

DESTINATIONS / POLAND / POMERANIA - 10 DO MALBORK CASTLE - A WORLD RECORD CASTLE IN POLAND

By Anna S. P. / July 10, 2017 / 0 Comments



It's the world's largest construction made out of bricks. It's huge and it's a must see. The Castle of the Teutonic Order in Malbork is impressive and offer you a meeting spot during warm days. And Malbork Castle is also a UNESCO World Heritage Site.

MALBORK CASTLE

While walking around here, you can really feel the old history this place is shaping to you. Towering above the banks of Vistula River, its impressive walls tell the story of an old war. This was the place where the grandmasters were living. This was the place where the knights walked and now you are invited to walk in the path of history.



Malbork Castle was the headquarters of the Grand Master of the order. While walking inside you get a lot of information about the Grand Masters and the knights. This place takes you back in time and you can feel the history while walking in the different rooms, looking outside the garden and just taking it all in. The castle is so impressive that it's hard to explain.

BRICKS OF MALBORK CASTLE

There are 30 million bricks in the whole construction, a lot of them are in the high castle. And there is a way to spot what bricks are original and which ones are from the reconstructions. If you look at the bricks, they are dark and not perfectly shaped. It means that they're original. If you are lucky, you can spot some irregularities in the bricks. There is a place where you are walking where you can see some grooves from dogs in the bricks. Imagine how it was when the bricks were laying out in the sun today. There was a dog that stepped on the bricks when they were not dried yet and he left a small paw print.



That paw print is there to this day. Hundreds of years later you can still see the mark that the dog left. How awesome is that? And there is a place where you can see old bricks and then there is a bunch of newer ones. This is on one of the outside brick walls. This place has been reconstructed in an attack. There was a canon that ruined some parts and that's now restored with newer bricks.

THE THREE SECTIONS AT MALBORK CASTLE

The castle and its surroundings are 25 acres in total. First, you have the high castle with its chapel house, treasury, refectory, a church and a chapel in the chapel of St. Anne. All the Grandmasters are buried in it. It's a special place. Next, there is the Middle castle with the grand refectory, the Grand Master's Palace and the treasury for the elderly and feeble brothers of the order.



And last but not least, there is the Lower castle with the animal stables, brewery and more. And not to forget the walls outside in the gardens and the surroundings.

THE MAGNIFICENT CHAPEL AT MALBORK CASTLE

Personally, I love churches and chapels and all that is sacred. I loved the St. Mary's chapel. It was built due to its birth history. The chapel at Malbork castle has been reconstructed and got destroyed during the war. It is a beautiful place where they kept its history through time. For example, they have the original floor take up part of the chapel and then they have another floor in the rest of the place.



Malbork is a great place to spend some time here and look for the details because they are beautiful. And they are quite easy to miss.

OUR VISIT TO MALBORK CASTLE

The first thing I noticed was how there was a breeze as soon as you entered the place. Due to the thick walls, there is always a bit of cold in the yard. The day it was super warm out so I did appreciate the breeze. It's impressive, no doubt about that. And it's huge. You could spend a whole day here and still miss out on a lot of stuff.



We got an automated audio guide and it was a great complement to the exhibits. The ticket costs 10 PLN daily (2021) and for that price you get the audio guide that they offer to listen to. If you listen to the whole guide the tour will take about three hours. The great part is that they start automatically as you enter interesting places. According to us, this place is a MUST SEE!

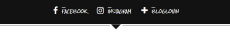
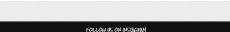
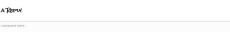
FIVE FACTS ABOUT MALBORK CASTLE

- It is the world's largest construction made out of bricks.
- There are 30,000,000 bricks in total.
- Every year during the last week of July there is a medieval fair organized there.
- From April to August you can see light and sound shows on the castle grounds.
- The entrance fee changes during the day.
- It is a UNESCO World Heritage Site.



