

GDANSK 10. - 12. OCTOBER 2017

There was not much travel in 2017 due to the bad back of Anne Berit, but after surgery she became a bit better. Then we found out that we would like to take a trip to [Gdansk](#). We drove to Gardermoen and parked at [Dalen Parkering](#). We traveled with [Norwegian](#) that departed from [Oslo Airport, Gardermoen](#) at 18.55 and arrived at Gdansk at 20.20. We took a taxi from the airport to the hotel, which was located centrally in Gdansk. The trip took about 20 minutes.



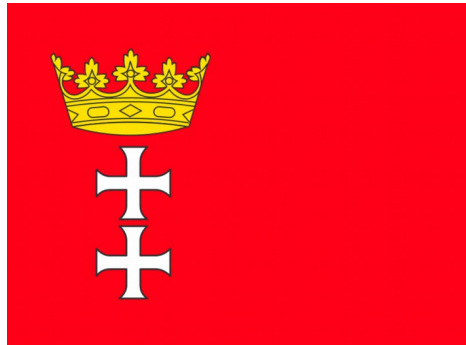
The airport is called [Gdańsk Lech Wałęsa Airport](#). It was opened in 1974 in the district of Rębiechowo to replace the old airport in Wrzeszcz. It was opened for civil aviation in 1993 and today's terminal was completed in 1997.



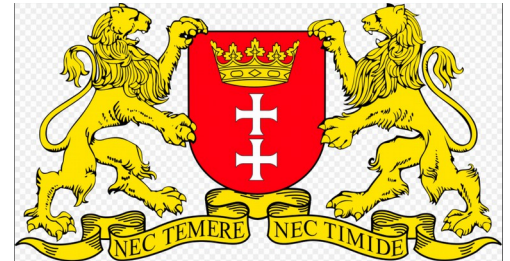
Map showing where the airport is located.



Map showing the location of Gdansk.



Flag



Coat of arms.

The area around [Gdańsk](#) was populated by Germanic Goths from around zero until the migration period. After they were expelled during the migration period, slaves settled in the area in the 900s. Gdańsk was officially founded in 997. In the 1300's, Gdansk was a Slavic settlement, which came under the [Teutonic Order](#) and remained a predominantly German-speaking city until the end of World War II. During the war, the city's historic center (90%) was virtually level with the earth and 60% of the city's 60,000 buildings were completely destroyed. Around 100,000 people died. After the war, the German population was completely displaced and deprived of all property. Almost the entire Old Town was rebuilt and reconstructed in the period 1950-1960, and today it is almost as it was before the war.



We had booked at the [Novotel Gdansk Centrum](#). The hotel is just a few hundred meters from the old town.



In the reception.

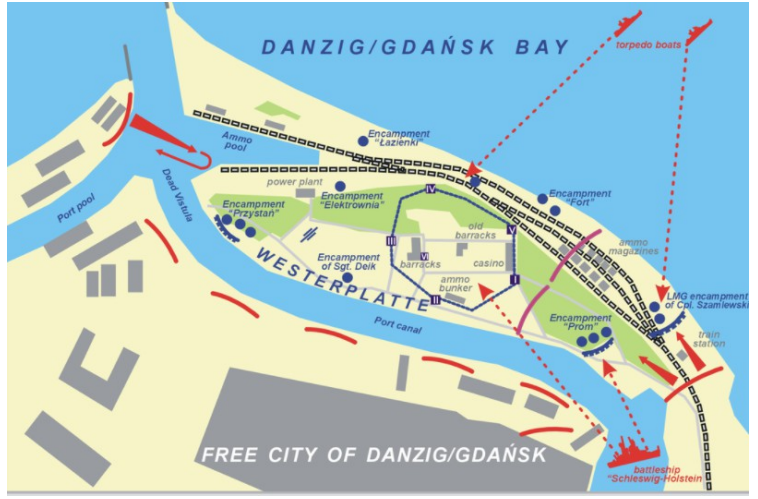


The room looked like this.



Breakfast room and restaurant.

We had planned to spend just one day of sightseeing in the city, so in order not to walk too much, we asked the front desk to arrange a taxi for us. We wanted a driver who spoke good English. We got it. We had previously listed the places we wanted to drive to, so just give the driver the list.



The first stop was at [Westerplatte](#). Here was the first battle during World War II. It took place between 1 and 7 September 1939 between the Polish garrison on Westerplatte and attacking German forces. The battle was initiated by a bombardment from the German vessel [SMS 'Schleswig-Holstein'](#). Only after seven days, the Polish garrison captured after very hard fighting. The strong Polish resistance of Westerplatte became an important factor for the Polish army, both in the opposition to the German attack, but also to the later resistance struggle against the German occupants.



At the parking lot there are many information posters. The whole area is today a museum.



A part of the fort.



Souvenir shops.



