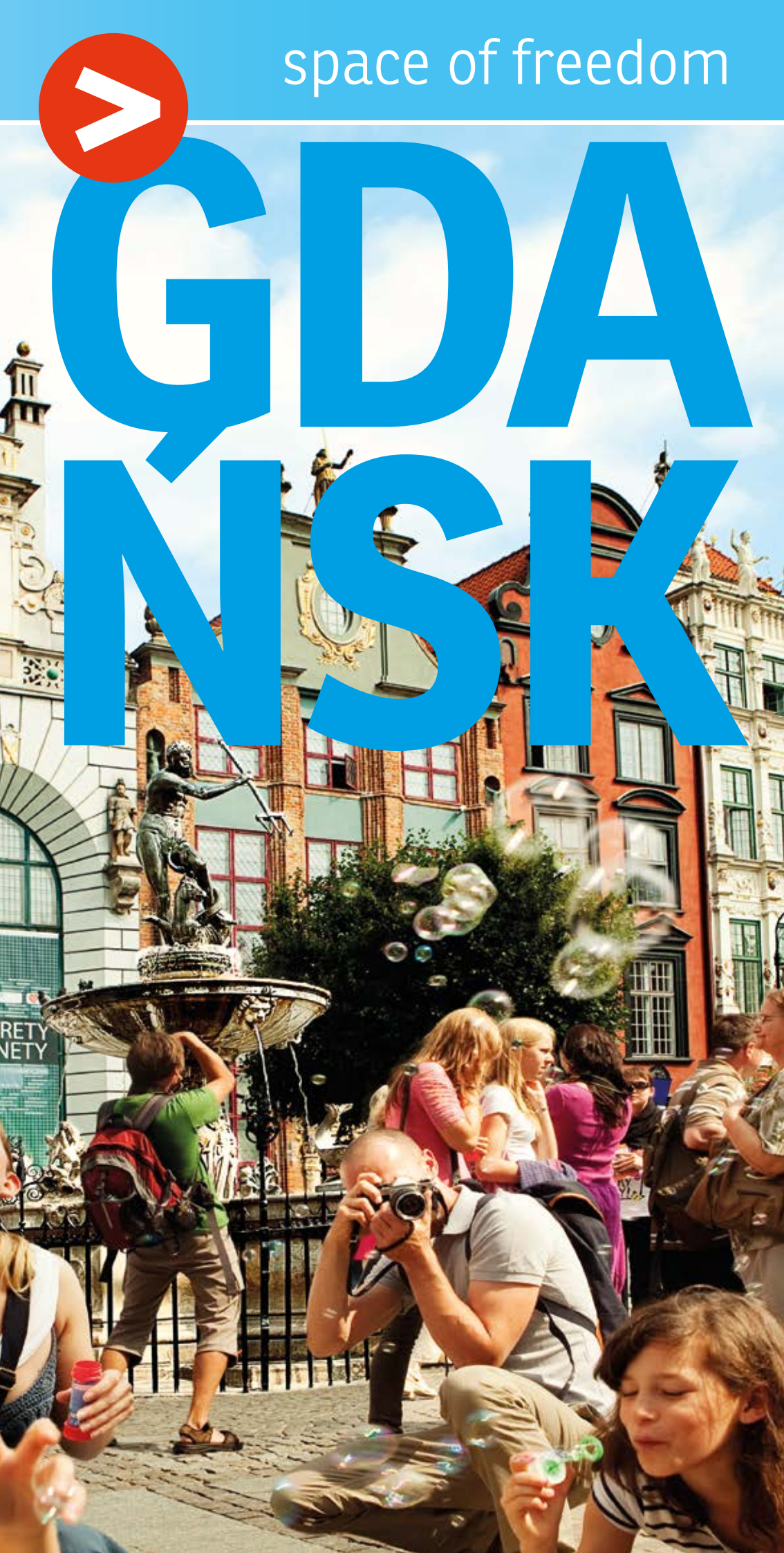




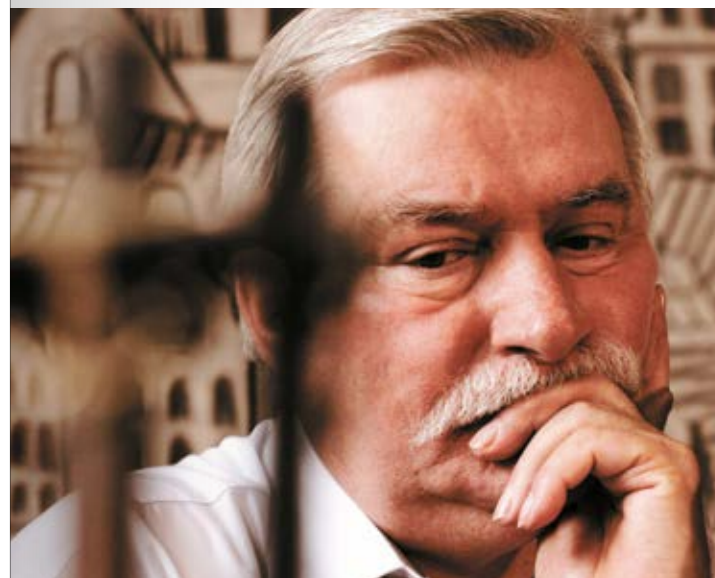
space of freedom

# GDA NSK



## Experience Freedom

There is no Gdańsk without freedom. Courage, freshness, but first and foremost freedom. This is a truly a Gdańsk tradition. Held by Gdańskers in the highest esteem for centuries, this virtue has determined the city's unique genius loci. Such is today's Gdańsk: open to new ideas, keeping up with the times, making things happen, ever surprising.



