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GDAŃSK



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Gdańsk

Gdańsk is dotted with popular sites which are instantly identified with the city. These symbolic silhouettes certainly include the massive brick bulk of St Mary's Basilica towering over the city, the rich Renaissance facades of the houses around the Long Market and the statue of Neptune reigning over what is acclaimed as one of the most beautiful market places in Europe. The symbols also certainly include the Medieval Crane which stoops, dozing, on the Motława bank. This thousand-year-old city on the Baltic coast has been the hometown of Hevelius, Fahrenheit, Schopenhauer, Grass, and Wałęsa. Above all, however, it ranks high on the list of top tourist attractions. Gdańsk stuns visitors with its multitude of listed sites of residential, sacred, military, and port functions, its heritage of one hundred centuries of fascinating culture and turbulent history, and its unusual air of a location where history and modern times merge in perfect harmony to create an unmatched cityscape.



The Royal Route.

Many a time in its history Gdańsk had the honour of hosting Polish monarchs. On 8 July 1552 King Sigismund Augustus arrived in the city with two thousand courtiers; on 1 August 1677 King Jan III Sobieski made a ceremonious entry into the city accompanied by his wife, Marysieńka, and son Jacob.



Upland Gate (1)

This richly sculpted 16th century stone gate to Gdańsk marks the beginning of the Royal Route. It was here that the mighty of this world were first met by the cheering crowds on their arrival. The gate greeted them displaying the Polish, Gdańsk, and Royal Prussian emblems and the didactic inscription reading: "Justice and piety are the two cornerstones of all kingdoms".

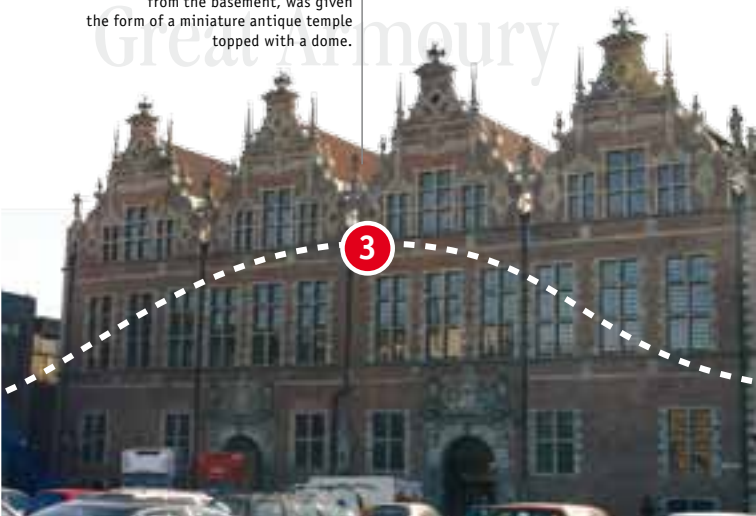
Gateway to Long Street (2)

A mix of Gothic and Renaissance in style, the Gateway used to be part of the mediaeval city fortifications. Its elements rise like a warning: the Torture Tower, where executions were held in public, and the Prison Tower with remnants of a pillory, which was used as a city gaol between 17th -19th centuries. This historical site hosts a treasure – "the Gdańsk gold" – the precious collection of the Amber Museum, the only one of this type in Poland.



Great Armoury

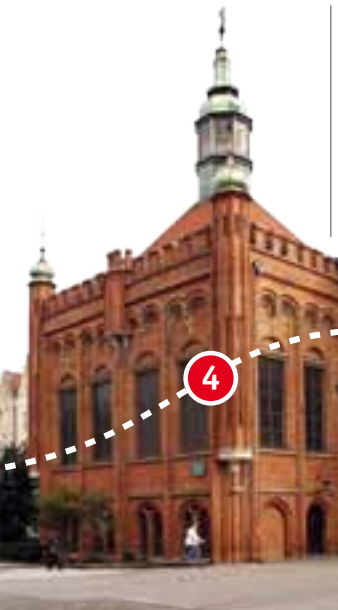
The well next to the Great Armoury, actually a lift-well designed to transport cannon balls from the basement, was given the form of a miniature antique temple topped with a dome.



Great Armoury (3)

The nearby imposing and ornate edifice of the arsenal represents the most exquisite example of Dutch Mannerism in Gdańsk. Its richly adorned front and back walls facing the Coal Market and Weaver Street rouse admiration for their composition and ornamentation. Its stately interiors would once brim with guns, cannon balls, and arms of all kinds. Today, the building houses the Academy of Fine Arts.





St George's Fraternity Court

The earliest rifle club in Medieval Gdańsk, named after St. George first met at Artus Court. Later, however, it received its own premises in a late Gothic Court (the so-called Shooting Range) built in the locally fashionable Flemish style next to the Golden Gate in 1487-1494.



Golden Gate (5)

This magnificent two-storey-high arch of triumph was built in the early 17th century to mark the grand entrance to Long Street. In the olden days, the gate passages would see monarchs and their corteges making their entrance to Gdańsk. The facade tops are finished with stone statues symbolising virtues the locals would hold in high esteem for ages: peace, freedom, wealth, fame, concord, justice, piety, and reason. The houses flanking Long Street, today a popular pedestrian track, originally belonged to rich and influential Gdańsk families. The patriciate residences with their grand facades seem to rival one another in their abundance of forms and originality of decor.



