



**LET'S HOLD HANDS FOR A BETTER WORLD
PROJECT**

Welcome to Gdansk



Szkoła Podstawowa nr 19 im. Zasłużonych Ludzi Morza w Gdańsku
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Welcome to Gdańsk!

We are pleased to have you as our guests. Our ancestors put in the emblem of the city the sentence: "Nec temere, nec temide" – "neither rashly, nor tremulously". City of Gdańsk is a part of the Tri-city (Gdańsk, Sopot and Gdynia), and is rather young European city dated since 997. However, we are very proud of our local homeland and we warmly encourage you to have a walk tour of the city to discover the most important monuments in very centre of the Old Town. Our school is situated in the old suburb of Gdańsk called Gdańsk Stare Szkoty, where we can find a beautiful baroque St. Ignis church. The Old Town of Gdańsk is easily accessible from our suburb. You can get there in 15 min by bus. We hope that our guide leaflet will help you in planning the sightseeing.



Golden Gate

The Złota Brama, or Golden Gate, is the second gate on the Royal Route. The gate was designed and constructed in 1612 for the St. George Brotherhood, an elite rifle club and social group, by Abraham van der Block and Jan Strakowski.



The gate is a mix of Flemish and Italian styles and since its reconstruction and renovation in 1957 it has served as a symbol of the city as a whole. The actual portal of this gate is slightly rotated, so that as you walk through

the gate, you are treated to an exceptional view of Długa Street and the Old Town Hall! The gate itself is adorned with gold trim, but has a very clean, sharp look to it. Eight figures stand proudly on top of the gate, four facing the Upland Gate. They symbolise aspirations of the townsmen: Pax - Peace, Libertas - Freedom, Fortuna - Wealth, and Fama - Fame. The remaining four are facing Długa Street and symbolise civic virtues: (Concordia - Concord, Justitia - Justice, Pietas - Piety, and Prudentia -

Reason). On the front wall there is a quotation from Psalm 122 in German language: "May they be secure who love you! Peace be within your walls and security within your towers!" Below the figures, but above the proud Gdansk City symbol, reads another Latin Maxim: 'Small states grow in harmony, large states fall in discord'.

The Długa Street and the Długi Targ Street

The Długa and Długi Targ Streets which are also known as Trakt Królewski (the Royal Route) rank among the most beautiful streets in Gdańsk. The wealthiest Gdańsk patricians used to live there and almost every tenement house has its own interesting history to tell. The oldest preserved houses date back to the Middle Ages, but most of the buildings were erected in modern times. Tenement houses on Długa Street are typical Gdańsk houses with narrow facades topped with gables or attics, richly decorated with coats of arms, allegoric figures and silhouettes of ancient heroes. The most important secular buildings – the Hall of the Main City and the Artus Court are located in Długi Targ Street.



Uphagen's House



Uphagen's House stands at 12 Długa Street and is the only burgher tenement house in Gdańsk restored with its interior. A brick building was erected here at the end of the 15th century and its remnants are still in the cellars of the present house. In the following centuries its owners changed and the house underwent

numerous modifications. In 1775 it was bought and reconstructed by John Uphagen, a merchant, amateur historian and bibliophile. After his death the almost intact house remained the property of the Uphagens until the beginning of the 20th century. In 1911 a museum devoted to interior design was opened here, which remained open until 1944 when its décor and furnishings were moved outside Gdańsk due to the approaching military operations. In 1981 the house was donated to the Gdańsk Historical Museum and after restoration it was opened for visitors on 7th June 1998. The preserved elements of interior decoration, including wood panelling and stoves, were installed inside. Fabrics and window hooks were restored. Furnishings such as furniture, musical instruments, pictures and ceramics come mostly from the second half of the 18th century. On every last Sunday of the month "Music Sunday Concerts at Uphagen House" are staged here.

Artus Court

Artus Court is a complex of buildings forming a branch of the Gdańsk History Museum, located within the Main City boundaries and forming a part of the representative city route called the Royal Route. Długi Targ located near the historical harbour on the Motława river forms part of the route. The Artus Court complex consists of the following parts: the ground floor of two connected town houses called The Old Bench House, Artus Court and the New Bench House.

The Old and New Bench House are the town houses with narrow facades typical of Gdańsk architecture.

The origins of Artus Court go back to the Middle Ages and its name stems from the European culture of knighthood. The common name of the courts originates from the name of the legendary leader of the Celts, Arthur, who lived in Britannia in the 5th and 6th century.

The name of the building: "Curia Regis Artus" (The Royal Court of Artus), which was constructed in Gdańsk between 1348 and 1350, appeared for the first time in city documents in 1357 in relation to land rent. The first court was erected on a plot of land belonging to the city since 1344, by the Saint George Brotherhood at its own expense and effort. The Brotherhood associated the knights from rich German families. Over time, Artus Court began to accept not just merchant customs, but also started to take on the role of an official merchant house.

