

Gdańsk

Cultural and historical wealth of Poland



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GDAŃSK



In the old Gdańsk, all important roads led to the port, and the most important of them ran from the main city gate through the most impressive streets - Długa and Długi Targ - to the most representative water gate: the Green Gate. Along the 700-meter long route there are the most important historical buildings in Gdańsk and the richest merchant tenement houses. This is where the kings arriving in Gdańsk were welcomed, celebrations, parades, concerts and tournaments were organized.

One of the places you should visit first is the Upland Gate. This Renaissance building in the shape of a triumphal arch was built in the years 1586-1588 by Willem van den Blocke. In the upper part you can see three coats of arms - Gdańsk, Poland and Ducal Prussia. The gate opens the Royal Road, a representative communication axis (St. Długa and St. Długi Targ), where the most important buildings of the city are located.



Behind the Upland Gate, a unique defensive complex emerges, protecting the main entrance to Gdańsk, composed of two Gothic Foregate buildings, rebuilt at the end of the 16th century into the Prison Tower and Torture Chambers and connected by walls. There are two levels of tight cells along the curtain wall. On the eastern wall of

the tower there is an arm of a former pillory with the remains of a chain. Inside the complex there are prison cells and a starvation dungeon, the so-called viper's pit.



The Foregate Complex

In 2006, the Amber Museum was opened in the foregate - a branch of the Historical Museum of the City of Gdańsk. All floors of the Prison Tower were converted into exhibition rooms. Here you can see amber of every possible form. The exhibitions are perfectly complemented by multimedia presentations, light, sound and even scent effects.



After passing through the foregate complex, we can notice a large square stretching on the left side called the "Coal Market".

In the north-eastern part, it is bordered by a fragment of the city walls with the Gothic Straw Tower and the Great Armory. The warehouse of weapons and war equipment was designed in the form of four adjacent tenement houses with magnificent gables. They were decorated with images of Gdańsk soldiers and scattering bullets.

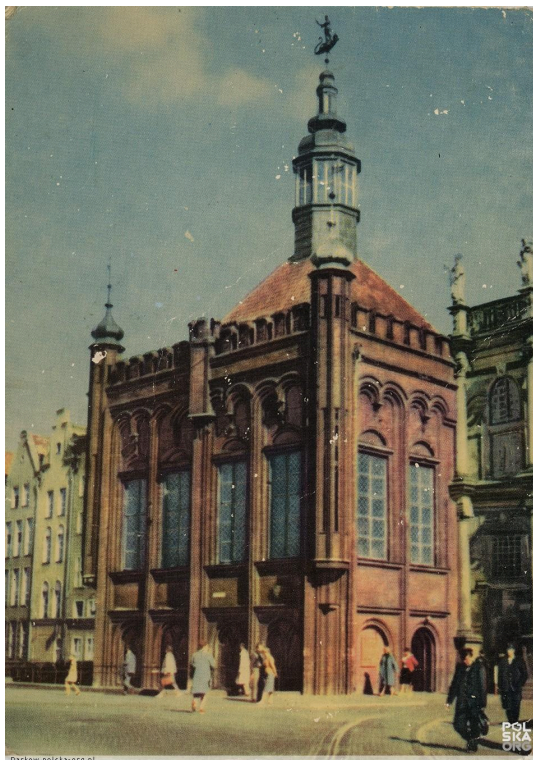
Another very famous and beautiful example of Renaissance architecture in Gdańsk is the Golden Gate; Abraham van den Blocke was involved in its construction. The name of the monument comes from the delicate gold covering the details of the

facade. The charming finesse of the decorations leads to Długa Street, known as the "living room of Gdańsk".

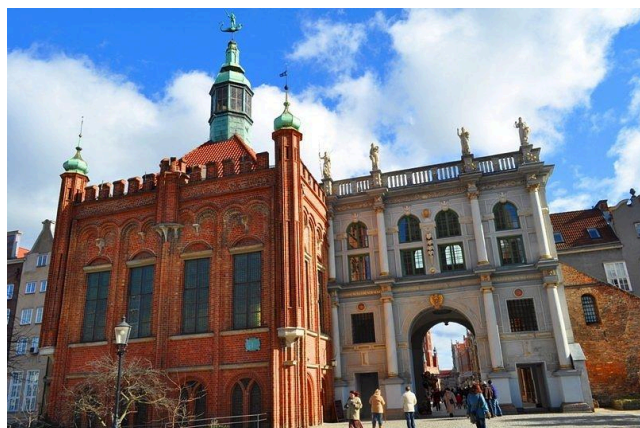
The architecture of the building refers to Roman triumphal arches - it was intended to make visitors aware of the splendor of Długa Street opening behind it. On the side of the foregate, the building is crowned with allegorical figures representing peace, freedom, wealth and fame, and on the other side with statues symbolizing harmony, justice, piety and prudence.