*I came to understand this city slowly, but I finally got it. You need to feel the spirit of Gdańsk, you have to keep your eyes wide open, then you understand more.*

*Lech Wałęsa*



*It would be impossible to understand the history of contemporary Europe without Gdańsk. It was here that World War II began on 1 September 1939 – a war which brought with it an experience of evil such as the world had never known before.*

You can feel it among the townhouses of the Old Town, just as well as amidst the shipyard cranes of the Young Town, on the beautiful sandy beaches and in the post-industrial halls, in the parks and in the tunnels: in Gdańsk, freedom is everywhere, you can almost touch it. It inspires and transforms both people and places. And such are the Gdańskers themselves: courageous, committed, passionate and creative.

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It was no coincidence that the phenomenon of Solidarity, a non-violent civic movement which led to the fall of communism in Europe, was born in Gdańsk. In this city freedom has always been the most valued virtue. In the time when people in Europe would be burned at the stake, Gdańsk offered a safe haven for courageous individuals who would go against the grain. It was a place where cultures, nations, languages and religions cross-pollinated.



*It is not tanks, rockets or dollars;  
it is values, the spirit and faith  
that allow you to win.*

*Lech Wałęsa*

August 1980, the strike at the Gdańsk Shipyard, led by Lech Wałęsa and the rise of Solidarity, a mass civic movement, captivated the imaginations of millions. It was these events which provided an enormous impulse for freedom movements throughout the world and helped people believe that the impossible could be done after all.



The events of August '80 in Gdańsk and the emergence of the Solidarity Independent Self-Governing Trade Union led by Lech Wałęsa became the first stone of a tremendous avalanche, which in 1989 led to the famous Autumn of Nations in Europe, toppled the communist system and ended the continent's split into two blocs separated by an "Iron Curtain."



Here, in Gdańsk, you changed the course of the history of Europe and the world (...) The values which Solidarity fought for are the pillars of the common values, under the rule of law, which today constitute the European Union. Justice, freedom and solidarity are the pillars of Europe.

José Manuel Barroso

You gave the impulse for political change in Central Europe, (...) half a dozen European revolutions began in this Shipyard.

Ronald Reagan

In 2003, the two wooden boards bearing the 21 demands of the Interfactory Strike Committee (MKS) were added by UNESCO to its World Heritage List. Five years later the sign of the European Heritage Label was hung on the historic Gdańsk Shipyard gate. This was to emphasise what an important role the Gdańsk Shipyard played in the continent's history.



In the former premises of Gdańsk Shipyard, right beside the Monument to the Fallen Shipyard Workers and Gate No. 2, famous from the strike in 1980, the European Solidarity Centre will stand, which apart from being a state-of-the-art interactive museum, will also serve as a centre for dialogue about the problems of the contemporary world. This will be a new important landmark on the Gdańsk Road to Freedom, alongside the historic BHP Hall at Gdańsk Shipyard, Lech Wałęsa's former workshop, the Gates to Freedom by artist Grzegorz Klaman and the post-shipyard area.



*What you achieved in 1980 and 1989 is to me one of the greatest miracles of the 20th century.*

*Yoshihiro Francis Fukuyama  
Philosopher*



## A City of Dialogue

Gdańsk has long attracted prominent world figures. The city has been visited by such leaders as the Presidents of the United States of America George H.W. Bush, Ronald Reagan and George W. Bush, French Presidents Charles de Gaulle, François Mitterand and Nicolas Sarkozy, German Chancellors Gerhard Schröder and Angela Merkel and Ukrainian President Viktor Yushchenko. They come here not only for protocol's sake. Gdańsk was repeatedly the source of important messages for the contemporary world. It is the perfect place for debate about such values as freedom, democracy and peace.

*Before Solidarity was formed I did not know where Gdańsk was, but later this city became dear to me and I always wanted to visit it. My dream has come true, I'm in the city where the rush for freedom began.*

*The 14<sup>th</sup> Dalai Lama*



In 2005, on the 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the formation of Solidarity, Gdańsk hosted the representatives of over 20 European countries. In 2008, on the 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the awarding of the Nobel Peace Prize to Lech Wałęsa, Gdańsk was visited by the 14<sup>th</sup> Dalai Lama, the spiritual leader of Tibet and other Nobel Peace Prize laureates.

## On the European Trail

Gdańsk's most beautiful spots are related to its historical centre. This area, although almost completely destroyed during World War II, was rebuilt thanks to the determination of its people and became the city's calling card. Criss-crossed by a network of canals, Gdańsk is not unlike other Hanseatic towns, such as Amsterdam and Lubeck. The picturesque townhouses rising above the Long Riverfront (Długie Pobrzeże) greet sailors sailing into the heart of Gdańsk. There are few European cities that can vaunt a magnificent literary portrait equal to that of Gdańsk.



*Gdańsk is my love,  
you can see it in my novels...*

Günter Grass



Gdańsk's best known historical monuments are within the Main Town, chiefly along the stately Royal Route. It was here that the life of esteemed merchant families concentrated centuries ago. It was here that deals were made, it was here that the elite congregated, it was here that breakthrough decisions were made. Today, the spirit of those times is still present in the historical, lavishly decorated townhouses and charming streets. There is only one difference. Instead of the hubbub of merchants and the jingle of Gdańsk ducats you can hear the laughter of young people walking down Długa St. and the Long Market (Długi Targ) or relaxing by the foot of the 17<sup>th</sup> century Fountain of Neptune, sovereign of the sea, who has been the city's protector for centuries.



Gdańsk lies on the European Route of Brick Gothic. Among the seventeen historical monuments listed, we have such pearls of architecture as: St Mary's Church, the largest brick church in Europe; Arthur's Court, a 14<sup>th</sup> century example of secular architecture, originally a meeting place for wealthy merchants and the main centre of the city's social and commercial life; the Crane, the oldest harbour crane in Europe; and St John's Church, which today also serves as one the city's cultural centres.