Uphagen House

On 1 November 1911 the house at 12 Long Street, once the abode of Johann Uphagen, was rented from his descendants to be turned into the Museum of Townhouse Interiors. Until 1945 the site was organisationally a branch of the Municipal Museum.

Uphagen House



Uphagen House (6)

This mixed Rococo and Classicist townhouse in Long Street once belonged to J. Uphagen, an eminent councillor and assessor. Today transformed into the Museum of Townhouse Interiors, it is where one can get an insight into the opulence and richness of a burgher house and its fixtures and fittings. Walking around the meticulously restored entrance hall, the big and small dining rooms, the musical room and the kitchen, the visitor is taken on a trip back in time to the late 18th century.



Town Hall of the Main City

On 3 October 1556 the tower and the interior of the Town Hall of the Main City were destroyed in a fire. The re-erected Hall was decorated in the Renaissance style. In 1561 the tower was finished with a helm, crowned with a figure of King Sigismund II Augustus, and given a new clock and a carillon consisting of 14 bells.

MHMG

MUZEUM HISTORYCZNE MIASTA GDAŃSKA



Town Hall of the Main City (7)

Originally, the Town Hall served the authorities of the wealthy and mighty Gdańsk. First erected in the 13th century, it bears marks of numerous alterations introduced at later dates. The external architecture and interiors arranged in the Dutch Mannerist style adequately reflected the wealth and position of the city. The most stately room, called the Great Council Hall or Red Chamber, is recognised as one of the most beautiful town hall interiors of modern times. The ceiling here is adorned with 25 symbolic paintings by Izaak van den Blocke. The best known is entitled the 'Apotheosis of Gdańsk'. The Town Hall tower is fitted with a carillon recently reconstructed to replicate the original 17th century instrument. The bell music wafts far from the tower. This historic building now houses the Gdańsk History Museum.



Neptune Fountain

Neptune Fountain

The fountain in front of Artus Court, featuring a figure of Neptune, was first put into operation on 9 October 1633. From then on it spouted water from spring to autumn on the days and hours set by the City Council.



Neptune Fountain (8)

The 17th century Neptune Fountain in the Long Market stands as a symbol of Gdańsk's bond with the sea, adding charm to this most beautiful town market. A local legend has it that Neptune contributed to the development of the recipe for the famous Gdańsk liquor, Goldwasser. Apparently, indignant at seeing coins tossed into his fountain, Neptune struck the water with his trident crushing the gold into tiny flakes which since then have glittered in the delicious herbal liquor.



Artus Court

Artus Court

On 23 November 1742 a corn exchange was opened at Artus Court. The commodity market continued in the building until 1920.



Artus Court (9)

The idea that inspired the erection of the building referred to the legendary King Arthur and the Knights of the Round Table. The edifice served as the representative offices of merchant guilds (called the Benches), rich patriciate, and craftsmen. As such, it was an important centre of social and commercial life in old Gdańsk. The impressive Gdańsk lions supporting the city's coat of arms presided over the meetings seconded by a statue of Mercury, the patron of merchants, and personifications of Justice, Might, and the generous Fortune. Inside, the Court is decorated with numerous paintings, model ships, wooden wall panelling, suits of armour, and the world's largest Renaissance stove rising over 10 m high. Its tiles feature portraits of eminent European rulers, family crests, and personifications of virtues and planets.



New Bench House

On 16 November 1901 an exhibition entitled the "Gdańsk Hall" was opened in the New Bench House at 43 Long Street. The collection was composed of over two hundred exhibits, all donated by Lesser Giedziński.



New Bench House (10)

Neighbouring on Artus Court stands the New Bench House. Inside, the so-called Gdańsk Entrance Hall actually served as an official reception room. With its Baroque finish, it abounds in Gdańsk and Dutch craft typically seen in the local patriciate residences. At one p.m. every afternoon a sweet girl's face appears in one of the windows of the New Bench House. This is Hedwiga, a legendary 17th century maiden said to have been kept prisoner there by her uncle. In 1891 the girl, heroine of the old romance, became the protagonist of its novelised version entitled 'The Maiden in the Window' by Jadwiga Łuszczewska (Deotyma). Generation after generation indulged in the book and upon arriving in Gdańsk would look for the house and the pretty lass lurking in the window.



Golden House

Golden House

Sculpted ornamentation commissioned from Italy and transported to Gdańsk by sea was designed to adorn the front wall of the Golden House. Unfortunately, the sculptures sank on the way together with the boat. The facade was thus decorated with pieces originally planned for the back yard wall.



Golden House (11)

Another equally well-known residence faces the Long Market. The Golden House is one of the most beautiful buildings in Gdańsk. Designed by Abraham van den Block, it was built in the early 17th century for Mayor Jan Speymann, a rich merchant and sophisticated art sponsor, and his wife Judith of the Bahrs. A legend says that sometimes the apparition of the beautiful Judith Speymann wanders along the corridors whispering: 'Do justice, fear nobody'.



Green Gate

The site of the imposing Green Gate was originally occupied by the earliest city gate, the Koga Gate. On 17 September 1880 the building was donated to house the Provincial West Prussian Museum.



