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# Paulina on the Road

A Travel Scrapbook in English & Español

travel blog espanol english

12. October 2018

## Best Day Trips from Gdansk, Poland



Oh Gdansk, it's so obvious why you have been chosen **destination of the year**: your pretty pastel house fronts, your delicious Pomeranian and Polish cuisine, your Flemish inspired architecture, your soft colored coast... There seems to be no reason why anybody ever wants to leave Gdansk!

However the Polish city on the Baltic coast is surrounded by one of the most **pristine and enchanting landscapes** in Northeastern Europe: the Pomeranian Kashubia also known as the **Kashubian Switzerland**.

Enjoy untouched Polish nature and quaint Kashubian towns by exploring the surroundings of Gdansk. So here they go, the **10 best day trips from Gdansk**.



**Hola,**  
I'm Paulina - a sustainable travel enthusiast from Luxembourg. I love traveling slow

and eco-friendly thus I am the happiest while hiking, cycling or sailing. Or while doing any other outdoor stuff.

After 4 years in Spain and an epic Boat HitchHiking journey over the Atlantic Ocean, I am back in Lux' and ready for new travel adventures. Let's hit the road together!



After writing extensive posts about [slow life in Pomerania](#) and a [self-guided free walking tour of Gdansk](#), it's about time to go beyond the city borders of Gdansk. Even though you can easily stay 2-3 days in the picturesque town and wander through its cobbled streets, I strongly recommend to **save at least 1 day trip** in your travel schedule to visit one of these gems in the surroundings of Gdansk.

Gdansk is the largest city of Eastern Pomerania, home of the Kashubs. The **Kashubs are an ethnic and linguistic minority**. They have their own embroidery, traditions and language. However they consider themselves as Polish, they don't want to separate from Poland.

Kashubia, the land of the Kashubs, is also known as the *Lake District* as it counts over 3000 lakes. It's thus a **paradise for nature lovers** and sustainable travel enthusiasts. Let's turn exploration mode on and discover some of the best Kashubian attractions by going on a day trip from Gdansk.

## POLAND

# BEST DAY TRIPS FROM GDANSK, POLAND



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## General Info

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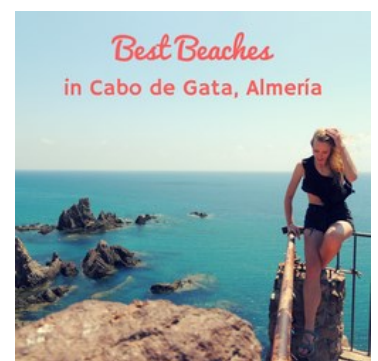
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**Geographic situation:** Gdansk, Polish city on the Baltic coast, capital of the Pomeranian Voivodeship and Kashubia, Poland's principal seaport and the centre of the country's fourth-largest metropolitan area. Complex history with periods of Prussian or German rule, of self-rule as a "free city".

**Language:** Polish. English is widely spoken.

**Currency:** zloty

**How to get there:**

- By airplane to Gdansk Lech Walesa Airport. Book here your airport transfer to hotel
- By train from Warsaw, Gdynia or Sopot. Check railway prices here
- By long-distance bus (*super cheap here*) from Warsaw and other Polish cities.
- Rent a car to drive from Warsaw or to explore Kashubian Switzerland. Check rental car prices here.

**Activities:** Formerly trade and shipbuilding, amber processing and export. Major tourist destination with many national tourists visiting the Baltic coast



## where to stay in Gdansk, Poland

### Budget

Liberum

Marina Club Hotel

### Mid-Range

Stay Inn Hotel \*\*\* (*recommended because of its excellent location*)

PURO Hotel \*\*\*\* (*great interior design*)