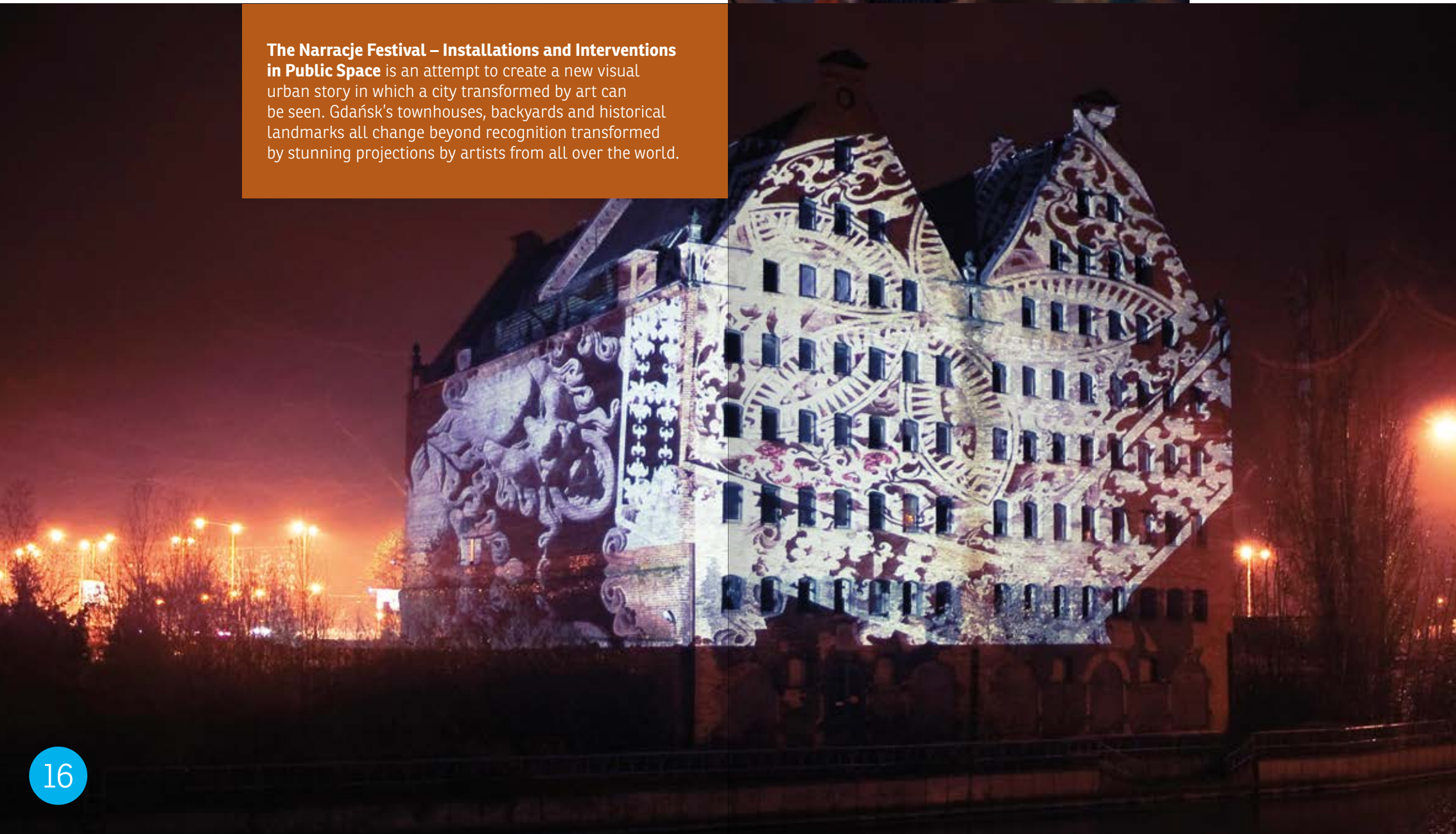


## Freedom of Culture Culture of Freedom

Concerts in the Shipyard, a theatre in a window, a gallery on walls, dance on the beach: the entire city is an artist-friendly space. In Gdańsk, art does not hide behind the walls of cultural institutions but goes out into the streets instead. The city often becomes a giant stage, gallery and concert hall. Rather than merely taking advantage of its one thousand years of cultural achievements, Gdańsk keeps creating ever new events. While drawing on its wealth of tradition, it meets the demands of the most refined public.



**The Narracje Festival – Installations and Interventions in Public Space** is an attempt to create a new visual urban story in which a city transformed by art can be seen. Gdańsk's townhouses, backyards and historical landmarks all change beyond recognition transformed by stunning projections by artists from all over the world.



Freedom of culture is about culture's presence in the cityscape, reaching out to the public and involving them. Gdańsk's streets and open spaces are filled with colourful theatre spectacles and expressive monumental paintings. Bands busking in the least expected places or Poland's – and possibly also the world's – only Theatre in the Window successfully attract the surprised passer-by, while artistic illuminations transform even the most ordinary buildings.



Gdańsk is a city of the alternative. It is a place where bold, difficult and uncompromising artists create their work. Gdańsk has always radiated its spiritual independence and non-conformism to all of Poland: jazz, student theatre, big-beat, rock. The city has a powerful personality and is not afraid of experimentation and change.





A fascinating collection of mural paintings can be seen on the walls of the high-rises in one of Gdańsk's "bedroom suburbs" – the Zaspka district. This is one of Europe's biggest collections of large-scale art! Every year, during July's **Monumental Art European Festival of Monumental Painting** artists from many countries get on scaffoldings to create gigantic, poignant and fascinating paintings. The Zaspka murals are changing the image of a bedroom suburb into a remarkable gallery; they invite the residents to interact with art. The local residents are also the hosts here: they have been trained to act as Local Guides to the Mural Gallery.

Murals inspired by Gdańsk's most recent history can be found in many places across town. Iwona Zając created the innovative Shipyard project which, until recently, was to be seen on the walls surrounding the Shipyard. Across an area of ca. 250 m, the artist combined her work with quotes from former workers, veterans of the August '80 workers strike. This part of Gdańsk is being developed into a modern district: the Young Town. Now that the wall is gone, the mural is gone with it ...