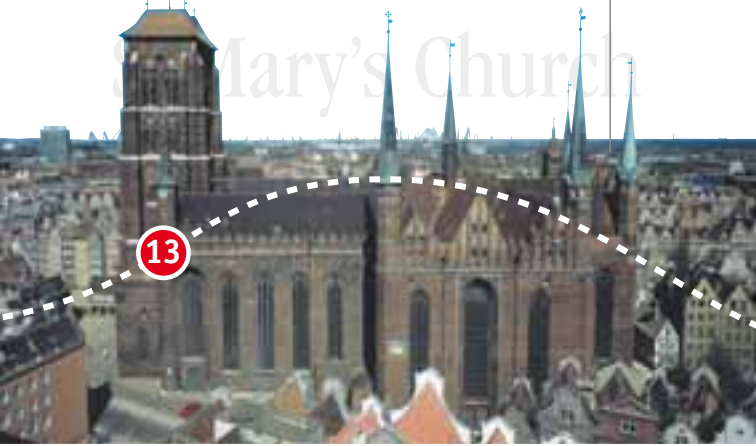
Green Gate (12)

Built in the Mannerist style in 1568-1571 by Regnier from Amsterdam and Hans Kramer from Dresden, the Green Gate was intended to be the royal residence for monarchs visiting the city. Alas, it served the lofty function only once when in 1646 Marie Louise Gonzaga made a brief stay here on her way from France to marry Ladislaus IV. Today, managed by the National Museum, the gate is a frequently used as an exhibition hall. It also houses the office of Lech Wałęsa, a Nobel Peace Prize winner and the first president of the Third Polish Republic.



St Mary's Church

The construction works on St Mary's Church in Gdańsk, first initiated in 1343, were finally completed on 28 July 1502. Its peculiarities include a magnificent astronomical clock built in 1464-1470 by Hans Düringer. The clock shows the hours, days, movable feast dates, and the Moon phases. At noon the clock doors open to show the Three Magi, the Apostles, Adam and Eve, and Death.



Church of the Blessed Virgin Mary (13)

The church, or St Mary's Basilica, built during over one hundred and fifty years, is the largest European sacred structure of brick. The Gothic interior with its exceptionally beautiful crystal vaults is adorned with many exquisite works of Medieval and Baroque art. To mention but a few: the most elaborate main altar by master Michael Schwarz from Augsburg, a stone sculpture of the Pieta from around 1410 that leaves no-one indifferent, a copy of Hans Memling's 'The Last Judgment' triptych, or the famous astronomical clock. The perfect acoustic properties of the austere and ascetic church enhance the rich sound of the Baroque organ. A gallery that crowns the 82-meter church bell tower with its characteristic flat-roofed silhouette proudly rising over the Gdańsk roofline offers a magnificent panorama of the city. To get to the top you have to climb nearly 400 steps. At an arm's length from the Basilica stands the Baroque Royal Chapel (14) founded by a Polish monarch, King Jan III Sobieski. Its unusual facade is finished with three characteristic small domes.



St Mary's Street



St Mary's Street

The spell-casting St Mary's Street has its history as a film location. Here, for instance, the "Lubeck" scenes of "The Buddenbrooks" by Thomas Mann were shot.



St Mary's Street

This quiet lane and its romantic air have for centuries attracted artists. The street starts at St Mary's Church and ends at the medieval St Mary's Gate opening on to the Long Embankment. The lane is an exquisite example of the old Gdańsk architecture. The houses with their characteristic entrance terraces and narrow, richly decorated facades were once dwelt in by wealthy merchants and goldsmiths. Today, St Mary's Street is full of jewellery workshops and galleries offering unique amber jewellery. Gdańsk cultivates its centuries' old tradition of being the world amber capital.



St Nicholas' Church

On 10 October 1813 the Russians set their cannons and shelled the Dominican monastery next to St Nicholas' Church. The compound perished. The remains were dismantled and the plot was turned first into a drill ground, then a market place (Dominican Square).

St Nicholas' Church



St Nicholas' Church (15)

St Nicholas' is the oldest church in Gdańsk. Its foundation goes back to as far as the early 12th century. St Nicholas' was also the only fortunate church in the city to have escaped the war unscathed. This triple-nave Gothic shrine is more than admirable due to its authentic and exceptionally rich décor dating back to the 17th century and a high-class, late-Baroque organ front. Over the centuries the church has remained the domain of the Dominican Friars originally invited to Gdańsk by Prince Świętopełk. In 1260 Pope Alexander IV granted the monks the privilege of holding indulgence festivities, which gave the beginning to St Dominic's fairs. Continued to date, the Dominican Fair has grown to become known in Europe as the most popular Gdańsk event.



St Catherine's Church

St Catherine's Church

On 30 November 1738 a carillon, built in Holland and composed of 37 bells, played its first tune on top of St Catherine's Church tower. The instrument was destroyed in a fire on 3 July 1905, but "returned" replicated in 1989. Virtuosos from all over Europe play it during the annual Gdańsk Carillon Festival.



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St Catherine's Church (16)

The origins of this oldest parish church in the Old Town area go back to the 13th century. Inside, the walls feature paintings by Anton Möller and Izaak van den Blocke. The interior also holds the epitaph and tombstone of the famous astronomer Jan Hevelius. The 76-meter-high church tower carries a carillon replicating the original 17th century instrument. The beautiful tower helm designed by Jacob van den Blocke and called the "crown of the city" catches the eye from far away. Neighbouring on St Catherine's stands a church devoted to another Christian saint. It is St Bridget's Church (17) from the turn of the 14th and 15th centuries. The shrine went down in history in August 1980 when during the worker strikes it provided a refuge and served as a meeting site of the anti-communist opposition. The church will soon gain a magnificent amber altar. When on a tour of Gdańsk's churches we also recommend visiting St John's (18), St Elisabeth's (19), St Joseph's (20), St Peter and Paul's (21), and the triple-nave Franciscan church of the Holy Trinity (22) with its intricate gables.