### Luxury

Radisson Blu Gdansk \*\*\*\*\*

Hotel Gdansk Boutique \*\*\*\*\*



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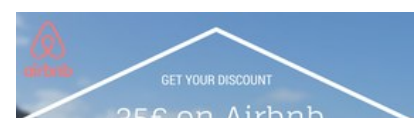
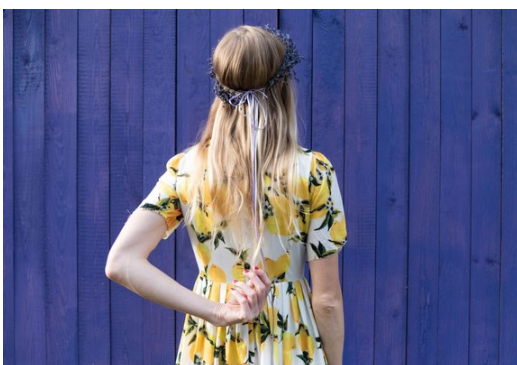
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# 1. Sopot



Hell Sopot!

Sopot is the exclusive and most **famous beach resort** of the Polish Baltic coast. As the resort has never been destroyed by the bombings of the Second World War (not as Gdansk which has been entirely destroyed), its original architecture is still well preserved.

Sopot has a century of history when it comes to **wellness and spa tourism**. The health benefits of its coveted mineral fountains are well known and thus even famous personalities like Fidel Castro, Marlene Dietrich or even Adolf Hitler stayed in the grand hotels of Sopot.

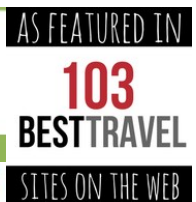
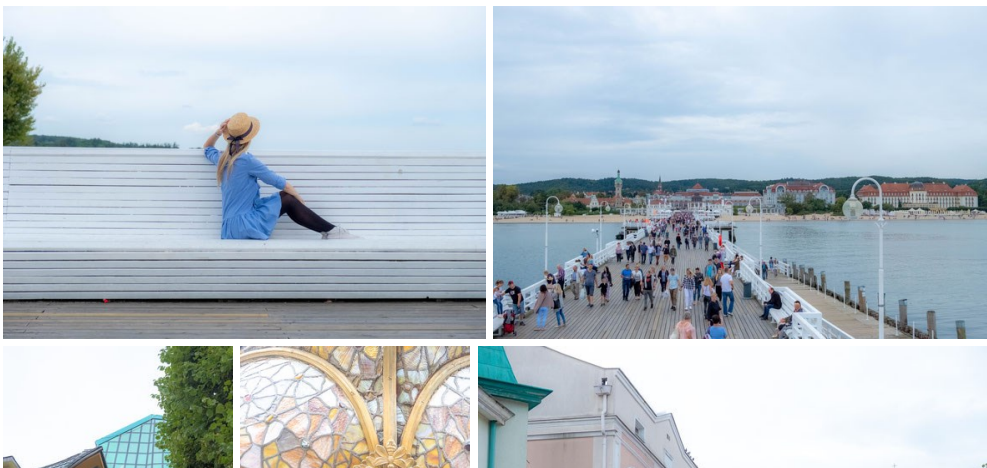
The main attraction of Sopot is the wooden pier which is the **longest in entire Europe** (entrance fee is about 2€ in summer). There's a lovely bar at the end of the pier and you'll enjoy fabulous views on the Baltic coast, Sopot's legendary Grand Hotel and Hel peninsula.

**[Book here your daytrip to Sopot](#)**

The main pedestrian street *Monte Cassino* is the place to be seen and obviously for people watching. It's filled with numerous terraces and shops, the most **famous building** being the *Crooked House*.

Sopot is also a great place to indulge in Polish food and I highly recommend [Sztuczka Bistro](#) which serves **traditional Polish cuisine with a modern touch**. The watermelon salad and ceviche with local cod were heaven!

