48) 58 301 70 61 ext. 233, www.mng.gda.pl. Open 10:00 - 17:00. Closed Mon. From June open 10:00 - 17:00, Thu 12:00 - 19:00. Closed Mon. Last entrance 45 minutes before closing. Admission 10/6zł. Fri free.

NAVAL MUSEUM

While the new building housing the museum is excellent the exhibition is not. Everything is in Polish and is presented in such a huge lump of text that no child, already disappointed by the lack of buttons to push and interactive displays to explore, is likely to get past the first few sentences. Wonderful stories such as that of the WWII submarine Orzel are mentioned only briefly while there is little context to what each of the many models of ship represent. The team of women, one sat on each floor reading a book, get up and wander behind you giving you the sense of being in a John Le Carre movie set in Cold War Europe. On the plus side the garden holds a collection of old planes and artillery including 18th century cannons; shells from the Schleswig-Holstein (the ship that kicked off WWII), and a cannon recovered from a German U-boat sunk in Gdynia harbour in 1945. ► O-2, ul. Zawiszy Czarnego 1b, Gdynia, tel. (+48) 58 620 13 81, www.muzeummmw.pl. Open 10:00 - 17:00. Closed Mon. From July open 10:00 - 18:00. Closed Mon. Last entrance 45 minutes before closing. Admission 10/6zł, family ticket 20zł. There is also a joint ticket for the museum and the Błyskawica battle ship which costs 13/7zł and 22zł for the family ticket.

ROMANESQUE CELLAR

The original settlement of Gdansk appears to have been around the area to the north of the current 'Old Town' close to the Covered Market Hall (Hala Targowa) and the Dominican church of St. Nicholas. Archaeologists had long suspected that the area would hold some clues as to earlier settlement of the area and were particularly keen to see if they could find evidence of the first Dominican church. Having come up with a blank in previous digs they finally hit gold in the area between the Covered Market Hall and the current church in 2005 when they discovered the foundations of the original church as well as vaults which were still in remarkably good condition. After years of work it is now possible to venture down into the vault which it is believed was used by monks at meal times while a fellow brother read passages of the bible to them. Of particular note is an ossuarium, a vault containing hundreds of bones from graves which had been cleared at some point in the past to permit expansion of the church. Also keep an eye out for the ancient brick in the vault with a cross carved into it. Ask the friendly lady on duty to put the English soundtrack on for you as you take the 20-30 minutes necessary to look at the vault and some of the relics discovered there. ► C-3, Pl. Dominikański 1, Gdańsk, tel. (+48) 508 81 65 02, www.piwnicaromanska.org. Open 09:00 - 17:00. Closed Mon. From July open 10:00 - 18:00. Last entrance 30 minutes before closing. Admission 8/5zł, kids under 16 1zł, kids under 7 free. Sunday free.



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GOLDWASSER



No visit to Gdańsk is complete without sampling the local fire water, Goldwasser vodka. Created by Ambrose Vermollen, a Dutch migrant living in Gdańsk, the first recorded mention of it dates to 1598, though it would be years later that Vermollen would open the first recorded distillery, Der Lachs (The Salmon) on ul. Szeroka. His recipe combined over 20 herbs and roots, including cardamom, coriander, juniper, cinnamon, wild orange, lavender, cloves and thyme. A clever marketing trick that was all about appearance and nothing to do with taste, 23 carat gold leaves were added for luck, and the recipe has since been passed down the generations, its current owner being the German Carl Graf von Hardenberg.

Of course, local legend is far more interesting, and if you believe urban myth the gold flakes appeared after Neptune grew increasingly irritated that the natives were clogging up his fountain by repeatedly throwing coins into it. Driven to despair the irked God launched his trident into the fountain, shattering the coins into millions of pieces. This, according to some, is why you'll find gold pieces floating around in your bottle of Goldwasser. Story number two paints a different picture. Apparently Neptune was delighted by the natives' habit of throwing coins into his fountain, and decided to reward their generosity by turning the water into a tasty alcoholic beverage. Good man. Free-loading landlords carted the booze off by the barrel, all apart from the do-gooding owner of Pod Łosiosiem (The Polish for Der Lachs). In return for his honesty, Neptune transformed his stock of ordinary vodka into Goldwasser.

Packing an alcohol content of 40%, Goldwasser's rich, syrupy taste saw it gain popularity with Louis XIV and Imperial Russia's Catherine the Great among its fans. Lovers of this story and the drink will be delighted to know that the Salmon (Der Lachs) is still around and now trades as the exclusive Pod Łosiosiem restaurant where you can get the original von Hardenberg Goldwasser imported from Germany. Also keep your eye out for the German owned Goldwasser restaurant on the waterfront which has specially produced gift sets available to buy. On a final note it is also said that the gold content of Goldwasser is useful in the treatment of back and joint conditions although it is unlikely that this was one of its goals 400 years ago.

SOPOT FORT

Traces of human settlement in the Sopot area date back to the Stone Age, and ancient graves, spearheads and ceramics have all be uncovered in recent years. The most important archaeological find however was the unearthing of the remains of a fort, believed to have been used between the 8th and 14th century. Reconstructed in 2000 the current 'castle' is thought to be an exact replica of the one that once stood here. A new museum and didactic pavilion opened in December 2011 and features a permanent exhibition entitled 'The oldest history of Sopot' (Najstarsze Dzieje Sopotu). ▶ M-3, ul. Haffnera 63, Sopot, tel. (+48) 58 340 66 00, www.archeologia.pl/grodziskosopot. Open 10:00 - 18:00. Closed Mon. Admission 8/6zł. Sa free.

SOPOT MUSEUM

Occupying a building dating from 1903 this grand seaside villa once belonged to the influential Claaszzen family. Now operating as the museum of Sopot this rambling mansion presents a series of changing temporary exhibitions connected with different parts of the history of the city. Many rooms have been left as they were at the start of the century, filled with grandfather clocks, letters and glass cabinets hiding bone china sets and other family possessions. To check what's going on now, see our What's On section ▶ M-5, ul. Poniatowskiego 8, Sopot, tel. (+48) 58 551 22 66, www.muzeumsopotu.pl. Open 10:00 - 16:00; Sat, Sun 12:00 - 18:00. Closed Mon. Admission 5/3zł. Children under 16 1zł. Thu free. ☎

STUTTHOF MUSEUM

The town of Sztutowo, then called Stutthof, was home to the first camp created outside of Germany by the Nazis. It lies 55 kilometres east of Gdańsk and is easily accessed by both car and bus. Journey time by bus is about 80 minutes and costs 14zł. From Gdańsk bus station board the bus headed to Krynica Morska, then jump off once you pass the perimeter of the camp on your left hand side. While the crowds of visitors to the most infamous of death camps at Auschwitz are hit by the overwhelming scale of the murder and cruelty carried out by the Nazis, the peaceful, tidily kept camp of Stutthof set among the trees and just a couple of kilometres from the beach, has a different atmosphere but an equally lasting effect. Today the museum covers around 20% of the former camp area. The camp initially housed Poles including priests, teachers, civil servants (anyone seen as being a potential threat to the suppression of the local Polish population) who were brought here in the days and weeks following the start of the war with many promptly executed. We recommend you stop first at the information office where the friendly staff can provide you with information and guides if necessary. The camp is not suitable for young children and can take a few hours to visit fully. ▶ ul. Muzealna 6, Sztutowo, tel. (+48) 798 41 80 24, www.stutthof.org. Open 08:00 - 18:00 (May to September) 08:00 - 15:00 (October to April). Last entrance 30 minutes before closing. Admission free (contributions welcomed). Film exhibit 3zł. Guided tours 140zł. Children under 13 should not visit the museum.


NATIONAL MARITIME MUSEUM

Gdańsk's National Maritime Museum is made up of four individual museums, including The Crane and the Soldek ship, that together create a complete history of the port. Straddling both banks of the Motława, you can buy one ticket to all parts of the museum (18/10zł), which includes a ferry ride between the Crane and Maritime Cultural Centre on one side and the Soldek and National Maritime Museum on the other, or visit the parts and pay individually. The exhibitions in the Maritime Cultural Centre require additional payment. You will need to book an exact time to visit the interactive exhibition 'People, Ships, Ports' which normally begins at the start of each hour.

Tickets for the ferry cost 1.50zł each way and it also offers a handy shortcut for those looking to get to the other side of the river even if you're not visiting the museum.


MARITIME CULTURE CENTRE

A new building in the shadow of Gdańsk's crane is the modern setting for the Central Maritime Museum's newest exhibition. Spread over 4 floors, kids will find the 'People, Ships, Boats' interactive displays of interest as they learn about the sea including how devastating tsunamis start while there is also a permanent exhibition entitled 'Boats of the Peoples of the World (Working Boats)', which presents scores of small craft from all over the world, including Native American dugout canoes, a fabulous little English coracle and numerous small fishing and trade vessels from the Far East. The third floor currently houses an interesting temporary exhibition telling the stories and displaying the treasures recovered from local shipwrecks and a second call Statki Nasza Pasja (Ships. Our passion). There are plenty of good English descriptions plus the Restaurant Naprzod on the fourth floor which offers great photo opportunities of the river from its terrace.

► D-4, ul. Tokarska 21-25 (entrance from ul. Długie Pobrzeże), Gdańsk, tel. (+48) 329 87 00, www.nmm.pl. Open 10:00 - 16:00; Sat, Sun 10:00 - 18:00. Closed Mon. From July open 10:00 - 19:00. Last entrance 1 hour before closing. Admission to the Interactive Exhibition 'People, Ships, Boats' 8/5zł. Family ticket (up to 2 adults and 3 children) 20zł. Admission to the 'Boats of the Peoples of the World' Exhibition and temporary exhibitions 6/4zł. 

NATIONAL MARITIME MUSEUM

The main part of the museum is located inside three Renaissance granaries and if you've only got time to visit one of the three museums this is by far the most comprehensive of the lot. A complete history of Poland's nautical history is represented on several floors and includes old cannons, huge oil paintings, harpoon guns, a hall dedicated to underwater archaeology, shipbuilders' hard hats from the Lenin shipyard, a few pieces of modern art and an extensive collection of model ships. Information is available in English.

► D-4, ul. Ołowianka 9-13, Gdańsk, tel. (+48) 58 301 86 11, www.nmm.pl. Open 10:00 - 16:00. Closed Mon. From July open 10:00 - 18:00. Last entrance 45 minutes before closing. Admission 8/5zł. Under-16s 1zł. Guided tours for groups of over 30 people 35zł. 

SOLDEK

The first steamship built in Polish Gdańsk after 1945 at what was to become the Lenin Shipyards, the Soldek has been turned into a living museum. Launched in 1948 this old ship was an ore collier before retiring to become a museum ship and just about every inch of it can be accessed from the cramped engine room to the bridge to the pokey little cabins the crews lived in. ► D-4, ul. Ołowianka 9-13, Gdańsk, tel. (+48) 58 301 86 11 ext. 327, www.nmm.pl. Open 10:00 - 16:00. Closed Mon. From July open 10:00 - 18:00. Last entrance 30 minutes before closing. Admission 8/5zł. Under-16s 1zł.

THE CRANE

The Crane is one of the defining symbols of Gdańsk and represents what little is left of the city's great trading age. First mentioned in 1367 the original structure burnt down in 1442 before its current design was created in 1442-1444. As a working crane it was used to transfer cargoes and to put up masts on ships. At one time this was the biggest working crane in the world but it also served a defence function and as one of the gates to the city. It had a lifting capacity of 4 tonnes to a height of 11 metres and this was achieved by two huge wooden wheels at its heart each with a diameter of 6 metres. These wheels were originally powered by men walking inside of them to turn the lifting mechanism. It remained a working crane until the middle of the 19th century and was 80% destroyed in 1945 in the battle for Gdańsk.



© Goldwasser

After the war it was rebuilt and donated to the Polish Maritime Museum of which it remains a part today. You will be able to view a collection of permanent exhibitions inside including one on port life between the 16th and 18th centuries. In Polish only, displays include models of lighthouses, the old port, life-size recreations of counting houses and old port life in general plus access to the crane's two huge drive-wheels.

► D-4, ul. Szeroka 67/68, Gdańsk, tel. (+48) 58 301 69 38, www.nmm.pl. Open 10:00 - 16:00. Closed Mon. From July open 10:00 - 18:00. Last entrance 30 minutes before closing. Admission 8/5zł. Under-16s 1zł. Tickets available from the Maritime Cultural Centre next door.

GARNIZON RE-BORN



In another example of the continuing revitalization of the Gdansk district of Wrzeszcz, what for many years was a closed military zone is being redeveloped for public use. The Garnizon (Garrison) district, close to the main road between the airport and the city, is gradually being turned into a residential and entertainment district. The area was originally developed at the beginning of the 20th century as a home for the German Leibhusaren Brigade (Hussar Brigade), which included the 2nd Hussar Regiment Queen Victoria of Prussia, notable for being named in honour of the daughter of Britain's Queen Victoria, wife of German Kaiser Friedrich III and whose emblem was the skull and crossbones which gained them the popular name of the 'Death's Head Hussars'. Home at one stage to nearly 2,000 men, the garrison (then on what was called Hochstrieß in Langfuhr) was taken over by the Free City of Danzig police force following Germany's defeat in WWI and then in turn by the Polish army following WWII (Hochstrieß is now ul. Juliusza Słowackiego).

The area had fallen into decline until the ambitious re-development began which has seen around 10 of the old red brick buildings modernised and turned over to new uses such as cafes and restaurants a concert venue, offices, hotel and eventually a cinema and theatre. The bulk of the development consists of modern offices and apartments and it promises to breathe new life into a square of land that has lain empty for years. Aside from taking a look at the redevelopment, your main reasons to visit are the Stry Maneż, a great concert venue which is already attracting some top international names; the Browar Spółdzielczy (Cooperative Brewery), a new Multi-tap bar; the Blok Fit climbing walls or any of the new restaurants and cafes which have sprung up, of which Lula, Elixir, Otwarte, Kucharia and Level Eight have already all impressed.

The old buildings particularly worth looking out for are the former officers' mess at the Galeria Bałtycka end of ul. Słowackiego (set to become a theatre); the Stry Maneż restaurant and concert venue, which was formerly the Manège (French for riding academy apparently) and the beautifully modernised building which today houses Elixir was formerly the official residence of the commanding officer.

PLACES OF INTEREST

CROOKED HOUSE

Opened in 2004, the award winning, exceedingly higgledy-piggledy building by Polish architects Szotyrcy Zaleski was inspired by the fairytale illustrations of Jan Marcin Szancer and the drawings of the Swedish artist and Sopot resident Per Dahlberg. The most photographed object in Sopot, Centrum Rezydent's 4,000m² of luscious curves are topped with a roof of blue-green enamelled shingles designed to give the impression of a dragon. Filled with shops, bars, clubs and cafes, the building promises more from the outside than it actually delivers once you've entered. Do as the tourists do and take a souvenir picture before moving onto one of the other choices on the strip. ▶ **M-4, ul. Haffnera 6, Sopot.**

GRANARY ISLAND

These granaries - no more than a skeletal set of ruined brick walls today - were the most important source of income for Gdańsk in the 16th century, contributing to its status as the largest Baltic harbour and one of Europe's richest cities. Over 300 granaries, with names like Gloria and Bear Dance serviced over 200 ships, supplying 300,000 tonnes of grain a year. For years plans to restore the ruined granaries repeatedly stalled, though a new embankment around the island has opened it up to the public again and work has already begun on developing the area into a hotel with 180 rooms, 560 apartments, underground parking, restaurants, retail outlets, offices and a square. The development will also see new bridges built including one linking the waterfront opposite close to the Crane. For the moment the island remains a moving reminder of the devastation of WWII and a small display on the island shows its history and the development plans. ▶ **C-6/D-4.**

GRASS' HOME

A word of warning on this one. While the address was and still is at number 13, ul. Lelewela (Labesweg), the buildings are numbered in a peculiar way here meaning Grass' home can be found following on from numbers 12 and 17. The building that Grass grew up in featured a grocer's store at street level with the Grass family flat adjacent to it. In the Tin Drum, Oskar climbs to the attic to look out of the window and you can get a sense of that by popping around the corner into ul. Aldony and turning right in the courtyard behind the building. ▶ **F-3, ul. Joachima Lelewela 13, Gdańsk.**

GREAT ARMOURY

The Great Armoury was built in 1600-09 on the medieval line of the city walls. A working arsenal until the 1800s, the armoury remains the finest example of Renaissance architecture in the city. It was designed by Opbergen and is the most impressive of his works in Gdańsk. The well-like structure in front was used as an elevator to transport gunpowder and cannon balls from their storage place in the basement. The armoury was badly damaged in WWII and had to be completely rebuilt and its only in recent years that it has regained its former glory following a spell during which it even placed host to a supermarket. Unfortunately, aside from the odd exhibition in the summer, the doors remain bolted shut. ▶ **B-4, Targ Węglowy 6, Gdańsk.**

GREAT MILL

Built by the Teutonic Knights in 1350, this magnificent edifice with its rising tiled roof is the grandest civil construction in Gdańsk. Until 1356 when the Radunia Canal was built, the mill was powered by slaves turning 18 huge wheels. It was the largest industrial plant in Europe during the Middle Ages and functioned until the end of WWII. Unfortunately, this treasure has since been turned into a shopping centre. The surrounding grain and flour stores, dating to 1400, are home to a few small shops. ▶ B-3, ul. Wielkie Młyny 16, Gdańsk.

NEW TOWN HALL

Known fondly by locals of a certain age as 'Żak', this beautiful building was originally built as the 'Generalkommando' (General Command) of the Prussian Garrison stationed in the city. Costing an eye-watering 6.2 million Marks the residence took three years to build (1898-1901) and incorporated an annex and stables all set in 1.8 hectares of parkland.

The new Free City Parliament (Volkstag) wanted the building for its purposes but lost out to the League of Nations High Commissioner Sir Richard Haking. In 1938 Nazi Gauleiter Albert Forster famously promised C.J. Burkhardt (the last High Commissioner) that his residence would be turned into a casino for party dignitaries once they were rid of him although in fact it became the residence of General Max Bock and Lt. Col. Hans-Ludwig Grosser during the war.

The new Communist authorities take over the building after the war but it was in the period 1957-1999 when a new legend was written. The student club Klub Studentów Wybrzeża Żak or Żak for short became a cultural centre for the youth of the Tri-city as well as a hotbed of anti-communist thinking. Stars like the Polish James Dean Zbigniew Cybulski performed in the club's theatre while the parties are reported to have been legendary. The building also featured one of the only cinemas showing independent films as well as a café and bar. As described by the students themselves 'Żak was like a colourful island in a sea of gray: people banging doors and windows at all events, no matter what it was. That's when Żak was a legend.'

In 1991 the newly independent city authorities, now staffed by many of Żak's former members (Gdańsk City President Paweł Adamowicz is a self-confessed veteran) decided to create a new cultural centre here and the dilapidated space was, for the next 8 years, one of the best places to party in the city.

The city took back the building in 1999 and returned it to its former glory making it the ceremonial Town Hall of the city. Żak, the cultural centre, lives on in a new purpose built property in Wrzeszcz. ▶ A-3, ul. Wały Jagiellońskie 1, Gdańsk. **Members of the public are free to enter during office hours but you'll need prior permission to look at the meeting halls.**

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EMIGRATION MUSEUM



EMIGRATION MUSEUM IN GDYNIA

Opened in May, 2015, this a fascinating look at how, why and to where millions of Poles have emigrated over the centuries.

With Poland thought to have the sixth largest diaspora in the world (the group is known as the Polonia and is thought to number over 20 million), the museum does an excellent job of explaining the various situations, political and economic, which have made people consistently leave Poland, to places like the USA, Australia and even Brazil.

The building which is the museum's home is also particularly noteworthy. Located on the French Quay in Gdynia Port, the beautifully renovated Dworzec Morski (Marine Station) dates from the 1930s and is a wonderful example of the architecture that was in fashion as Gdynia expanded rapidly after WWI. The building became the main gateway to the world for Polish emigrants in the inter-war years.

The exhibition is set on the first floor of the building and despite starting rather disappointingly (we have no idea what the displays in the silver thing outside the exhibition entrance are trying to achieve), it gets much, much better very quickly. You enter the exhibition to the music of the Polish national anthem with its line 'Poland has not yet perished. As long as we still live', which wonderfully sums up both the battered history of this country and the spirit which has kept it alive as a nation. Skip past the first displays and their practically illegible descriptions and then take your time to wander through the exhibition which includes some wonderful personal memories and stories. The exhibition is larger than it appears at first, so give yourself 2-3 hours to enjoy it without rushing. Highly recommended particularly if you are one of the Polonia, who incidentally the museum would like to hear from if you can contribute personal histories or items connected to your family's emigration. To get to the museum take bus number 119 (weekdays only), 133 or 147 (check that the destination is Dworzec Morski - Emigration Museum) from the main train station (bus stop is actually on ul. Jana z Kolna) or bus 137 from the Batory Shopping Mall on ul. Armii Krajowej. Alternatively a taxi will cost about 20zł or you can walk there in 20 minutes from the city centre. ► ul. Polska 1 (Dworzec Morski), Gdynia, tel. (+48) 58 670 41 61, www.polska1.pl. Open 10:00 - 18:00, Tue, Fri 12:00 - 20:00. Closed Mon. Admission 10/6zł, family ticket 25zł. Children under 7 free.

PIER

Sopot's pier provides stunning views of the sea by day and night. The pier was built in 1827 by a doctor in Napoleon's army and has been renovated several times. At 511m, it's the longest in the Baltic region and the longest wooden pier in Europe (Southend-on-Sea is the longest overall in case you were wondering). A spa garden with rounded pergolas and a fountain marks the entrance to the pier, from which a sandy beach stretches to either side. The pier was re-opened to its full length in July 2011 with the completion of a brand new marina at its tip as well as the construction of a restaurant and a raised viewing platform. Note that the you have to pay for the privilege to walk the pier at certain times during the high season. Note that you are not allowed to take alcohol onto the pier. ► M-4, www.molo.sopot.pl. While it is possible to walk the pier at any hour, you do have to pay for privilege at certain times.

Day tickets - April 30 - June 24: 08:00 - 21:00 (on Fridays and Saturdays until 23:00). June 25 - August 31: 08:00 - 23:00. September 1-25: 08:00 - 20:00.

Night tickets - April 30 - June 19 on Friday and Saturday nights only from 23:00 - 08:00 and on long weekends around the time of public holidays (May 1-3 and May 25-29). June 25 to September 1: 23:00 - 08:00 every day. Day ticket 7.50/4zł. Children under the age of 3 free of charge. Night ticket 5zł.

THE STONE HILL

The Stone Hill lies 52m above sea level and is one of the prettiest areas in Gdynia, boasting wonderful views of the Hel peninsula and the Baltic Sea. To get here, go to the Musical Theatre, Pl. Grunwaldzki 1 (O-1) and take the free funicular railway the 96m to the top. ► N/O-2. Funicular railway open 08:00 - 20:00, Sat, Sun 08:00 - 22:00. These are subject to change in July and August.

WISŁOUJŚCIE FORTRESS

Until the 16th century, when the growing Westerplatte peninsula finally separated it from the sea, Wisłoujście Fortress stood on the seashore and served as a lighthouse. It also served as a strategic point of defence for Poland, with about 40 bronze cannons and room inside for 1,000 men. The fortress was seized by the Prussians and used as a prison as late as the 19th century before becoming the base for a sailing club between the wars. Destroyed by the Red Army in 1945, work is ongoing to return it to its former glory following its inclusion on the World Monument Watch's list of 100 most endangered monuments in 2001. It's an interesting place for a short visit with particular interest the view from the top of the tower, the collection of weaponry in the fort's underground bunkers and the collection of rebuilt houses inside the fortresses. The fort and the surrounding area are also home to hibernating bats, which while winning it a place on the Natura 2000 list, has also made the rebuilding work even greater a challenge. To get there during take the F5 water tram. ► J-2, ul. Stara Twierdza 1, Gdańsk, tel. (+48) 58 343 14 05, www.mhmg.pl. Open from June 1 10:00 - 16:00. From July 1 Open 10:00 - 18:00. Admission 12/6zł.