Here the road goes over to the large monument that has been erected.



One of the barracks is part of the museum.



Here we arrive at the monument.

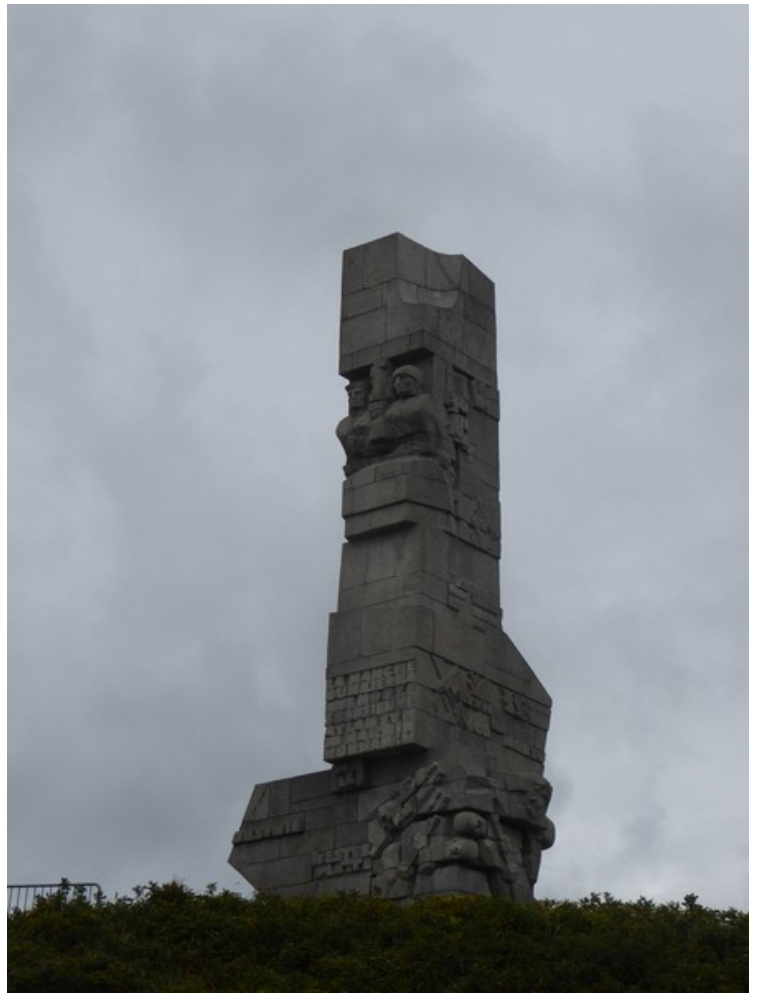


Beyond the monument is in capital letters: 'NEVER MORE WAR'

To commemorate the defenders of Westerplatte, a large monument was built on the Westerplatte peninsula at the entrance to the harbor. It was unveiled on 9 October 1966. It was designed by a team of designers from Gdansk - Adam Haupt, Francis Duszenko and Henry Kitowski. The monument itself is 25m high and is gathered from 236 granite blocks weighing between 6 and 12 tonnes each, derived from quarries in Strzegom and Borow. The total weight is 1150 tonnes, and there are relieves and inscriptions on it. In 2009 the area around the monument was completely rebuilt and is now a park. Every year on September 1, there are ceremonies to commemorate the outburst of World War II, which began here.



On the square in front of the monument, the ceremonies will be held on September 1 every year.



The monument



The monument seen from a slightly different angle. This is taken from Wikipedia. There is better light here than it was when we were there.



Our driver would like to take a photo of us at the monument, so here we are.



On our way back to the car we went through a memorial to those who fell under the battle of Westerplatte.



There are railway tracks leading out to the harbor which is located on the point of Westerplatte. Here's a school class that are allowed to drive on a draisine.



The entrance to the fortress.



The fort is surrounded by moats. Here on one side of the entrance.

Next stop was at [Wisłoujście Fortress](#). The lighthouse was built in 1482 by brick instead of the former fortress of wood. The tower was to control the passage of ships that traveled back and forth from Gdańsk Bay's main ports in Gdańsk and Gdynia.