**[Buy here your rail tickets from Gdansk to Sopot](#)**

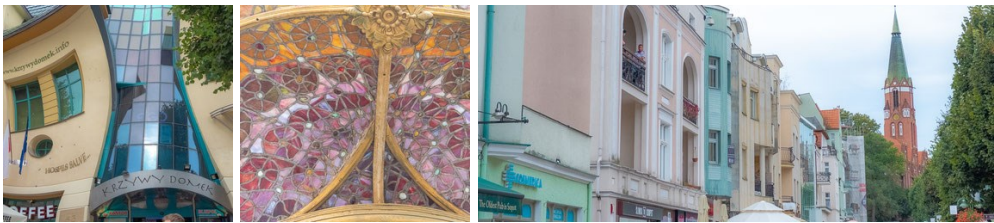


## Flight Deals



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It's what we're





## 2. Kashubian Switzerland



The Kashubian Switzerland has over 3000 lakes

The region of Kashubia, also known as **Kashubian Switzerland**, stretches over an area counting more than 3000 lakes and several hectares of untouched woods. Even though Gdansk is the largest city in Kashubia, the capital of the Kashub region is disputed among Kościerzyna and Kartuzy.

The Kashubs are **ethnically and linguistically different** from the Poles, but without a separatist movement. They are living on the Baltic coast and Eastern Pomerania since 7th century AD. A **colorful culture** developed during centuries where pottery and embroidery are the main arts.

[Book here your tour to Kashubian Switzerland](#)

Due to its extensive forests and vast lakes, the Kashubian Switzerland is a playground for nature lovers and **active travellers**.

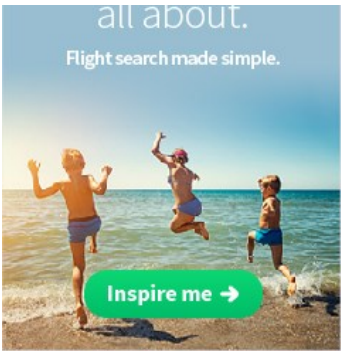
Indeed you can choose among a large many outdoor **leisure activities** such as sailing, hiking, trekking, mushrooming (according to our guide the national sport of East Pomerania - never go mushrooming without a guide btw!)...

**Canoeing** from one lake to another (they are often connected) is a sport with a long tradition in Pomerania. Almost on any lake you visit, you'll find a canoe or kayak rental service. There are over 133km of water routes to be explored. Canoe rental stations can be found in *Wdzydze* or in *Kociewie*.

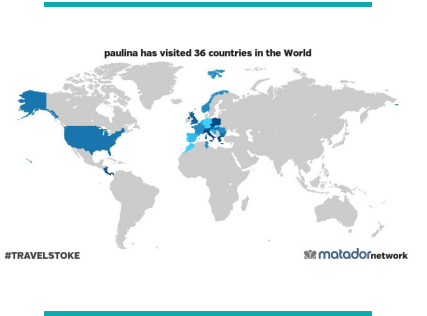
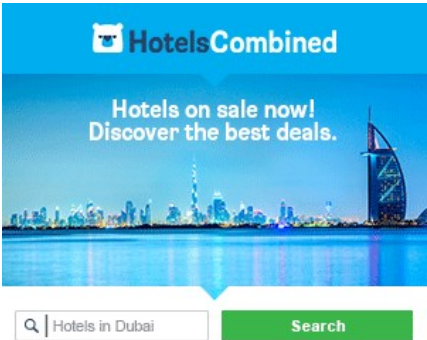
An extensive **cycling network covers most parts of Kashubia**. It's thus perfect to cycle from one town to the next one. Many lakes have lake side bars inviting to relax and enjoy peaceful views.

The **most popular lakes** in Kashubia are *Lebsko Lake*, *Biale Lake* and *Klodno Lake*.

[Book here your tour to Kashubian Switzerland](#)



## Hotel Deals







### 3. Wdzydze Ethnographic Museum



At the largest open air museum in Poland

The Ethnographic Museum is definitely one of the most educational day trips from Gdansk. It's the **first and largest open air museum in Poland** and hosts over 50 buildings showcasing the traditional Kashubian architecture, among them a church (*service is still held on Sunday*) and a school.

Here you can learn about the **traditional lifestyle** of the Kashubs and about their daily grind including weaving, food preparation, fashion, spinning.

This valuable knowledge which sometimes risks to become forgotten is transmitted to the museum visitors in **interactive workshops**.