SUMMER STAGE AT GDYNIA ORKOWO BEACH

CITY THEATRE

teatrgombrowicza.art.pl

JUNE

Inauguration of the 21st Summer Stage 25.06

Komedia omyłek **premiere** 25, 26, 30.06

Cała Polska czyta dzieciom 26.06

Jazz at the beach 27.06

Żółta łódź podwodna (on board the Dar Pomorza) 28.06

Bóg mordu 29.06

JULY

Komedia omyłek 01 - 03.07, 07 - 10.07

Cała Polska czyta dzieciom 03, 10, 17, 31, 24.07

Jazz at the beach 04.07

Idąc rakiem (on board the Dar Pomorza) 05, 26.07

Sammy 06, 27.07

W czasie deszczu dzieci się nudzą

- Dorota Lułka recital **premiere at the beach** 11, 18.07

Żółta łódź podwodna (on board the Dar Pomorza) 12, 19.07

Bóg mordu 13, 20.07

Piosenka jest dobra na wszystko 14 - 17, 21 - 24.07

Piaf po polsku - Dorota Lułka recital 25.07

Jeszcze bardziej Zielona Gęś 29, 30, 31.07

AUGUST

W czasie deszczu dzieci się nudzą

- Dorota Lułka recital 01.08

Żółta łódź podwodna (on board the

Dar Pomorza) 02, 09.08

Sammy 03.08

Jeszcze bardziej Zielona Gęś 04 - 07.08

Cała Polska czyta dzieciom 07, 14.08

Jazz at the beach 08.08

Bóg mordu 10.08

Komedia omyłek 11 - 14.08

Closing of the 21st Summer Stage 14.08

CULTURE CENTRE

ckgdynia.pl

AUGUST

Psiunio **premiere** 15, 16, 17.08

Rybki. Historia gdyńskiej

miłości **premiere** 18, 20, 21.08

O co biega? 19, 20.08

Kwiaty we włosach.

Songs of Seweryn Krajewski 21.08

Information about other events in Gdynia is available at: www.gdynia.pl





When talking about Gdansk's most famous resident, you not only have to decide which name to use - Johannes Hevelius if you're German or Jan Heweliusz in Polish - but how exactly to credit him first. As a popular brewer? A successful astronomer? A prolific inventor? The onetime mayor of Gdansk? The Da Vinci of Poland? Described by one local publication on the 400th anniversary of his birth as Gdansk's "Man of the millennium" Hevelius had a rich and fascinating life most of which he spent here in this city.

A LIFE IN GDANSK

Born in Gdansk in 1611 into a wealthy German-speaking family, Hevelius was one of three brothers and six sisters and the only male child to make it to adulthood. The German- Czech children of Abraham Howelcke and Kordula Hecker had a privileged upbringing, and Hevelius was sent to Gymnasium at the age of seven. Encouraged by tutor Peter Cruger, the young Johannes had an early fascination with mathematics and astronomy which carried on past his studying law in Holland when he travelled around Europe meeting leading astronomers.

This came to an end when his parents summoned him home to take over the family brewery. Hevelius married Katherine Rebeschke, the daughter of a neighbouring brewing family, in 1635 and embraced the family tradition of brewing beer. Yet despite his devotion to beer (Hevelius helmed the local brewing guild), the pull of astronomy was one he could not ignore.

ASTRONOMICAL ACHIEVEMENTS

The combination of an eclipse of the sun in 1639 and the pleas of his former teacher, Peter Cruger, to resume his interest in the stars inspired Hevelius to take up his former hobby once again. In 1641 he constructed an observatory on the roof of his home where he worked on creating instruments for the study of astronomy that quickly outpaced anything seen in Europe - including a 150-foot telescope built on the shore of the Baltic Sea.

Hevelius quickly became a master of his science, discovering numerous constellations and comets, extensively documenting the topography of the moon, and observing the phases of mercury and spots on the sun. These discoveries and observations led Hevelius to publish 20 works in Latin detailing his findings, many using his own well-crafted illustrations. Unsurprisingly, Hevelius's work and stunning observatory caught the attention of his peers, and he was elected to the Royal Society of London in 1664 (the first Pole in the Society's history). He also received a visit from Edmund Halley, discoverer of Halley's Comet, who sought to compare Hevelius's use of a sextant with open sights to the use of a sextant with telescopic sights. The winner? Hevelius proved he could assess star positions without a telescope as easily (and accurately) as Halley could with.

Throughout his work in astronomy Hevelius was also heavily involved in municipal matters in Gdansk. In 1640 he became the church administrator at St.Catherine's Church, and served for a decade as a court juror. And from 1651 until his death, Hevelius was a councillor for the city of Gdansk.

Despite his many roles in the town and running a successful brewery, paying for his research required Hevelius to seek the patronage of Polish kings and queens in order to gain financial support. King Jan Kazimierz and Queen Maria Ludwika were the first royalty to visit the observatory, and King Jan III Sobieski the first to give Hevelius a permanent annual salary for his work - - which might explain why Hevelius named a constellation "Scutum Sobiescianum" (Sobieski's shield). Hevelius also drew an annual salary from the French King Louis XIV.

In 1662 he lost his long-time wife Katherine, who for many years had run the family brewing business so her husband could focus on astronomy. A year later the 52-year-old Hevelius married 16-year-old Elizabeth Koopman, who quickly became a partner and ally in Hevelius' work (many consider Koopman to be the first female astronomer and "the mother of moon charts"). In between giving birth to four children she managed the observatory and, following his death, completed their jointly created catalogue of 1,564 stars called *Prodromus astronomiae*.

Tragedy struck the family again when a fire ravaged the observatory in 1679; all of Hevelius's instruments and tools were destroyed in the blaze. Though he quickly repaired the space in time to observe the great comet of 1680 (and named the constellation Sextans in honour of his destroyed instruments) his health was permanently damaged by the shock of the disaster and Hevelius died on his 76th birthday in 1687.

HEVELIUS'S HOME & BREWERY

Following Hevelius's marriage in 1635 to his neighbour Katherine Rebeschke, he took over a pair of tenement houses and a brewery which came to him as part of his new-wife's dowry. This property expanded in 1649 when Hevelius inherited his family's adjacent house and brewery following his father's death, the new property covering an area which filled most of the space between (B-2/3) Korzenna, Bednarska and Zawrotna. The property would have consisted of the living quarters at the front, brewery to the rear and ultimately Hevelius' observatory on the roof. The Hevelius family was to live and work here for many decades and the property is thought to have remained in the family until the start of the 19th century. Photographs taken over a hundred years later suggest parts of the structure from Hevelius' time still existed but these, like much of the surrounding city were destroyed in the fall of Danzig in 1945. Despite attempts to re-create the tenements in the 1950s, the ruins were finally pulled down and a new residential block built on the site, a building which today awaits renovation. While many sources quote the address of the Hevelius home and brewery as 53-55 Korzenna today you will find them allocated different numbers on the same street. A unkept plaque denotes the spot where the great man once worked and lived. ▶ **B-2, ul. Korzenna 2/4/6 (corner of ul. Heweliusza), Gdańsk.**

JOHANNES HEVELIUS MONUMENT

This statue was designed by Jan Szczypka and unveiled on January 28th 2006, the 395th anniversary of his birth in the gardens dedicated to him opposite the Old Town Hall. Hevelius is widely regarded as the last great astronomer to work without lenses and instead made many of his discoveries using a quadrant and alidade, tools he is depicted with here as he stares up at a wonderful recreation of his work on an adjacent surviving pre-war building. ▶ **B-3, ul. Korzenna, Gdańsk.**

OLD TOWN HALL

This marvellous 16th-century Renaissance building was once home to the office of Hevelius in his role as an Old Town Council Lord. The former headquarters of the Council of Gdańsk, the Old Town Hall served as the headquarters of the Soviet Army during the dying days of WWII, probably because it was practically the only building left standing in the city at the time. Today the building is open to the public and has become the focus of much creativity. Concerts are held upstairs, and the superb Baltic Sea Cultural Centre (see Culture & Events) now have their offices there. There's also a cellar restaurant, and a good bookshop on the ground floor. ▶ **B-3, ul. Korzenna 33/35, Gdańsk, tel. (+48) 58 301 10 51, www.nck.org.pl. Open 10:00 - 18:00. Admission free.**

ST. CATHERINE'S CHURCH

This 14th century brick church, the former parish church of the Old Town and where Hevelius was once church administrator, is also his final resting place. You will find his tomb at the rear behind the altar along with an epitaph funded by his grandson nearly 100 years after the great

man's death. Following a fire in 2006, which resulted in the ceiling collapsing, work to restore the church took a number of years. A fairly spartan scene, the highlight is a 76 metre baroque tower housing a 49-bell carillon, which has chimed on the hour - every hour - since the 50th anniversary of the outbreak of WWII in 1939. The tower contains a small museum dedicated to tower clocks but this is only open to the public in the summer. ▶ **C-3, ul. Profesorska 3, Gdańsk, tel. (+48) 58 301 15 95, www.gdansk.karmelici.pl. Open 11:00 - 18:00. No visiting during mass please.**

ST. JOHN'S CHURCH

Near the Motława River between ul. Świętojańska and ul. Straganiarska you'll find this huge brick vault dating from the 1300s and the church in which Johannes Hevelius was christened in 1611. Having had the misfortune to have been built on swampland, what remains of the edifice was slowly sinking on one side although work in recent years has tried to shore it up. Though it was burnt and completely abandoned after WWII, it has been completely renovated and it is once again one of the great landmarks of Gdańsk. While many of the interior fittings have been moved to St. Mary's its famous 12 metre high renaissance altar remains as do a number of tombs and gravestones which give you a good idea of the city's multi-cultural history. It now regularly plays host to exhibitions and is a superb concert venue thanks to the building's unique acoustics which make it one of the most haunting venues in the city. ▶ **D-3, ul. Świętojańska 50, Gdańsk, tel. (+48) 58 301 10 51, www.sw-jan.vn.pl. Open 10:00 - 18:00, No visiting during mass please.**

UL. PIWNA

You can also wander along streets that were important in the life of Hevelius. Beers fans will enjoy a walk down Gdańsk's ulica Piwna, which was once named Jopengeasse after the popular Hevelius-made Jopenbier brand. ▶ **B/C-4.**





World War II began with Nazi Germany's assault on Poland and the Free City of Danzig on the morning of September 1, 1939.

September 1, 1939, is forever etched in the history books as the day the world went to war. The world would never be the same again, and it started here, seventy-five years ago, with Danzig/Gdansk as the opening gambit in Hitler's vile master plan.

PRELUDE

The city had long been caught in a tug of war between Germany and Poland and the decision to make it a Free City State by the League of Nations following World War I left neither side happy. Nonetheless the region thrived, and the two communities co-existed for quite some time; the Germans controlled the State senate, the police and much of the business, while the Poles dominated the railways, port authority and had their own postal service. The rise of Hitler changed all that, and bitter rivalries soon came to the surface after his election in next door Germany. Anti-Polish sentiment spread rapidly, and by 1935 the local police force had started keeping tabs on any Pole seen as a threat to the German way.

The rise in tensions wasn't lost on the Poles. From 1925 the League of Nations bowed to pressure and consented to the deployment of a token 88-man Polish force across the water from the Free City on the Polish controlled Westerplatte Peninsula. As the years went on, and Hitler's posturing became ever more threatening, the Poles continued to covertly strengthen their foothold, smuggling in military hardware and secretly building fortifications in breach of League of Nations decrees.

OUTBREAK

On August 31, 1939, Nazi units dressed in Polish uniform infamously staged a mock attack on a radio tower in the German border town of Gleiwitz (now Gliwice). Pictures of the victims (actually corpses of concentration camp inmates dressed in German uniforms) were flashed across the world, with Hitler claiming a provocative attack by the Polish army. The following dawn, Germany launched a strike on Westerplatte, an attack that would ultimately kick off World War II. Popular theory asserts the first shots of the war were fired from the German warship the *Schleswig Holsten*, supposedly visiting Gdansk on a goodwill mission. Wrong. Logbooks recovered by the Nowy Port Lighthouse across the water from Westerplatte prove beyond doubt that the German battleship was pre-empted by a matter of three minutes by a gun emplacement nestled halfway up the lighthouse. The Poles, taken aback, missed this target entirely. Second time round they scored a direct hit, credited to a Pole called Eugeniusz Grabowski, thereby in all likelihood making the lighthouse gunners the first casualties in a war that would go on to claim 55 million lives.

The German shelling of Westerplatte was simultaneously supported by infantry attacks on the Westerplatte gateway, with the Polish defenders repelling repeated attempts at advance by the navy storm troopers. At precisely the same time this assault had begun, another equally ferocious battle was being waged at the small post office in the city's then called Hevelius Square. Detachments of German police and SS laid siege to the 50 Polish post workers inside, who put up a brave struggle for over 17 hours until casualties became intolerable, part of the building collapsed and the Germans began to attack with flamethrowers.

SIEGE

Yet while the post office capitulated, the garrison at Westerplatte held on. The plan was simple: in the event of an attack in Gdansk the Polish navy, stationed in nearby Gdynia (Poland), would sail in to help, aircraft from Puck would be scrambled, and the bridge in Tczew would be blown to stop a German advance into what was the demilitarized zone of the Free State. In the event nearly everything that could go wrong, did. The navy was caught out in the Bay of Gdansk, while the air force was destroyed while still on the ground. Polish customs officers did succeed in blowing the bridge at Tczew, crucially slowing the German advance whose armour was gathered over in Szymankowo. They paid for their bravery with their lives, and all were later shot by their German opposites, themselves also armed and primed for war. Today Stutthof museum has a post-execution picture of a grinning Nazi shooting party taken outside the Pullman wagons in which the Polish officers had lived. Britain and France declared war on Germany on September 3, but hopes of outside help being directed to Poland proved ill founded. At 10:15 on the morning of September 7, Major Henryk Sucharski took the decision to raise the white flag. Gdynia surrendered two weeks later, and then Hel - the final Polish stronghold in Pomerania - fell on the 2nd of October by which time Poland had been invaded from the east by the Soviet Union. Ironically, Hel, the final stand for the Poles, would also be the last place the Nazis would relinquish in 1945.

UNDER THE REICH

Hitler had always made much of incorporating Danzig into the Reich, yet somewhat surprisingly he only made two visits to the city - a deep held suspicion of Danzigers, and a fear of assassination explaining such apathy. The second of these visits came on September 18, 1939, with an exultant Fuhrer arriving to Sopot on board his armoured train, the Amerika. It was there he checked into the Kasino Hotel (today the Sofitel Grand), booking into rooms 251-253. His stay lasted a week, during which time he received a delegation from Japan, visited the Schleswig-Holstein, Westerplatte and inspected a parade outside Dwor Artus on Gdansk's Dlugi Targ.

By this time fervent Nazis were already clamouring to rid the region of all traces of Polishization. Intelligentsia and other such targets were arrested and incarcerated in numerous camps and prisons, including the Victoriashule (ul. Kladki 1. B-5), which was used as an interview and processing centre, the city jail (now replaced by a newer model) and Stutthof - later to morph into a notorious concentration camp. Flags, signs and anything else remotely Polish was torched and destroyed.

Governor and Gauleiter of the region was Albert Forster, and his reign still arouses controversy and debate among both scholars and survivors. Unlike other Gauleiters in annexed and occupied territories, Forster followed a program of assimilation, granting thousands of locals German citizenship if they swore German heritage. Even more remarkably, those Poles rounded up and persecuted

in the first wave of arrests could seek German citizenship, and even pursue compensation and restitution for any property originally seized. Benign by some benchmarks, Forster was a form Nazi on others. Jews faced merciless persecution, Stutthof emerged as a true place of terror and he is personally thought to have given the order for the mass murder of over 2,000 Poles executed between 1939 and 1940. Eventually caught and held on the Hel Peninsula trying to flee westwards, even his death remains a mystery - some claim he was hung in Biskupia Gora after the war, others that it was his body double who faced the hangman. Yet more sources claim he was taken to Warsaw's Mokotow Prison and beaten to death. The truth, it appears, will never be known.

THE END

For ordinary Danzigers the quality of life remained relatively good for much of the war. Zoppot/Sopot, especially, became a favourite stamping ground for soldiers on R&R, and in spite of rationing and occasional shortages life didn't get worse until the closing stages. The first warning signs that all was not well came with the first air raids, yet even so allied bombers targeted the shipyards - home to munitions factories producing U-Boats and V1 and V2 rockets - and the Zaspas airfield. The war still seemed far off, even in 1943 when work commenced on whisking cultural treasures to locations westwards.

By 1944 a different picture had emerged; Danzig had become a major transit point, not least with swarms of refugees fleeing from the east, as well as a regular target for bombing raids. By March, 1945, with the Red Army fast approaching, the population had reached 1.5 million and city stood on the precipice of chaos. Suspected deserters were strung up from the lampposts and trees of al. Zwyciestwa (or Hindenburg Allee as it was then known), and the city descended into a Dantean vision. Historian Antony Beevor writes of the ensuing siege: *'Fighter bombers strafed the towns and port areas. Soviet Shturmoviks treated civilian and military targets alike. A church was as good as a bunker, especially when it seemed as if the objective was to flatten every building which still protruded conspicuously above the ground... Tens of thousands of women and children, terrified of losing their places in the queues to escape, provided unmissable targets.'*

Danzig had been designated a closed fortress, or Festung, and the defence proved bitter and bloody. Zoppot/Sopot fell on March 21, Gotenhafen/Gdynia on March 28, and both faced the full wrath of a drunken, avenging army, spurring the defenders of Danzig to fight even harder to grant the remaining civilians the chance of evacuation. Encircled and out-powered, even when the opportunity to surrender was offered the Germans continued fighting; that fires were burning a month after Danzig was captured is testament to the ferocity of the siege. Polish and Red Army troops finally entered the city on March 30; Gdansk, home to the first shots of the war, now lay adrift on a sea of rape and ruin.

THE POST OFFICE SIEGE

At just after 04:45 local time on September 1, 1939, as the Germans launched their attack on Westerplatte and WWII officially began, another ferocious assault was just beginning at the small post office in the city's then-called Hevelius Square. Detachments of German police and SS units lay siege to the 50 Polish post office workers inside, who put up a brave struggle for over 17 hours until the casualties became unbearable, part of the building collapsed and the Germans began to attack with flame-throwers.

One month later on October 2, 30 of the surviving postal workers were sentenced to death and subsequently shot a few weeks later (their bodies were only discovered in Zaspka Cemetery in 1991), and the whole episode has become part of modern Polish folklore.

A wonderful and truly heroic story of David and Goliath proportions, what all accounts of the story fail to tell is just what a bunch of harmless postmen were doing armed to the teeth, and why it required two elite Nazi units to deal with them. The answer it seems lies in the fact that the Polish Post Office in the Free City of Danzig acted as a cover for Polish intelligence. So while the official history of the events of September 1, 1939 suggests the Nazis held Postman Patryk and his colleagues in contempt, the truth is probably a lot more logical and the attack was a strategic attempt to quell Polish resistance in the city.

POLISH POST OFFICE

During the era of the Free City the Polish state was represented by various public bodies such as Polish Railways and the Polish Postal Service. The headquarters for that were here in the Polish Post Office. It is thought that not only was the building the home of the postal service but that it also acted as the centre of the Polish government's intelligence gathering services in the demilitarised zone. Badly damaged in the battle to flush the Polish postal 'workers' out it was nearly completely destroyed by the end of the war. Reconstructed between 1949 and 1951, it is still a functioning post office which also houses a small museum dedicated to the events of September 1, 1939 and an exhibition of local postal history from the 18th century to the outbreak of WWII. ► **D-2, ul. Obrońców Poczty Polskiej 1-2, Gdańsk, tel. (+48) 58 301 76 11, www.mhmg.pl. Open 10:00 - 16:00, Tue 10:00 - 13:00, Thu 10:00 - 18:00, Sun 11:00 - 16:00. Closed Mon, Sat. From June 15 open 09:00 - 16:00, Mon 09:00 - 13:00; Fri, Sat 10:00 - 18:00, Sun 10:00 - 16:00. Admission 10/5zł, under-16s 1zł. From June 15 Mon free.**

POST OFFICE MONUMENT

Unveiled on September 1, 1979, this monument designed by the Kraków-based sculptor Wincenty Kućma, represents a dying Polish post employee who is being handed a rifle, unfortunately a little too late, by Nike. ► **D-2, ul. Obrońców Poczty Polskiej, Gdańsk.**

WESTERPLATTE

A large protective arm smothering Gdańsk's Nowy Port to its south, the peninsula of Westerplatte first sprang to fame as a popular health resort in the middle of the 19th century, although it's as a military zone and the place where the opening shots of WWII were fired that Westerplatte is more notoriously remembered.

On March 14, 1924 Poland was awarded Westerplatte as a location for bringing in military equipment and ammunition from abroad (Polish Military Transit Depot). Inaugurated on November 11, 1925 over the next 14 years Westerplatte grew from a depot with a 88-man attachment into a huge defensive fort, and was considered so strategically important to Hitler that his invasion of Poland effectively started here.

The Polish troops on Westerplatte were in effect a crack unit, by now numbering around 200 troops, whose orders were to hold for 24 hours in the event of an attack to give air, ground and sea forces the opportunity to support them from mainland Poland. The speed and strength of the German attack put paid to that plan almost immediately with the Polish navy caught out in the Bay of Gdansk and the bulk of the air support from Puck destroyed on the ground. Yet the troops on Westerplatte continued to hold out despite coming under intense bombardment by air, sea and 3,500 troops on the ground. The hope was that France and Great Britain, who joined the war on September 3, would provide support but this never materialised. Eventually, on September 7, a lack of water, ammunition and medical supplies convinced the commanding officer Major Henryk Sucharski to surrender the Poles' heavily damaged stronghold. He and his troops left Westerplatte to salutes from their captors in recognition of their bravery in a battle that had cost just 15 Polish lives.

The battle, while of little strategic importance to the outcome of the battle for the city, still represents a source of immense pride for many Poles who recognise the bravery of their countrymen in their resistance to one of the country's traditional foes.

Today Westerplatte is a memorial site featuring a scattering of shelled bunkers, burnt-out ruins, a couple of old snack bars, souvenir stalls and a small museum open during the summer in the pivotal Guardhouse Number 1. There is also a permanent outdoor exhibition entitled 'Westerplatte: Spa-Bastion-Symbol' on display.

To get to Westerplatte on public transport from the main train station in Gdansk you first need to take tram no. 8 to the Music Academy and from there catch bus N°106 to Westerplatte. During the summer months the easiest way to get out there is to take the Water Tram #5 which stops outside the Hilton in the Old Town and drops you at Westerplatte.



Westerplatte

A spa, a bastion, a symbol

History that will be new to you

An outdoor exhibition

Museum of the Second World War in Gdansk

Westerplatte Peninsula

Admission free

Getting there: Bus lines 106 and 606 and Zegluga
Gdansk ferries from Dlugie Pobrzeze

www.muzeum1939.pl

GUARDHOUSE NUMBER 1

A small museum adding further colour to the events of September 1939 and housed inside the former Guardhouse from which the strategic defence of Westerplatte was conducted (albeit in a different location from where it originally stood). The two shells outside were fired from the Schleswig-Holstein during the attack. ▶ J-1, ul. Sucharskiego 1, Gdańsk, tel. (+48) 58 343 69 72, www.mhmg.pl. Open 09:00 - 16:00. From June open 09:00 - 18:00. Admission 5/3zł.



[instagram.com/in_your_pocket](https://www.instagram.com/in_your_pocket)

NOWY PORT LIGHTHOUSE

A fascinating delve into Gdańsk's maritime history, the city's Nowy Port Lighthouse was inspired by a long-lost lighthouse built in 1871 in Cleveland, Ohio, in the USA. This one in front of you was built in 1893, the 28-metre tower functioned as a lighthouse, harbour pilot's tower and time-ball station until it was finally decommissioned in 1984. Its principal claim to fame is its use by German soldiers in September 1939, and it was from the upper floors that a machine gun emplacement fired the very first shots of WWII. Painstakingly restored by an amiable Polish-Canuck the centrepiece of the lighthouse is a time ball, unveiled on May 21, 2008. During its former life it was synchronised to

the Royal Astronomical Observatory in Berlin but today it takes its signal from Physikalisch-Technische Bundesanstalt (PTB) in Braunschweig which is broadcast as a DCF77 long-wave radio signal by the European Time Centre in Mainflingen, Germany. Time-balls were originally designed to allow ships' captains out at sea to synchronise their on-board clocks exactly before they headed back out, the dropping of the ball being the signal to mark the hour - this would allow them to calculate longitude resulting in more accurate navigation.