Theatre presentations have been touring the city for years now, often to discover less-known spaces to the public: from the historical scenery of the backstreets of Gdańsk to the magical space of the currently rediscovered, previously somewhat forgotten Old Suburb. They will surely revive many a forgotten corner of Gdańsk. From small juggling scenes to monumentally expressive spectaculars, mimes, stilt-walkers and dancers, stories from throughout the world – the rich landscape of Gdańsk celebrating open-air theatre, has for years been attracting faithful fans regardless of the weather and time of day. The repertory of the **FETA International Street and Open-Air Theatres Festival** covers many engaging productions which the world's most famous street stages have hosted. It is well worth going off the beaten tourist tracks to experience a theatre celebration in the lesser-known scenery of Gdańsk.



With its many centuries of tradition, **St Dominic's Fair** attracts throngs of tourists each August. Merchant stalls and street theatre troupes, parades and concerts in the Main Town are only a few of the attractions of this three-week long celebration.



*Thanks to the theatres  
I would call Gdańsk  
"sophisticated."  
They give the city  
a special atmosphere.*

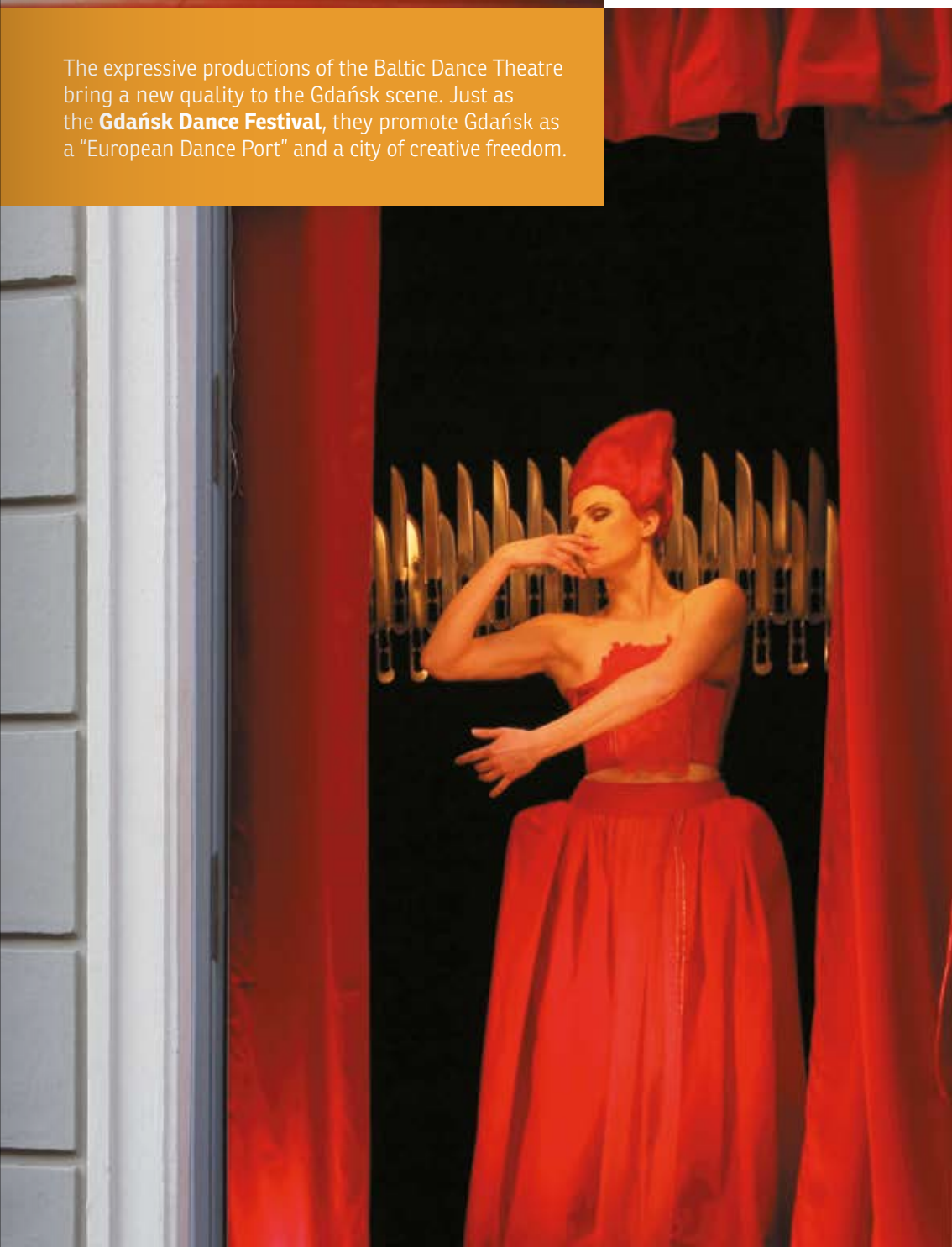
*Matt Gross  
New York Times*



Gdańsk is building the Gdańsk Shakespearean Theatre, a truly singular project. It will be a state-of-the-art multi-purpose theatre facility, built according to a visionary design by Italian architect Renato Rizzi. His coffer-inspired interiors with a retractable roof will become yet another important cultural centre in the city. However, before this happens, the playwright's fans will come in droves to the **International Shakespeare Festival** and stop in Długa Street at the fascinating Window Theatre.



The expressive productions of the Baltic Dance Theatre bring a new quality to the Gdańsk scene. Just as the **Gdańsk Dance Festival**, they promote Gdańsk as a "European Dance Port" and a city of creative freedom.





Gdańsk is a perfect place to talk about the solidarity of artists. About the universal sense of art, above political, ethnic and religious limits or divisions. This is the idea behind the August festival, whose ambition is to unite artists and the public around high art. **Solidarity of Arts'** trademark projects are developed especially for the Festival as collaborations combining the talents of many artists from Gdańsk, Pomerania, Poland and the entire world. The presentations and debates at the **All About Freedom Festival** stir up discussions about various dimensions of freedom and its limits. The artists and the public reach out together to address the situation of countries where civic rights are restricted.