The Gdańsk Vestibule was restored after war damage – its Baroque staircase from the beginning of the 18th century was transferred from Kłanin palace along with the decorative ceiling painting and two 18th century cupboards. Its furnishings also include the reconstructed fireplace, 18th century sculptures, 18th century Dutch ceramics from Delft, brass candle holders, original Dutch flag-stones on the walls with pastoral themes and a model of a 1775 Gdańsk ship. In addition two paintings were hung above the wooden panel line: "Three Kings Greetings" by Andreas Stech and "Portrait of an Amsterdam counsellor" by Jacob van Loo. The paintings are separated by a pair of large ornamental candle holders. The western wall of the great Gdańsk Vestibule has the entrance passage connecting it to the Great Hall of Artus Court. The museum continues to supplement the furnishings of Gdańsk Vestibule in order to restore the baroque character of a Gdańsk merchant house drawing-room.



The Neptune Fountain



The Neptune Fountain has stood in front of the Artus Court since 1633 and is a symbol of Gdańsk. It was built on the initiative of the Mayor of Gdańsk, Bartłomiej Schachmann. The model was prepared by Peter Husen and Johann Rogge, and it

was cast in 1615 in Augsburg. The design of the whole fountain was prepared by Abraham van den Blocke. The ornamented grill surrounding the fountain dates back to 1634. In the years 1757-1761 Johann Karl Stender re-decorated the basin and the base of the fountain in the Rococo style, by adding a large array of sea creatures. According to one of the Gdańsk legends it was Neptune himself who contributed to the creation of the famous Gdańsk liqueur called Goldwasser. He got angry at people throwing golden coins into the fountain and hit the water with his trident so hard that the gold fell to pieces, forming small golden flakes which now shine in the tasty herbal liqueur.

Green Gate



The Renaissance Green Gate stands on the site of the most ancient gate in Gdansk, the Koga Gate. It was erected by a Dutchman, Ragnier from Amsterdam and Hans Kramer from Dresden. The gate was made of brick brought from Netherlands. It was built to serve as the formal residence of Polish monarchs,

but was only used for that purpose once in its history. There are four arched passages through this gate and there is a symbol over each: The eagle of the Prussian Kings, and the emblems of Poland, Gdansk, and Royal Prussia. Between the years 1747-1845 it used to be the seat of The Natural Society. During the II World War the building was destroyed by the fire and only partially regained its former grandeur and beauty in the following years. Today, the gate is managed by the Polish National Museum and is the home of a great many exhibitions and galleries. Former Polish President and symbol of Solidarity, Lech Walesa, has his office in the Green Gate. The present look of the building has been greatly improved in the recent renovation.

St. Mary's Basilica



The Church of the Blessed Virgin Mary, the largest brick church in the world, went through several stages of development over the period from 1343 to 1502. Its interior displays many exquisite pieces of Medieval and Baroque art, including the stone Pieta from about 1410, a copy of the Last Judgement by Hans Memling, the original canvas dating back to 1472, the astronomical clock built by Hans Düringer between 1464 and 1470 and the main altar put up between 1510 and 1517. The church is 105 m long, including the tower battlements, and the vaults soar 29 m above floor level. The solid main tower is 77.6 m high and it is crowned with a viewing gallery which enables visitors to enjoy a panoramic view of the city. In order to get there it is necessary to climb almost 400 steps!

The Crane



The Crane – the oldest preserved port crane in Europe. It was built in 1442-1444 as two brick towers between which a wooden lift mechanism was installed. It played three roles: of a loading and unloading crane, fortifications and a town gate. Initially the Crane's lift mechanism was started by one wheel. Then it was modernized a few times and finally there were two pairs of wheels. The wheels were set in move by people walking inside them. The bottom pair of wheels was used to load and unload goods; the top one to set up masts on ships. Chains, hooks and blocks hang from the Crane until March 1945. Bombardment, which destroyed nearly all Gdańsk monuments did not save the Crane either – its wooden part burnt down completely. The reconstruction started in the 1950s. Nowadays it houses the Central Maritime Museum. A crane bird silhouette (which is a symbol of stamina) on top of the rebuilt monument has been pointing the direction of wind to sailors for 13 years.

The Town Hall of the Main Town



The Town Hall of the Main Town houses the Museum of Gdańsk History which is worth seeing. An ancient gothic- renaissance building situated where Długa street meets Długi Market towers over Royal Route – the most representative route in old town of Gdańsk.

The Town Hall was reconstructed after a fire and is one of the most characteristic and recognizable monuments in the city. Every hour a beautiful sound of carillon is heard from a clock tower.

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. 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. Also worth looking out for, at the other end of the church is the strange and beautiful canopy around the high altar, covered with stars and featuring 150 angels poking out of a mass of clouds.



The Vistulamouth Fortress

The Vistulamouth Fortress is in the Northern Port in Gdańsk close to another historical place Westerplatte. A wooden guardroom was at the mouth of the Vistula River as far back as the Teutonic times. It burnt down in 1433. In 1482 a brick lighthouse was built on the spot. It controlled shipping and guarded the access to Gdańsk port. It was often attacked during armed conflicts because of its good strategic situation.