Until the end of August you can reach the lighthouse by water tram F5 from Targ Rybny which stops at the lighthouse after dropping off at Westerplatte on the opposite bank. At other times you can take any of trams 2, 3 or 8 from the Main Train Station and switch to the No 5 tram at the Wyspiańskiego stop (6th stop) heading in the direction of Latarnia Morska. ▶ I-1, ul. Przemysłowa 6a, Gdańsk, tel. (+48) 601 15 02 51, www.latarnia.gda.pl. Open 10:00 - 19:00. Admission 10/6zł. [ZCZ](#)

STATUE TO THE DEFENDERS OF WESTERPLATTE

In the southwest corner of the peninsula is a huge, 25-metre monument made of 236 granite blocks. The work of the architect Adam Haupt and sculptor Franciszek Duszenko and called Heroes of Westerplatte, the controversial grey beast was officially unveiled on October 9, 1966, and it's here memorial sermons are held on each anniversary of the war. ▶ I-1, ul. Sucharskiego, Gdańsk.



*Lech Wałęsa is hoisted through the Lenin Shipyard following the signing of the August Accords, August 31, 1980.
Stanisław Składanowski / ECS Collection*

THE STORY OF SOLIDARITY

The word Solidarity, or *Solidarność* as it was in Polish, is synonymous with the city of Gdansk. Although the movement which burst into life at the time of the shipyard strikes of 1980 is closely connected with Gdansk, the phenomenon that was *Solidarność* was not confined to the city. If truth be told there are other cities in Poland which feel that Gdansk has unfairly become the symbol for a movement that connected with and was born from Poles throughout the country. But for the foreign visitor with a memory of the 1980 strikes the image of Solidarity is Gdansk, its shipyards and the leader of the protests - Lech Wałęsa.

The story of Solidarity is a more complicated one than most foreign visitors will be aware of. Although the movement and the trade union were officially christened in 1980, their roots can be traced back some ten years earlier. Protesting against plunging living standards workers at the Lenin Shipyards in Gdansk and other yards in Gdynia, Elblag and Szczecin took to the streets, with the army promptly called in to intervene. Bloody clashes led to the deaths of 44 people, and ultimately forced communist leader Władysław Gomułka out of power. Replaced by Edward Gierek, his half-mad economic policies served to create an illusion of prosperity, as well as generating a flush of jobs in Gdansk's Nowy Port area. But the memory of 1970 did not fade and

Gdansk remained a ticking bomb for the authorities. With the seventies drawing to a close tensions started to rise

again, with living standards falling and the economy in huge debt built on massive foreign loans. In August, 1980 the dismissal of female crane operator, Anna Walentynowicz at Gdansk's Lenin Shipyards provided the spark for workers to go on strike. Workers already disillusioned with price increases and the falling value of their salaries were ready to take action. Lech Wałęsa and other activists were already planning strike action but it soon became clear that momentum within the yard was growing quickly and it was this that spurred Wałęsa, fired from the shipyard in 1976 for anti-government activities, to famously scale the wall of the Lenin shipyard to take control. Wałęsa with his trademark sharp trading managed to steer his colleagues away from mere wage demands towards the idea of creating a trade union movement to represent the workers and to fight injustice.

This time the workers learned from the mistakes of 1970 and did not confront the authorities but instead locked themselves into the shipyards. Three days later leaders representing workers from over 150 industrial plants, as well as crucially members from across the social spectrum in the country, met in the shipyards to hammer out 21 demands, including the legalisation of independent trade unions. Days of tension followed, with tanks and armed units stationed menacingly outside the gates of the yards. On August 31 the government backed down, agreeing to meet the 21 demands - thereby marking the first peaceful victory over communism. The agreement was famously signed in the shipyards by Lech Wałęsa using a large souvenir Pope John Paul II pen.

A month later, on September 22, delegates from 36 regional unions met in Gdansk forming a coalition under the name of Solidarity. Lech Wałęsa, the unlikely hero of August, was elected as chairman. The next few months marked a golden period for the nation; some ten million people joined the Solidarity movement, and Poland enjoyed a freedom unknown for decades.

Riding the crest of a wave Solidarity continued to lobby for further reforms and free elections, infuriating the Kremlin. With Soviet invasion a looming threat the Polish President, General Wojciech Jaruzelski, declared a state of martial law on December 13, 1981, and tanks once again rolled through the streets. Though Solidarity was officially dissolved, and its leaders imprisoned, it continued to operate underground. When Father Jerzy Popiełuszko, Solidarity's chaplain, was abducted and murdered by the secret police over a million people attended his funeral.

Renewed labour strikes and a faltering economy forced Jaruzelski into initiating talks with opposition figures in 1988, and the following year Solidarity was once again granted legal status. Participating in Poland's first post-communist election the party swept to victory, with Wałęsa leading from the front. Lech Wałęsa became the first freely elected president of Poland in December 1990 and served until 1995 when he lost the following election to Aleksander Kwasniewski, a former communist.

In spite of overseeing Poland's transition to a market economy, the members of Solidarity started to splinter into new political groupings and the party gradually found its power being eroded by the emergence of fresher political parties. The 2000 elections for the Sejm (lower parliament) sounded the death knell for the party. Failing to even make the minimum vote to qualify for representation in parliament, the party which changed history found itself out of active politics. In recent years it has once again become the voice of protest as it campaigns against government policies such as job cuts and the raising of the pension age as Poland's largest trade union.



Walesa speaks

Alojzy Tomaszewski

AUGUST ACCORDS

1. Acceptance of free trade unions independent of the Communist Party and of enterprises, in accordance with convention No. 87 of the International Labor Organization concerning the right to form free trade unions, which was ratified by the Communist Government of Poland.
2. A guarantee of the right to strike and of the security of strikers and those aiding them.
3. Compliance with the constitutional guarantee of freedom of speech, the press and publication, including freedom for independent publishers, and the availability of the mass media to representatives of all faiths.
4. A return of former rights to: 1) People dismissed from work after the 1970 and 1976 strikes, and 2) Students expelled from school because of their views. The release of all political prisoners, among them Edward Zdrozyski, Jan Kozłowski, and Marek Kozłowski. A halt in repression of the individual because of personal conviction.
5. Availability to the mass media of information about the formation of the Inter-factory Strike Committee and publication of its demands.
6. The undertaking of actions aimed at bringing the country out of its crisis situation by the following means: a) making public complete information about the social-economic situation, and b) enabling all sectors and social classes to take part in discussion of the reform programme.
7. Compensation of all workers taking part in the strike for the period of the strike, with vacation pay from the Central Council of Trade Unions.
8. An increase in the base pay of each worker by 2,000 zloty a month as compensation for the recent raise in prices.
9. Guaranteed automatic increases in pay on the basis of increases in prices and the decline in real income.
10. A full supply of food products for the domestic market, with exports limited to surpluses.
11. The abolition of 'commercial' prices and of other sales for hard currency in special shops.
12. The selection of management personnel on the basis of qualifications, not party membership. Privileges of the secret police, regular police and party apparatus are to be eliminated by equalizing family subsidies, abolishing special stores, etc.
13. The introduction of food coupons for meat and meat products (during the period in which control of the market situation is regained).
14. Reduction in the age for retirement for women to 50 and for men to 55, or after 30 years' employment in Poland for women and 35 years for men, regardless of age.
15. Conformity of old-age pensions and annuities with what has actually been paid in.
16. Improvements in the working conditions of the health service to insure full medical care for workers.
17. Assurance of a reasonable number of places in day-care centers and kindergartens for the children of working mothers.
18. Paid maternity leave for three years.
19. A decrease in the waiting period for apartments.
20. An increase in the commuter's allowance to 100 zloty from 40, with a supplemental benefit on separation.
21. A day of rest on Saturday. Workers in the brigade system or round-the-clock jobs are to be compensated for the loss of free Saturdays with an increased leave or other paid time off.

Solidarity

EUROPEAN SOLIDARITY CENTRE

The huge construction you can see next to the entrance to the Gdansk Shipyards is the new European Solidarity Centre which opened on August 30, 2014, the 34th anniversary of the signing of the August Accords. The 5-storey building, which has been designed to give the impression of walls cracking and tilting and is covered in rust-coloured sheet metal reminiscent of a ship's hull, has been a project many years in the making. It was finally signed into life in 2005 on the 25th anniversary of the signing of the August Accords when a Founding Act was signed in Solidarity Square by 29 joint-signatories including EU Commission chief Jose Manuel Barroso, Polish President Aleksander Kwasniewski and Solidarity legend and former President Lech Walesa.

The centre quickly gained international recognition picking up the prestigious Council of Europe Museum prize for 2016 while it, the OHS Hall (Sala BHP), Gate No. 2, Solidarity Square (Plac Solidarności) and Monument to the Fallen Shipyard Workers of 1970 were awarded the European Heritage Label. The purpose of the Label is to mark those sites which 'have played an important role in European history and culture and relate to the idea of uniting, as well as democratic and humanistic values of timeless significance.'

There are a number of aims to the centre. First and foremost it is designed to be a symbol of the victory of the Solidarity movement and the way that victory was achieved peacefully thanks to the power of people uniting in solidarity with each other. It is both definitions of this word that the centre's organisers want to pay tribute to and to develop further. The proclamation issued by the joint-signatories in 2005 stated that they wanted the European Solidarity Centre to "become the world's centre for the ideas of freedom, democracy and solidarity to be fostered".

The building is centred around a permanent exhibition dedicated to the history of Solidarity and the opposition, which led to the democratic transformation of the countries of Central and Eastern Europe. But the exhibition forms just a part of the European Solidarity Centre's daily function. The building features a library, reading rooms and archives which are completely accessible to researchers and any interested reader alike. The conference rooms and other spaces, such as the winter garden on the ground floor, host debates and concerts serving projects of both the ESC and outside associations aimed at working towards the common good.

A viewing terrace on the roof allows visitors to look out over the remains of the Lenin Shipyards where the Solidarity movement was born. The warmer months will see a bar opened here as well.

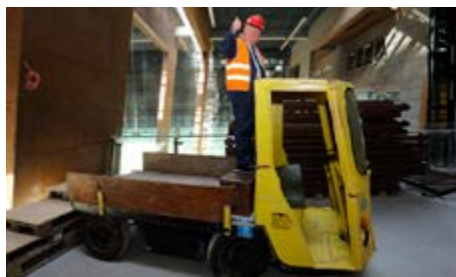
The building is free to enter and to move around - there are no scowling security men on the door. The major attraction for the foreign visitor is the permanent exhibition spread over two floors, seven different halls and occupying 3,000m². This is the one part of the centre for which you need a ticket. This permanent exhibition tells the story of Solidarity; where it began, how it grew and ultimately where it led the people of Poland and the occupied countries of the Communist Bloc. For those familiar with the highly-regarded Roads to Freedom (Drogi do Wolności) exhibition, this is its successor and aims to build upon its legacy and develop the story further. It combines traditional display methods with some truly impressive state-of-the-art technology which allows visitors access to authentic artefacts, 3D projections, photographs, film, declassified security service documents and interactive displays. Allow yourself 2 to 3 hours to view the exhibition comfortably.

ECS PERMANENT EXHIBITION

The first hall (A) you will enter is called 'The Birth of Solidarność' and is devoted to the strikes of August 1980. You'll see the cab of crane operator Anna Walentynowicz, whose sacking close to her retirement created the spark that saw the shipyard rise up in protest. Authentic materials salvaged from the shipyard are used to tell the story with the former canteen table now supporting the interactive terminals and former workers helmets suspended over visitors' heads onto which archive film is projected.

Moving into hall B, entitled 'The Power of the Powerless', you see the world that preceded the strikes of 1980 which give you an insight into the roots of the opposition movement and what the totalitarian regime looked and felt like. There are operational records from the security services and memories of the failed protests in 1970 which resulted in 45 deaths as they were ruthlessly crushed by security and military personnel.

Hall C brings you into the room dedicated to 'Solidarność and Hope'. It's here that you get a sense of the unexpected and unfamiliar freedom the strikes bought the country in August 1980 and the sixteen months that followed until the movement was outlawed and the country placed under Martial Law on December 13, 1981. Visitors are guided by a white and red trail which when reflected into the ceiling panel forms the legendary trade union's logo.



Walesa back on the truck

Pawel Czarzasty / ECS Archives

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european
solidarity
centre

Open: Monday – Sunday

May – September | 10 a.m. – 8 p.m.

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Ticket prices, information and booking:

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Gdańsk, pl. Solidarności 1

ecs.gda.pl

Next comes 'The War with Society' and you are graphically given a sense of how the freedom and hope of the sixteen months following August 1980 was systematically destroyed. The space narrows and visitors are ushered toward a Militia van with the riot shields of Zomo (the armed paramilitary police) pressing you deeper into the hall. The terror and dread of the Martial Law period are conveyed while you witness the activity in the underground Solidarity movement as they try to rally the people to stand firm and resist. This chapter of the exhibition ends with the award of the Nobel Peace Prize to Lech Walesa in 1983.

Hall E hosts 'The Road to Democracy' and demonstrates the important role played by Polish-born Pope John Paul II (the former Bishop of Krakow Cardinal Karol Wojtyła). His messages of hope delivered during his pilgrimages to his homeland fuelled the struggle for freedom and inspired youth movements and society as a whole to renew their fight. The growing demands and the worsening economic crisis resulted in the governing regime agreeing to the Round Table talks in 1989. The subsequent partly-free elections saw Solidarity storm to victory and saw Poland become the first Communist Bloc country to win its freedom.

'The triumph of Freedom' in the final hall shows how the changes in Poland reverberated across the Communist Bloc as country after country rose up and demanded democracy. Countries were reborn and countless new states emerged. As Lech Walesa later told President Barack

Obama, "(the Poles) smashed the teeth of the Soviet bear and when he couldn't bite anymore, the rest of the nations made their own freedom". Visitors are invited to add their tickets to the stack of those who have visited before in a symbol of solidarity.

As well as visiting the exhibition you can also take a moment to visit the 'Pope John Paul II Hall' to reflect as you look out through the windows onto the Monument of the Fallen Shipyard Workers.

Excellent audio guides are available in Polish, English, French, German, Russian, Spanish and the local Kashubian language. There is audio description for the visually impaired and sign language and loops for the hearing impaired. The entire space is designed to be accessible to all. You'll also find a gift shop, cafe, restaurant, a rooftop terrace (with summer-time bar) where you can view the remains of the surrounding shipyards and relax and reflect on what is a very good portrayal of the Solidarity story indeed. Those with children should also find the Play Department interesting as well.

EUROPEAN SOLIDARITY CENTRE

► B-1, Pl. Solidarności 1, Gdańsk, tel. (+48) 58 772 41 11, www.ecs.gda.pl. Open 10:00 - 20:00, Last entrance 1 hour before closing. Admission to the permanent exhibition 17/13zł, family ticket 47zł. Play department 5zł per child per hour.

LECH WAŁĘSA

Credited as the driving force behind the Solidarity movement, as well as the man who revived a post-communist Poland, Lech Walesa remains, for many, the public face of Poland, as well as Gdańsk's most famous resident.

Born on September 23, 1943 Walesa's early life was largely anonymous. Working in his early days as a mechanic it was only in 1967 when he began work at Gdańsk's Lenin Shipyards that he began his rise to prominence. A keen trade unionist he frequently found himself in trouble with the authorities, and his political activities led to a stint in prison that ultimately cost him his job.

In 1980, with the shipyards on strike, an unemployed Walesa scaled a wall, gave an impromptu speech and found himself thrust into the spotlight as the accidental hero of the protests. Having successfully led negotiations for workers rights it was he who signed the August Accords of 1980. Ear-marked by the government as an undesirable influence he was immediately placed under arrest when martial law was announced in 1981. Released a year later, Walesa's actions and those he represented were recognised in 1983 when he was awarded the Nobel Peace Prize.

As the figurehead of the Solidarity movement, and with the communist state crumbling, Walesa led roundtable talks with the government to formulate a power-sharing scheme. Partly free elections in 1989 led to blanket wins for Solidarity, signalling the last days of communism.

In 1990 he became Poland's first democratically elected, post-communist president, a position he held until 1995. Respected and admired as an opposition leader, Walesa saw his popularity seriously wane while in power. Many Poles began to consider his blunt speaking, lack of English and often poor use of Polish as not befitting a head of state. He was famously quoted as having told the British Queen that the bed he had slept in at Buckingham Palace had been so big that he'd had difficulty finding his wife. Mr. Walesa and his wife have eight children.

Mr Walesa was voted out of office in 1995 beaten by Aleksander Kwasniewski, who although being a former Communist, was seen as a better representative abroad. Many of Mr. Walesa's generation accused him of having failed to deliver on many of his promises, having stolen the glory for the people's revolution and even having worked for the secret services under communism. However in recent years Mr. Walesa's popularity appears to have begun to grow again with a certain fondness for him becoming visible particularly from the younger generations.

Since his political retirement he spends his days often lecturing abroad speaking on subjects close to his heart: democracy, civil liberty and the free market.

WHAT TO SEE

HISTORICAL GATE #2 OF THE GDANSK SHIPYARD



Historic Gate #2

Paweł Czarzasty / ECS Archives

The #2 gate of the Gdańsk Shipyards is where Lech Walesa stood to announce to the waiting crowds the deal that had been struck with the Communist government in 1980. The image of the gate decked in flowers and images of Pope John Paul II is one of the most enduring of that era and the gate has since been listed as an historical monument. Even today you'll still see flowers placed here alongside the picture of the Pope. The gate was the scene of clashes in 2012 when the Lenin Shipyards name was put back over the entrance as part of the making of Andrzej Wajda's film 'Walesa', when protestors covered it in red paint. ► [ul. Doki 1](#).

JAN III SOBIESKI MONUMENT

A large bronze statue built in 1898 in memory of the Polish king who reigned in the 17th century and famously defeated the Turks at the gates of Vienna; thereby saving Europe from the Ottoman hordes. Originally displayed in Lviv, the monument was moved to Warsaw in 1950 before finally being shifted to Gdańsk in 1965. During martial law the monument became the starting point for several demonstrations and marches. ► [B-3, Targ Drzewny, Gdańsk](#).

MONUMENT TO THE FALLEN SHIPYARD WORKERS OF 1970

Lying right outside famous gate no. 2 to the Gdańsk Shipyards (formally the Lenin Shipyards) the monument was unveiled in 1980 to commemorate the events of 1970 when 45 people died during street riots protesting against the communist regime.

Along with wage demands and the right to form free trade unions, the right to erect this memorial was one of Solidarity's main demands during the 1980 lock-in. The 42-metre, 139-tonne steel sculpture stands on the spot where the first three victims of the 1970 riots were killed. There are three crosses to represent the three victims and the crosses themselves signify the suffering and sacrifice of all the protesters. At the top you see anchors signifying the men's profession and in the lower reaches the figures of their struggling comrades are depicted.

Solidarity leader Lech Walesa referred to this enormous steel structure as "a harpoon driven through the body of a whale. No matter how hard the whale struggles, it can never get rid of it."

The monument is marked by a poignant inscription by Czesław Miłosz: 'You who have harmed simple man, mocking him with your laughter, you kill him, someone else will be born, and your deeds and words will be written down'. ► B-1, Pl. Solidarności, Gdańsk.

ST. BRIDGET'S CHURCH

The parish church of the Gdansk Shipyards, the parish at St. Bridget's dates back to the late 14th century although the church was only rebuilt in 1973, and was home to the controversial anti-communist parish priest Father Henryk Jankowski. Father Jankowski was a strong critic of the communist regime and a strong supporter of the strikers particularly during the strikes when he would hold mass each morning in the yards. The church is an interesting stop as there a number of artefacts and memorials relating to Solidarnosc and you'll also find a statue to the late Father Jankowski who died in 2010. ► C-2/3, ul. Profesorska 17, Gdańsk, tel. (+48) 58 301 31 52, www.brygida.gdansk.pl. 10:00 - 18:00.

WAŁĘSA'S WALL

In 1980, as tensions rose quickly inside the shipyard following the sacking of crane operator Anna Walentyńowicz, the man who would become the face of the opposition found himself locked outside the yard. Lech Walesa had been fired himself a few years previously for his opposition to the shipyard bosses and government and with events on the other side of the wall threatening to escalate quickly and jeopardise protests already planned by Walesa and his activist colleagues, Walesa scaled a shipyard wall to take control of the strike. This story has become the stuff of legend but the fact is Walesa really did scale a wall on ul. Robotnicza to get into the closed yard. The section of wall over which Walesa climbed was cut out and placed on display next to a section of the Berlin Wall between the shipyards and railway station where it proudly stood until it was destroyed by a car crashing into it. What remained of the wall was moved to the permanent exhibition of the nearby ECS. ► B-1, ul. Wały Piastowskie 24, Gdańsk.



The body of Janek Wisniewski

Pawel Czarzasty / ECS Archives

JANEK WISNIEWSKI

It was not by accident that the strikers of 1980 confronted the authorities not face-on but instead by locking themselves into the Lenin Shipyards. Lessons from unrest in 1970 had been learnt and the leaders of the strikes realised that public demonstrations were likely to be met with the full-force of the State's security apparatus. This is exactly what had happened in Gdynia in December 1970 when shipyard workers from there (along with workers from Szczecin, Elblag and Gdansk) demonstrated against sudden price rises and food shortages. The authorities, conscious of the potential of a full-out workers' revolt reacted by sending in armed units of army and militia who opened fire on the protesting workers. Exact numbers of dead and wounded are unclear but it is thought that over 40 people were killed in the wave of protests including one young man who would become known as Janek Wiśniewski.

Protestors carried Wiśniewski's body through the streets of Gdynia on a door and this image was to become one of the most striking of the decades of unrest in Poland. The young man had been shot 3 times and his blood-stained body was to become a symbol representing all of the victims of this unrest. The body was actually that of an 18-year old man named Zbigniew Godlewski from nearby Elblag who was employed in the shipyards in Gdynia. At the time the body was being carried through the streets people were still unclear as to his true identity and a local songwriter, Krzysztof Dowigałło, penned a ballad to this unknown victim whom he named with a common name - Janek Wiśniewski. The ballad became a popular protest song and the young man became a legend.

The body of the young man was originally buried in Gdansk Oliwa before his family managed to get it moved to his home-town of Elblag. After the fall of communism streets in both Gdynia and Gdansk were renamed after the fictional character of Janek Wiśniewski while streets in his hometown of Elblag and Zielona Gora, where he spent his childhood holidays, were renamed after the real person of Zbigniew Godlewski. The story of Wiśniewski was told in the 1981 film Man of Iron and the events are also retold in the 2011 film Czarny czwartek (Black Thursday).

The last verse of the Ballad of Janek Wiśniewski gives you an idea of the power of the ballad inspired by this young man from Elblag.

*Don't cry mothers, it wasn't for naught
There's a flag with black ribbon over the shipyard
For bread and freedom, and a new Poland
Janek Wiśniewski fell*



Make time to visit the incredible Malbork Castle and note the Siege of Malbork is June 22-24 this year. | Photo by Michal Pawłowicz

The small town of Malbork some 60km south of Gdańsk on the main railway line between Warsaw and the coast offers visitors not only the world's biggest brick castle, but a number of other poignant and occasionally bizarre sights and sensations to boot. A delightful mix of medieval architecture, grey communist-era monstrosities and a handful of fascinating churches and monuments, Malbork is on closer inspection more than the sum of its UNESCO-listed fort. An improved range of accommodation possibilities and one or two better than average places to eat and drink make an overnight stay an attractive choice for those whose tourism philosophy extends beyond the indignity of spending a few hectic days hurtling around the country and being herded on and off a tour bus.