In spite of the passing years, the post-shipyard area remains a place of, mainly artistic, restlessness. The Wyspa Art Institute here is the driving force behind many intriguing cultural events. The **Alternativa International Contemporary Visual Art Festival** is a series of inspiring and captivating exhibitions with a host of accompanying events.



## The World Capital of Amber

Situated at the crossroads of historic amber trading routes, Gdańsk is also known as the World Capital of Amber. Gdańsk amber jewellers have developed their own school of working the Gold of the Baltic and the quality of their pieces is unparalleled in the world. It is worth reminding that it was Gdańsk master amber craftsmen who made the legendary Amber Room. Gdańsk is the seat of the World Amber Council and its Academy of Fine Arts has a special jewellery studio which trains future master amber jewellery designers. Amber is one of the most beautiful souvenirs of a visit to Gdańsk. Amber lovers can also visit the Gdańsk Amber Museum.



Monika Richardson  
Gdańsk Amber Ambassador

Gdańsk has been cultivating its tradition of amber art for centuries. During Gdańsk's Golden Age, at the turn of the 16<sup>th</sup> and 17<sup>th</sup> centuries, many amber works were made in Gdańsk workshops commissioned by rich townspeople, magnates, the clergy and the Kings of Poland. Valuable amber gifts were also sent to the royal courts all over Europe. Amber valuables, worthy of the most eminent collections, became the city's genuine calling card. As an acknowledgement of Gdańsk's "amber fame" one of amber's varieties is called *gedanit*, after the city's name.



## Amber is Trendy!

Just as 400 years ago, Gdańsk is an undisputed centre of amber art and craft. Over the past decade, a very diverse jewellery industry has grown around the Tri-City of Gdańsk, Gdynia and Sopot – from large manufacturers with considerable economic potential and ability to absorb innovative technologies through traditional workshops and designer art studios. Amber, warm to the touch, unique in its structure, colour and texture is a perfect answer to our need for the extraordinary in everyday objects.

*Beads, shining  
like the sun...*

*Homer*



Gdańsk is determinedly promoting brand-name amber jewellery and putting a premium on original design and jewellery mastery. For years, the city has been inspiring, supporting and promoting new jewellery and fashion collections designed by artists from the Tri-City and beyond. This is the idea behind a joint initiative of the City, the Academy of Fine Arts and the Polish Chamber of Amber Commerce to develop an important annual publication – The Trendbook. The Trendbook compiles the information necessary to forecast stylistic trends and use them to design amber jewellery.



*Fish a la Gdańsk:*

- 600 g carp or pikeperch
- 80 g pork fat or smoked bacon
- 30 g butter
- 600 g potatoes
- 1 onion
- 1 pod marinated pepper
- 1 tomato
- ½ glass of sour cream
- 1 tbsp flour
- salt and pepper

## The Tastes of Gdańsk

Wash the fish, filet, crimp and lard it with slices of pork fat or bacon. Grease a saucepan with butter, cover the bottom with slices of cooked potatoes, then add the fish, together with a peeled tomato cut into eighths and a marinated pepper cut into strips, add salt and pepper, pour on slightly melted butter and place in a hot oven for 40 minutes. In the middle of the roasting pour sour cream mixed with flour over the fish. Serve with a spicy salad.



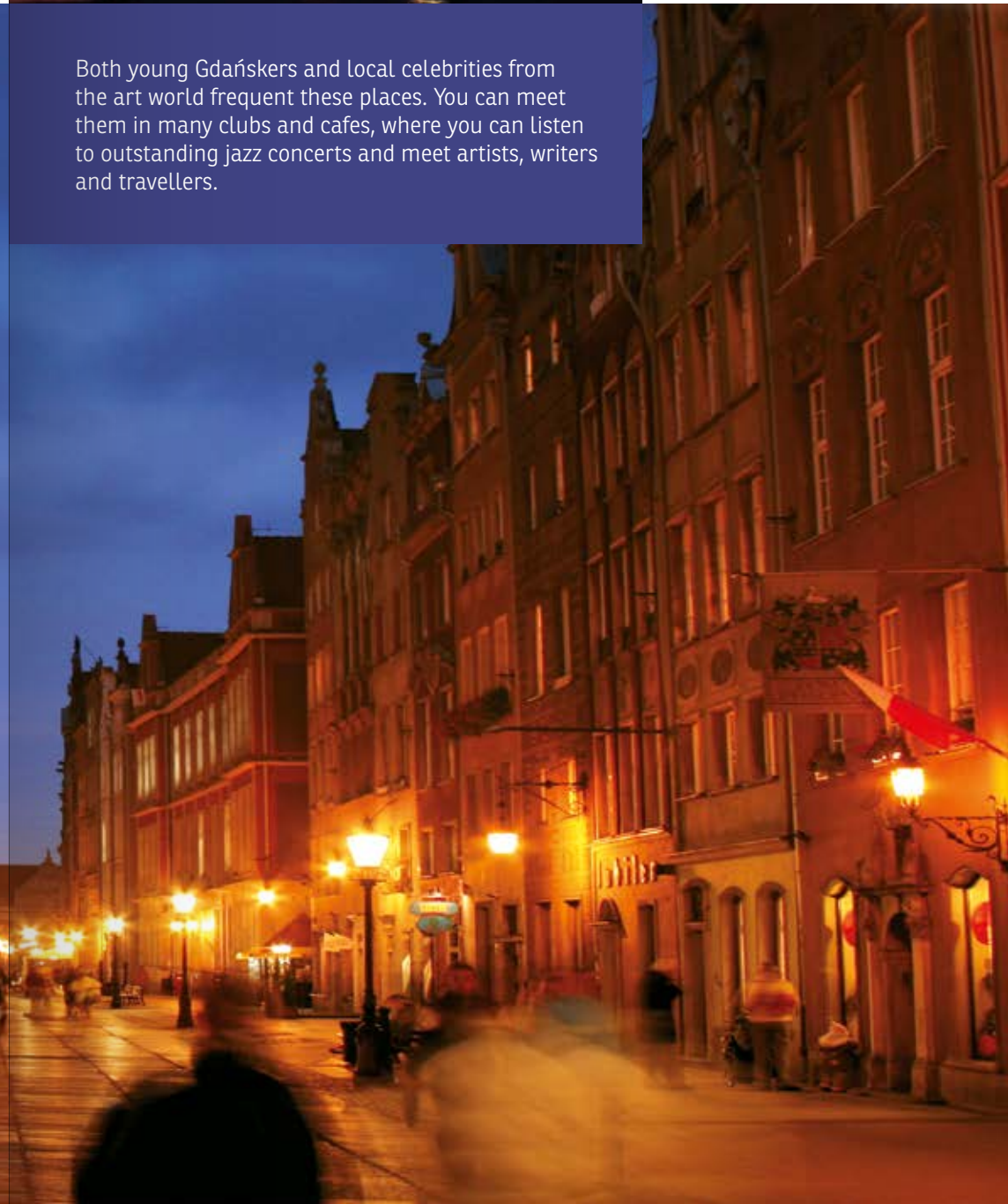
Among Gdańsk's impressive historical monuments there is a lively dynamic, European metropolis, full of cafes and restaurants, offering delicacies from throughout the world: Mexican burritos, French cheeses, Russian blinis, Greek souvlaki, Italian pizza, Japanese sushi and of course traditional Gdańsk products such as the famous Goldwasser vodka, with its flakes of genuine gold, or fresh fish made according to an original recipe handed down from the Gdańskers of old.