There is a wide range of workshops that you can choose from: spinning, clay and pottery workshops, painting traditional Kashubian motives on glass or **making paper flowers**, one of the most emblematic Kashubian traditions. On top the crafts make a good souvenir from your excursion to the Kashubian Switzerland.

I was lucky enough to a paper flower and painting workshop and against my expectations I never felt more relaxed. The ladies organizing the workshop were super patient (with me being rather clumsy...) and were an incredible **source of knowledge**. The workshops are held in the exposed buildings of the museum and you can pop in spontaneously or ask at the reception.

On top there is an excellent restaurant onsite. They serve **traditional Pomeranian food** including fish from the surrounding lakes and the mandatory dumplings (*pirogi*). The interior is decorated with Kashubian items like colorful paper flowers and you can purchase traditional pastry at the bar. I

**f** I absolutely recommend their *kompot* juice which was prepared with more than 4 different kinds of berries.



*Book here your tour to Kashubian Switzerland*



ou should calculate at least **1-2 hours** to visit the museum (without doing a workshop)



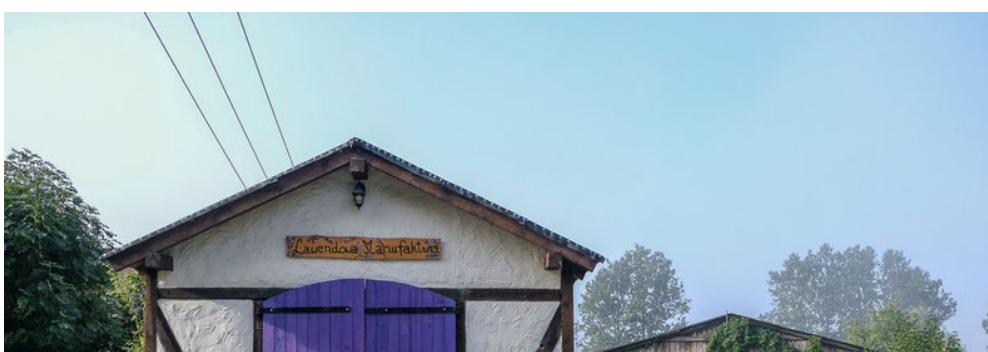
#### **Kashubian Ethnographical Park**

ul. T. i I. Gulgowskich 68

83-406 Wdzydze



## 4. Lawendowa Osada - Lavender Farm







The most picturesque place: The Lavender Farm

The Lavender Farm, *Lawendowa Osada*, is one of the **most intriguing day trips** from Gdansk. This **purple paradise** has been created by Barbara and Bartosz because they were seeking a more fulfilling and slow-paced lifestyle.

They built 4 beautiful guest houses, all of them with the lavender and Kashubian theme, where you can spend the night but also learn about the **health benefits of lavender**.

Indeed Barbara offers **workshops** like proceeding lavender, cooking workshops but also workshops about women's empowerment.

The offer of *Lawendowa Osada* is completed by the **wellness and spa facilities**. There's a salt cave onsite with salt from the Adriatic sea, a jacuzzi located at the edge of the forest, a sauna and a swimming pool.

The most surprising attraction is however the astronomical observer (!! ) with a **massive telescope**. Bartosz will be pleased to give you a short introduction on the Polish starry sky.