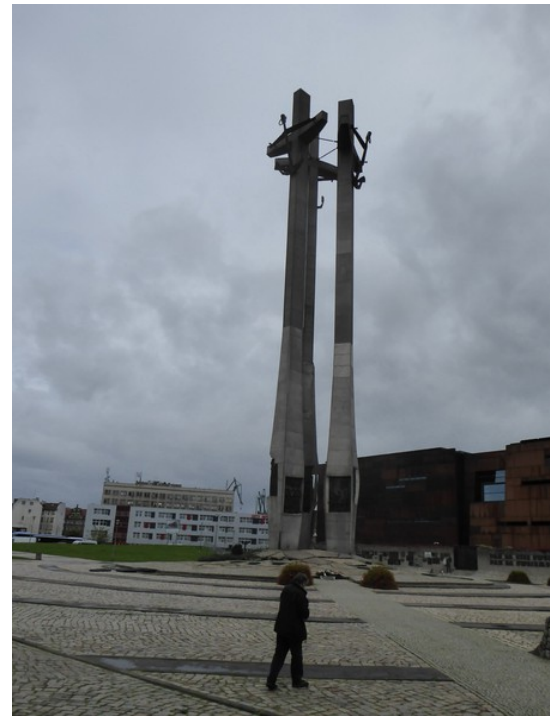
The moat on the other side of the entrance.



The fortress looks like this from above. It was closed due to restoration, so we only saw it on the outside.



Outside the fortress, a memorial was established for seafarers who died on the sea.



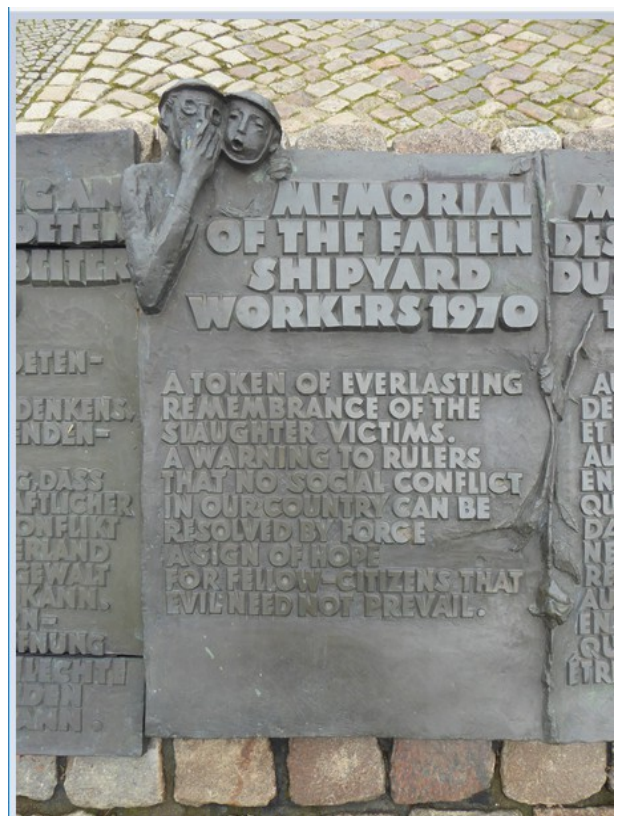
The next stop was at the monument of those who fell under the great riots among the shipyard workers in Poland in the years 1970-89. The entire uprising started in Gdansk during Lech Walesa (which was later the president of Poland 1990-1995) and spread rapidly to large parts of Poland. This is one of the events that is counted as the start of Communists' fall in Eastern Europe.



The entrance to the shipyard.



Memory wall.



Finally another picture from the memory wall.

The next stop was at the great mill, [Wielki Młyn](#), which was built by the [Teutonic Order](#) in 1350. Today it has been converted into a sales hall and restaurant.



There are channels on both sides of the mill.



This figure is sitting outside the mill.



Just across the street from the big mill is [St. Catherine's Church](#). It is the oldest church in Gdansk. In the tower it has a [clock museum](#) with watches dating from the 16th century. Johannes Hevelius is buried here.



Next to the big mill there is a park dedicated to [Johannes Hevelius](#). He was a famous Polish astronomer and he was the mayor of Gdansk.



This is in the park. We see the big mill with the church behind.



A sundial.



An astronomical wall next to the statue of Johannes Hevelius,



Above the park is the old town hall, [Ratusz Starego Miasta](#).



Right next to the old town hall is this church, [St. Joseph's Church](#).



Here we took leave with our driver. Good and friendly guy who spoke good English.



We left the driver at Targ Węglowy. Here is the [Amber Museum](#). Before that there was a prison tower and torture chamber.



[Brama Wyżynna](#) was for a long time the main gate for the city, but after the defenses were torn and the moats filled, the gate was standing alone.



A row of houses along Targ Węglowy.



This gate is called Golden Gate, [Brama Złota](#). To the left lies [St. George's Club Manor](#).



Golden Gate seen from the other side.



After going through the Golden Gate, we are in the long street, [Długa](#). Here we found out we needed some lunch.



We went in here, [Cafe Ferber](#).



Beer mat. [Żywiec](#) is considered by many Poles as the Polish national beer.



A picture behind the bar counter.



We had [Carpaccio](#). Anne Berit is not so excited about raw meat, so I ate the rest of hers too.



Smoking break outside the restaurant.



This is the [town hall](#) of Gdansk.



Here we are looking across to [St. Mary's Church](#).