INFORMATION ABOUT MALBORK CASTLE

Opening hours: summer time 09:00 - 19:00 inside the castle and until 20:00 on the yard.
Opening hours: winter time 10:00 - 17:00 inside the castle and until 18:00 on the yard.
Price: normal ticket 10 PLN daily, after 17:00 the price is 10 PLN daily.
Address: Skweronka 1, 82-100 Malbork, Poland
Website: <http://zamek.malbork.pl/en>
You can either buy the tickets there or buy them online.



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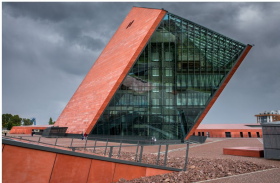
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DESTINATIONS / POLAND / POMERANIA - TO DO MUSEUM OF THE SECOND WORLD WAR, GDAŃSK

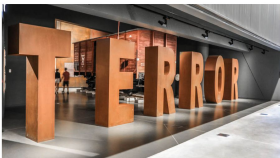
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When it comes to the World War II, Poland has a lot of history to tell. And even if most people think Auschwitz while thinking WWII and Poland, this museum is a must to visit while in Gdańsk. And what better place to have this kind of museum, since Gdańsk is the place where the WWII started.

MUSEUM OF THE SECOND WORLD WAR

This place is incredible. Expect to learn a lot about the war and listen to loads of information. This museum is not a place where you will learn just about Poland and the war but the war itself. The fact that this is a place dedicated to the WWII as a whole and not just Poland's side of it is a great thing according to me.



While walking inside the building you can really feel the pain of the war. There are several exhibits that you walk through and they teach you a lot about the war. There is also a personal touch to all of it. For example, there is a wedding dress made out of a parachute. It's fantastic to see how people tried to keep some sort of normalcy even during the war. And when there was no fabric to buy they used a parachute.



A Wedding dress made out of a parachute

THE MUSEUM MIGHT BE CHANGED

During our visit the museum was at risk of being renamed. I have not the information from anybody from the museum but I asked some people and I also read an article in a Polish magazine and there is a controversy when it comes to the museum. This is how I understand it all.

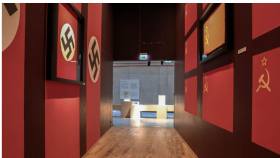
Today the museum is about the WWII overall. That means that there are exhibits that are about other countries like Japan and such. The government of Poland thinks that it should be focused on Poland and the Polish people and their suffering. Meanwhile, it took seven years to prepare the exhibition as it now and what I could gather some of the people we spoke to wants it to change.



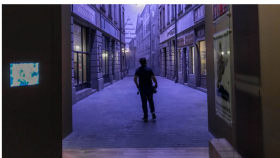
It turns out that the Polish government wants the museum to be about the Polish suffering. Showing the world how Poland was a victim. Sure that's true but the museum is perfect just the way it is so there is no need to change it. Only the future will tell whether this place stays this way or if the government changes it. Let's keep our fingers crossed.

EXPERIENCE THE MUSEUM OF THE SECOND WORLD WAR

This museum is super modern. Make sure to get an audio guide because it's really good. The guide will know where you are at all times and start playing several languages to choose from whenever you enter a room. If you leave the room and enter another one, the audio will automatically switch into the room you are currently in.



The museum is quite interactive. You get to listen, read, touch and interact with parts of the exhibition. I really liked all of it and I thought that this is a perfect place to learn more about the WWII. A thing that took me back and that made me feel uncomfortable was a room where there are posters of Hitler and posters of Jews that are being mocked. It is so powerful that it's hard to take it all in. Make sure to get your tickets in advance. Since the museum is still new, and the entrance is limited, make sure to get your tickets. You can buy them online or hope for the best and buy them at the door. This is really a must-do while in Gdańsk.



INFORMATION ABOUT THE MUSEUM OF THE SECOND WORLD WAR

Address: pl. Władysława Barczewskiego 1, 80-062 Gdańsk, Poland
Opening hours: Daily 10:00 - 18:00 except for Monday. On Mondays it's closed.
Ticket price: 12 PLN 23 PLN for one adult.
Website: www.muzeum2017.pl

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