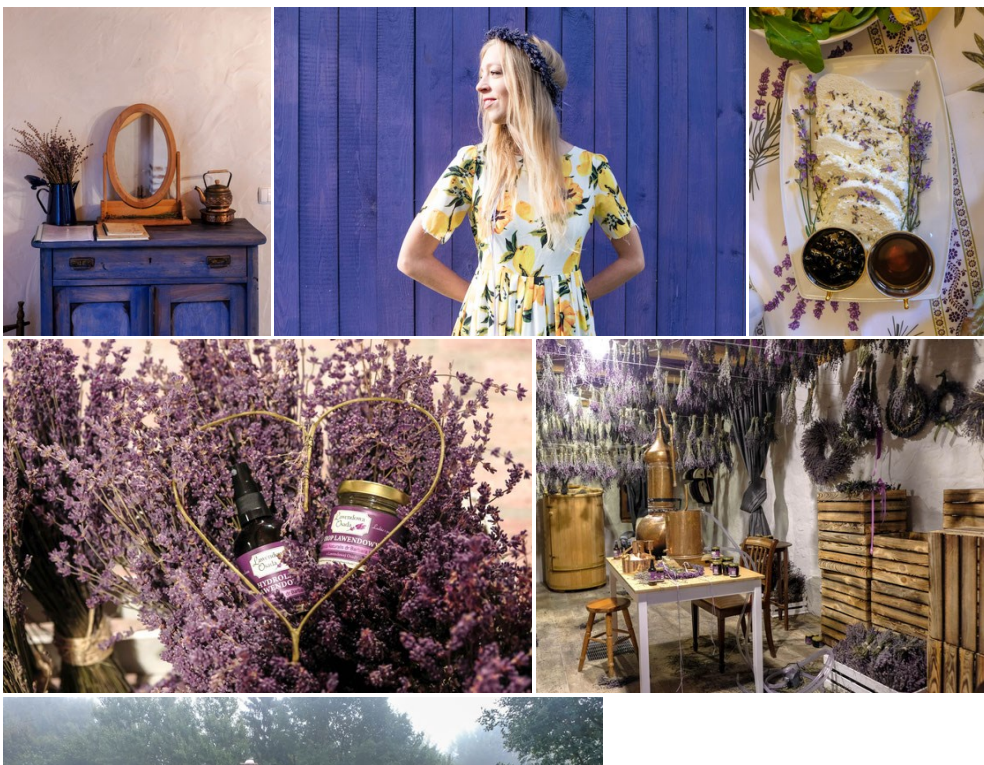
I highly recommend to spend at least 1 night at the Lavender Farm to enjoy their offer to the fullest and live the **slow life** for some time.

On top you can't leave without trying Barbara's **lavender cheese and honey**, she definitely served the best Polish dinner and breakfast during my trip to Kashubia. Pay a visit, you won't regret it.

### **Lawendowa Osada**

Młyńska 6a, 83-047 Przywidz, Poland

Tel.:+48 511 975 929







## 5. Wdzydze Watch Tower



Probably the best view in Kashubian Switzerland

The Wdzydze Watch Tower will provide you the **most beautiful views** on the Kashubian Switzerland and on its biggest lakes *Jezioro Jelenie* and *Jezioro Golun*. The Wdzydze Watch tower is located only a 5-minutes drive from the Kashub Ethnographic Museum, it can thus be easily combined.

The Wdzydze watch tower is strategically located on the **intersection of several lakes**. It will give you a good sense of the vastness of the Pomeranian highlands.

*[Book here your tour to Kashubian Switzerland](#)*

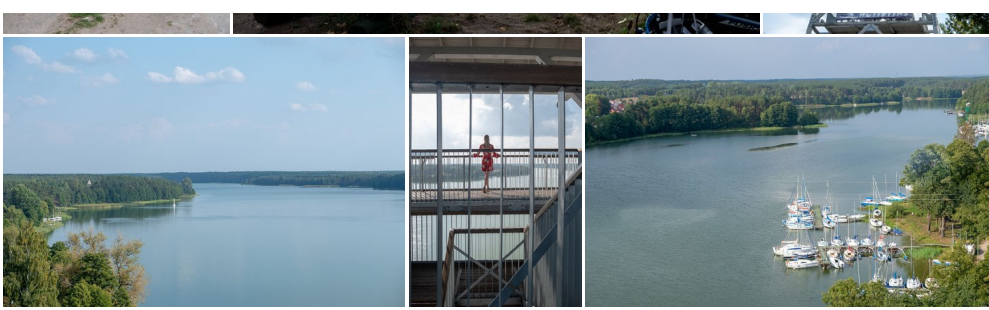
The observation tower offers a breathtaking panorama view and there are camping facilities in the immediate surroundings. You'll also find a bar onsite which serves delicious **Polish soups** and the traditional *pirogi* (dumplings). Its terrace is very inviting to relax and enjoy the views.