National Museum

For centuries on end the famous Gdańsk furniture would attract throngs of clients to the city. The builders, reaching back to the best achievements of Flemish joinery, developed their own, "Gdańsk" style. The craftsmen competed, aspiring to reach the top artistic level. Using the highest quality wood they would produce tables, writing desks, beds, wardrobes, clock cabinets, China display cabinets, richly adorned chests of drawers, hall panelling boards, and exquisite spiral stairways. Many pieces found their way to royal courts. A collection of the Gdańsk furniture can be admired at the Early Art Section of the National Museum.



MUZEUM
NARODOWE
GDAŃSK



23

National Museum (23)

The adapted Gothic building of the ex-Franciscan monastery adjacent to the Holy Trinity Church houses the Early Art Section of the National Museum. The collection includes Flemish, Polish, and local Gdańsk painting, Gdańsk and north-European furniture, ceramics, artistic gold, tin, and smithy artifacts. There is one special exhibit, though, which beats others in popularity, namely the famous Hans Memling's "The Last Judgment" triptych. The painting, acclaimed as the artist's best work, was originally stolen, then presented to St Mary's Church in the 15th century by a privateer captain from Gdańsk, Paul Benecke. Other treasures of the National Museum are displayed at the Abbot's Palace and Abbot's Granary in Oliwa.





Town Hall of the Old City

The first town hall of the Old City was already in place in 1382. The one surviving today was built on the same site in 1587-1595.



Town Hall of the Old City (24)

The town hall is a romantic, almost filigree brick building finished with a slender turret. It is the best specimen of Mannerism in the city's architecture with its air closest to the Dutch original. It is also a surviving witness of a peculiar phenomenon in local history: in the olden days Gdańsk was split into two areas, each with its own authorities - hence two town halls, one for the Old City, the other for the Main City. It was in the Old City that Jan Hevelius, a known astronomer and beer brewer, whose statue adorns the neighbouring square, held the post of assessor, then councillor. The interesting hall interior features magnificent 17th century ceilings adorned with allegorical paintings, and a stunning winding stairway. The main entrance is framed with a stone portal decorated with sculpted personifications of grinning vices and smiling virtues. Today, the Town Hall houses the Baltic Sea Culture Centre Gdańsk.



Grand Mill

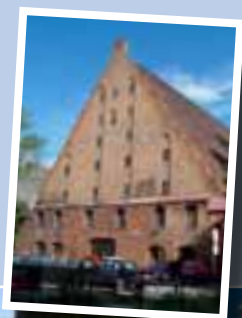
The Radunia Canal, cutting across the Old City, was a source of energy used in industry as early as in the Middle Ages. In 1350 the largest industrial structure of Medieval Europe, the Grand Mill, was erected on a tiny island formed where the waterway split into two arms.

Grand Mill



Grand Mill (25)

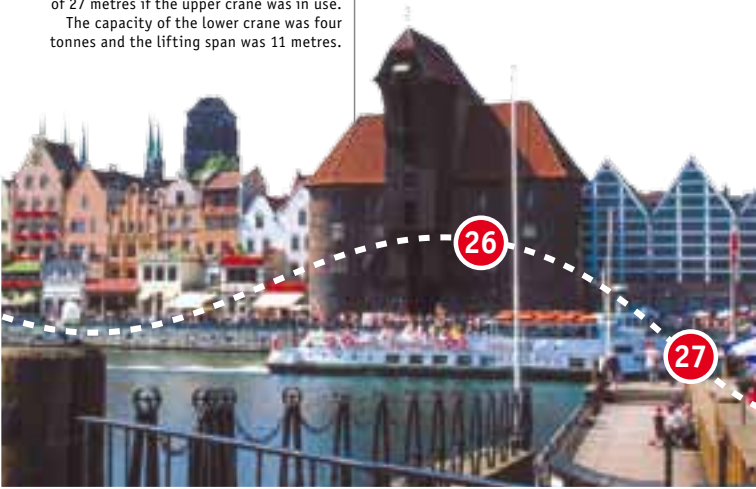
With its characteristic huge gable roof, the mill on the Radunia canal in the Old City area is an exceptional specimen of Medieval technical architecture and the largest industrial investment of the then Europe. The site was operated as a flour mill, granary, and bakery. Today, the Gothic structure accommodates a modern shopping centre; however, the huge old mill-wheels are left on display inside.



Crane

Crane

The structure of huge wooden drums inside the Crane, driven by men, enabled lifting up to two tonnes to the height of 27 metres if the upper crane was in use. The capacity of the lower crane was four tonnes and the lifting span was 11 metres.



Crane (26)

The Crane over the Motława River is the most characteristic and unmistakable symbol of Gdańsk. Back in the Middle Ages it was the largest port crane in Europe handling cargo and putting up ship masts. It also served as an unusual city gate. The reconstructed driving mechanism inside, still in working condition, is an immense wooden wheel originally propelled by men literally walking in it. Today the majestic Crane, a fine specimen of the historic port facilities, sets an excellent background for the rich collection of the National Maritime Museum (27) which occupies the old granaries of Lead Island across the Motława River.



Lighthouse

The Lighthouse houses a restored 19th century instrument – the time sphere. Lifted and then dropped down every noon, the ball let the ship masters set their chronometers to the precise time.