BY CAR

Malbork can be reached easily in a car thanks to the nearby A1 highway which runs south from Gdansk passing by Malbork on its way. If you are coming from Warsaw it is recommended that you head east out of the city following signs for the A2 autostrada to Lodz and Poznan. Approximately 100km from Warsaw you should turn north onto the A1 towards Gdansk. Whichever way you approach from you should turn off onto route 22 which will bring you into the centre of Malbork in about 15 minutes. The castle will be on your left as you enter the town.

Alternatively you can hire a taxi to take you and bring you back. While considerably more expensive than the train, the cost is still not prohibitive to most western visitors especially if there are a few of you. To book a taxi from Gdansk, which will cost you a minimum of 200zł depending on waiting time, call Neptun Taxi on (+48) 58 511 15 55.

BY TRAIN

Trains run regularly to Malbork from both the Tri-city and Warsaw. With both local and Intercity trains running to Malbork from the Tri-city it is worth spending the extra money to travel via Intercity or Express trains en-route to Warsaw and further south. The journey should take between 40 and 90 minutes depending on which part of the Tri-city you are travelling from. Be warned that Polish train stations carry the bare minimum number of signs informing you of the station you have reached so you should pay attention at stops to make sure you don't miss yours. For more information see the excellent www.rozklad-pkp.pl. The train station is less than 1km northeast of the town centre which can be reached on foot in less than 10 minutes. Taxis are parked outside, and cost around 10zł.

TAXIS

Malbork is a fairly compact town and the main street, Malbork Castle and the other sights worth seeing are all in walking distance of each other. If you decide to take a taxi these are companies that we can recommend.

TAXI (PL. WOLNOŚCI) ▶ A-2, tel. (+48) 55 647 21 20.

TAXI (TRAIN STATION) ▶ D-2, tel. (+48) 55 272 33 20.

WHAT TO SEE

Sightseeing in Malbork for many visitors IS the Castle but once you are done with the castle, it is worth giving the town a closer inspection. It reveals a number of other sights that despite being nowhere near as grand are both colourful and interesting.

HISTORY OF THE CASTLE

The UNESCO-protected Malbork (Marienburg) Castle came to prominence in 1309 when the Teutonic Knights made it their military and political headquarters. The largest brick castle in the world, which at its height covered a total of 21 hectares, was the centrepiece in what was once a ring of 120 castles surrounding the Teutonic Knights' territory.

The knights' power began to wane with defeat at the Battle of Grunwald in 1410 and the castle became the property of the Polish crown in 1457 when unpaid knights seized it and sold it on. For the next three hundred years Malbork served as a Royal Residence, and became a stopover point for monarchs making the journey between Gdansk and Warsaw. This ended in 1772 when Poland was partitioned and Malbork fell under Prussian control. The castle was turned into a military barracks and a cotton workshop added to the Grand Masters Palace. For the next three decades old Malbork (now Marienburg again) took a hammering, with cloisters and windows bricked up, gateways enlarged and outhouses dismantled. That the castle survived further attempts at 'modernization' was thanks only to a protracted campaign by the citizens of Berlin. Spurred by this public outcry the Prussian state embarked on something of a U-turn, and a huge programme of restoration was undertaken. The results were impressive, and by the early 20th century much of the castle had regained its original look.

But the 20th century wasn't kind to Malbork. On May 1, 1933 the swastika was raised over the castle, and for the next twelve years it was to become a favourite haunt of high-ranking Nazis. Plans were drafted to build an amphitheatre in the castle grounds, and it was in the Great Refectory that Nazi Gauleiter Albert Forster made a landmark speech in 1939 announcing that the territories on the left bank of the Wisla were to be incorporated into the Reich. Malbork's grandeur wasn't lost on the Nazis, and for the next few years its imposing courtyards and halls were used for swearing in ceremonies by the Hitler Youth and League of German Girls. With the tide of war turning steps were taken to protect Malbork, and in 1944 all stained glass was painstakingly removed. Even still, Malbork and its castle were smashed as the Marienburg Task Force and 2nd Russian Strike Force faced off in 1945. Over half the castle was destroyed, and black and white pictures from the day show the castle as little more than a desolate set of ruins. With no hope in sight the retreating Nazis dynamited the bridges spanning the Nogat, and the Siege of Malbork was lifted.

This all left Malbork in bad shape, with the brunt of the damage affecting the east side. Plundered by looters and abandoned by the state - who understandably had the unenviable task of rebuilding what was left of Poland - Malbork fell into abject decline. Finally, on January 1, 1961, the Malbork Castle Museum was founded and restoration work given the green light. It was a huge effort, but the meticulous restoration work was finally rewarded in 1997 when the castle was recognised by UNESCO as a World Heritage Site.

MALBORK CASTLE TODAY

Malbork Castle is one of the country's most impressive historical sites and attracts hundreds of thousands of visitors every year. Ongoing renovation are returning more of the castle to its original look and it is quite easy to spend a whole day here discovering each of the castles, viewing the various permanent and temporary exhibitions and relaxing in the grounds or one of the two on-site restaurants. A visit to the castle can be extremely rewarding but note that it involves a lot of walking and there are a number of narrow staircases which need to be negotiated. In addition to surplus of energy remember to bring a comfortable pair of walking shoes and a bottle of water, particularly on hot summer days.

Made up of three distinctly different ensembles known as the High Castle, Middle Castle and Outer Bailey and surrounded by a vast dry moat, the most impressive sights all lie within the High Castle, the Brethren Knights' original monastery, and the Middle Castle which served as the centre of the Teutonic Knights' political activity. Among the jaw-droppingly awesome collection of buildings, impossible to miss are the 14th-century Palace of the Grand Masters, the original residence of the so-called Grand Master of the Teutonic Order. The vaulted interiors are marked by columns that fan out like palm trees, supposedly to remind the knights of their Palestinian roots, and it's inside the main refectory you'll find one such palm supporting an entire ceiling - a cannonball hole can be spotted on a nearby wall from when Polish soldiers tried to collapse the pillar. They missed by just the narrowest of margins, the result of their vandalism still in evidence.

Also to visit is the breathtaking St. Mary's Church, the Grand Masters' final resting place and the impressive courtyard in the centre of the Middle Castle. Many rooms are open to the public, including during the summer a wonderful recreation of the Castle's mill hidden away in a garden in the southwest corner of the High Castle. In contrast to the spartan, simple style of the Grand Masters Chambers the rest of the castle is a trove of treasures, and includes an enormous collection of weaponry as well as an amber exhibition. Other rooms are devoted to the Teutonic life and feature the requisite collection of armour, flags and goblets.

Ticket prices come inclusive of a guide and you can either join one of the regularly departing groups or pick up one of the limited numbers of audioguides. Tickets, tours and information are all found in the modern Malbork Castle Museum building set just outside the walls on the south-east side. ► G-3, ul. Starościńska 1, tel. (+48) 55 647 09 02, www.zamek.malbork.pl. Castle open 10:00 - 19:00. Admission 39.50/29.50 zł.



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WHAT TO SEE

The first thing you'll notice about the old town in Malbork, which can trace its history back to the XIV century, is that it no longer exists. After spending 30 minutes wandering around with a map trying to find it, the fact that you're in it suddenly, somewhat depressingly, dawns on you. Almost completely destroyed during fierce fighting between the retreating Germans and the Red Army towards the end of WWII, the communist town planners set about demolishing what was left of the old town (usable bricks were shipped off to help re-build the old towns of Gdansk and Warsaw) and then rebuilding the area with gay abandon. They put up large modern tenement blocks where the original medieval buildings had stood leaving the few surviving structures to stand amongst these new blocks as if they had been dropped into the landscape from outer space. Because of its tragic modern history there are many towns and cities in Poland whose pre-war beauty was destroyed during WWII to be replaced by functional concrete structures that aged badly. However in all our time writing guides in Poland we have never seen the damage caused by WWII so clearly demonstrated. Particularly poignant are old photographs of the bustling pre-war town centre (which was set around what is now Trakt Jana Pawła II (A-2) which can be seen inside the Old Town Hall (Ratusz Staromiejskie) and then to compare them to the deserted streets you'll find today on what is now an old, but cleaned-up, housing development with communist-era shopping arcade. That said, what little that did survive WWII is worth hunting down.

CHURCH OF ST. JOHN THE BAPTIST

The church of St. John the Baptist has occupied this spot since the late XIII century but has taken many forms due to rebuilding after suffering damage in numerous wars. When it was originally built it was the first place of worship outside of the castle walls. This first church was completely destroyed in the Thirteen Year War between the Kingdom of Poland, with her Prussian allies and the Teutonic Order during which Malbork came under Polish rule. A new brick church with wooden belfry was built following the end of the war (between 1467 and 1523) but was destroyed once again at the end of the XVII century.

Damaged again in the battle for Malbork in 1945 the church was repaired and given to the Sons of Divine Providence, a Roman Catholic religious order, in 1957. The church contains some artefacts worth seeking out including an early XV century limestone sculpture of St. Elizabeth of Turin, a Neo-Gothic altar and two XIV century granite fonts. Pick up a leaflet inside the church for a few more points of interest but please do not visit when a service is taking place. ▶ **G-4, os. Stare Miasto 22, tel. (+48) 55 273 37 94, www.jan.rel.pl. The church is only open before the 08:30 and 18:00 services at weekends.**

MARY'S GATE

Walking south along Trakt Jana Pawła II takes you to the old town's final gem. The scruffy-looking Brama Mariacka (Mary's Gate) like Brama Garncarska was originally built in the second half of the XIV century on the instructions of

Teutonic Grand Master Winrich von Kniprode as part of a new system of defences for the town. During the centuries a moat and later a second line of defensive walls were built to protect the gate while the inside once housed a chapel. In 1838 a fire destroyed the roof which was rebuilt with a new structure added featuring a clock tower. Completely burnt out by fire and riddled with bullet holes at the end of WWII the gate stood desolate until the mid-60s when it was finally rebuilt. An external staircase was added in the 1970s and a cafe operated inside for a time before another fire in the early 1980s caused a great deal of damage inside the building which weakened the structure as well. Today it stands waiting its turn to be repaired and cleaned up and in the meantime plays host to the unusual Baszta pub. ▶ **G-4, Al. Rodła.**

MONUMENT OF KING KAZIMIERZ IV JAGIELLOŃCZYK

On June 8, 1457 Polish king Kazimierz IV Jagiellonczyk rode into Marienburg (Malbork) Castle after Poland took possession of it from Teutonic mercenaries and took homage from the town burghers. This event marked the beginning of the 'Polish era' in the town which was to last for over three hundred years up until the First Partition of Poland by Prussia and Russia in 1772. King Kazimierz's (Casimir in English) reign is seen as the beginning of the Polish Golden Age during which time the Jagiellonian dynasty became one of the leading royal houses in Europe. Kazimierz was the second son of Władysław II Jagiello, the Grand Duke of Lithuania who took Christian baptism and married the Polish Queen Jadwiga so uniting the two nations in an alliance that would deal the first of a series of ultimately fatal blows to the Teutonic Order at the Battle of Grunwald in 1410. Kazimierz, already Grand Duke of Lithuania, came to the throne of Poland in 1447 at the age of 20 and his 45 years on the throne saw Poland and Lithuania's position strengthened through Kazimierz's marriage to Elisabeth of Austria and a series of alliances with other central European dynasties which eventually saw the combined Polish and Lithuanian territories stretch from Estonia to the Black Sea. Kazimierz died in 1492 and is buried in the Royal Crypt at Wawel in Krakow.

This 3.5m tall bronze statue was unveiled in 2010 and is intended to remind people that the town has a strong Polish history as well as Prussian/German and Teutonic.

▶ **B-2, Pl. Kazimierza Jagiellończyka.**

TOURIST INFORMATION

TOURIST INFORMATION CENTRE

The local Tourist Information Centre can be found in a beautiful building in the centre of the town, 10 minutes walk from the train station and a further 10 from the castle. If you're arriving in the town this should be your first point of call to pick up maps, guides and information. You'll also find a range of gifts and souvenirs and not least a very friendly and helpful, multi-lingual staff. ▶ **H-4, ul. Kościuszki 54, tel. (+48) 55 647 47 47, www.visitmalbork.pl. Open 08:00 - 18:00, Sat, Sun 10:00 - 16:00.**

OLD TOWN HALL

Standing forlornly on Trakt Jana Pawła II, is the rather splendid but awfully lonely looking Ratusz Staromiejski (Old Town Hall). Its current form dates from 1380 although it has been altered many times over the years following attacks and sieges on the city. It was home to the town's authorities all the way up to 1929 when they moved to the new town hall found on the other side of the road from Mary's Gate. The old town hall then became home to the town's police and it was a place of terror for local Poles and resistance fighters during the war. On the outside walls you'll find plaques honouring the fighters of the 'Młody Las' (Young Forest) who fought a resistance war against the Germans between 1941 and 1945 in the area around the northern Vistula river, Warmia and Masuria, and another honouring activists who campaigned to Polishise Malbork in a plebiscite after the war.

The old town hall stood derelict for a number of years after the war as there were greater priorities at the time and was eventually rebuilt between 1959 and 1961. These days it stands as a small reminder of what this part of town once looked like and the covered arcade at its front is an example of how the walkway that ran along this side of the street would have looked. The Ratusz today houses a Youth Cultural Centre and you can walk into the ground floor where you will see a collection of photos of a bustling old Malbork which serve to reinforce the rather ghostly atmosphere of the area. ▶ **G-4, Stare Miasto.**

POTTERS' GATE

At the junction of ul. Piłsudskiego and ul. 17-go Marca is the attractive Brama Garncarska or Potters Gate, which in the past has also gone by the names Holy Spirit Gate or Elbląg Gate. Built in the second half of the XIV century as part of the original defensive town walls and gave access to the city to routes from the east. Built of brick with three spans, five floors and a four-sided tiled roof, note the access at the top of the gate for winching supplies. The building served as a youth hostel before the war and was rebuilt in 1955 after suffering damage during WWII. Today it has been restored and they only way to see inside is to go into the jewellerys now housed on the ground floor. ▶ **G-4, ul. Piłsudskiego.**

THE LATIN SCHOOL BUILDING

A brand new building constructed around the ruins of what was once the Latin School. Building first took place here in the late XIV century and though its original purpose is unknown it is thought to have been the home of the Brotherhood of St. George.

From the second half of the XVI century a school was here and from 1603 it was called the Latin School. Over the next 250 years the building was extended and modernised until the school finally moved into new premises on what is now ul. 17-go Marca in 1866. It appears that the building was then used as a warehouse before suffering fire in 1899 and destruction in 1945.

The lower walls on the river side have survived since medieval times and what you see today is home to a Cultural and Educational Centre incorporating a planetarium, museum of crafts and conference centre. ▶ **G-4, Stare Miasto.**



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www.patrzalkowie.pl




Take a spin around the bay at high speed on a speedboat, or paraglide, or jet ski, or windsurf...

BIKE RENTAL

RENT A BIKE

Bike hire available close to the pier. Found outside of the Zhong Hua Chinese hotel, 2 minutes walk to the south of the pier, bikes can be hired from an hour right up to a week. Also available are 3 wheel pedal go-carts. Also at M-3, Al. Mamuszki (next to Atelier Club), Sopot. ▶ M-4, Al. Wojska Polskiego (next to Zhong Hua Hotel), Sopot, tel. (+48) 798 46 35 51. Closed until May. Bikes 10zł/hour, 25zł/3 hours, 35zł/5 hours, 50zł/day, 200zł/week. Go-carts 7-9zł/half hour or 12-14zł/hour. 2-people go-carts 30 min - 10zł, 1hr - 15zł.

TOURBIKE/ SOPOCKI ROWER

Seasonal rental point open until the end of September working from the terrace of the Sheraton hotel. Included in the price are maps, helmets (for adults and children), child seats, bicycle locks and trailers. ▶ M-6, Skwer Kuracyjny, tel. (+48) 518 51 84 58, www.sopockirower.pl. Open 10:00 - 19:00. 20zł/1 hour, 60zł/day. 

BOAT RENTAL & RIVER CRUISES

CZARNA PERŁA

The sister ship of the Galleon Lew offers a similar experience with English and German speaking guides on board. The ship cruises to Westerplatte and back again with departures at 11:00, 13:00, 15:00, 17:00 and 19:00 with the last sailing only picking up at Westerplatte, not dropping off. Return journeys from Westerplatte leave at 11:35, 13:35,

15:35, 17:35, 19:35. Find it docked at the quay next to the Green Gate (Zielona Brama) from where it will sail until the end of September. ▶ C-5, Długie Pobrzeże, Gdańsk, tel. (+48) 519 14 02 01, www.czarnaperla-czarter.pl. Tickets 30/20zł one-way or 40/25zł return.

GALEON LEW

Ship ahoy - take a pirate cruise on a galleon contraption from Gdańsk to Westerplatte. Cruises leave from the dock down next to the water close to the Green Gate (Zielona Brama) each day with journeys departing at 10:00, 12:00, 14:00, 16:00, 18:00. Catch the return at 10:35, 12:35, 14:35, 16:35, 18:35. You'll get an English and German language guide on-board. Great for the kids, but even better for the adults (think beer and sea shanties). Once it has finished cruising for the day it turns into a quayside bar for the evening. Catch it until the end of September. ▶ C-5, Długie Pobrzeże, Gdańsk, tel. (+48) 519 14 02 01, www.czarnaperla-czarter.pl/. Tickets 30/20zł one-way, 40/25zł return.

PIRATE SHIPS

A mock pirate ship (Regina) which offers 50 minute cruises of the bay with on-board bar and grill restaurant. Also available for private charter, the ship anchors at the end of the breakwater opposite the aquarium. Ship sail in high season (generally May - September) and becomes a floating restaurant at other times of the year. ▶ O-1, Al. Jana Pawła II (Nabrzeże Prezydenta), Gdynia, tel. (+48) 507 96 91 83, www.dragon-dragon.com.pl. Open 11:00 - 17:00. Tickets 30/20zł.

STATEK PIRAT

Available until the end of September (subject to the weather), the Statek Pirat (literally the Pirate Ship) has become a feature of the Sopot summer. The 40 minute cruises (which depart every 80 minutes from 11:00 until dusk - you do the maths) around the bay are strangely therapeutic, particularly when you take advantage of their on-board bar. Also keep an eye out for their sunset cruises which are well-worth experiencing and their on-board galley serving simple but good Polish dishes. ▶ **M-4, Molo (Pier), Sopot**, tel. (+48) 724 24 24 81, www.statekpirat.pl. Open 11:00 - 20:00. Tickets 35/25zł. Children under 3 years free.

BOWLING & BILLIARDS**GREEN CLUB**

We'll be honest - we would once have been a little wary of travelling out to Zaspas for a night out let alone recommending a visitor do the same. That's not the case anymore and if pool, called *bilard* in Polish, is your game this is the place to spend an evening. Featuring 16 9-foot pool tables and 2 12-foot snooker tables you can risk not booking ahead despite its popularity. A well-stocked bar, bar-food, friendly staff and clientele and lots of TV screens and seating mean this is a great place for a night out watching for watching or playing sport (or both as we typically do). Find it next to the

Gdansk-Zaspas railway station. ▶ **E-3, ul. Hynka 69, Gdańsk**, tel. (+48) 58 761 82 93, www.greenclub.pl. Open 12:00 - 24:00, Fri, Sat 12:00 - 01:30. Tables cost 18zł all week to rent.

MK BOWLING

Bar, bowling and billiards in the largest bowling alley in the city. Found inside the Manhattan shopping mall in Gdansk-Wrzeszcz. ▶ **Al. Grunwaldzka 82 (Manhattan Shopping Mall), Gdańsk**, tel. (+48) 58 767 71 37, www.mkbowling.pl/start-gdansk. Open 12:00 - 24:00, Fri, Sat 12:00 - 04:00. Prices range from 39-79zł per hour, per lane.

BUNGEE JUMPING**BUNGEE JUMPING**

You can jump from a height of 90m at the arena's bungee jump. You don't need to book in advance as jumps are subject to the weather conditions and it's open only between May and October. We'll admit we haven't had the courage to try it but we're assured it's good fun by those who have. You can book them to film you doing it and they make great play of the fact the cost of the Gdansk jump is just a third of the comparable jump in Berlin. Interestingly their website says you have to be sober to do it which probably rules us out forever. ▶ **ul. Pokoleń Lechii Gdańsk 1, Gdańsk (Letnica)**, tel. (+48) 732 60 66 24, www.skokibungee.pl. Open 12:00 - 18:00. Single jump 130zł. Tandem jump 260zł.



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biggest trampoline park**

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**Gdynia, ul. Tadeusza Wendy 7/9
call 58 380 07 70 go to www.jumpcity.pl**



Leisure

FOOTBALL

ARKA GDYNIA

Arka Gdynia can be found playing at the spanking new 15,000 seater stadium built on the site of their old one at Gdynia-Redłowo. Foreign visitors are best advised to take to the posh seats in one of the main stands (Trybuna Olimpijska or Trybuna Olimpijska B). Tickets can be bought at the Arka Gdynia Fan Shop next to the stadium in the lead-up to games.

Arka currently ply their trade in the 1st division (2nd level) although as we were going to press promotion to the Ekstraklasa was looking highly probable. Kick-offs are subject to confirmation so please check their website.

May 21, 17:30 Chojniczanka Chojnice

June 4, Chrobry Głogów ► **ul. Olimpijska 5, Gdynia (Redłowo)**, tel. (+48) 58 785 30 70, www.arka.gdynia.pl. Trybuna Olimpijska 25/20zł. Trybuna Olimpijska B 41/36zł.

LECHIA GDAŃSK

Supporters wishing to catch a game will get to see the wonderful Gdansk PGE Arena found about 5km north of the old town close to the beaches at Brzeźno and home to local side Lechia Gdańsk.

The best tickets in the main stands are priced at 25/13zł in sectors 3 and 45 or 55/28zł in sectors 1 and 2. In Your Pocket recommends heading for sectors 15 or 16 where you will have view, atmosphere and safety with prices also at a palatable 40/20zł. You can buy tickets in advance at one of the Fan Shops (Galeria Bałtycka has one), or on the club's website.


To get to the stadium from the centre of Gdansk you can either jump in a taxi which will set you back 20-25zł. By public transport from the main station take the #7 tram or jump on the special local SKM train which runs to the Stadion Expo stop next to the ground. Note that this only runs on matchdays. The regular SKM services to Sopot and Gdynia do not travel to this station and instead you will need to get off at Gdańsk Politechnika and then take a 15 minute walk from there.

For 2016/17 fixtures and kick-off times please check the 'Sports' section of our What's On chapter online.

► **H-4, PGE Arena, ul. Pokoleń Lechii Gdańsk 1, Gdańsk (Letnica)**, tel. (+48) 58 768 84 01, www.lechia.pl.

ESCAPE ROOMS

LET ME OUT

The fashion for Escape Rooms has reached the Tri-city and Let Me Out have opened up three rooms close to the centre. Perfect for a rainy day, the idea is that you (and up to three other people) are locked into a room. You have 45 minutes to work out how to get out using clues contained in the room. It's great fun and the rooms have different themes and therefore different puzzles to solve. ► **D-5, ul. Spichrzowa 28, Gdańsk**, tel. (+48) 730 94 92 23, www.letmeout.pl. Open 11:30 - 21:00, Sat, Sun 10:00 - 21:00. 99zł (or €25) for groups of 2-4 people. 

WALKOUT

There are four different rooms which you can choose to be locked in. You then have an hour to figure out how to get out using the various objects lying around the themed room. Excellent fun for small groups on a rainy day. ► **O-1, Skwer Kościuszki 15/9, Gdynia**, tel. (+48) 600 93 16 13, www.walkout.pl. Open 10:00 - 22:00. 78-150zł per group of 2-5 people, depending on the room chosen and the day of the week.

GOLF

MINIGOLF CLUB SOPOT

The first officially registered minigolf club in Poland it's very basic but nonetheless a bit of fun. Located along the beach at entrance 42 near Sopot Sailing Club. Putting fee 10zł. ► **M-6, ul. Hestii 5-7, Sopot**, tel. (+48) 502 74 86 61. Open 12:00 - 19:00.