In case you want to get active, you can even rent a canoe or a windsurf next to the watch tower and explore the lakes **by canoeing**.

**Wdzydze Kiszewskie 29,**  
83-406 Wąglikowice, Poland







## 6. Lipusz



Bread Workshop in Lipusz

Lipusz is known to be the **capital of bread**. Indeed the bread of the quaint town is known all over the area. Even though the town has only about 2500 inhabitants it is famous for rural tourism. It's thus the perfect location to slow down and enjoy the beauty of Kashubian Switzerland.

*[Book here your tour to Kashubian Switzerland](#)*

In case you want to fully immerse in Kashubian culture, I recommend to do a **breadbaking workshop** with Karola in Lipusz or a **pottery master course** with Asha from [Gospodarstwo Zielony Kot](#). Both crafts are emblematic elements of Kashub culture.

I am missing the words to describe breadbaking *Karola*: she bakes **over 300 bread leaves every day** and won several awards for the best bread in the region. She is also an avid collector of ancient baking molds and recipes. Some of the **over 400 molds** go back from the First World War. She even holds the oldest *Dr. Oetker* mold. To book a workshop with her, feel free to contact the [Pomorskie Prestige Organization](#) or [Michał, our guide for Kashubia](#).

The **clay workshop** with Asha from [Gospodarstwo Zielony Kot](#) is a great way to learn about Kashubian culture and create a meaningful item with your hands. Admittedly, I underestimated the relaxing effect of forming vessels from clay, but finally it gave me a deeper understanding of pottery as a Kashubian cultural expression.







## 7. Koscierzyna, the Kashub capital?



Rooftop Views from the Brewery

The title of being the **capital of Kashubia** is disputed by several towns, among them Koscierzyna located 50 km from Gdansk. The history of Koscierzyna goes back to the end of the 13th century and is situated in what was once called West Prussia, in the Kaszuby district.

I particularly liked the Market Square of Koscierzyna because it is composed by **pastel colored houses**. Its benches invite to relax and observe the Polish daily grind.

Koscierzyna is famous for its accordion music and nowadays it is a hub for furniture.

*[Book here your tour to Kashubian Switzerland](#)*

However my favorite place in Koscierzyna was the Stary Browar brewery where you can learn about the Pomeranian brewing tradition. On top the restaurant and hotel perfectly manages the gap between



preserving **traditional and an interior design based on the latest trends**. The entire building has been built up from ruins and has a 150 year hold history.

The brewery pours **nine types of beer everyday**: Indian Pale Ale, Wheat, Cranberry, Keller, Dark Beer, Red Lager, New England Wheat, Lemon and American IPA. The hops and malts come mostly from Polish plantations and they use water from their own intake. Feel free to ask for a beer tasting.

There is a **direct railway connection** from Koscierzyna to Gdansk.

[Buy here your rail tickets to Koscierzyna](#)



## 8. Westerplatte



An excursion to the *Westerplatte* is one of the **classic day trips** from Gdansk. Located on the Baltic



Sea coast mouth, it was the location of a Polish Military Transit Depot until 1939.

*Westerplatte* is famous for the Battle of *Westerplatte*, **which started the Second World War** as it was the first clash between Polish and German forces during the invasion of Poland.

During your visit of the *Westerplatte* you can spot the former **defenders' barracks and guardhouses**. One of them was converted into a museum and a monument to the events has been unveiled in 1966. A museum dedicated to the battle of 1939 opened in 2015.

**[Book here your day trip to Westerplatte](#)**

## 9. Gdynia



Gdynia is one of the 3 cities forming the so called Tri-City (Gdansk, Sopot, Gdynia). It is one of the **fastest growing towns in the area** and doesn't really have a historic center. It's now one of the youngest and **trendiest** places to live in the region.

**[Book here your daytrip to Gdynia](#)**

The city was only founded in 1926 and is famous for its harbor and the longest sea boulevard of Poland. Nowadays it's the main port for cruise ships. The two 130-metre high **Sea Towers** are the symbol of Gdynia.