[St. Mary's Church](#) is one of the largest brick churches in the world, accommodating 25,000 people. It was built in the years 1342-1502.



The Town Hall seen from the other side. Here we also see the Neptune fountain.



[The Neptune fountain](#) from 1541. It is shown on many postcards and advertising posters from Gdansk.





A row of houses on the north side of Długi Targ.



A row of houses on the south side.



The light building is Artus Court, [Dwór Artusa](#), It was once a meeting place for famous people and wealthy merchants, and is today subject to Muzeum Historyczne Miasta Gdańska.



More houses.



At the end of Długi Targ lies the green gate, [Brama Zielona](#). It is the eastern gate and it leads onto the [Motława river](#).



Here we have gone through the green gate and go on Długie Pobrzeże along Motława. Norwegian flag outside the store.



Sightseeing boat.



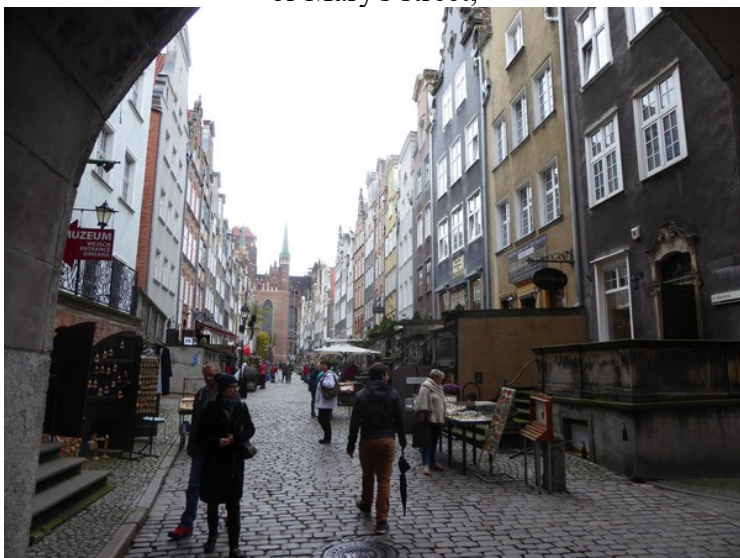
Restaurants



This is [Brama Mariacka](#) that leads in to [Ulitsa Mariacka](#), or Mary's street,



In the end of the street lies [St. Mary's Church](#)



Looking along Mary's street.



Brama Mariacka seen from Mary's street.



The gate seen from Motława.

This is the crane, [Zuraw Gdanski](#). It was built in the mid 1400s and was the largest crane of its kind. It was driven by human power; men who walked inside a wooden treadmill. The crane was used both to unload boats and get ship masts in place, and could lift up to two tons, which was unique in the Middle Ages. It is mounted over a building that also served as one of the city gates.



On the other side of Motława is this museum ship, [SS Soldek](#). It was the first to be built in Poland after the war.



A duck looking for food in Motława.



On our way back to our hotel we crossed [the green bridge](#) where we got a good view of these houses.



Here it is possible to rent boats that look like cars.



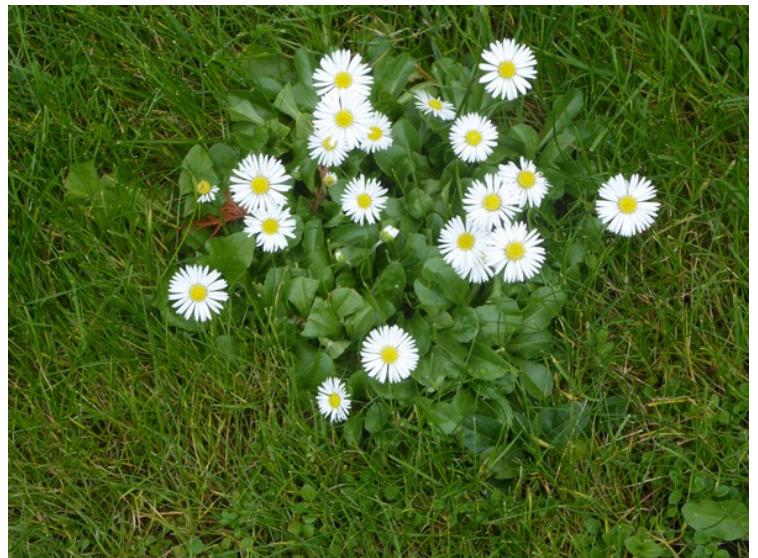
A ferris wheel belongs to a fairground.



This is [Brama Stągiewna](#), one of three towers in the defense of Spichrzów (Granary) Island, which is the island on which the hotel is located.



Street art.



Flower art.



Here we are outside the hotel.



The entrance to the right.



One wall of the hotel restaurant was decorated with a special world map.



Finally a selfie. Tired people.