Gourmets can find Italian, oriental and old Polish borderland cuisine delicacies already on the Royal Route, Gdańsk's most popular tourist promenade with Długa St. and the Long Market. But, just by venturing a bit into the side streets they can find Jewish cuisine (in Ogarna St.) and try some delicious Gdańsk fish. They will be charmed by the atmospheric, stylish, Old Gdańsk interiors of the restaurants by the River Motława, in Szeroka, Piwna and Świętego Ducha Streets. Gdańsk also has a taste for places which have fit into the ambience of what used to surround them, for instance, the cafe in Gdańsk Shipyard at the Wyspa Art Institute, the charming little bar at the corner of Pańska and Szeroka, which is on the site of a former store and clearly refers to it in the style of its decor or ... a former petrol station with great food and friendly service as its strong points.



Both young Gdańskers and local celebrities from the art world frequent these places. You can meet them in many clubs and cafes, where you can listen to outstanding jazz concerts and meet artists, writers and travellers.





## Worldly Beauty

With the Baltic sea coast and sandy beaches which stretch for miles on one side and woody moraine hills on the other side Gdańsk is much more than just magnificent historical monuments; it is also a perfect place for active leisure. The beach between Brzeźno and Sopot is a favourite route for strollers and cyclists, and in the winter, one can also see winter bathing enthusiasts swimming in the Baltic on Sunday mornings. There are numerous cafes to stop off for a cup of coffee and the seaside restaurants tempt passers-by with the scent of freshly cooked fish.

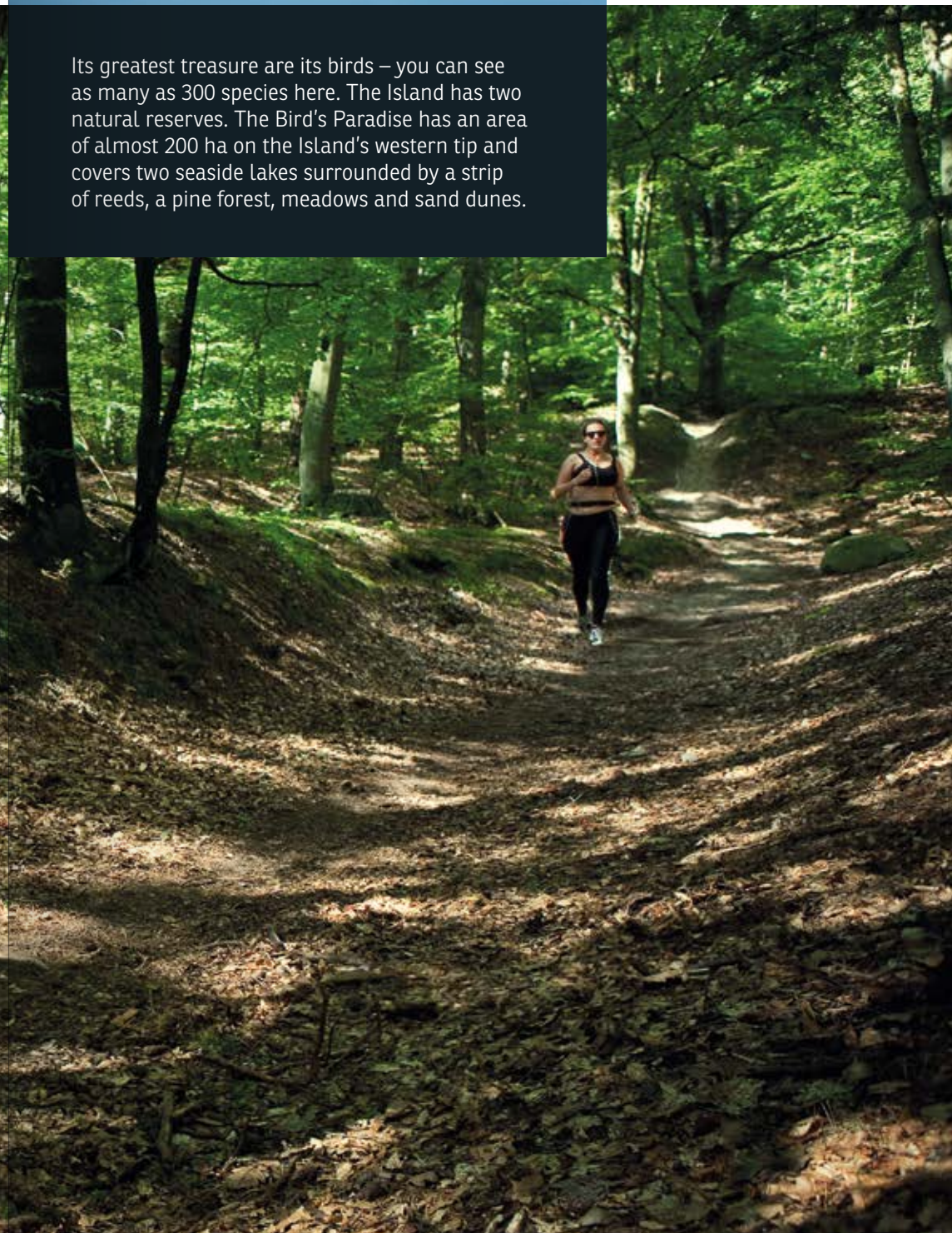
Gdańsk is also a city of gardens and parks. The grandest of them all is the Park in Oliwa, established in the 18th century by the Cistercian Order, a park which combines French harmony with English fancy. Every afternoon you can see pairs of lovers walking by, children running around, students relaxing and senior citizens talking about the complexities of the world today. The generally quiet nooks of Oliwa Park make a beautiful setting for cultural events. **The Mozartiana International Mozart Festival** presents the music of W.A. Mozart in natural interiors from the classicist period, but also in atmospherically illuminated open spaces of the historic park.