The most important tourist attraction are the **historic vessels moored** at the quayside: the only preserved Polish pre-World War II ship, and the oldest destroyer in the world today and the over a 100 year-old *Dar Pomorza* a former merchant vessel, **today a museum-ship**.

### **How to get there:**

30 min by train from Gdansk

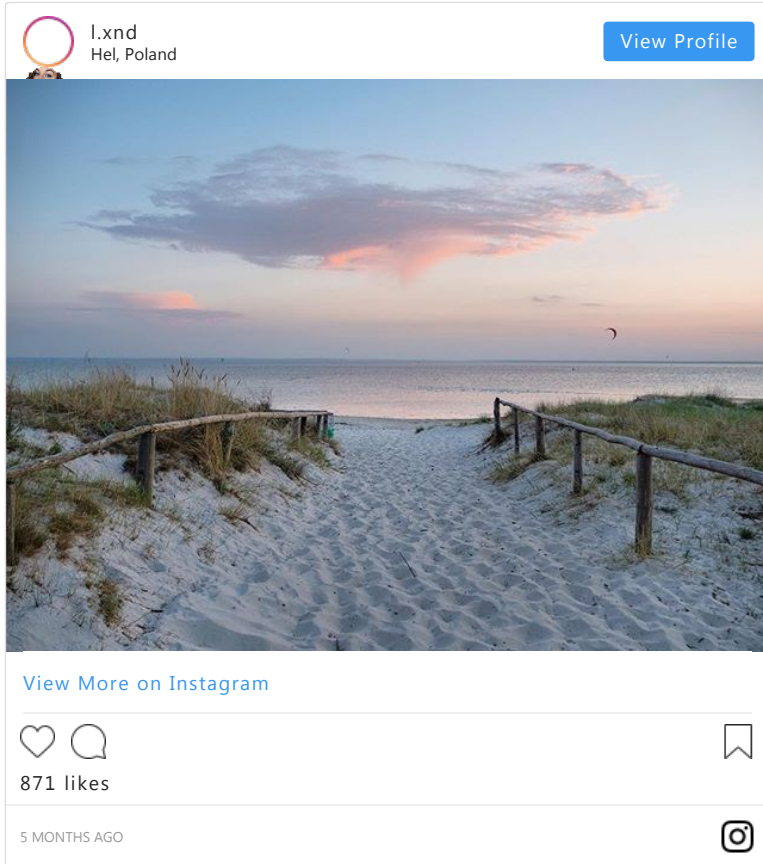
**[Buy here your tickets to Gdynia](#)**







## 10. Hel Peninsula

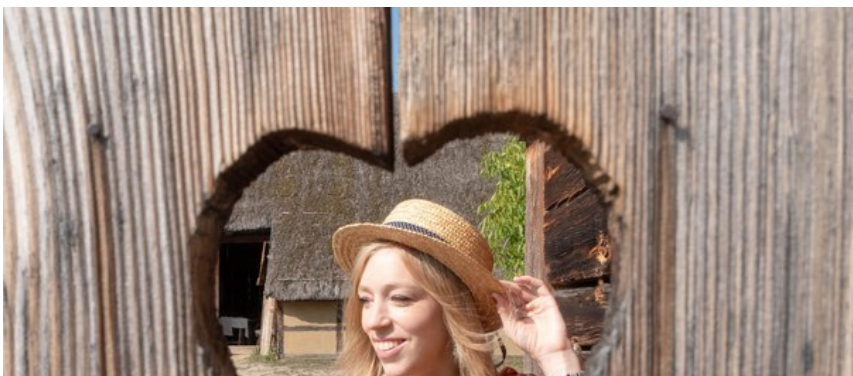


A day trip to Hel peninsula is not as *hellish* as it might sound first. The **34km strip** reaches in the Baltic Sea and is not wider than 500m.

The peninsula is dominated by the **2 fishing ports**, *Hel* and *Władysławowo* at its base. *Chałupy*, *Kuźnica* and *Jurata* are **tourist resorts** during the short summer season and can be quite packed from July to September. The northern shore is famous for its **beautiful beaches** which are mostly deserted.