Ołowianka



Ołowianka is an island washed by the Motława River on one side and Na Stępcie Canal on the other. In the Teutonic times monastic tax collector (Polish: szafarz) had his buildings there and the oldest name of the place – Szafarnia (1404 year) comes from him. A bridge joined the place with a castle on the other side of the Motława and from 1417 there was also a ferry. In 1576 Na Stępcie Canal was dug and since then it has been an island. A present name – Ołowianka comes from lead (ołów) storehouses. The biggest of them was called Lead Court. There were also granaries there. The best preserved is Royal one. At present the Baltic Filharmony is there. You can get to Ołowianka over one of two bridges over Na Stępcie Canal.

The Golden House



It is one of the most beautiful buildings in Gdańsk. It was erected in 1609 by the Jan Speyman, the Mayor of the city and at the same time a wealthy merchant and an open-minded patron of the arts, and his wife, Judyta (from the Bahra family). The construction was

based on a design prepared by Abraham van den Blocke, who was also responsible for a part of the sculptural decorations which were completed in 1618. The house is famous for its richly-decorated façade. The legend goes that from time to time the corridors of the house are

frequented by a luminous creature. It is a ghost of the beautiful Judyta Speymann whispering “Act justly, fear no one”.

Monument to the Fallen Shipyard Workers

Three majestic crosses with anchors – symbols of hope – have been erected to commemorate the bloody victims of the workers' strikes in December 1970. The demand relative to erecting this monument at the shipyard's gates was one of the most important postulates of the shipyard workers who went on strike in August 1980. The crosses are 42 m high and weigh 140 tons. All official delegations visiting Gdańsk lay flowers at the foot of this monument.



Monument to the Defenders of the Coast

An immense monument to the Defenders of the Coast commemorates the Polish soldiers who, in autumn of 1939, made a heroic effort to fight with the superior forces of Hitler's well-equipped army. Close to the monument we can also see historic structures related to the heroic defence of this post in 1939, the tombs of heroic soldiers and the T-34 tank belonging to the Polish Armoured Brigade named after the Westerplatte Heroes.



Tri-city consisting of three Polish cities: Gdańsk, Gdynia and Sopot.

Sopot is a genuine seaside health resort center.

Sopot has a great geographical location – lying between the beautiful woods of the Tri-City Landscape Park, and the numerous sand beaches of the Bay of Gdańsk. Sopot is known for its sanatoria many artists and endless quantities of tourists, who mainly visit the city during the summertime.



Monte Casino Street is the center of Sopot, a pedestrianised promenade. On both sides of the street there are countless XIX-XXth-century houses, some of them housing pubs or restaurants today. To discover the real charm of the town, turn into one of Monte Casino's side streets, where you're bound to admire numerous art nouveau houses, parks and gardens. One such beautiful street shelters the splendid **Sierakowskich Court** – today the seat of The Sopot Friends' Society.

At the end of Monte Casino you'll find the **Wooden Pier**. It is the longest wooden pier in Europe. During the summertime, for a small fee

you can enter the pier, and admire the coastline. You'll enjoy the sight of the **Grand Hotel** (one of the largest and most impressive in the Tri-City) on one side, and the **Zhong Hua Chinese Hotel** on the other, where the Southern Baths used to be. In summer, there are jazz concerts on the hotel's terrace every Thursday. Another destination for a long walk are the **Castle Hill Caves**, Sopot's oldest historic site and the only monument of this kind located in the center of a contemporary European city.



The **Forest Opera** is also an interesting place, famous for its interwar Wagner concerts, and since 1961 – for the International Song Festivals. Another place worth a visit is the **horse racetrack**, situated between Gdańsk and Sopot, built over a hundred years ago, and occupying a surface of 33 ha, which used to host international horseracing events famous throughout Europe.

When you are in Sopot we also recommend you visit **Aqua Park**.



Gdynia is a young, but quickly expanding port situated right by the seashore, offering many tourist attractions as well as splendid shopping opportunities and a lot of entertainment. The city was founded as a Polish harbour in 1926. Because of its unusual location, you will easily catch great views of the sea and beautiful



scenery, and also find long promenades, beautiful waterfronts, marinas and yacht clubs. Gdynia is the only city in Poland and one of the few in Europe to pride itself on such a long and accessible seashore.

The city has a good transportation system, so you won't have any problems reaching Gdynia from either of the other cities. You can get here by SKM trains, or by car.

Kosciuszko square is the sightseeing center of Gdynia. The ships moored in the dockyards, like the "**Blyskawica**" or "**Dar Pomorza**" for instance, are the biggest tourist attractions. In summertime you can embark on the tourist ship "Viking II", which offers sightseeing

cruises around the Bay of Gdańsk in the day-time, while at night it serves as a boat-restaurant.



Scenes that you could otherwise admire only in the depths of the oceans offered by **The Maritime Museum and Aquarium** will leave you more than impressed. Now we recommend taking a walk along the **Seaside Promenade**. You can enjoy the beautiful panorama of the harbour and of the city from the top of **Stone Hill**, easily recognizable by the large cross at its top. On your way to the little hill, you will pass the famous **Musical Theatre**, which stages the world's most-famed musicals.

Gdynia is also a great city for shopping.



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