Sobieszewska Island, with its unspoilt nature is a hikers', bikers' and water sports lovers' paradise. Located at the mouth of the River Vistula and surrounded by two of its distributaries on one side and the waters of the Bay of Gdańsk on the other, it is a natural sanctuary separated from the impact of civilisation by a water barrier, even while remaining within city limits.



Its greatest treasure are its birds – you can see as many as 300 species here. The Island has two natural reserves. The Bird's Paradise has an area of almost 200 ha on the Island's western tip and covers two seaside lakes surrounded by a strip of reeds, a pine forest, meadows and sand dunes.





Yet another natural recreational area in Gdańsk is the Tri-City Landscape Park, a large forest complex which surrounds the city. Cyclists who want something more challenging than the flat seaside routes can put their muscles and their bikes to the test on its rolling hills. Its unique post-glacial topographic profile was formed over 15,000 years ago.

Gdańsk is known as the most bicycle-friendly city in Poland. A dense network of bicycle lanes was developed here in recent years, both for recreation and for commuting. The newest lanes have a cyclist-friendly surface and many safeguards to facilitate a safe ride. You can reach most tourist attractions by bike.

Within the Tri-City Landscape Park there are also exotic animals to see at the City Zoo. With its 136 ha of abundant fauna and flora, it is bound to take the visitors' breath away.



## Sports Thrills

The people of Gdańsk go in for both winter sports and cycling, but it is football that stirs the greatest emotions here. It is no wonder then that when Gdańsk was chosen as one of the host cities for the **UEFA EURO 2012 European Football Championship™** there was real euphoria. The PGE Arena Gdańsk was built especially for this event and is among the most beautiful sports facilities in Europe. It resembles an amber nugget, while its structural elements are modelled after a ship's frame, to underscore the city's maritime tradition. The stadium is the city's modern symbol, as evocative as the Fountain of Neptune and the medieval Crane.



In June 2012 the stadium hosted football matches during the Championship's group stage (Spain – Italy, Spain – Ireland and Croatia – Spain) and an exciting quarter-final between Germany and Greece. It was visited then by over 160,000 fans from all over Europe! And it was considered EURO's most beautiful arena.





Thousands of fans from Spain, Ireland, Italy, Croatia, Germany and Greece; a marvellous colourful fiesta in the streets which lasted all night long. A mix of languages, smiles, music, dancing singing and a feeling that football, however serious a topic it is, outside match-time is just a great excuse to have fun together. Such was the atmosphere in Gdańsk during **UEFA EURO 2012™**.

Ergo Arena, a modern sports and entertainment hall opened in 2010 at the border between Gdańsk and Sopot also often attracts sports fans with spectacular international sports events. The modern structure can accommodate as many as 15,000 fans; its advanced PA system, excellent acoustics and vast area guarantee the highest quality concert and theatre spectacle experience.





## The Smart City

Gdańsk is a friendly space for innovative ideas and creative people. New products and services and innovative technologies developed by start-ups are fostered by such institutions as the Gdańsk Science and Technology Park and the STARTER Gdańsk Business Incubator.

Many global investors see the city's development potential in knowledge-based industries. Among the companies who have set up their branches here are Compuware, IBM, Intel, Lufthansa Systems, Kainos, Transcom, Jeppesen A – Boeing Company, N-Computing, Suruga Seiki, Playsoft, Sti, Acxiom, Arla Foods, First Data Corp., Young Digital Planet, Bayer and many more. The investors show an interest not just because of the young and well-educated workforce. It is also about the modern office infrastructure which can be freely adapted to present and future needs.





Numerous investments in transport infrastructure are making Gdańsk more and more accessible every year. The dynamically developing Lech Wałęsa Airport in Gdańsk can already serve 5 million passengers. World-class service and a dense network of over 50 domestic and international air links will help foster a speedy growth of tourist and business traffic.



The dynamic development of the Baltic Sea's largest ice-free seaport has made Gdańsk part of the global transport system. It is the only port in this part of Europe with a direct shipping link with the Far East.



New road and rail projects are significantly improving the freedom of transporting people and goods. Thanks to the construction of the pan-European A1 Amber Route Motorway, the travel time from Gdańsk will be reduced both to the northern tip of Scandinavia and to the warm waters of the Adriatic Sea.



Gdańsk's unique location and the dynamic development of its transport infrastructure are the reasons why leading investors from the transport, storage and logistics business including Panattoni, Prologis, DCT Gdańsk and Goodman have come here.