SIERRA GOLF CLUB

One of the two most popular golf clubs in the area with this one located near Wejherowo. They offer 18 holes, with green fee and there are also two simulators. Open all year depending on the weather and golf simulators for those days that it doesn't. ► **Pętkowice, Wejherowo**, tel. (+48) 663 66 66 20, www.sierragolf.pl. Open 08:00 - 20:00. Simulators cost 60-100zł per hr. Driving range 18zł for 30 balls.

GO-CARTING

KART CENTER

If you like karting, you'll love Kart Center. A high-speed 520 metre, outdoor track full of twists, turns, chicanes and reputedly the only bridge on a Polish go-kart circuit. You race the clock, not each other, and you will be presented with a set of lap times after your 8-minute series of laps with which you can retreat with to the on-site bar to compare with your mates. Special functions catered for, all equipment available to hire and late night racing have made this a very popular venue for budding Kubica's. Open subject to weather. ► **L-5, ul. 3 Maja 69c, Sopot**, tel. (+48) 692 27 79 78, www.kartcenter.pl. Open 10:00 - 20:00, Sat, Sun 10:00 - 21:00. Race sessions last approx. 8 mins. 45zł.

PITSTOP PETROL GO-KARTS

The Pit-Stop team run one indoor track featuring electric carts all-year round and a second featuring petrol powered carts outdoors during the warmer months (typically April to October). The track is challenging enough and the carts quick enough to make it interesting. ► **ul. Pokoleń Lechii Gdańsk 1, Gdańsk (Letnica)**, tel. (+48) 733 87 08 70, www.pitstop-gdansk.pl. Open 12:00 - 22:00, Sat, Sun 11:00 - 22:00. 30-35zł/8mins (depending on the day of the week).

 vine.co/inyourpocket

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www.experyment.gdynia.pl

DISASTER AT SEA

The sinking of the Wilhelm Gustloff on January 30, 1945 rates as the worst maritime disaster in history. Originally used as a deluxe Nazi cruise liner, the vessel had been based in Gdynia for much of the war. With the Eastern Front collapsing, German Admiral Doenitz ordered the evacuation of German civilians and wounded troops from the Tri-City region. Overcrowded with refugees seeking safety from the advancing Red Army, the Gustloff limped out of the port of the Gdynia apparently destined for either Rostock or Szczecin. Just minutes after relaying an address to the nation by Adolf Hitler, the Gustloff - named in memory of the assassinated leader of the Swiss Nazi party - was hit by three torpedoes from the Soviet submarine S-13. Within 50 minutes the 650-foot vessel had sunk to the bottom of the Bay of Gdańsk. Freezing temperatures, overcrowding and a shortage of lifeboats meant that of the estimated 10,000 passengers, only 500 survived; a figure that is seven times the number that died on the Titanic. Ignoring rules of engagement S-13 continued to fire torpedoes at rescue ships. The captain of the Gustloff, predictably, managed to scramble to safety. Today the ship lies 42 metres below the ocean surface, marked as a maritime grave. Following the war S-13's captain, Alexander Marinesko, was awarded the honour of Hero of the Soviet Union. But in a final twist Marinesko fell out of favour with communist officials and was sentenced to hard labour in the Gulag after being caught selling bricks on the blackmarket. He died in 1963 a forgotten man.

INDOOR ATTRACTIONS

BLOKFIT

To describe this as a complex of climbing walls would be to seriously undersell it. This is what is described to us as 'Bouldering'. You'll need to be in shape to do it as it involves clambering up overhanging artificial rock faces using one of the 7,000+ footholds spread over 1,000m². We'll admit we haven't got the physique for it but if you like a fitness challenge this is definitely for you. ▶ E-4, ul. Słowackiego 1 a, Gdańsk, tel. (+48) 58 728 49 55, www.blokit.pl. Open 10:00 - 23:00, Mon 13:00 - 23:00, Sun 09:00 - 21:00. Admission normal 24zł, concessionary 20zł.

CENTRUM HEWELIANUM

Set inside the guts of the Napoleonic-era Fort Grodzisko, set into the hill overlooking the city, the Centrum Hewelianum is a science park/museum built to honour Johannes Hevelius (Jan Heweliusz in Polish), the famed astronomer born in this city in 1611. The exhibition consists of two parts, the first of which is called Wehikuł Czasu - Człowiek i Pocisk (Time machine - the Human and the Bullet). Set inside the brick tunnels of this 19th century fortress, the exhibition recreates what the fort would have looked like when it was first built, its atmospheric corridors filled with cannons, weaponry and lifelike mannequins in period uniform. The second part


of the exhibition is titled 'Z energią' (With Energy). This does a good job of making sense of science in a fun manner that's accessible to all ages. Featuring plenty of machines, computers and interactive gadgets this is one of those museums that encourages visitors to get hands on. Keep an eye out for a WWII anti-aircraft battery located in the grounds. You'll also find a set of exhibits under the titles 'Around the World'; 'Puzzle!'; 'Time Machine - Fun with History' and 'Pan Kleks' Laboratory' which is based on the character of a popular Polish children's book. ▶ A-3, ul. Gradowa 6, Gdańsk, tel. (+48) 58 742 33 52, www.hewelianum.pl. Wehikuł Czasu - Człowiek i Pocisk exhibition: Open 09:00 - 18:00. Closed Mon. All other parts of the exhibition: Open 08:30 - 15:30; Sat, Sun 10:00 - 16:00. Closed Mon. From July open 10:00 - 17:00. Closed Mon. Wehikuł Czasu - Człowiek i Pocisk exhibition: Admission free. All other parts of the exhibition: Admission 9-13/7-9zł, family ticket 23-30zł.

CENTRUM NAUKI EXPERYMENT

An excellent addition to the entertainment options in Gdynia particularly if you have younger children in tow. The Experyment Science Centre has moved into a brand new glass building and forms the showpiece of the Pomeranian Science and Technology Park, one of the city's proudest investments. The number and choice of interactive displays or 'experiments' has been markedly improved and are classified into one of four categories - Hydroworld, Operation-Human, The Tree of Life and Invisible Forces. You are encouraged to discover the world around you and how it works by pushing, pulling, jumping and experiencing rather than simply looking. You'll learn how different phenomenon in our everyday lives work and thanks to the English translations you as a foreign guest can gain a full understanding of each exhibit. Children will love it and though all set inside one large room, the number of experiments and the sheer enjoyment of it will keep them busy for hours. Our favourite - probably trying to outrun a lion on a treadmill. ▶ N-4, Al. Zwycięstwa 96/98, Gdynia, tel. (+48) 58 698 21 37, www.experyment.gdynia.pl. Open 09:00 - 18:00; Sat, Sun 10:00 - 19:00. Closed Mon. Admission 20/12zł.

GDYNIA AQUARIUM (AKWARIUM GDYŃSKIE)

A perfect place to visit on days when the weather forces you inside, the Gdynia Aquarium is stuffed with over 2,000 creatures and pint-sized guests will delight in seeing every one. Attractions like the dwarf crocodile, keep the exhibits fresh, and children will beg to adopt a frisky Chinese softshell turtle of their own. Exhibits cover marine life from across the globe, like Australian spotted jellyfish and Amazon-dwelling giant arapaima, but also delve into the evolution of submersible technology through the decades. The third floor Baltic Room is devoted to understanding the sea literally right outside the Aquarium's windows, but a history of the sea will take a backseat to the giant 44 kg cod - the largest creature ever caught in the Baltic - dangling over your head. There's also something called 'Akwarium pod lupą' which literally means 'Aquarium under the microscope' and which allows you to examine very small fish swimming through magnified glass. English

placards are spotty at best, so parents be prepared to make up origins for the colourful tomato clownfish and the pancake-like moonfish. A large open-air deck offers the idea place to take in aquatic views and have a snack if the weather permits. ► **O-1, Al. Jana Pawła II 1, Gdynia, tel. (+48) 58 732 66 01, www.akwarium.gdynia.pl. Open 09:00 - 19:00. From June open 09:00 - 20:00. From July open 09:00 - 21:00. Last entrance 30 minutes before closing. Admission 24/16zł. Children under 4 free admission. Audioguides available for 2zł or you can download a version to your iPhone.** 

JUMPCITY

A lot of fun for the kids. An old industrial unit in the port area has been cleaned up and dozens of industrial strength trampolines have been installed. They whole area combined must be close to the size of a football field. There are different areas, each safely netted off from the others and most importantly the ground, so you can throw yourself into the fun fully without fear of flying off. Perfect for rainy day and kids' parties you buy tickets for set time periods and away you go. ► **ul. Tadeusza Wendy 7/9, Gdynia (Śródmieście), tel. (+48) 58 380 07 70, www.jumpcity.pl. Open 10:00 - 22:00. 30 mins 25zł/20zł, 60 mins 30zł/25zł, 90 mins 40zł/35zł, 120 mins 50zł/45zł.**

LOOPY'S WORLD

A Swedish-born chain of entertainment centres aimed specifically at kids aged 13 and under. This place is as mad as they come, with features including electric cars, mini-basketball, penalty shootouts, slides, trampolines and even a train. The new face of playgrounds and the sort of place that has you wishing you were a nipper. A newly added 'Budowisko' gives kids the chance to build using 1,100 building blocks while the 'Laser Chamber' and something called an 'Extreme Platform' which involves wearing special glasses and entering a virtual world have got the kids begging to visit again. ► **Al. Grunwaldzka 229, Gdańsk (Oliwa), tel. (+48) 58 347 73 10, www.loopys.pl. Open 10:00 - 20:00, Fri, Sat 10:00 - 21:00.**

OUTDOOR ATTRACTIONS & PARKS

GDAŃSK ZOO

One of Poland's best zoos, set in the forests of Oliwa and at a fraction of the price of visiting a western zoo. On show are a host of wild animals with the kids' favourites being the lions, elephants, hippos, chimpanzees and giraffes. On a pleasant day it is quite possible to spend most of the day here as the park makes for a pleasant and quite exhausting walk and there are additional attractions such as staggered feeding times, a train tour of the whole park and a central food area with some small kids' rides and donkey rides for the kids. Bus N°179 runs from the Oliwa Pętla stop all the way to the front gate. ► **ul. Karwieńska 3, Gdańsk (Oliwa), tel. (+48) 58 552 17 51, www.zoo.gd.pl. Open 09:00 - 19:00. Last entrance 1 hour before closing. Admission 25/15zł.**

GDAŃSK IYP ONLINE

Due to space restrictions in our print guide, we're actually only able to publish a fraction of all the content we have on Gdansk, Sopot, Gdynia and the surrounding region, not to mention all of Poland. Visit our website - poland.inyourpocket.com - to see just how much of the country we cover, and to download guides to **Warsaw, Krakow, Wrocław, Katowice** and other cities you might be travelling to. Below is a small sampling of great content we didn't have room for this issue, with links to where you'll find it online. Thanks for reading *In Your Pocket!*

COMMUNIST EUROVISION



You might be aware that back in the days of the Cold War, Poland, and in particular Sopot played host to the Communist world's equivalent of the Eurovision Song Contest every year. Set in the wonderful Forest Opera this

episode is just part of the history of what is today one of Europe's finest open-air theatre stages.

Read more about the Forest Opera and the 'Interwizja' contest here.

iyp.me/forestopera

FROMBORK & NICHOLAS COPERNICUS



Copernicus, the man who revealed to the world that the earth orbited the sun and not the other way around, was born in Torun and did much of his research in the coastal town of Frombork. You can visit the town

easily from Gdansk and discover more about the man, whose remains were discovered in the town's cathedral only in 2010.

To find out how to get to Frombork and what Copernicus achieved there take a look at:

iyp.me/frombork

PHOENIX FROM THE FLAMES



Are you trying to reconcile the fact that the buildings in the city you are walking through appear to be hundreds of years old while regularly being presented with evidence that the area of the old town was nearly completely flattened at the end of WWII? The story of what was rebuilt at the end of WWII and also how and why is covered in our feature Phoenix from the Flames.

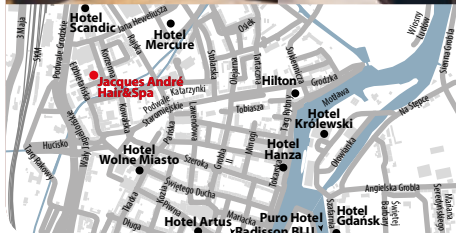
To find out how the city came to becoming a pearl of Socialist Modernism take a look at:

iyp.me/phoenix

Jacques André

HAIR & SPA

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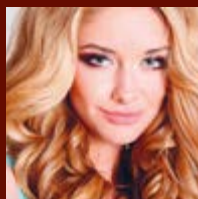
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Gdynia, CH Riviera • tel. +48 58 779 07 07

www.jandre.pl

kontakt@jandre.pl

KASHUBIA CULTURAL AND EDUCATION CENTER

About half way between Kartuzy and Kościerzyna lies the tiny settlement of Szymbark where you'll discover the closest thing you'll find to a theme park in the area. For a start there's the longest plank of wood in the world (36.83 metres and with a Guinness certificate to boot). And as if one Guinness Book of World Records entry wasn't enough they also have the world's biggest concert piano which weighs in at a massive 2 tonnes. There's a reconstruction of one of the bunkers used by the local wartime resistance movement, Gryf Pomorski where you'll find yourself in a blackened room, the scream of dive bombers played from speakers at ear breaking level. For many the undisputed highlight proves to be 'the upside down house', a great big wooden lodge quite literally dropped on its head. If you think it looks weird from the outside, then join the line and step inside. ▶ ul. Szymbarskich Zakładników 12, Szymbark, tel. (+48) 58 684 69 33, www.cepr.pl. Open 09:00 - 19:00, Sun 10:00 - 19:00. Admission 18zł, children under 6 years free.



PORT BRZEŻNO

An open-air family play park out near the beach in the Gdansk district of Brzeżno featuring a series of rope parks for all levels - small children to experts. There's also something they call an 'Adrenaline Jump' which is a lot of fun. ▶ ul. Przedłużenie Alei Jana Pawła II (next to the path to Brzeżno Pier), Gdańsk (Brzeżno), tel. (+48) 570 23 74 97, www.portbrzezno.pl. Open 12:00 - 19:00, Sat, Sun open 10:30 - 19:00. Closed Mon. Prices for the three routes (Green, Orange and Red) range from 25-40zł per go while a pass for the Yellow route (children from 3 years of age) is 15zł for the whole day.

PRIVATE BEACHES

SHERATON SOPOT BEACH

A fenced off part of the beach in front of the Sheraton which is open to non-guests of the hotel. Sunbeds come free of charge for guests but you'll have to pay if you're visiting. There's also a beach bar offering cocktails, drinks, sandwiches and salads and its location next to the pier means, for a price, you can have the location without the crowds. ▶ M-4, ul. Powstańców Warszawy 10 (Beach), Sopot, tel. (+48) 58 767 10 00, www.sheraton.pl/sopot. Beach and beach bar open between May 26 and September 10. Beach open 09:00 - 19:00. Beach bar open 10:00 - 19:00. 2 sunbeds 120zł, 4 sunbeds 200zł.

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SWIMMING

AQUAPARK

Found just off the main Gdańsk-Sopot-Gdynia road (nearest train station Sopot Kamienny Potok) the complex consists of a three-lane, 25m long pool, a recreational swimming pool featuring cascades and a water grotto and a pool specially designed for children featuring slides, geysers and water cannons. A seasonal outdoor pool with slides and climbing frames is also open during the summer. ▶ M-2, ul. Zamkowa Góra 3-5, Sopot, tel. (+48) 58 555 85 23, www.aquaparksopot.pl. Open 08:00 - 22:00. Prices valid until June 30. Pool tickets: Mon - Fri 18zł/1 hr, 38zł /3 hrs, all day 47zł; Sat, Sun 23/18zł/ 1hr, 45/40zł /3 hrs and 55/50zł all day.

WATER FUN

EXTREME

If you want to know how to get onto one of those huge bananas you see flying across the bay pulled by a motor boat these are the people to contact. Boat rental and hire of water bananas costs 30zł, miscellaneous inflatables cost 40zł and para-sailing costs 150zł (or 250zł for 2 of you to go together). Water scooters also available for 120zł/15mins and motor boat rental 500zł/hour. ▶ M-4, Sopot beach (to the right of Zhong Hua Hotel), tel. (+48) 603 12 08 88, www.extreme.sopot.pl. Open to individual members of the public from June 25, group bookings only prior to that date) Open until the end of August. Open 10:00 - dusk.

SPA & BEAUTY

GRAND SPA

Find a wide range of Sopot spa treatments in the luxurious surroundings of Sopot's signature Grand Hotel, overlooking the gardens and beach. Also available are a hammam, sauna, gym and swimming pool. ▶ M-4, ul. Powstańców Warszawy 12/14 (Sofitel Grand Sopot Hotel), Sopot, tel. (+48) 58 520 60 85, www.sofitel-grand-sopot.com. Swimming pool and fitness centre open 07:00 - 22:00. SPA open 09:00 - 22:00.

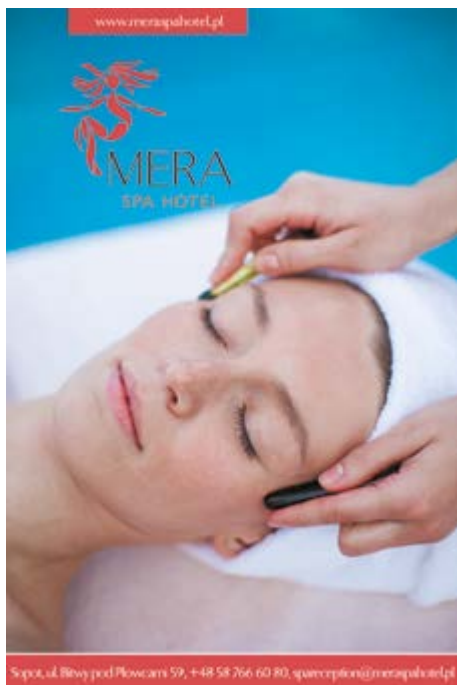
HOTEL HAFFNER SPA

Located in the plush Haffner Hotel a range of spa and beauty treatments are available for guests and non-guests. Included in their offer are facials at 100zł, massages at 50zł as well as a range of treatments including Babor, Bioline, Alessandro, Filorga and Mesoestetic with prices starting from 150zł. Haffner also has a pool, weight room and sauna available. ▶ M-3, ul. Haffnera 59, Sopot, tel. (+48) 58 550 98 53, www.hotelhaffner.pl. Swimming pool open 07:00 - 22:00. Treatments 08:00 - 22:00 by prior reservation.



Get the In Your Pocket
City Essentials App





JACQUES ANDRÉ

A complete and beauty spa service under one roof - well a series of roofs actually as they have 4 premises in the Tri-city. The most central is just on the edge of Gdansk old town where you will find a team of experts to pamper you to within an inch of your life. You'll find hairdressers and stylists, cosmetologists, masseurs and manicurists who are all specialists in different forms of their particular fields. As well as their old town location you will also find them at Galeria Bałtycka, Riviera in Gdynia and the Carrefour centre in the Morena district, so you can shop and pamper yourself in one trip. ▶ B-3, ul. Elżbietańska 9/10, Gdańsk, tel. (+48) 58 682 06 63, www.jandre.pl. Open 09:00 - 21:00, Sat 09:00 - 17:00. Closed Sun.

MERA SPA

The impressive Mera hotel offers a comprehensive range of spa and beauty treatments (including their own range of cosmetics) along with Finnish saunas and 8 indoor and outdoor pools and Jacuzzis. There are 35 modern treatment rooms offering everything from body and facial treatments to massage and complete spa packages specially designed for women, men, couples and even children. In good weather you have to finish with a drink at their rooftop bar and pool. ▶ M-6, ul. Bitwy pod Płowcami 59 (Mera SPA Hotel), Sopot, tel. (+48) 58 766 60 80, www.mera-spa.com. SPA zone open 10:00 - 21:00; Fri, Sat, Sun 08:00 - 22:00. Swimming pools open 07:00 - 22:00.



SPA QUADRILLE

A wide range of spa, beauty and wellness options available in this stunning new hotel set in a former palace in the Orłowo district of Gdynia. The hotel also had a fitness centre and pool facilities. ▶ N-6, ul. Folwarczna 2, Gdynia (Quadrille Hotel & Spa), tel. (+48) 58 351 03 20, www.quadrille.pl. Open 09:00 - 21:00.

THAO THAI

A well regarded Thai Massage close to the old town of Gdansk. The masseurs are all both Thai and experienced Thai masseurs. There are a number of treatments on offer including the traditional Thai Massage *Nuad Phaen Boran*. ▶ C-4, ul. Szeroka 86/87, tel. (+48) 666 12 01 50, www.thaothai.pl. Open 12:00 - 22:00.

THE SPA AT SHERATON SOPOT

The finest spa in Sopot, possibly Poland. Featuring select Anne Sémonin treatments pleasures that await include a dazzling swimming pool, Finnish sauna, steam room, a comprehensive range of massage therapies as well as an in-house hairdresser, facial and body treatments, manicure and pedicure. There's also a pool and fitness room. ▶ M-4, ul. Powstańców Warszawy 10, Sopot, tel. (+48) 58 767 19 00, www.sheratonsopotspa.pl. Swimming Pool & Fitness open 07:00 - 22:00 (Pool for children under 16, 11:00 - 18:00).



THAO THAI FUSION SEAFOOD RESTAURANT

Thao Thai Fusion-Seafood Restaurant is an exceptional and unique place where a team of the best chefs from Thailand prepare for you amazing oriental dishes with a modern twist.

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OPEN DAILY MONDAY – SUNDAY 12.00-22.00



Take a break from the beach and choose from 4 floors of designer brands at Store & More

It's now easier to count the international brand names who are not present than those that are. So if your ambition is to shop until you drop while you are here we suggest the first place you look is at the list of hypermarkets and malls listed in our shopping section. While this is not a list of all, it is a selection of what we view as the best ones from each of the 3 cities. With Madison the most central in Gdansk old town, Klif the most upmarket in the whole city and Galeria Bałtycka the most convenient large mall in Gdansk you can sate most shopping desires there.

A tour around the Obwodnica (Tri-city Ring Road) will bring in the huge discount park which is Fashion House Outlet Centre as well as the huge hypermarkets of Carrefour, Auchan and Real. We have also put together a list of gift and souvenir suggestions which might take a little more searching in order to find.

ALCOHOL

There are a number of local drinks which will make for excellent presents and souvenirs none more so than the Gdansk signature drink - Goldwasser. Distilled in the city since the 17th century it is a sweet juniper based drink containing pieces of gold leaf making for a visually impressive gift. The original recipe was taken to Germany at the end of WWII and this 'Original Der Lachs' version can still be bought in the Pod Łososiem restaurant while a German resident of the city has created excellent boxed sets of Goldwasser which can be bought through his restaurant on the waterfront.

Poland is also home to some of the world's best vodkas and while Chopin and Belvedere are regarded as the best Polish brands it is also worth keeping an eye for something called Zubrowka, a vodka flavoured with a type of grass from the primeval Białowieża Forest in eastern Poland. Remarkably cheap in comparison to the other drinks mentioned here, it is usually drunk with apple juice in what is known locally as a tatanka.

Finally you will also find in selected places bottles of Nalewka which are vodka or spirit based alcohols which have been mixed with various fruits and left to age. They are often tastier and easier to drink than simple vodka and often come in attractive bottles which make for an attractive gift.

CENTRUM WINA

► F-4, Al. Grunwaldzka 141 (Galeria Bałtycka), Gdańsk, tel. (+48) 58 552 43 30, www.centrumwina.com.pl. Open 09:00 - 21:00, Sun 10:00 - 20:00.

GOLDWASSER RESTAURANT

► D-4, ul. Długie Pobrzeże 22, Gdańsk, tel. (+48) 58 301 88 78, www.goldwasser.pl. Open 08:00 - 23:00.

POD ŁOSOSIEM RESTAURANT

Not just the place to buy the original 'Der Lachs' Goldwasser, these days imported from Germany but also the place where Goldwasser was distilled in the old days. It is now the Pod Łososiem restaurant. ► C-4, ul. Szeroka 52-54, Gdańsk, tel. (+48) 58 301 76 52, www.podlososiem.com.pl. Open 12:00 - 22:00.