The Golden Gate



Adjacent to the gate is a late Gothic building erected at the end of the 15th century, the suedzuba building of the elite Brotherhood of Saint George. The manor has a neat, regular shape and a hipped roof with turrets, on the top of which there is a figure of Saint George slaying a dragon (the statue is in the National Museum).



Uphagen's house - In the Uphagen House, a tenement house of a wealthy merchant reconstructed after the war, the original decoration from the 18th century has largely been preserved. Currently, it houses the Museum of Residential Interiors. This is a great place to get to know the interior of Gdańsk from that time and imagine how people lived.



At the beginning of the 21st century, two young people met and decided to make the world sweeter. After many experiments, they managed to recreate the 18th century technology of hand-making caramels. Several times a day you can watch how delicious cookies are made without the help of machines, you can also try them and buy them. The confectionery shop is called "Ciuciu Cukier Artist" and is located at 64/65 Długa Street.

The Gdańsk town hall, one of the greatest buildings of this type in Poland, was built in stages from the 14th century. The Gothic-Renaissance building with pointed windows and a magnificent curtain wall on the eastern façade is dominated by a slender tower with a viewing point during the season. About 2.5 kg of this precious metal was used to gild the statue of King Sigismund Augustus balancing on a 16th century helmet.



Every hour, the town hall carillon plays different melodies. A clearly visible sundial from 1589 on the corner has an inscription in Latin "Tempus fugit" that means "time passes" / "time flies".



Many rooms have retained their original appearance. Visitors are especially delighted by the Great Council Hall, also known as the Red Hall. Its interior design is the finest example of the Northern Renaissance in Gdańsk. In the interiors you can see famous Gdańsk furniture, historical monuments, a recreated street of the Free City and a rich collection of Gdańsk coins and medals. The Gothic cellars of the town hall are also open to the public.



The Royal Route ends with Długi Targ, one of the most frequently visited corners of Gdańsk. It's full of artists, pigeons and stallholders. It is surrounded by impressive buildings, including the famous Golden Tenement

House, rebuilt in the 17th century in the Mannerist style. Its magnificent façade is decorated with carved heads of commanders, princes and kings (including Władysław Jagiełło and Sigismund the Third Vasa) and battle scenes. The details of the facade are covered with gold. In front of the Artus Court there is a fountain of Neptune, a symbol of the city to which all visitors flock. The younger ones admire the marine animals surrounding Neptune with open mouths, while the older ones take photos against its background. There are also those who look forward to the day when golden vodka will flow from the fountain instead of water (which apparently happens once every hundred years). The market is closed by the Green Gate with four arched passages, built in 1564-1568 by Hans Kramer.





The previously mentioned Artus Court is one of the most magnificent buildings at the Long Market. In the interior, with walls decorated with paintings and frescoes, you can see, among others, models of old sailing ships. Also worthy of attention is the extraordinary 11-meter-high stove, built of over 500 tiles in 1546.

The Artus Court with the adjacent House of Jurors, also known as the "Gdańsk Vestibule", is one of the branches of the Historical Museum of the City of Gdańsk.

The Artus Court is located at 43 Długa Street, together with the Layers' House

Behind the Green Gate you can see the Motława River and the street running along it. Since the Middle Ages, the area has been one of the busiest places in Gdańsk.

Ships were unloaded there and trade was brisk. There are tall tenement houses along the long Embankment, and on the other side of the river you can see huge granaries. Among the buildings, the Gothic water gates stand out: Krowia, Chlebnicka, Mariacka św. Ducha and Żuraw. The old



coat of arms of Gdańsk - two crosses in a shield - has been preserved on the Chlebnicka Gate. The most famous of the Gdańsk gates on Długie Pobrzeże is undoubtedly the gate called Żuraw. The building was built between 1442 and 1444 and is a combination of a port crane, a gate and a tower. Currently, it is part of the Central Maritime Museum.