## Time for Investment

Gdańsk is consistently changing. The 'forest' of construction cranes omnipresent in the cityscape is the living proof. Every year there are more and more cultural, sports and recreation, congress and exhibition facilities. In recent years, the city has added the ERGO Arena sports and entertainment hall, the PGE Arena Gdańsk stadium, the Hevelianum Centre and Amber Expo. Under construction are: the European Solidarity Centre, Gdańsk Shakespearean Theatre and the World War II Museum.

The city's attractive location and great development potential are an incentive to carry out a vast array of commercial projects: housing, industry, trade, services and hotels.



Each year, several dozen events are held at the Amber Expo Exhibition Centre of the MTG SA Gdańsk International Fair Company, including **AMBERIF**, the world's largest **International Fair of Amber, Jewellery and Gemstones**.



## City of Freedom

As the birthplace of Solidarity, Gdańsk is becoming a centre for debate about the modern world; as the World Capital of Amber it fires the imaginations of fashion and jewellery designers; as a city of freedom it inspires artists; and as an IT centre it attracts the most innovative in today's economy. Gdańsk is an intriguing city, teeming with life, which according to the British Dorling Kindersley Eyewitness Travel, publishers of the world's best selling city guidebook, is one of the top ten cities in the world to visit. Gdańsk is also on the list of forty cities from throughout the world recommended as tourist friendly by The New York Times. Lonely Planet has also put Gdańsk on top of the list of places worth visiting in Poland.

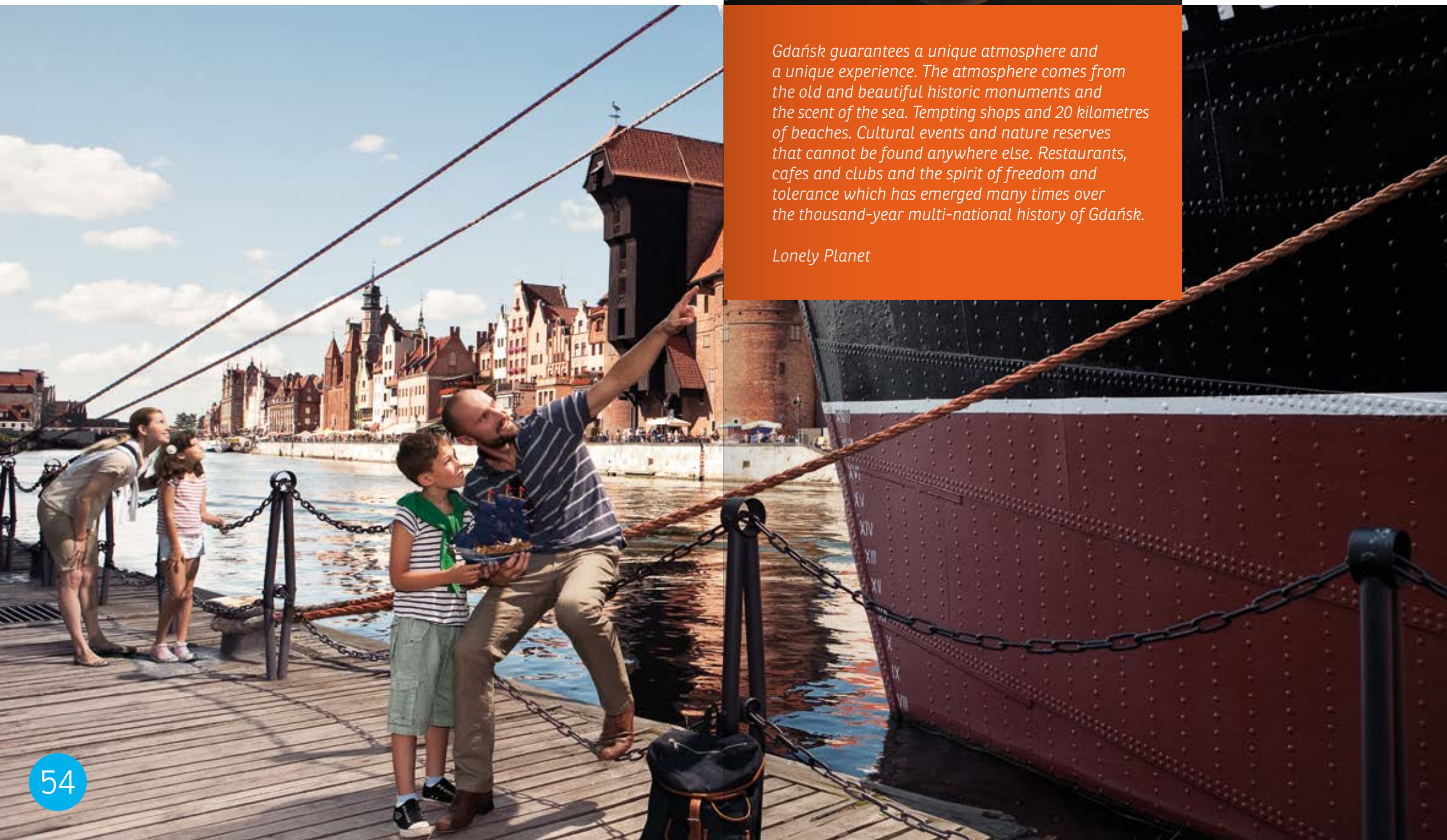
*This great city of Gdańsk, where the modern world was born ... The people of Gdańsk can be proud that they were the herald of freedom and I am proud that I can call myself an Honorary Citizen of Gdańsk.*

Margaret Thatcher



*Gdańsk guarantees a unique atmosphere and a unique experience. The atmosphere comes from the old and beautiful historic monuments and the scent of the sea. Tempting shops and 20 kilometres of beaches. Cultural events and nature reserves that cannot be found anywhere else. Restaurants, cafes and clubs and the spirit of freedom and tolerance which has emerged many times over the thousand-year multi-national history of Gdańsk.*

Lonely Planet





**GDAŃSK**  
city of freedom

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