*Hel* island is famous for its delicious **seafood restaurants** and due to its rare bird species it's a paradise for birdwatchers.

*Hel* peninsula can be easily reached from Gdansk **by train or bus** and from Sopot by ferry.







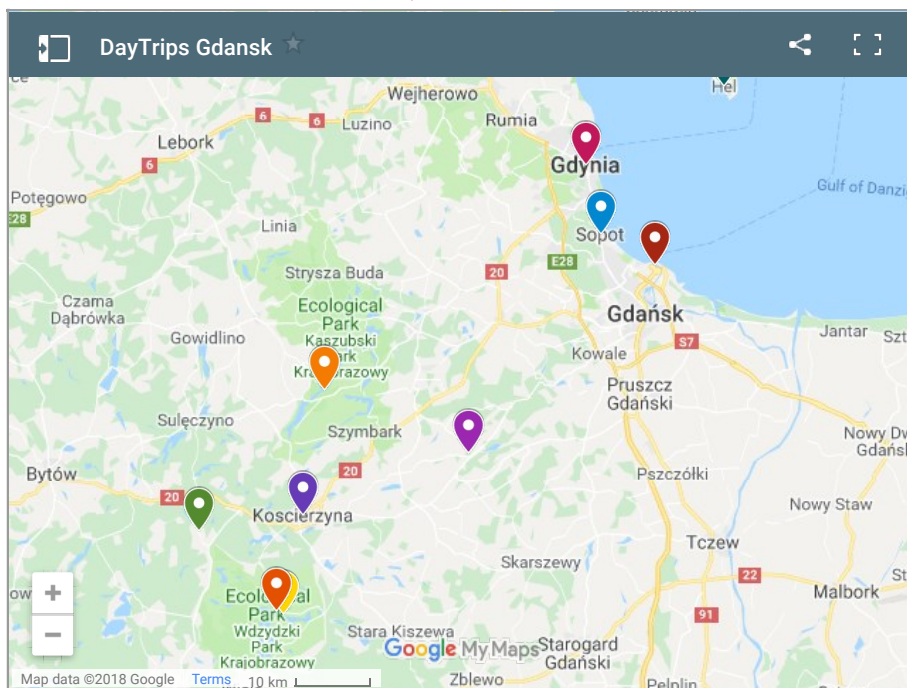
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I hope some of these, admittedly very personal, highlights of my visit to Gdansk, Poland, could convince you to include Gdansk in your travel plans.

Have you been in Gdansk? Did you enjoy it? I would love to hear about the things you loved (or loved less) in the comment form.

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## Day Trips from Gdansk



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### Before You Go: Top Tips for your Trip

- You'll be snapping tons of photos during your trip. Rather than relying on your mobile phone to capture the sights, upgrade to an actual camera for higher quality photos. I travel with a [FUJI XT2](#) (mirrorless, takes amazing photos) and our Action Camera [GoPro HERO5 Session](#) (takes beautiful photos in the most extreme situations, sim & lightweight) – all of the cameras are wifi enabled so you can share your trip pics to social media in real time!).
- Since a few weeks I am the proud owner of a [Galaxy Note 9](#). It has the best phone camera on the market and quality is similar to DSLR camera, I absolutely love it.
- To edit photos and answer mails while traveling, I usually take my [Touchscreen 2-in-1 Business Laptop](#) with me.
- When spending a lot of time on the road I love to wear [my trekking sandals](#).
- Travel insurance is essential! If you haven't already obtained travel insurance for your trip, travel protected against all odds with [World Nomads](#).



In order to get **more information** on tourism in Gdansk, Poland, I recommend the site of [Tourism Board of Gdansk](#) and [Pomorskie Travel](#) for its surroundings.

Some of the pictures in this article have been taken by the talented [Kostas Deko](#)

Deals on places to stay in  
**Gdańsk**

**1-night stay** (Tue 16 Oct - Wed 17 Oct)

Hotel Królewski	£42
★★★★ 3.8/5	
Patio Apartments - Old Town	£49
Smart Hotel	£44
★★★ 2.8/5	
Dom Schumannów	£33

See all deals

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