Lighthouse



Lighthouse (28)

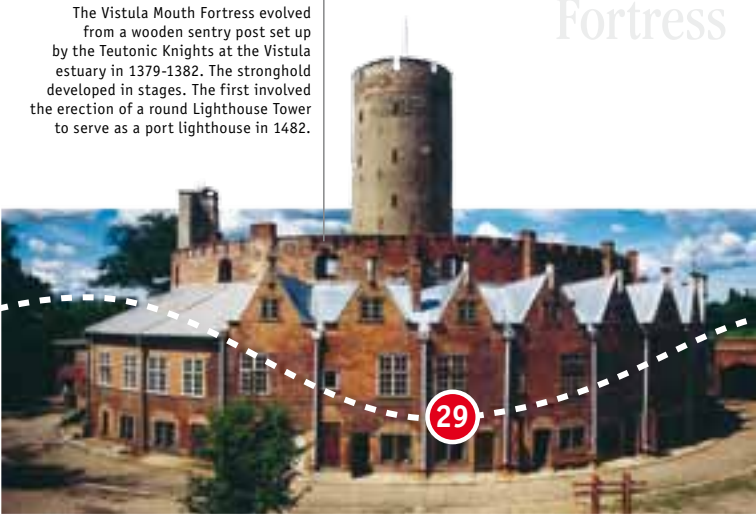
Another 'maritime' feature of the Gdańsk cityscape is the lighthouse in the district of New Port. Built in the late 19th century, it ranks among the most beautiful structures of its kind along the Baltic Sea Coast. Also used as the port pilot tower, it was equipped with a then unusual instrument - a time sphere. Today, the building accommodates a collection of antique optical instruments and an exhibition picturing the history of seashore coastal lighthouses. Having climbed to the top, we will get a far-stretching panoramic view of the Bay of Gdańsk and the port, as well as the nearby several-hundred-year-old 'sister-structure' of the Tower Lighthouse at the Vistula Mouth Fortress.



Wisłoujście [Vistula Mouth] Fortress

Wisłoujście [Vistula Mouth] Fortress

The Vistula Mouth Fortress evolved from a wooden sentry post set up by the Teutonic Knights at the Vistula estuary in 1379-1382. The stronghold developed in stages. The first involved the erection of a round Lighthouse Tower to serve as a port lighthouse in 1482.



Vistula Mouth Fortress (29)

The foundations of one of the world's major surviving authentic sites of military designation were first laid in the 15th century. Added to and expanded many times, it became a mighty strategic fortification and for centuries protected the border of the Polish Republic. As such, it is priceless evidence of Polish maritime history. Back in 1627 the Polish naval fleet set sail from the fortress heading for what turned out to be the victorious battle of Oliwa with the Swedes. The fort cheered the passing ships with shooting guns and flying a crimson flag with the Polish white eagle.



Stronghold Fort

Grodzisko [Stronghold] Fort

The Grodzisko Fort site is home of the modern Pomeranian Presentation Centre of Science and Technology - the 'Hevelianum'.



Stronghold Fort (30)

This unique military complex played an equally important role in the history of the city. The fort, now known as the Gdańsk Fortress Culture Park of the City Fortifications, was first developed in the 17th century. The major moment in its history, however, came in the 18th century when Gdańsk found itself under siege from the Russians. The fort staged a spectacular fight and defeated the invaders. The second historic moment came in 1807 when Napoleon's army attacked the city under the command of Marshal Lefebvre. Indeed, Bonaparte considered "Gdańsk the key to all" and therefore contributed to modernising the fort. He also built an immense casemated artillery battery known as the so-called Napoleon Donjon.

Millennium Cross (31)

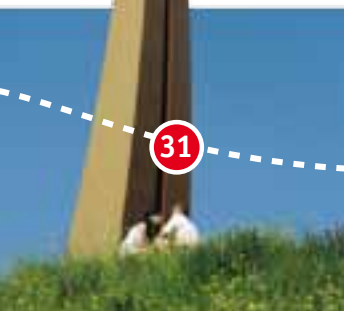
The Jerusalem Bastion of the Stronghold Fort is crowned with a huge cross. Seen from the sea, it rises above the cityscape.



Millennium Cross

Cemetery of Non-existent Cemeteries

For centuries on end Gdańsk enjoyed the status of a specific municipal republic. It was an ethnical melting pot dwelt in by a variety of creative and co-existing cultures, faiths, and languages. There were Poles, Germans, Dutch, Scottish, Jews, and English; there were Protestants, Catholics, Jews, Huguenots, and Mennonites. It was a tolerant and open place, skilful at blending all differences into its own and unique landscape. The Cemetery of Non-existent Cemeteries comes as a timeless token of continuity and respect the contemporary generation has for those who formed the local community in the past.



The cross was put up to commemorate 2000 years of Christianity, one thousand years of the mass baptism of Gdańsk by St Adalbert, and one thousand years of the city's history, ceremoniously celebrated in 1997.

Cemetery of Non-existent Cemeteries (32)

The monument, unique in its name and interesting in form, commemorates all burial grounds that have been lost in the city's history, destroyed in stormy events and war turmoil. It was erected to pay respect to all those anonymous people of many faiths and nationalities who lived and died in Gdańsk. This is an unmatched and moving necropolis symbolically based on the plan of a shrine. Living tree columns rise side by side with columns of stone shaped like splitting dead tree-trunks, and the granite slab of the sacrificial altar rests on what has been rescued of the authentic tombstones.