AMBER & JEWELLERY

Baltic Gold, as it is often referred to, has been gathered and worked in the Gdansk area for over 6,000 years and is one of the major contributors to the city's wealth over the centuries. The sight of locals (both amateur and professional) combing the beaches looking for pieces which have been washed up, particularly after a heavy storm, is still common. There are countless workshops in the area which produce not just wonderful jewellery but all sorts of ornaments and souvenirs from this ancient stone. The heart of the Gdansk amber market is the picturesque Mariacka Street in the shadow of St. Mary's Basilica in Gdansk which is lined with numerous stores and workshops.

Keep an eye for the International Amber Association's certificate that guarantees the seller has been checked and deemed trustworthy. Another option is to take a tour of an amber workshop where you will see both how the stone is worked to turn it into the beautiful pieces you see mounted in finished jewellery and also learn how to spot a genuine and fake piece of amber.

The S&A company offer tours of their workshop in Gdynia and you should contact them in advance to organise a place (+ 48 695 990 073, tour@s-a.pl). To find out more about amber, its history in the city and what to look out for, take a look at our feature online at gdansk.inyourpocket.com.

GALERIA WYDRA

Amber and miscellaneous jewellery. ▶ C-4, ul. Mariacka 49, Gdańsk, tel. (+48) 58 301 77 79. Open 10:00 - 17:00.

LILOU

A favourite of members of our team for birthday presents. Lilou are best known for their jewellery but what makes them different is the ability they give you to personalise a piece of jewellery so that it is unique to you. Choose your ring or bracelet or even cufflinks and then the friendly staff will take you through the various options that come with each and help you choose a design or pendant or engraving that makes it that bit special. Not limiting themselves to jewellery, you'll can also choose from handbags or personal organisers with the same idea - choose one and then personalise it. They also have a website in English if you want to take a browse in peace and a second store in Gdynia at ul. Świętojańska 56. ▶ B-4/5, ul. Ogarna 126/127, Gdańsk, tel. (+48) 58 304 16 06, www.lilouparis.com/en. Open 11:00 - 19:00, Sat 11:00 - 18:00, Sun 11:00 - 15:00. ▶ N-1, ul. Świętojańska 56, Gdynia, tel. (+48) 58 620 90 41, www.lilouparis.com/en/. Open 11:00 - 19:00, Sat 11:00 - 18:00, Sun 11:00 - 15:00.

PRACOWNIA I GALERIA STYL

▶ D-4, ul. Długie Pobrzeże 31, Gdańsk, tel. (+48) 58 301 43 80, www.amberstyl.pl. Open 10:00 - 20:00.

STUDIO AMBER

Amber pieces, many of which being the work of budding graduates from the Gdansk Academy of Fine Arts. ▶ C-4, ul. Mariacka 2/3, Gdańsk, tel. (+48) 58 301 10 55. Open 09:00 - 20:00. **TC**

BOOKS, MUSIC & FILMS

Gdansk and Poland have a tumultuous history and the city is much changed to the way it looked 100 years ago. A combination of huge WWII bombing, post-war Socialist planning and social and cultural change have changed the look completely of the people and the city. There are two series of photo album style books which capture this wonderfully with pictures of before, during and after the events of WWII.

The first entitled 'Był Sobie Gdansk' (There once was a Gdansk) is a series of books which were published by former Prime Minister Donald Tusk (a Gdanskian and Kashubian) in the years before he became a full-time politician. You'll recognise many of the old Gdansk, Wrzeszcz and Sopot streets and see how once people lived. Contrasting dramatically is a series published by photographer Maciej Kosycarz entitled Extraordinary Ordinary Photographs which presents the work of both himself and his father during the period 1945-2007 and which demonstrate the destruction of the city in 1945 and both the painstaking rebuilding and life in the People's Republic in the years after. It is now available with English language captions.

Gdansk is also the former home of Nobel prize winning author Gunter Grass. His stories are often set against the backdrop of inter-war Danzig and none capture the time better than The Tin Drum, the work for which he was awarded the Literature prize. While these books will generally be available in major Tri-city bookshops, you'll have to go online to pick up another recommended book - Sean Lester, Poland and the Nazi takeover of Danzig - which recounts the story of the Irishman and League of Nations High Commissioner Sean Lester who governed here between 1934 and 1937.

EMPIK

Also at ul. Kołobrzieszka 41c (Alfa Centrum, Przymorze), ul. Grunwaldzka 141 (Galeria Bałtycka, F-4), ul. Złota Karczma 26 (Park Handlowy Matarnia); in Gdynia, ul. Świętojańska 68 (N-2); in Sopot, ul. Bohaterów Monte Cassino 63 (M-4). ▶ B-2, ul. Podwale Grodzkie 8, Gdańsk, tel. (+48) 22 451 04 66, www.empik.com. Open 08:00 - 21:00, Sun 11:00 - 20:00.

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Tax Free Form is 200pln. Keep the Tax Free Form, have it stamped when leaving the final point of departure from the EU and reclaim your money. For full details check www.globalblue.com.



MARKETS

Once upon a time, these were the places where the bulk of shopping was done by locals. Rows and rows of kiosks would offer you anything they could get their hands on to sell and particularly in the post-1989 years these places positively thrived. The advent of the western style shopping mall and the huge out-of-town hypermarkets have turned these market places into little more than flea markets and the number of people using them has dropped dramatically. Still many people use them both out of habit and because prices tend to be cheaper so they can present an interesting look into what life used to be like. While products such as clothes and perfumes can now be bought in better quality elsewhere there are still bargains to be had and fruit and veg still tends to be fresher and cheaper here.

HALA TARGOWA GDAŃSK

One of the strangest buildings in the city, the covered market wouldn't look out of place posing as a provincial 19th-century train station in the south of France. Built in 1896 in a Neo-Gothic style, the market has recently been completely renovated at a cost of 20zł million, an act that led to the discovery of the foundations of one of the city's oldest churches, the 12th century Church of St Nicolas, underneath the main market building. Amid the cheap clothing stalls and rows of meat and dairy produce, the church's foundations have been left as they were found, providing a small, living archaeology museum in the basement along with a display of photographs, objects found during the excavations and drawings of how the church might have looked.

► C-3, Pl. Dominikański 1, Gdańsk, tel. (+48) 58 346 31 33, www.halatargowa.pl. Open 09:00 - 18:00, Sat 09:00 - 15:00. Closed Sun.

HALA TARGOWA GDYNIA

One of the few places left in the Tricity where you can get that authentic old time shopping experience. While you won't get the rough and tumble associated with Warsaw's famous 'Russian Market', what you will find is a large Hala Targowa (Trading Hall) containing rows of independent traders offering everything from clothing to electronic equipment. Very popular with the visiting Swedish shoppers looking to pick up a bargain, the market is a glimpse into post-communist Poland before the arrival of the western style Hypermarket and Shopping Malls now so familiar in Poland. Find it close to Gdynia Main Railway station. ► N-1, ul. Wójta Radtkiego 36-40, Gdynia, www.haletargowegdynia.pl. Open 08:30 - 17:00, Sat 08:30 - 15:00. Closed Sun.

SOPOCKI RYNEK

A local market which opens on Tuesdays and Fridays for a mix of local produce, furniture and clothing. ► L-5, ul. Polna 8-12, Sopot.

FASHION & ACCESSORIES

ETER BOUTIQUE

Tucked away towards the rear of Sopot's 'Crooked House' is this little boutique selling the work of a local designer. While this writer is no fashionista, our shopping expert thinks that this is a highly recommendable place based on what she describes as 'original designs at affordable prices.' Creating a style somewhere between elegant, classic and avant-garde, this is definitely worth a look for those interested in local fashion. Note from February you'll find them at ul. Powstańców Warszawy 6 (Dom Zdrojowy).

► M-4, ul. Powstańców Warszawy 6 (Dom Zdrojowy), Sopot 81-718, tel. (+48) 502 69 29 96, www.butiketer.pl. Open 11:00 - 21:00.

GALERIA SZTUKI KASZUBSKIEJ

A fantastic little place if you are looking for local handicrafts to take home as gifts. The business is run by a mother and daughter and on certain days you'll even find a granddaughter present. The daughter is a designer while the mother makes all the clothes by hand. Lots of wonderful gifts all based on the local Kashubian region's traditions. ► C-4, ul. Św. Ducha 48, Gdańsk, tel. (+48) 503 00 59 78, www.gskart.pl. Open 11:00 - 17:00. Closed Sat, Sun. From June open 10:00 - 18:00. Closed Sat, Sun.

OUTLET SOPOT

An outlet store on Sopot's main street offering men and women's fashion from international brands such as Ralph Lauren, Salvatore Ferragamo, Tod's and Tory Burch as well as children's collections Ralph Lauren Kids and Tod's Kids. You'll find clothes, shoes and accessories at large discounts off list prices and a very friendly staff happy to help you find something to take home with you. ► M-4, ul. Bohaterów Monte Cassino 26, Sopot, tel. (+48) 58 341 36 68, www.polo-outlet.pl. Open 10:00 - 19:00; Sat, Sun 10:00 - 18:00. From June open 10:00 - 21:00.

SALONIK POD SKRZYDLATYM ANIOŁEM

This mother and daughter team offer some genuinely original and local gifts including made-to-measure, hand sewn and embroidered clothes made from Polish linen. Then there is a range of jewellery using silver, amber and precious stones which are designed and made by the couple. Our favourites though are the handmade sculptures using ceramic, wood and amber. ► C-4, ul. Mariacka 25/26, Gdańsk, tel. (+48) 501 06 99 88. Open 11:00 - 18:00.

STORE&MORE

Located on the square in Sopot is a newly opened, four-storey fashion store carrying the ranges of a multitude of top international brands such as Desigual, Bynamesakke, Tommy Hilfiger, New Balance, Quicksilver, Roxy, Adidas and Pepe to name just a few. In a town with relatively few shopping options, this is well-worth a look. ► M-4, ul. Bohaterów Monte Cassino 61, Sopot, tel. (+48) 881 64 82 16, www.storemore.pl. Open 10:00 - 21:00, Fri, Sat, Sun 10:00 - 22:00.



Lilou

Boutique - Atelier

Symbols of precious moments

Lilou is an upscale polish jewelry brand created by Magdalena Mousson-Lestang.

Lilou's philosophy is to create unique, engraved jewelry, customized and customizable to mark events, small and big stories of your life, emotions or simply to please or be pleased. Real caskets in terms of architecture, Lilou Boutique - Atelier are warm and inviting stores where engraving is hand-made on demand.

Lilou jewelry is made of 14k gold, 925 silver or 23 k. plated-gold, and can be accessorized with strings, ribbons, leather bracelets and precious stones, crystals and pearls.



GDYNIA, 56 Świętojańska Street
GDAŃSK, 126 Ogarna Street

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GIFTS & SOUVENIRS

What we have tried to do here is highlight not just the better of the traditional souvenir shops but also try to bring your attention to local shops and companies who sell local products or products typically associated with the area.

First of all you are in the heart of the Kashubian region here, home to the Kashubian people one of the largest surviving ethnic minorities in Europe. Distinct from Poles in both language and culture the Kashubians are an integral part of modern Poland but also have a clear identity visible in their peculiar language, which sounds like a mix of Polish and German, and in their crafts. Kashubians particularly pride themselves on their embroidery which uses just five colours: green, red, yellow, black and blue, the latter of which comes in three distinct shades. Green represents the forests, red the fire and bloodshed in defence of the homeland, yellow the sun, black the earth and blue the sky, lakes and sea. Designs are simple, cheerful and are used on everything from clothes to ceramics. Other things to look out for are their wood carvings and basket woven items.

There is nothing which says Gdansk more than the iconic Solidarność (Solidarity) logo which has come to signify the movement of people across Poland who together led to the Berlin Wall crashing down. Those interested in the movement and the history will find a range of books dedicated to the subject as well as postcards, photo albums, souvenirs and even recreations of communist era items such as ration books are now available.

For those really into their football you might think about picking up a Poland national side shirt. You'll also find a stand in Galeria Bałtycka dedicated to local club Lechia Gdańsk.

Other specialties of the region include Kashubian pottery, sweets and particularly gingerbread from the city of Toruń to the south and cut glass.

One option is to take a look at local company Findlocalgift who have sourced lots of interesting locally produced or locally themed gifts and put them together online. They'll parcel up your gift and deliver it to your hotel for free or courier it to your home for a charge.

Alternatively here are some of the shops where you can buy some of the items mentioned above.

CERAMIKA BOLESŁAWIECKA

Hand-crafted and hand-painted ceramics originating in the south-west of Poland with many of the patterns forming an important part of the shared Silesian culture of Germans and Poles. ▶ D-5, ul. Stągiewna 18, Gdańsk, tel. (+48) 58 303 61 14, www.ceramicboleslawiec.com.pl. Open 10:00 - 18:00, Sat 09:00 - 16:00. Closed Sun. Opening hours subject to change in summer.

<p>ART GLASS</p>			<p>ART BALTICUM ul. Długa 29 artbalticum@interia.pl</p>
	<p>MADE BY HAND IN POLAND</p>		
			<p>ART CERAMICS</p>
<p>DECORATION</p>			
			<p>JEWELLERY</p>

GDAŃSK SOUVENIR CENTRE

A souvenir gallery in the centre of the old town with a pretty comprehensive collection of artistic Gdansk handicrafts including Polish glass and ceramics. ▶ C-4, ul. Długa 29, Gdańsk, tel. (+48) 58 305 11 50. Open 09:00 - 20:00.

GLASS STUDIO HABRAT

Located in the cellar of what is reputed to be Gdansk's oldest surviving house, this is the gallery of a small Polish glass studio, the owners of which can regularly be found serving the customers. Worth a look for some very attractive, original and interesting designs of jewellery and ornaments. ▶ C-4, ul. Mariacka 1, Gdańsk, tel. (+48) 600 83 70 19, www.glassstudiohabrat.com. Open 10:00 - 20:00.

ROCK SHOP

OK. This is hardly a 'local' gift but nothing in the city will show a total stranger anywhere else in the world that you (or a relative) has been to Gdansk than a Hard Rock Cafe t-shirt. It's probably fair to say that HRC will do as much to get the name of the city out there globally as anything the local promotions department can do. Find a range of Hard Rock Cafe clothing and souvenirs in the store adjacent to the restaurant on ul. Długi Targ. The classic white t-shirt will cost you 100zł. ▶ C-5, ul. Długi Targ 35-38, Gdańsk, tel. (+48) 58 535 77 04, www.hardrock.com/gdansk. Open 10:00 - 24:00.

SZAFA GDAŃSKA

A wide selection of old Danzig photos, books, post cards, images, graphics, albums and assorted handmade curios. ▶ B-4, ul. Garbary 14/1, Gdańsk, tel. (+48) 510 05 87 10, www.szafagdanska.pl. Open 10:00 - 18:00.

GROCERY STORES & SUPERMARKETS

ADRIATYK 24H

▶ Bohaterów Monte Cassino 14, Sopot, tel. (+ 48) 501 709 966.

DELIKATESY

▶ ul. Bohaterów Monte Cassino 51, Sopot, tel. (+48) 58 551 30 20. Open 07:00 - 22:00, Fri, Sat 07:00 - 24:00, Sun 09:00 - 19:00.

KOS

A clean, modern supermarket in the centre of the old town close to the tower of St Mary's Basilica. Open throughout the night, you can expect to find all your necessities here such as milk, bread and beer. ▶ C-4, ul. Piwna 11/12, Gdańsk, tel. (+48) 58 309 15 20, www.calodobowygdansk.pl. Open 06:00 - 24:00, Sun 09:00 - 24:00.

MILA

▶ N-2, ul. Świętojańska 18, Gdynia. Open 6:30 - 24:00.

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Read more on: www.madison.gda.pl

SHOPPING MALLS

FASHION HOUSE OUTLET CENTRE

A variation on the typical out of town malls. What you'll find here, set in what looks like a seaside fishing village complete with lighthouse, is big name brands at knockdown prices. Stores include Pepe Jeans, Asics, New Balance, Calvin Klein Jeans, Guess, Benetton, Nike, Levis, Guess Jeans, Villeroy & Boch and Stefanel. The centre also includes cafes and an indoor play area for the kids. Located on the Tri-city ring road about 9km from central Gdańsk, the centre can be reached easily by car or by tram 2 or 6 from Gdańsk main railway station, then change at the Wilanowska stop to the bus 174 which takes you to Przywidzka or Czerwińskiego. A taxi will cost about 30zł one-way. ► **ul. Przywidzka 8, Gdańsk (Szadółki)**, tel. (+48) 58 320 99 44, www.fashionhouse.pl/gdansk. Open 10:00 - 21:00, Sun 10:00 - 20:00.



CENTRUM RIVIERA

Gdynia hits back in the battle of the giant shopping malls with the Centrum Riviera weighing in with 70,000 m² of shopping space providing home for 270 outlets including the Auchan hypermarket, Zara, Bershka, Reserved, Cropp, H&M, Rossmann, Sephora, Douglas and Mango and a playground for kids Fun Park. There's parking for 1,750 vehicles while the Helios cinema has the biggest theatre in the city at close to 3,000m² and can hold up to 1,300 people. Those who notice that there's not a single big name fast food outlet on the main street will instead be relieved to find they are all present in the food court here. ► **N-2/3, ul. Kazimierza Górskiego 2, Gdynia**, tel. (+48) 58 779 07 10, www.centrumriviera.pl. Open 10:00 - 21:00, Sun 10:00 - 20:00.



GALERIA BAŁTYCKA

Gdańsk's biggest and most popular shopping gallery can be found in the district of Wrzeszcz at the junction of the main Tri-city road (al. Grunwaldzka) and the main road to the airport (ul. Slowackiego). You'll find over 200 stores, boutiques, cafes and restaurants set in a state of the art building with headline stores including a three-level H&M, Peek & Cloppenberg, Tommy Hilfiger and Zara. Carrefour provide the supermarket while GB has the best food court in the city. There's also on-site parking for 1,100 cars. The mall is opposite Gdansk-Wrzeszcz train station and can also be reached by trams 6, 9, 11 and 12 from Gdansk city centre while Neptun taxis charge approximately 30zł one-way. ► **F-4, Al. Grunwaldzka 141, Gdańsk**, tel. (+48) 58 521 85 50, www.galeriabaltycka.pl/en. Open 09:00 - 21:00, Sun 10:00 - 20:00.



KLIF

Klif can be described as the Tri-city's original shopping mall and continues to offer a choice of some of the highest quality brands in Poland. Covering over 30,000m² and with car parking for 1,200 cars Klif features over 150 shops with flagship stores Marks & Spencer and H&M, while you'll also find Bizuu, Bohoboco, Deni Cler Milano, Emanuel Berg, Tommy Hilfinger Tailored, Kalita, Liu Jo, La Mania, Marciano Guess, MM Fashion (Escada, Versace Collection Women & Men), New Look, Patrizia Pepe, Pennyblack, Petit Bateau, Pinko, Pollini, Max Mara, Sephora, Stefanel, Zara and Zara Kids. Right by Gdynia Orłowo train station on the SKM, you can also take bus S or trolleybus 21 and 31 from Sopot. From Gdynia you can get there with bus S, or trolleybus 21, 26 and 31. From Gdansk city centre Neptun taxis charge approximately 20 Euros one-way. ► **N-6, Al. Zwycięstwa 256, Gdynia, tel. (+48) 58 664 93 45, www.klif.pl. Open 09:00 - 21:00, Sun 10:00 - 20:00.**



GALERIA HANDLOWA MADISON

The Madison Shopping Gallery is found close to the main train station in the heart of Gdansk and is the most centrally located of all of Gdansk's malls. Shoppers have a choice of over one hundred shops and service outlets, restaurants, cafes and ice-cream parlours as well as currency exchange and underground parking. Brands present include Apple, Bibi Concept, CCC, Douglas, Ecco, Festus, Intersport, MOLTON, New Balance, New Yorker, Mohito, Orsay, Rylko, Unisono, Venezia, Wólczanka and Wojas and you'll find a Piotr i Pawel supermarket on level -1, that stays open later than the mall. There's also the Calypso gym upstairs, an opticians and a laundry. ► **B-2, ul. Rajska 10, Gdańsk, tel. (+48) 58 766 75 30, www.madison.gda.pl. Open 09:00 - 21:00, Sun 10:00 - 20:00, Piotr i Pawel supermarket open 08:00 - 22:00, Sun 09:00 - 21:00. Calypso Gym open 07:00 - 23:00, Sat 09:00 - 21:00, Sun 10:00 - 20:00.**



THE KASHUBIANS

The Kashubians are a true ethnic minority, distinct from the Poles in both language and culture. Originally western Slavs with ethnic links to the Poles, the Kashubians are believed to have settled in the area around 1,500 years ago, although the first records date from the 13th century when the Pomeranian Dukes included 'Duke of Kashubia' among their illustrious titles. Estimates as to just how many Kashubians and people of Kashubian descent live in Poland today vary wildly. In Poland's 2002 census just 5,100 people declared Kashubian nationality, whilst 51,000 declared Kashubian as their native language.

Kashubian is a West Slavic language belonging to the Lechitic group of languages of northern Poland, and is thought to be a variation of the original Pomerian language. Kashubian enjoys legal protection in Poland as a minority language, is taught in Polish schools, and can be found on many street signs in the region.

One of the things you'll notice all over Kashubia is the proliferation of folk art, both religious and secular. Of the many folk art disciplines, the Kashubians pride themselves on their embroidery which uses just five colours: green, red, yellow, black and blue, of which the latter comes in three distinct shades. Green represents the forests, red the fire and blood shed in defence of the homeland, yellow the sun, black the earth and the three shades of blue representing the sky, the lakes and the sea. Ceramics has a centuries-old tradition in Kashubia, and again the designs are simple. Kashubian ceramics are decorated with a number of traditional designs including the Kashubian star, fish scales and local flowers, all embellished with wavy lines and dots. The Kashubians are also great weavers even managing to weave buckets and jugs from pine roots and straw capable of holding water. The Kashubians are also well known for a style of primitive painting on glass, woodcuts, and wooden sculptures including roadside chapels known as the Passions of Christ. Wood is also carved into elaborate walking sticks, animal heads and musical instruments, including the extraordinary burczybas, similar to a double bass but in the shape of a barrel with a horse hair tail. A bizarre instrument indeed, a burczybas is played by a total of three musicians. The Kashubians are great snuff takers, making it themselves and giving it to visitors as a sign of joy, good luck and an invitation to meet again. Traditional Kashubian snuffboxes are made from cattle horns that are boiled, flattened, and cut into unique shapes.

The Kashubians believe strongly that all of these things mark them out as an individual race. Many Kashubians even believe themselves to be the last surviving tribe of the ancient Balts.

24-HOUR PHARMACIES

APTECUS 4

► A-2, ul. Podwale Grodzkie 2 (Gdańsk Główny Train Station), Gdańsk, tel. (+48) 58 778 92 13.

APTEKA DYŻURNA

► N-1, Pl. Kaszubski 8, Gdynia, tel. (+48) 58 620 58 58.

APTEKA DYŻURNA

► L-4, ul. Kościuszki 7, Sopot, tel. (+48) 58 551 32 89, www.aptekadyżurna.pl.

CONFERENCE FACILITIES

SHERATON SOPOT HOTEL

► M-4, ul. Powstańców Warszawy 10, Sopot, tel. (+48) 58 767 16 70, www.sheraton.pl/sopot.

SOFITEL GRAND SOPOT INSPIRED MEETINGS

► M-4, ul. Powstańców Warszawy 12/14, Sopot, tel. (+48) 58 520 60 44, www.sofitel-grand-sopot.com.

CONSULATES & EMBASSIES

FINLAND

► N-1, ul. Morska 59, Gdynia, tel. (+48) 58 621 68 52.

GERMANY

► H-3, Al. Zwycięstwa 23, Gdańsk, tel. (+48) 58 340 65 00, www.polen.diplo.de.