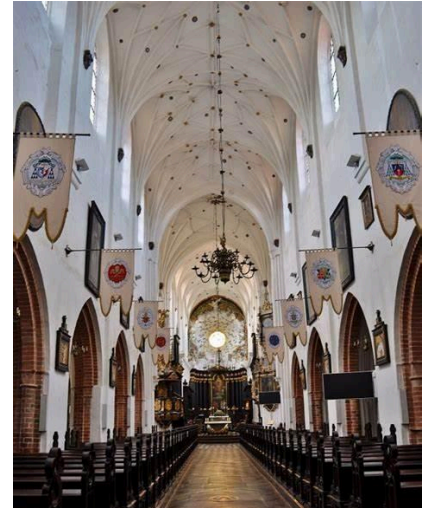
One of the most important places in Gdańsk in terms of history is Westerplatte. The defense of Westerplatte, a peninsula located within the borders of Gdańsk at the mouth of the Martwa Wisła, became a symbol of the heroism of Polish troops during the September Campaign of 1939. The Germans, realizing the strategic location of

this piece of land, sent the battleship Schleswig-Holstein to Gdańsk on the eve of the war on a "courtesy visit". " intended to liquidate the Polish defense outpost at Westerplatte. The crew under the command of Major Henryk Sucharski, numbering just over 200 soldiers, was supposed to defend themselves for several hours. In fact, for over a week it repelled attacks by incomparably larger German forces supported by heavy artillery, bombers and warships. 15 Polish soldiers died in the fighting. The fierce and heroic defense aroused the admiration of the attackers, who gave them military honors during the capitulation. After the war, a cross with a plaque containing a list of the fallen was erected on Westerplatte. In 1962, a tank from 1945 was placed in its place, and four years later a monumental monument to the Coast Defenders was unveiled.



The seat of the Gdańsk Archdiocese, the Cathedral of the Holy Trinity, the Blessed Virgin Mary and Saint Bernard, has the form of a three-nave basilica called the Cathedral in Oliwa. Its history dates back to 1186, when the Pomeranian prince Sambor established a Cistercian abbey in this place. The monastery and church were destroyed by fire many times, and the current shape of the temple is the result of reconstruction in 1578-1583. On the sides of the facade decorated with a Baroque portal

there are two soaring towers and above the intersection of the naves there is a bell tower typical of Cistercian architecture. The interior of the cathedral is an extraordinary museum of sacred art containing valuable works from the Renaissance, Baroque, Rococo and Classicism periods. Particularly noteworthy is the impressive Baroque main altar, intricately carved choir stalls and 16th-century polychromes. The Oliwa Cathedral is associated primarily with the wonderful organ made in the years 1763-1788 by Jahann Wilhelm Wulff, a Cistercian brother, and then rebuilt several times. Currently, a modern instrument is hidden in the historic organ cabinet.



The pride of modern Gdańsk is certainly Mariacka Street and the St. Mary's Gate which leads to this street. Mariacka Street is a fairy-tale world of carved lintels with numerous gargoyles, stone balls, slabs and grates reminding us of the city's best times.



One of the largest Gothic temples in Europe is St. Mary's Basilica. It can accommodate 25,000 believers, and when its construction was completed, Gdańsk had about 40,000 inhabitants, being the largest city in Poland. It was built for 159 years, from 1343 to 1502. The nave is 105 meters long, the transept 66 meters. There are 7 gates leading to the Basilica, and inside the

vaults stretching 30 meters above the floor support 27 pillars. The oak late-Gothic main altar with a central polyptych dates back to 1510-1517. On the rood beam there is an equally old Crucifixion group. Other valuable elements of the equipment include a Gothic pieta, the "Beautiful Madonna", the legendary crucifix, numerous epithets and tombstones, and a copy of Hans Memling's painting "The Last Judgment". In the northern wing of the transept there is an astronomical clock, a work of master Hans Düringer from Toruń, saved from the war, created in 1464-1470. A 13-meter chronometer shows sacred church hours and moon phases. Every hour, figures of the 12 apostles appear there, and the quarters are struck by Adam and Eve.