Monument to the Defenders of the Polish Post (34)

The Monument to the Defenders of the Polish Post appeals to the eye with its figure of a wounded postman bent over scattered mail and handing his rifle to Nike, the goddess of victory.



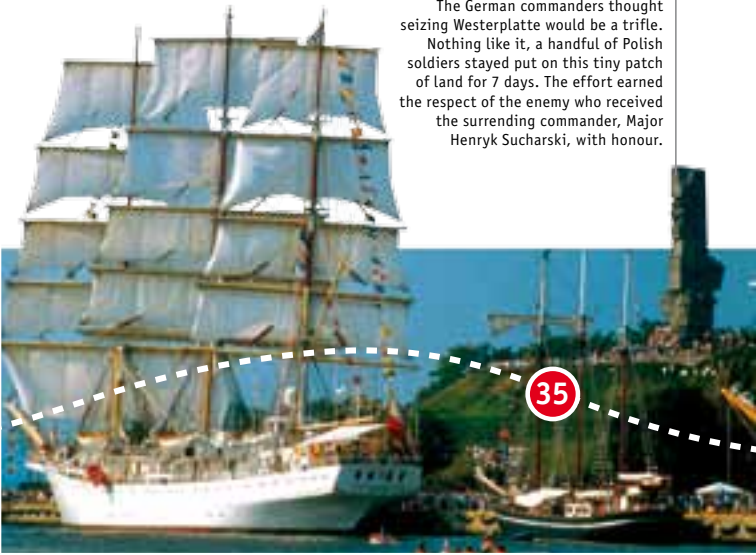
Polish Post Building (33)

Originally an army hospital built in 1844, the edifice was in 1925 designed to house the Polish Directorate of the Post and Telegraph in the Free City of Gdańsk. The site marked its presence in history during the tragic events of September 1939 and the defence of the Polish Post. Today, the building has been converted into the Museum of the Polish Post. The collection on display pictures the history of the postal service in Gdańsk over the centuries, the history of telecommunications technology, and documents reflecting the heroic stance of the post defenders. Nearby rises an expressive and dynamic Monument to the Defenders of the Polish Post (34). The city has yet another place connected with them, or rather their martyrdom. It is the Cemetery in the district of Zaspa and its Monument to the Victims of Fascism.



Monument to the Defenders of Westerplatte

The German commanders thought seizing Westerplatte would be a trifle. Nothing like it, a handful of Polish soldiers stayed put on this tiny patch of land for 7 days. The effort earned the respect of the enemy who received the surrendering commander, Major Henryk Sucharski, with honour.



Monument to the Defenders of Westerplatte (35)

The Second World War broke out in Gdańsk at 4:45 in the morning of 1 September 1939. It broke out with a cannonade from the Schleswig-Holstein armoured vessel. The troop of the Westerplatte sentry post, composed of 182 souls under the command of Major Henryk Sucharski, staged a defence. Their heroic and unprecedented battle became a symbol of the Polish opposition. The stone monument erected on top of a huge green mound, built at the entrance to the port, to pay heed to the Gdańsk defenders resembles a sword stuck hilt-first into the ground. The momentous events are documented with an exhibition in the nearby Sentry Post No. 1. In the future the battlefield museum in Westerplatte will be part of a modern museum of World War II, which will be located in the neighbourhood of Pl. Obrońców Poczty Polskiej (Square of the Defenders of the Polish Post). It will present Poland's tragic fate of the 1939-1945 period in a broader European background. The Westerplatte story will continue in the European Solidarity Centre building, which will be erected in the post-shipyard area.



Monument to the Fallen Shipyard Workers

In the 1980s the square of the Monument to the Fallen Shipyard Workers was the place where 'Solidarity' members would meet. Their demonstrations were brutally dispersed by the militia.



Monument to the Fallen Shipyard Workers (36)

Three majestic crosses supporting anchors that symbolise hope commemorate the victims of the bloody worker strikes of December 1970. The demand for consent to have it erected at the shipyard entrance ranked among the top postulates raised during the Gdańsk shipyard workers' strikes of August 1980. The crosses, each 42 m high and weighing almost 140 tonnes, were made of stainless steel by the workers themselves. All official delegations visiting Gdańsk lay flowers at the foot of the monument.



“Roads to Freedom” Exhibition

SOLIDARNOŚĆ

“Roads to Freedom” Exhibition

On 16 October 2003, the plywood boards containing the 21 Demands written during the 1980 strikes in the Gdańsk Shipyard, were registered in the UNESCO “Memory of the World” list.



37



“Roads to Freedom” Exhibition (37)

The fascinating multimedia exhibition “Roads to Freedom”, located in the basement of the headquarters of the National Commission of NSZZ “Solidarność”, close to the Monument of the Fallen Shipyard Workers, presents the turbulent historical events of the last three decades, i.e. the Polish fight for independence and justice. The exhibits include, among others, the two famous plywood boards containing 21 hand-written demands made during the August ‘80 strikes. By the decision of UNESCO, they were registered in the “Memory of the World” list as a document of unique social and humanistic value which significantly influenced the history of Europe.



Oliwa Cathedral



Oliwa Cathedral (38)

Oliwa is a quiet and charming district of Gdańsk reaching up to the edge of the Tri-City Landscape Park woods. A famous globetrotter, Alexander von Humboldt, called Oliwa the third most beautiful corner of the world. Its distinctive feature is a post-Cistercian park designed by a master of landscape architecture, Andre La Notre. The beautiful Oliwa Park was set up in the 18th and early 19th centuries. The grounds are arranged into two different sections: a French garden and an English park. Today, we can walk the hornbeam alley described by J.I.Kraszewski, or visit the Alpine garden, winter gardens, grotto, and cascade built in 1920. A stroll among tall old trees and rare plant species will take us to Oliwa Cathedral. The shrine was first erected for and by the Cistercian monks in the 13th century.