NORWAY

► ul. Ślaska 21, Gdynia, tel. (+48) 58 661 80 04, www.amb-norwegia.pl.

SWEDEN

► D-5, ul. Chmielna 101/102, Gdańsk, tel. (+48) 58 763 14 69, www.swedenabroad.com.

UK

► F-3, ul. Grunwaldzka 102, Gdańsk, tel. (+48) 58 341 43 65, ukinpoland.fco.gov.uk/en.

GENEALOGY

NATIONAL ARCHIVE

► B-1, ul. Wałowa 5, Gdańsk, tel. (+48) 58 301 74 63, www.gdansk.ap.gov.pl. Open 07:00 - 15:00. Closed Sat, Sun.

TRIP2GDANSK

► tel. (+48) 734 46 04 44, www.trip2gdansk.pl.

HOSPITALS

COUNTY HOSPITAL

► J-4, ul. Nowe Ogrody 1/6, Gdańsk, tel. (+48) 58 302 30 31, www.wss.gda.pl.

INTERNET

JAZZ 'N' JAVA

► B-4, ul. Tkacka 17/18, Gdańsk, tel. (+48) 58 305 36 16. Open 10:00 - 22:00.

LANGUAGE SCHOOLS

SOPOT SCHOOL OF POLISH

► L-4, Al. Niepodległości 763, Sopot, tel. (+48) 58 550 32 84, www.ssp.edu.pl.

THE CENTRE FOR POLISH STUDIES

Tailored courses for people wanting to learn the Polish language. ► L-2, ul. Kraszewskiego 31/1, Sopot, tel. (+48) 22 826 19 04, www.learnpolish.edu.pl/sopot.

PRIVATE CLINICS

MEDICOVER

► Al. Grunwaldzka 472A, Gdańsk (Oliwa), tel. (+48) 500 90 05 00, www.medicover.pl.

THE SWISSMED HOSPITAL

► G-5, ul. Wileńska 44, Gdańsk, tel. (+48) 58 524 15 00, www.swissmed.com.pl.

RELIGIOUS SERVICES & GROUPS

GOSPEL CHURCH

Christian church with English language meetings every Sunday at 11:30. ► F-4, Al. Grunwaldzka 82 (Manhattan Shopping Mall), Gdańsk, www.gospelchurchgdansk.pl.

MOSQUE

► ul. Abrahama 17a, Gdańsk (Oliwa), tel. (+48) 505 17 35 93.

NEW SYNAGOGUE (NOWA SYNAGOGA)

► F-4, ul. Partyzantów 7, Gdańsk, tel. (+48) 58 344 06 02, www.gdansk.jewish.org.pl.

PROTESTANT PRAYER HOUSE

► C-3, ul. Za Murami 2-10, Gdańsk (Dom Harcerza), tel. (+48) 605 28 24 17, www.gdansk.reformacja.pl.

TRANSLATORS & INTERPRETERS

ART OF TRANSLATION





► L-5, ul. Kościuszki 61, Sopot, tel. (+48) 58 550 01 32, www.artoftranslation.pl.










GERLANG







► N-1, ul. 10 lutego 11 (Batory), Gdynia, tel. (+48) 501 75 41 98, www.tlumaczenia.gerlang.pl. Open 9:00 - 16:00. Closed Sat, Sun.

CREAM OF THE CROP









DWÓR OLIWSKI CITY HOTEL & SPA

► ul. Bytowska 4, Gdańsk (Oliwa), tel. (+48) 58 554 70 00, www.dworoliwski.pl. 70 rooms (55 singles, 55 doubles, 11 suites, 2 apartments, 1 Studio).          ★★★★★


HILTON HOTEL ► A-4, ul. Targ Rybny 1, Gdańsk, tel. (+48) 58 778 71 00, www.hiltongdansk.pl. 150 rooms (145 singles, 145 doubles, 4 apartments, 1 Presidential Suite).          ★★★★★









PODEWILS ► D-4, ul. Szafarnia 2, Gdańsk, tel. (+48) 58 300 95 60, www.podewils.pl. 10 rooms (10 singles, 10 doubles).       ★★★★★

QUADRILLE CONFERENCE & SPA









► N-6, ul. Folwarczna 2, Gdynia, tel. (+48) 58 351 03 00, www.quadrille.pl. 32 rooms (24 singles, 21 doubles, 8 suites).         ★★★★★

RADISSON BLU


► C-5, ul. Długi Targ 19/Powroźnicza, Gdańsk, tel. (+48) 58 325 44 44, www.radissonblu.com/hotel-gdansk. 134 rooms (18 singles, 108 doubles, 8 apartments).         ★★★★★

REZYDENT ► L-4, Pl. Konstytucji 3 Maja 3, Sopot, tel. (+48) 58 555 58 00, www.hotelrezydent.com.pl. 64 rooms (6 singles, 55 doubles, 2 suites, 1 apartment).         ★★★★★

SHERATON SOPOT HOTEL

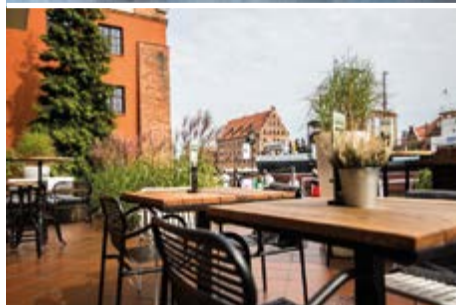
► M-4, ul. Powstańców Warszawy 10, Sopot, tel. (+48) 58 767 10 00, www.sheraton.pl/sopot. 189 rooms (179 singles, 179 doubles, 10 apartments).         ★★★★★

SOFITEL GRAND SOPOT

► M-4, ul. Powstańców Warszawy 12/14, Sopot, tel. (+48) 58 520 60 00, www.sofitel-grand-sopot.com. 127 rooms (95 singles, 95 doubles, 30 suites, 2 apartments).         ★★★★★

SYMBOL KEY

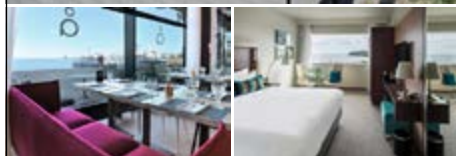
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UPMARKET

ADMIRAŁ ▶ C-3, ul. Tobiasza 9, Gdańsk, tel. (+48) 58 320 03 20, www.admiralhotelgdansk.pl. 44 rooms (10 singles, 33 doubles, 1 suite). ★★★★★

BAYJONN HOTEL

▶ M-4, ul. Powstańców Warszawy 7, Sopot, tel. (+48) 730 71 71 71, www.bayjonnhotel.pl. 22 rooms (19 singles, 19 doubles, 3 suites). ★★★★★

BEST WESTERN BONUM HOTEL

▶ C-2, ul. Sieroca 3, Gdańsk, tel. (+48) 58 304 78 10, www.hotelbonum.pl. 32 rooms (7 singles, 21 doubles, 2 triples, 2 apartments). ★★★★★

BEST WESTERN PLUS BUSINESS FALTOM HOTEL GDYNIA

▶ ul. Morska 362, Gdynia, tel. (+48) 58 776 55 00, www.faltombusiness.pl. 47 rooms (45 singles, 39 doubles, 2 suites). ★★★★★

BLICK

▶ N-1, ul. Jana z Kolna 6, Gdynia, tel. (+48) 58 783 03 00, www.hotelblick.pl. 47 rooms (8 singles, 35 doubles, 4 apartments). ★★★★★

COURTYARD BY MARRIOTT GDYNIA WATERFRONT

▶ O-1, ul. Jerzego Waszyngtona 19, Gdynia, tel. (+48) 58 743 07 00, www.marriott.com/GDNCY. 200 rooms (199 singles, 199 doubles, 1 suite). ★★★★★

FAHRENHEIT

▶ D-3, ul. Grodzka 19, Gdańsk, tel. (+48) 58 324 74 00, www.fahrenheit.pl. 23 rooms (23 singles, 23 doubles, 3 triples). ★★★★★

GOLDEN TULIP GDANSK RESIDENCE

▶ F-1, ul. Piastowska 160, Gdańsk, tel. (+48) 724 01 22 27, www.goldentulipgdanskresidence.com. 195 rooms (195 apartments). ★★★★★

GRAND CRU

▶ D-3, ul. Rycerska 11-12, Gdańsk, tel. (+48) 58 772 73 00, www.hotelgrandcru.pl. 50 rooms (50 singles, 50 doubles). ★★★★★

HAFFNER

▶ M-3, ul. Haffnera 59, Sopot, tel. (+48) 58 550 99 99, www.hotelhaffner.pl. 106 rooms (100 singles, 92 doubles, 6 apartments). ★★★★★

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HANZA

► D-4, ul. Tokarska 6, Gdańsk, tel. (+48) 58 305 34 27, www.hotelhanza.pl. 60 rooms (17 singles, 36 doubles, 5 suites, 2 Presidential Suites). 🏠 🚗 🚶 🚲 🚰 🚰 🚰 🚰 ★★★★★

HOLLAND HOUSE RESIDENCE

► C-5, ul. Długi Targ 33/34, Gdańsk, tel. (+48) 58 325 77 77, www.hollandhouse.pl. 26 rooms (26 singles, 26 doubles, 26 triples, 1 quad). 🏠 🚶 🚲 ★★

HOTEL GDAŃSK SUPERIOR

► D-4, ul. Szafarnia 9, Gdańsk, tel. (+48) 58 300 17 17, www.hotelgdansk.pl. 96 rooms (11 singles, 51 doubles, 23 suites, 6 apartments, 1 Presidential Suite). 🏠 🚗 🚶 🚲 🚰 🚰 🚰 🚰 ★★★★★

HOTEL SEDAN

► M-4, ul. Pułaskiego 18-20, Sopot, tel. (+48) 58 555 09 80, www.sedan.pl. 22 rooms (3 singles, 12 doubles, 3 suites, 4 apartments). 🏠 🚗 🚶 🚲 🚰 🚰 ★★

HOTEL SPA FALTOM

► ul. Grunwaldzka 7, Rumia, tel. (+48) 58 785 81 00, www.hotelfaltom.pl. 113 rooms (111 singles, 111 doubles, 2 apartments). 🏠 🚗 🚶 🚲 🚰 🚰 🚰 🚰 ★★★★★

HOTTON

► ul. Św. Piotra 8, Gdynia (Śródmieście), tel. (+48) 58 760 58 00, www.hotton.pl. 62 rooms (4 singles, 52 doubles, 3 suites, 3 apartments). 🏠 🚶 🚲 🚰 🚰 ★★

KRÓLEWSKI

► D-3, ul. Ołowianka 1, Gdańsk, tel. (+48) 58 326 11 11, www.hotelkrolewski.pl. 30 rooms (3 singles, 17 doubles, 6 triples, 4 apartments). 🏠 🚶 🚲 🚰 🚰 ★★

KURACYJNY

► O-6, Al. Zwycięstwa 255, Gdynia, tel. (+48) 58 667 78 23, www.hotelkuracyjny.pl. 27 rooms (6 singles, 20 doubles, 1 apartment). 🏠 🚶 🚲 🚰 🚰 🚰 ★★

MERA SPA HOTEL

► M-6, ul. Bitwy Pod Płowcami 59, Sopot, tel. (+48) 58 766 60 00, www.meraspahotel.pl. 145 rooms (124 singles, 140 doubles, 5 apartments). 🏠 🚗 🚶 🚲 🚰 🚰 🚰 🚰 ★★★★★

MERCURE GDAŃSK STARE MIASTO

► C-2, ul. Heweliusza 22, Gdańsk, tel. (+48) 58 321 00 00, www.mercure.com. 281 rooms (275 singles, 275 doubles, 6 apartments). 🏠 🚗 🚶 🚲 🚰 🚰 🚰 🚰 ★★★★★

MERCURE GDYNIA CENTRUM

► O-1, ul. Armii Krajowej 22, Gdynia, tel. (+48) 58 666 30 40, www.mercure.com. 294 rooms (130 singles, 273 doubles, 8 suites). 🏠 🚶 🚲 🚰 🚰 🚰 🚰 ★★★★★



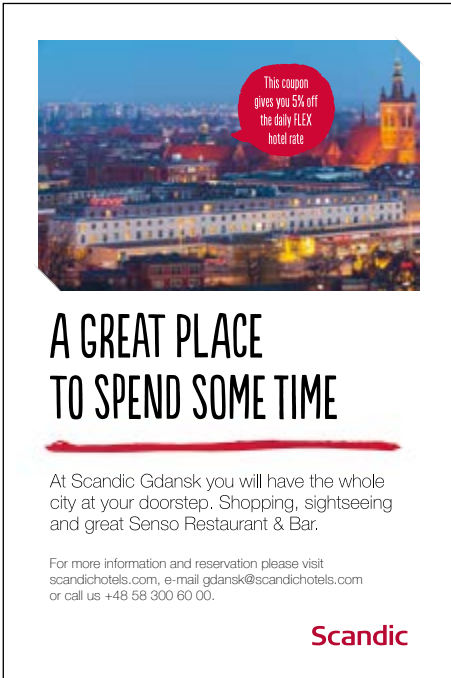
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MOLO RESIDENCE

► M-4, ul. Pułaskiego 6A, Sopot, tel. (+48) 58 355 11 00, www.molohotel.pl. 9 rooms (9 singles, 7 doubles, 2 triples). ☎

NADMORSKI

► O-3, ul. Ejszonda 2, Gdynia, tel. (+48) 58 667 77 77, www.nadmorski.pl. 90 rooms (82 singles, 82 doubles, 4 triples, 4 apartments). ☎ 🚗 🚻 🚰 🚰 🚰 🚰 🚰 ★★★★★

NOVOTEL CENTRUM

► D-5, ul. Pszenna 1, Gdańsk, tel. (+48) 58 300 27 50, www.accorhotels.com. 158 rooms (158 singles, 158 doubles). ☎ 🚗 🚻 🚰 🚰 🚰 ★★★★★

NOVOTEL GDAŃSK MARINA

► M-6, ul. Jelitkowska 20, Gdańsk, tel. (+48) 58 558 91 00, www.accorhotels.com. 176 rooms (159 singles, 17 doubles). 🚗 🚻 🚰 🚰 🚰 🚰 ★★★★★

PARNAS

► D-5, ul. Spichrzowa 27, Gdańsk, tel. (+48) 58 320 12 75. 12 rooms (11 singles, 11 doubles, 1 apartment). ☎ 🚰

PURO GDAŃSK

► D-5, ul. Stągiewna 26, Gdańsk, tel. (+48) 58 563 50 00, www.purohotel.pl. 92 rooms (91 singles, 90 doubles, 1 suite). ☎ 🚗 🚻 🚰 🚰 🚰 🚰 ★★★★★

QUBUS HOTEL ► C-6, ul. Chmielna 47/52, Gdańsk, tel. (+48) 58 752 21 00, www.qubushotel.com. 110 rooms (36 singles, 72 doubles, 2 apartments). ☎ 🚗 🚻 🚰 🚰 🚰 ★★★★★

RÓŻANY GAJ ► O-2, ul. Korzeniowskiego 19d, Gdynia, tel. (+48) 58 719 55 55, www.rozanygaj.pl. 39 rooms (3 singles, 29 doubles, 3 triples, 4 suites). ☎ 🚗 🚻 🚰 🚰 ★★★★★

SCANDIC GDAŃSK ► B-2, ul. Podwale Grodzkie 9, Gdańsk, tel. (+48) 58 300 60 00, www.scandichotels.com. 143 rooms (60 singles, 64 doubles, 18 suites). ☎ 🚗 🚻 🚰 🚰 🚰 🚰 ★★★★★

VILLA PICA PACA ► D-5, ul. Spichrzowa 20, Gdańsk, tel. (+48) 58 320 20 70, www.picapaca.com. 17 rooms (8 singles, 8 doubles, 9 apartments). 🚰

WILLA LUBICZ

► O-6, ul. Orłowska 43, Gdynia, tel. (+48) 58 668 47 40, www.willalubicz.pl. 16 rooms (15 singles, 12 doubles, 1 suite). 🚗 🚻 🚰 🚰 🚰 ★★★★★

ZHONG HUA

► M-4, Al. Wojska Polskiego 1, Sopot, tel. (+48) 58 550 20 20, www.hotelchinski.pl. 49 rooms (37 singles, 37 doubles, 10 apartments, 2 Mandarin Suites). 🚗 🚻 🚰 ★★★★★

MID-RANGE

AMBER

► I-4, ul. Taborowa 1, Gdańsk, tel. (+48) 58 718 71 87, www.amber-hotel.pl. 46 rooms (10 singles, 31 doubles, 4 triples, 1 suite). ★★★

ANTARES

► ul. Komandorska 59, Gdynia (Grabówek), tel. (+48) 58 623 36 39, www.hotelantares.pl. 55 rooms (15 singles, 40 doubles, 3 triples). ★★

ARTUS

► C-4, ul. Piwna 36-39, Gdańsk, tel. (+48) 58 320 96 00, www.artushotel.com.pl. 50 rooms (48 singles, 36 doubles, 2 apartments). ★★

BEST WESTERN VILLA AQUA HOTEL

► M-2, ul. Zamkowa Góra 35, Sopot, tel. (+48) 58 522 44 00, www.villaaqua.pl. 50 rooms (50 singles, 18 doubles). ★★

BIAŁA LILIA ► D-5, ul. Spichrzowa 16, Gdańsk, tel. (+48) 58 301 70 74, www.bialalilia.pl. 15 rooms (1 single, 13 doubles, 1 suite).

DOM AKTORA

► D-3, ul. Straganiarska 55/56, Gdańsk, tel. (+48) 58 301 61 93, www.domaktora.pl. 13 rooms (2 singles, 1 double, 11 apartments).

DOM MUZYKA

► K-3, ul. Łąkowa 1-2, Gdańsk, tel. (+48) 58 326 06 00, www.dommuzyka.pl. 87 rooms (36 singles, 50 doubles, 1 apartment).

DOM SCHUMANNÓW

► C-5, ul. Długa 45, Gdańsk, tel. (+48) 58 301 52 72, www.domschumannow.pl. 9 rooms (2 singles, 6 doubles, 1 apartment).

FOCUS

► ul. Elbląska 85, Gdańsk, tel. (+48) 58 350 08 01, www.focushotels.pl. 99 rooms (99 singles, 99 doubles, 3 triples). ★★★

IRENA

► M-4, ul. Chopina 36, Sopot, tel. (+48) 58 551 20 73, www.pensjonat-irena.com. 15 rooms (3 singles, 10 doubles, 1 triple, 1 quad).

KAMIENICA GOLDWASSER

► D-4, ul. Długie Pobrzeże 22, Gdańsk, tel. (+48) 58 301 88 78, www.goldwasser.pl. 7 rooms (7 apartments).

KAMIENICA GOTYK

► C-4, ul. Mariacka 1, Gdańsk, tel. (+48) 58 301 85 67, www.gotykhouse.eu. 6 rooms (6 singles, 6 doubles).

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ANTONI SUCHANEK

ANTONI SUCHANEK MONUMENT

Poland has a deep historical bond to the sea and in modern times nowhere has been more representative of the feelings the Poles have about the sea than Gdynia. When a re-born Polish state was awarded a narrow strip of coast at Versailles, the Polish General Jozef Haller and his men rode out to Puck, just north of Gdynia and performed a ceremony which was described as a wedding to the sea.

It should come as little surprise then that seascapists (artists who specialize in seascapes rather than landscapes) have been rather valued in Poland over the last century. One of those is Antoni Sucharek, who although born at the other end of the country in Rzeszow, spent most of his life in Polish Gdynia. Born in 1901, he studied at the Krakow Academy of Fine Arts under the tuition of Jozef Mehoffer. His work included images of the sea but also port and shipyard landscapes. Following WWII he recorded the damage and rebuilding of the Polish shipyards along the coast. He died in 1982 and a statue was erected near his home in Orłowo in 2009 ▶ O-6, Skwer Antoniego Suchanka, Gdynia.

KOBZA HAUS

▶ D-5, ul. Stągiewna 2/3, Gdańsk, tel. (+48) 58 710 01 01, www.kobza.pl. 22 rooms (2 singles, 18 doubles, 2 apartments). 🏠 🚿 🚰

LALALA ART HOTEL

▶ L-5, ul. Rzemieślnicza 42, Sopot, tel. (+48) 792 84 02 93, www.lalala.lu. 8 rooms (8 singles, 8 doubles). 🏠 🚿 🚰

MARINA CLUB HOTEL

▶ D-1, ul. Szafarnia 10, Gdańsk, tel. (+48) 58 733 60 01, www.marinaclubhotel.pl. 34 rooms (8 singles, 8 doubles, 26 apartments). 🏠 🚿 🚰 ★★★

OLIWSKI

▶ F-1, ul. Piastowska 1, Gdańsk, tel. (+48) 58 761 66 10, www.hotelolowski.pl. 52 rooms (8 singles, 39 doubles, 5 triples). 🏠 🚿 🚰 🚿 🚰 ★★★

SMART HOTEL GARNIZON

▶ E-4, ul. Słowackiego 3, Gdańsk, tel. (+48) 58 760 76 80, www.hotelsmart.pl. 100 rooms (94 singles, 93 doubles, 6 suites). 🏠 🚿 🚰 🚿 🚰 ★★

SZYDŁOWSKI

▶ F-4, ul. Grunwaldzka 114, Gdańsk, tel. (+48) 58 345 70 40, www.szydowski.pl. 35 rooms (9 singles, 23 doubles, 3 apartments). 🏠 🚿 🚰 🚿 🚰 🚿 🚰 ★★★

VILLA ADMIRAŁ

▶ N-1, ul. 10-go Lutego 29a, Gdynia, tel. (+48) 58 661 20 38, www.admiralvilla.com.pl. 12 rooms (11 singles, 11 doubles, 1 suite). 🏠

VILLA ANTONINA

▶ L-3, ul. Obrońców Westerplatte 36 A, Sopot, tel. (+48) 58 710 00 09, www.villaantonina.pl. 12 rooms (10 singles, 10 doubles, 2 apartments). 🏠 🚿 🚰 🚰

VILLA EVA

▶ F-4, ul. Batorego 28b, Gdańsk, tel. (+48) 58 341 67 85, www.villaeva.pl. 14 rooms (13 singles, 13 doubles, 1 apartment). 🏠 🚿 🚰 🚿 🚰

VILLA GDYNIA

▶ O-4, ul. Kopernika 57, Gdynia, tel. (+48) 517 44 91 95, www.hotelgdynia.pl. 16 rooms (16 singles, 13 doubles, 3 triples).


WILLA ANNA

▶ N-3, ul. Hetmańska 1, Gdynia, tel. (+48) 58 622 26 00, www.willa-anna.eu. 7 rooms (3 singles, 3 doubles, 2 triples, 1 apartment).


WILLA MAREA

▶ M-4, ul. Chrobrego 38 (entrance from ul. Parkowa 40), Sopot, tel. (+48) 58 555 84 80, www.marea.sopot.pl. 18 rooms (16 singles, 16 doubles, 2 suites). 🏠 🚿 🚰


WOLNE MIASTO

► B-4, ul. Św. Ducha 2, Gdańsk, tel. (+48) 58 305 22 55, www.hotelwm.pl. 62 rooms (17 singles, 41 doubles, 3 suites, 1 apartment).  ★★★


OUT OF TOWN**KADYNY FOLWARK HOTEL & SPA**

► Kadyń 18, Tolknicko, tel. (+48) 55 231 61 20, www.kadyny.com.pl. 49 rooms (10 singles, 33 doubles, 1 apartment, 5 Four-person room).  ★★★


KANIA LODGE

► Sytna Góra 10, tel. (+48) 58 681 06 77, www.kanialodge.com.pl. 15 rooms (6 singles, 6 doubles, 9 apartments).  ★★★


KOZI GRÓD

► ul. Leśników 3, Pomlewo, tel. (+48) 58 692 07 80, www.kozigrod.pl. 50 rooms (46 singles, 46 doubles, 3 suites, 1 apartment).  ★★★

BUDGET**ABAKI MAC-TUR**

► H-5, ul. Beethovena 8, Gdańsk, tel. (+48) 58 322 04 40, www.abak.gda.pl. 22 rooms (3 singles, 15 doubles, 4 triples).  P

GRYF

► I-3, ul. Jana z Kolna 22/26, Gdańsk, tel. (+48) 58 300 01 30, www.owgryf.pl. 66 rooms (41 singles, 64 doubles, 24 triples).  ★★★




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**NEPTUN**

► N-1, ul. Jana z Kolna 8, Gdynia, tel. (+48) 58 712 13 12, www.rewita.pl. 21 rooms (3 singles, 17 doubles, 1 apartment).  ★★★

PENSION EDEN

► M-4, ul. Kordeckiego 4/6, Sopot, tel. (+48) 58 551 15 03, www.hotel-eden.pl. 25 rooms (3 singles, 10 doubles, 10 triples, 2 suites).  ★★★

VILLA AKME

► I-5, ul. Drwęcka 1, Gdańsk, tel. (+48) 58 302 40 21, www.akme.gda.pl. 20 rooms (7 singles, 7 doubles, 6 triples).  ★★★

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www.dhapartamenty.pl

APARTMENTS

AL MARE

▶ L-6, ul. Władysława Łokietka 49, Sopot, tel. (+48) 607 67 04 46, www.almare-sopot.pl. 2 rooms (2 apartments).
🚿 🚰 🚰 🚰

APARTAMENTY SOPOT

▶ L-6, ul. Władysława Łokietka 51, Sopot, tel. (+48) 608 50 23 33, www.seatowers24.pl. 6 rooms (6 apartments).
🚿 🚰

GDANSK APARTMENTS

▶ B/C-4/5, tel. (+48) 503 05 71 42, rent-apartments-in-gdansk.pl. 5 rooms (5 apartments). 🚿 🚰 🚰

JOVI APARTMENTS

▶ L-5, ul. Władysława Łokietka 19C (2nd floor), Sopot, tel. (+48) 797 60 11 00, www.joviapartments.com. 5 rooms (5 apartments). 🚿 🚰 🚰 🚰

MAŁA ANGLIA BOUTIQUE APARTMENTS

▶ M-5, ul. Grunwaldzka 94, Sopot, tel. (+48) 58 351 05 20, www.malaanglia.pl. 6 rooms (6 apartments).
🚿 🚰 🚰

ROYAL APARTMENTS

▶ L-5, ul. 3 Maja 67-69, Sopot, tel. (+48) 790 50 06 35, www.royal-apartments.pl. 80 rooms (80 apartments). 🚿

SEA TOWERS

▶ O-1, ul. Hryniewickiego 6, Gdynia, tel. (+48) 608 50 23 33, www.seatowers24.pl. 30 rooms (30 apartments). 🚿

HOSTELS

BLUES ROOMS

▶ O-1, ul. Portowa 9, Gdynia, tel. (+48) 600 92 85 46, www.bluesrooms.pl. 7 rooms (5 singles, 5 doubles, 1 quad, 1 six-person room).

CENTRAL SOPOT

▶ L-4, ul. Bohaterów Monte Cassino 15, Sopot, tel. (+48) 530 85 87 17, www.centralsopot.com. 29 rooms (18 singles, 18 doubles, 5 triples, 3 quads, 24 dorm beds).

GRAND HOSTEL

▶ B-4, ul. Kołodziejka 2, Gdańsk, tel. (+48) 666 06 13 50, www.grandhostel.pl. 6 rooms (6 doubles). 🚿 🚰 🚰

HAPPY SEVEN

▶ D-3, ul. Grodzka 7, Gdańsk, tel. (+48) 505 87 70 21, www.happy7hostel.pl. 14 rooms (1 single, 6 doubles, 5 triples, 1 suite, 1 apartment).

HIGH 5

▶ D-3, ul. Grodzka 16, Gdańsk, tel. (+48) 58 320 86 01, www.high5hostel.pl. 5 rooms (1 double, 1 quad, 32 dorm beds).

HOSTEL UNIVERSUS

► B-4, ul. Podgarbary 10, Gdańsk, tel. (+48) 58 301 81 14, www.hostel.universus.pl. 11 rooms (1 single, 2 doubles, 1 triple, 1 quad, 1 apartment, 12 dorm beds). 📍

HOSTEL ZAPPIO

► D-4, ul. Świętojańska 49, Gdańsk, tel. (+48) 58 322 01 74, www.zappio.pl. 18 rooms (2 singles, 3 doubles, 4 triples, 4 quads, 4 apartments, 32 dorm beds). 📍

MIDTOWN HOSTEL

► B-3, Podwale Staromiejskie 105/106 lok.1, Gdańsk, tel. (+48) 58 710 50 57, www.hostel.gdansk.pl. 8 rooms (6 singles, 6 doubles, 1 quad, 1 six-person room).

OCH! HOSTEL ► N-2, ul. Świętojańska 85, Gdynia, tel. (+48) 500 31 47 37, www.ochhostel.pl. 8 rooms (2 singles, 3 doubles, 2 apartments, 16 dorm beds). 📍

RIVERSIDE HOSTEL

► C-5, ul. Powroźnicza 18-24 lok. 2, Gdańsk, tel. (+48) 881 43 77 78, www.riverside-hostel.pl. 7 rooms (3 doubles, 3 triples, 32 dorm beds).

SISTERS LODGE HOSTEL

► M-5, ul. Grunwaldzka 59/1, Sopot, tel. (+48) 58 533 40 34, www.sisterslodge.com. 6 rooms (4 doubles, 1 triple, 1 eight-person room).

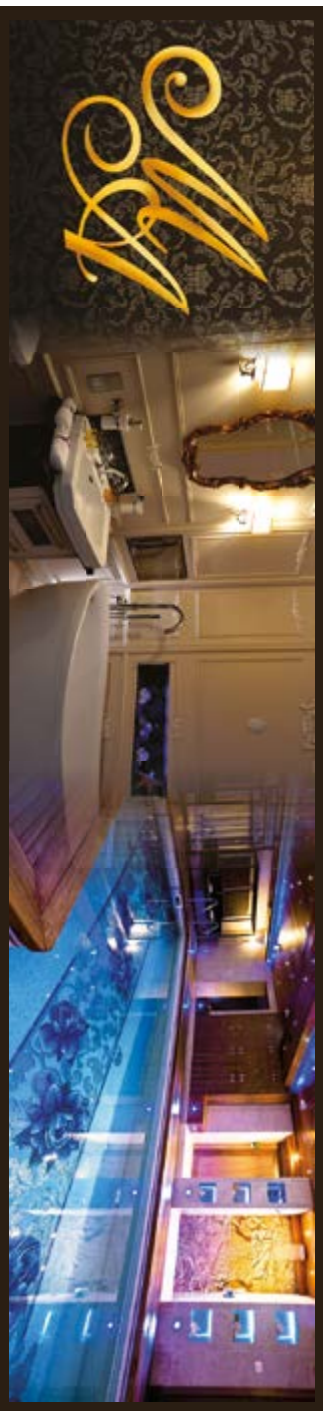
MADE IN GDAŃSK

Arthur Schopenhauer
by J. Schäfer, 1859

Forget your Fahrenheits and ignore your Wałęsas, the tri-city has produced a factory line of famous faces, not least Donald Tusk, the current President of the European Council. However, there's so many more. Take for example Artur Schopenhauer, a philosopher who out-geeks Fahrenheit. By the age of 25 he had published a book called 'On the Four fold Root of the Principle of Sufficient Reason', and his writings would go on to influence thinkers of the calibre of Freud and Einstein. Boxer Dariusz 'Tiger' Michalczewski, who comes from Brzeźno but defected to West Germany in 1988, came within one defence of breaking Rocky Marciano's record of successive defences between 1994 and 2003. But let the final word go to Paul Beneke, a naval chief who stole Hans Memling's triptych 'The Last Judgement' after boldly boarding Britain's St Thomas in 1473. The result of his deft act of robbery hangs to this day in the National Museum in Gdańsk.

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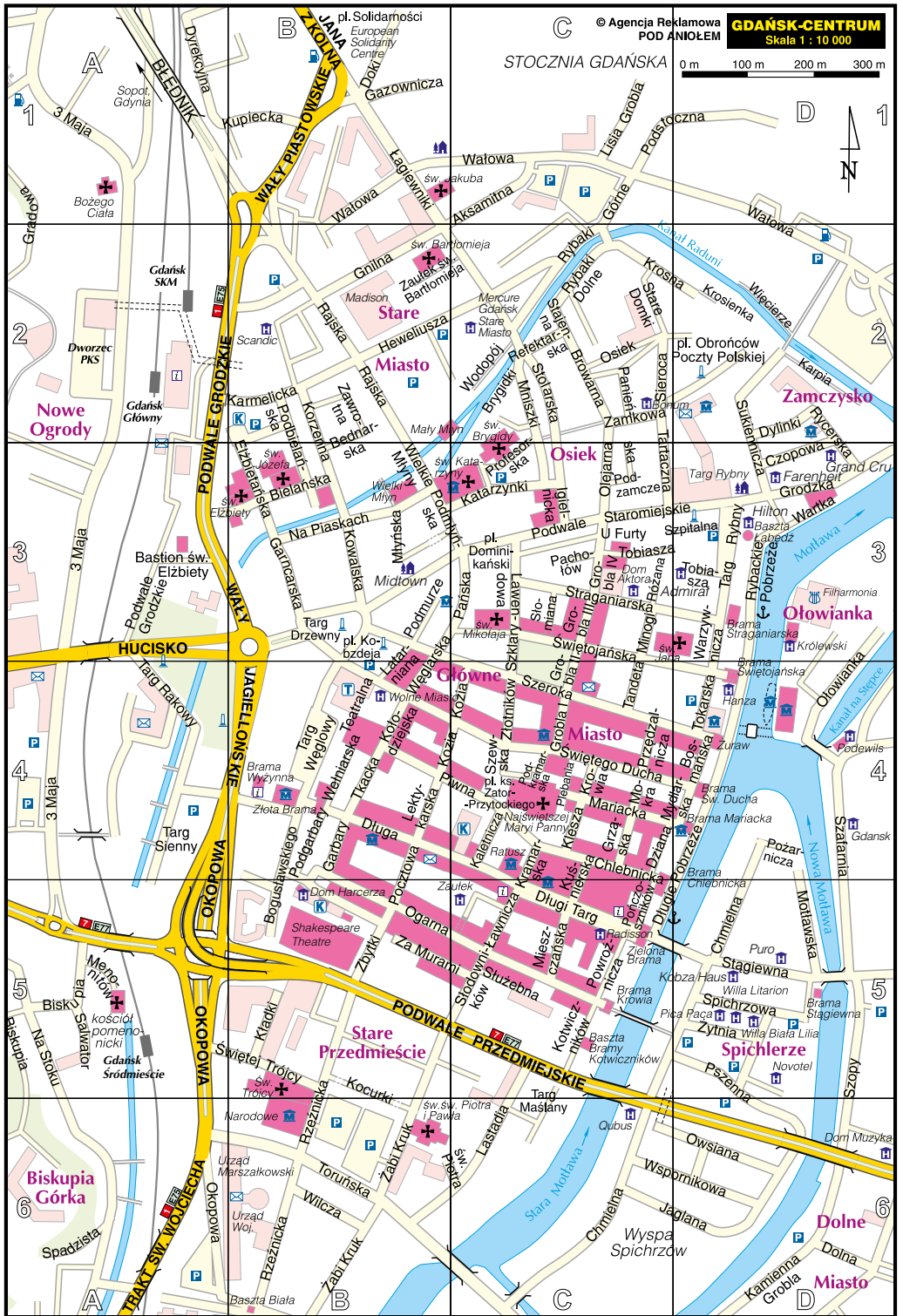
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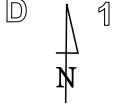
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GDAŃSK-CENTRUM
Skala 1 : 10 000

0 m 100 m 200 m 300 m

STOCZNIĄ GDAŃSKĄ



Nowe Ogrody

Stare Miasto

Zamczysko

Osiek

Ołowianka

Hucisko

Miasto Główne

Stare Przedmieście

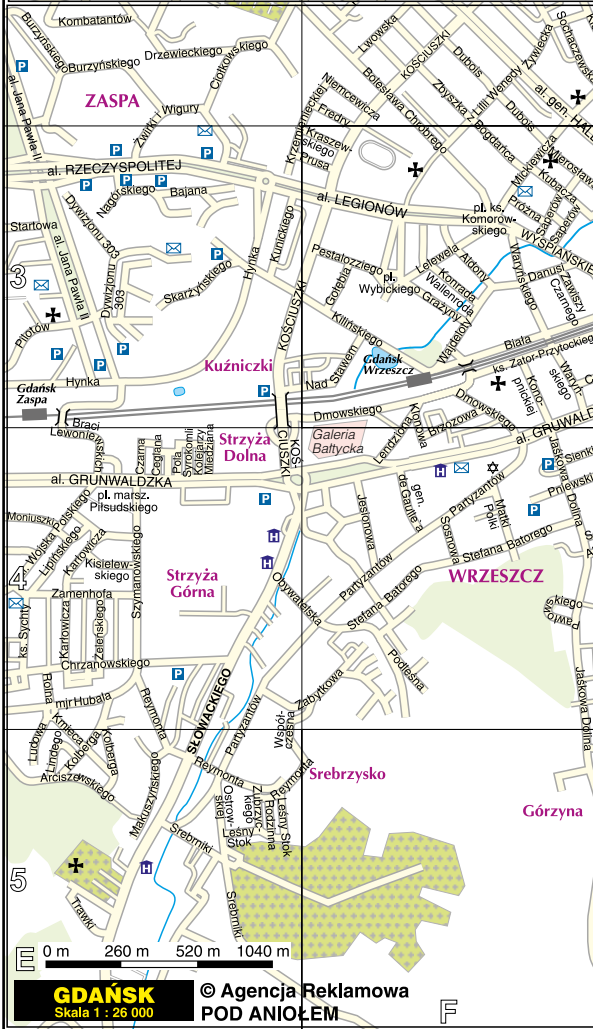
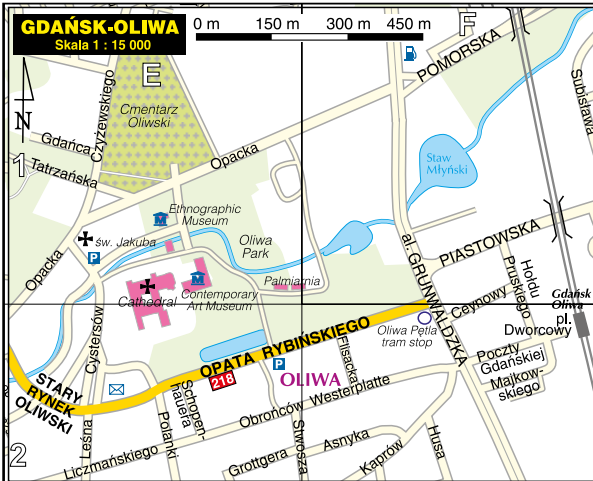
Biskupia Górka

Dolne Miasto

Miasto

GDĄSK-OLIWA
Skala 1 : 15 000

0 m 150 m 300 m 450 m



GDĄSK
Skala 1 : 26 000

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POD ANIOŁEM



GDAŃSK-NOWY PORT
Skala 1 : 27 000

0m 270m 540m 1080m

K

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2

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4

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nańska

Basen Westerplatte

Ostrów

NYCIĘSTWA

Wagnera

Zatoka Gdańska

Westerplatte

Kpt. Połnea

NOWY PORT

Sienna Grobla

Stocznia Gdańska

Oliwińska

Długie Ogrody

Śródmieście

Główne Miasto

Podwale Przedmieście

SUCHANINO

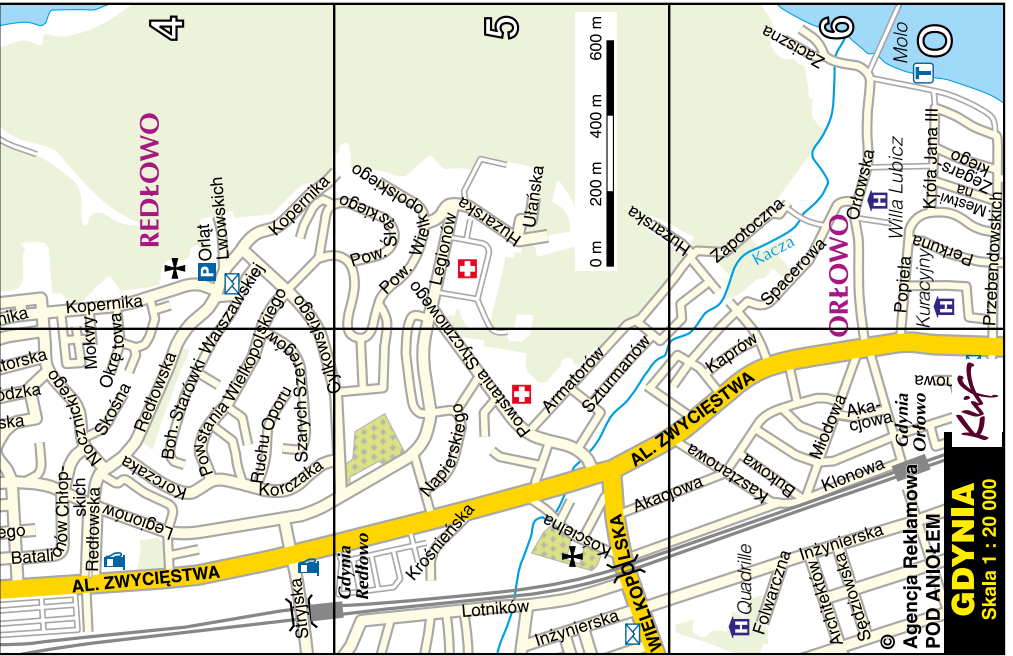
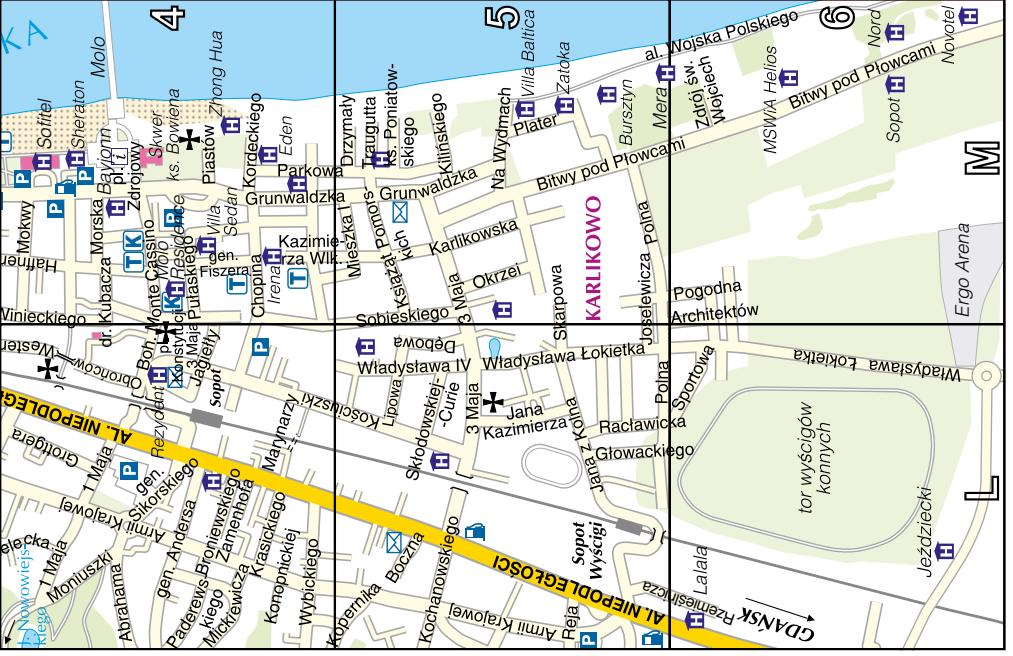
Siedlce

Stare Szkoły

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Street Register

SOPOT

(PG. 146-147)

1 Maja	L-4
23 Marca	L-3
3 Maja	L/M-5
Abraham	L-4
Andersa, gen.	L-4
Architektów	M-6
Armii Krajowej	L-3/5
Bitwy pod Płowcami	M-5/6
Boczna	L-5
Bohaterów Monte Cassino	L/M-4
Broniewskiego	L-4
Budzysza	M-3
Ceynowy	M-3
Chopina	L/M-4
Dębowa	L-5
Drzymał	M-5
Fiszera, gen.	M-4
Głównego	L-5/6
Goyki	L/M-3
Grottera	L-4
Grunwaldzka	M-4/5
Haffnera	M-2/4
Helska	M-3
Jagielły	L-4
Jana Kazimierza	L-5
Jana z Kolna	L-5
Joselewicza	L/M-5
Junaków	L-2
Kartkowskiego	M-5
Kaszubska	L-2
Kazimierza Wielkiego	M-4/5
Kilńskiego	M-5
Kochanowskiego	L-5
Konopnickiej	L-4
Konstytucji 3 Maja, pl.	L-4
Kopernika	L-5
Kordeckiego	M-4
Kościuski	L 4/5
Kraskiego	L-4
Kraszewskiego	L-2
Książąt Pomorskich	M-5
Księżycowa	L-3
Kubacka, dr.	L-4
Kujawska	L-2
Kusocińskiego, pl.	M-3
Lipowa	L-5
Łowicka	L-2
Łużycka	L-2
Malczewskiego	L-2/3

Malopolska	L-2
Mamuski, al.	M-3/4
Maniary	L-4
Mazowiecka	L-2
Mickiewicza	L-4
Mieszka I	M-4/5
Mokwy	M-4
Moniuszki	L-4
Morska	M-4
Na Wydmach	M-5
Niepodległości, al.	L/M-2/5
Obodrzyców	L-2
Obróńców Westerplatte	L-3/4
Okrzeña	L-3
Okrzeña	M-5
Padlerewskiego	L-4
Parkowa	M-4/5
Piastów	M-4
Plater	M-5
Podgórna	L-2/3
Pogodna	M-6
Poina	L/M-5
Poniatowskiego, ks.	M-5
Powstańców Warszawy	M-3/4
Przemysłowa	L-5/6
Pułaskiego	M-4
Raclawicka	L-5/6
Reja	L-5
Sępia	M-4
Sienkiewicza	L-2
Sikorskiego, gen.	L-4
Skarpowa	L/M-5
Skłodowskiej-Curie	L-5
Sobieskiego	M-4/5
Sportowa	L-6
Strzelecka	L-3/4
Traugutta	M-5
Weherowska	L-2/3
Wnieckiego	M-3/4
Władysława IV	L-5
Władysława Łokietka	L-5/6
Wojasza Polskiego, al.	M-5/6
Wydzieckiego	L-4
Wycisze	L-3
Zamenhofska	L-4
Zamkowa Góra	M-2
Zdrój św. Wojciech	M-6
Zdrojowy, pl.	M-4

GDAŃSK

(PG. 143-145)

3 Maja	A-1/2/3/4
Aksamintra	C-1
al. gen. Józefa Hallera	G-3, F-2
al. Grunwaldzka	E/F/G-3/4
al. Jana Pawła II	F-3
al. Legionów	E-3
al. Rzeczypospolitej	E-3
al. Zwycięstwa	H-3
Angielska Grobla	K-3
Arciszewskiego	E-5
Asnyka	F-2
Batorego	F-4
Beethovena	H-5
Berna	I/4
Biała	F-3
Biegańskiego	J-5
Bieleńska	B-3
Biskupia	A-5/6
Broniewskiego	G/H-1
Browicza	K-5
Brygidki	C-2
Brzezińskiego	G-1
Chabuńskiego	J-5
Chlebicka	C-4
Chmielna	C-6, D-5/6
Cystersów	E-1/2
Szładowskiego	E-1
Dąbrowskiego	I-3/4
Dębowa	H-4
Danusia	F-3
Deptak Nadmorski	G-1
Dmowskiego	F-3
Do Studzienki	G-4
Dokerów	J-2
Doki	I-1
Drwęcka	B-5
Drzewieckiego	E-2
Długa	B-4
Długa Grobla	K-2/3
Długi Targ	C-5
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