Abbot's Palace (39)

The Abbot's Palace in Oliwa houses the Contemporary Art Branch of the National Museum. The permanent Polish Gallery exhibition presents a collection documenting Polish post-1945 art. On display today are about 300 works by top Polish painters.



Built in Gothic style as a triple-nave vaulted basilica based on the plan of the Latin cross, the cathedral is 107 metres long, and is the longest church in Poland. Its exquisite interior abounds in works of art, to name a few: the Baroque main altar and 20 side altars, a Rococo pulpit, the stunning stalls, and a whole line of Renaissance portraits of the benefactors of the Cistercian monastery. The true gem inside is the famous Rococo organ front built by Master Jan Wulf and Frederick Rudolf Dalitz. The quality of its sound, with a peculiar echo effect, is unrivalled. The organ is fitted with exceptional features of its own – moving decorative stars, trumpets, and angel bells that can be set in motion while playing the instrument.



cultural calendar



Selected permanent events in the cultural calendar:

Gdańsk Musical Summer (July-August)

A cycle of classical music concerts performed by world celebrities in the breathtaking scenery of the amphitheatre on the Mottawa River.

International Festival of Organ Music at Oliwa Cathedral

(July-August)

Both old and premiere hits of organ music played by world-famous virtuosos.

FETA International Festival of Open-Air and Street Theatre

(mid-July)

Miniature and large-scale theatrical performances in the authentic scenery of historic Gdańsk streets.

'Baltic Sail' International Sailing Rally (mid July)

A colourful festivity of sails in the historic heart of Gdańsk: regattas, tall ship parades, and a shanty festival.

"Solidarity of Arts" Festival (August)

Embedded in Gdańsk's tradition of freedom, the festival presents modern art and refers to the universal meaning of art beyond all borders and divisions.





Gdańsk Carillon Festival (first half of August)

An overview of the rich musical scripts written for the carillon, from Baroque to contemporary times.

Shakespearean Festival (first half of August)

An international review of the most interesting productions of the unmatched plays by the Master of Stratford.

St Dominic's Fair (the first three weeks of August)

A momentous and popular 'fiesta a-la Gdańsk' originating from the 13th century with a rich programme of cultural events.

International Mozart Festival "Mozartiana" (second half of August)

The only festival in Poland that presents both W. A. Mozart's masterpieces and other works inspired by his music. The concerts are held inside Oliwa Cathedral, the Abbot's Palace (Pałac Opatów), and in the open air in the historical Oliwa Park.

All About Freedom Festival (October)

An interdisciplinary festival, the aim of which is to provoke discussion on the different dimensions and boundaries of freedom. With film, music, theatre, debates - all about freedom.

The Calendar of Events
and Accommodation in Gdańsk:


www.gdansk.pl



Gdańsk - center

- 1 Upland Gate
- 2 Gateway to Long Street
- 3 Great Armoury
- 4 St George's Fraternity Court
- 5 Golden Gate
- 6 Uphagen House
- 7 Town Hall of the Main City
- 8 Neptune Fountain
- 9 Artus Court
- 10 New Bench House
- 11 Golden House
- 12 Green Gate
- 13 St Mary's Church
- 14 Royal Chapel
- 15 St Nicholas' Church
- 16 St Catherine's Church
- 17 St Bridget's Church
- 18 St John's Church
- 19 St Elizabeth's Church
- 20 St Joseph's Church
- 21 St Peter and Paul's Church
- 22 Holy Trinity Church
- 23 National Museum
- 24 Town Hall of the Old City
- 25 Grand Mill
- 26 Crane
- 27 National Maritime Museum
- 28 Lighthouse
- 29 Vistula Mouth Fortress
- 30 Stronghold Fort
- 31 Millennium Cross
- 32 Cemetery of Non-existent Cemeteries
- 33 Museum of the Polish Post
- 34 Monument to the Defenders of the Polish Post
- 35 Monument to the Defenders of Westerplatte
- 36 Monument to the Fallen Shipyard Workers
- 37 "Roads to Freedom" Exhibition
- 38 Oliwa Cathedral
- 39 Abbot's Palace

Olivia 38 39

Nowy Port 28





29 35  Westerplatte

Cultural institutions:

Gdańsk History Museum:

www.mhmg.gda.pl

Main Town Hall

ul. Długa 47, tel. 48 58 76 79 100

Amber Museum

Gateway to Long Street

Targ Węglowy, tel. 48 58 301 47 33

Artus Court

ul. Długi Targ 43/44

tel. 48 58 76 79 183

Museum of Townhouse Interiors

Uphagen House

ul. Długa 12, tel. 48 58 301 23 71

Museum of Tower Clocks

The Tower of St Catherine

ul. Wielkie Młyny

tel. 48 58 305 64 92

Museum of the Polish Post

ul. Obrońców Poczty Polskiej 1/2

tel. 48 58 301 76 11

National Museum:

www.muzeum.narodowe.gda.pl

Old Art Department

ul. Toruńska 1, tel. 48 58 301 70 61

Contemporary Art Department

Abbot's Palace, ul. Cystersów 18

tel. 48 58 552 12 71

Ethnographic Department

ul. Cystersów 19, tel. 48 58 552 41 39

Polish Maritime Museum:

www.cmm.pl

ul. Ołowianka 9-13

tel. 48 58 301 86 11/12

The Crane

ul. Szeroka 67/68

tel. 48 58 301 53 11

Archaeological Museum

www.archeologia.pl

ul. Mariacka 25/26

tel. 48 58 32 22 100

"Roads to Freedom" exhibition

basement of the National Commission

NSZZ "Solidarność" building

ul. Wały Piastowskie 24,

tel. 48 58 308 44 28

The Lighthouse in Gdańsk

Nowy Port

www.latarnia.gda.pl

ul. Przemysłowa 6a

tel. 48 58 760 16 42

National Baltic Opera

www.operabaltycka.pl

al. Zwycięstwa 15

tel. 48 58 763 49 12/13

The Polish Baltic Frédéric Chopin

Philharmonic

www.filharmonia.gda.pl

ul. Ołowianka 1, tel. 48 58 320 62 50

Wybrzeże Theatre

www.teatrwybrzeze.pl

ul. Targ Węglowy 1

tel. 48 58 301 70 21

Municipal Puppet Theatre Miniature

Gdańsk-Wrzeszcz, al. Grunwaldzka 16,

tel. 48 58 341 94 83

Forest Theatre

Gdańsk-Wrzeszcz, ul. Jaśkowa Dolina,
close to Gutenberg's Grove

The Baltic Cultural Centre

www.nck.org.pl

Ratusz Staromiejski

ul. Korzenna 33/35

tel. 48 58 301 10 51

Contemporary Art Centre ŁAŹNIA

www.laznia.pl

ul. Jaskółcza 1, tel. 48 58 305 40 50

Gdańsk Municipal Gallery:

www.ggm.gda.pl

Gdańsk Municipal Gallery 1

ul. Piwna 27/29

tel. 48 58 682 00 93

Gdańsk Günter Grass Gallery

ul. Szeroka 34/35, 36, 37,

Grobla I 1/2)

tel. 48 58 304 98 54

Institute of Arts WYSPA

ul. Doki 1/145 B

tel. 48 58 320 44 46

www.wyspa.art.pl

Student Club ŻAK

www.klubzak.com.pl

Gdańsk-Wrzeszcz

ul. Grunwaldzka 195/197

tel. 48 58 344 05 73

Tourist Information:

Gdańsk Tourist Information Centre

ul. Długi Targ 28/29

tel. 48 58 301 43 55, 48 58 683 54 85

e-mail: gcit@gdansk4u.pl

[www: www.gdansk4u.pl](http://www.gdansk4u.pl)

PTTK, Branch Office Gdańsk

ul. Długa 45

tel. 48 58 301 91 51, 48 58 301 13 43

e-mail: it@pttk-gdansk.pl

[www: www.pttk-gdansk.pl](http://www.pttk-gdansk.pl)

Tourist Information Kiosk in Polish

Rail (PKP) pedestrian

underground passage

ul. Podwale Grodzkie 0/15, 0/16

tel. 48 58 721 32 77

e-mail: itpkp@gdansk4u.pl

Punkt IT G0T - Lech Wałęsa Airport

ul. Słowackiego 200

tel. 48 58 348 13 68

e-mail: lotnisko@gdansk4u.pl

Tourist Products:

City Card

"Gdańsk - Sopot - Gdynia - Plus"

The City Card includes free municipal

transport fares in the Tri-city, free

museums, reduced prices in hotels,

restaurants, pubs, clubs, theatres,

galleries, aquatic equipment rentals,

Aquapark. The card may be bought at

Tourist Information kiosks (signed IT)

in Gdańsk and Gdynia.

Audioguide Gdańsk

- 24 recordings concerning the most

interesting sites and historical buildings

in Gdańsk and the history of the city, in

Polish, English and German.

Available at Gdańsk Tourist

Information Centre,

ul. Długi Targ 28/29

further information: www.gdansk4u.pl

Integrated Emergency System: 112

Fire Brigade 998

Police 997

Ambulance 999

City Guards 986



The Gdańsk-Sopot-Gdynia-Plus Tourist Card entitles the holder to free entry to museums and the zoo, acts as a metropolitan ticket for public transport, and includes 200 offers (hotels, restaurants, spas, culture, events, shopping).

The more you see, the more you save.

www.gdansk4u.pl/en/card

gdansk4u
MOBILE



Gdansk4uMOBILE is a free mobile application for iPhone and Android platform. It contains full details of the city - maps, descriptions of monuments, current events, attractions, accommodation, restaurants, pubs, mp3, a route-calculation function and more.

www.gdansk4u.pl/mobile



GDAŃSK

www.gdansk.pl

Published by: City Hall of Gdańsk
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ul. Nowe Ogrody 8/12
PL 80-803 Gdańsk
Tel. (+48 58) 323 71 00
e-mail: bppm@gdansk.gda.pl

Photographs: S. Składanowski, M. Żak, A. Firynowicz, K. Gollnau,
W. Węgrzyn, D. Kula, S.J. Michalak, Kosycarz Foto Press,
Archives of the Mayor's Bureau of City Promotion.

The publisher wishes to thank Mr S.J. Michalak, Mr L. Myrta, Gdańsk History Museum, the National Museum in Gdańsk, the Solidarity Center Foundation, the Library of the Polish Academy of Science in Gdańsk, and TESSA Sp. z o.o. Publishers for access to the materials and photographs included herein.