Top tourist attractions
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Gdansk, the capital of the Pomeranian (Pomeranian) Voivodeship, is a city in Northern Poland. A city with an unusual history, it delights in its old Main Town, monumental Upland Gate and leads through the Golden Gate to the Royal Route, along which royal entourages entered the city in the past. The heart of Gdansk. It begins with the monumental Upland Gate and leads through the Golden Gate to the Royal Route, along which royal entourages entered the city in the past.

What else is worth seeing in Gdansk?

- Gdansk Museum – a museum devoted to the history and true identity of the city. It comprises a number of locations and, including the Gothic-Renaissance Town Hall of the Main Town with a 37-bell carillon, the famous Artus Court, which hosted meetings and celebrations for nobles, the historic Ołyka House, the stunning Museum of Amber, the Wisłoujście Fortress, slightly away from the centre of Gdansk, Guardhouse No. 1 at Westerplatte, the Museum of Clocks at St. Catherine's Church, the Polish Post Office Museum and the Water Forge in Oliwa.
- St. Mary’s Church – or, more correctly, St. Mary’s Basilica of the Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary. The largest Gothic brick temple in Europe. It took 159 years to build it. It is worth climbing the tower to see spectacular views of Gdansk.
- The Crane – the largest and oldest preserved port crane of medieval Europe. It towers over the Long Market and plays the role of the port’s gate to the city.
- National Museum – among many other exhibits the Museum holds a brilliant triptych, “The Last Judgment”, by the Dutch painter Hans Memling. This famous masterpiece of world painting is the most precious treasure of all the Pomeranian museums. Both the vision depicted in the painting and its route to Gdansk is a fascinating story about humanity, faith and history.
- Shakespeare Theatre – this brick structure hides bright marble-wooden interiors, and has two stages – classical and Elizabethan – and a roof which can open. In the 17th century, this same place was the location for the Fencing School, the first public theatre of the former Polish-Lithuanian Commonwealth. Concerts and prestigious events take place here.
- Mariacka Street – one of the most charming streets in Gdansk with numerous colourful merchants’ houses and richly decorated porches. It is a street focused on amber, with jewellery shops, boutiques and studios that cultivate the centuries-old amber tradition of the city.
- Westerplatte – a Gdansk peninsula and historical monument, the scene of the outbreak of World War II and a symbol of the heroic resistance by the Poles. Every year on September 1, at dawn, events commemorating the victims of this great tragedy take place. The Monument to the Defenders of the Coast, the highest structure on the Peninsula, has the memorable inscription “Never war again”.

During a walk around Gdansk, it is worth visiting one of the many restaurants along the Long Embankment, the Granary Island or Szafarnia Street to order local Gdansk and Pomorskie specialties. Adults can select their favourites from a wide range of traditional Gdansk alcohol drinks which have helped to create the culinary tradition of the city.
Gdansk is not only about the monuments. This city on the Motlawa River is a diverse, family–friendly city hiding many fascinating stories. In summer its residents and visitors come to the beaches, in winter to a sleigh ride at the Valley of Joy. Gdansk districts, from those right on the coast to those located by the forests of the Tri–City Landscape Park, enchant with their rich possibilities for young and old and encourage them to also spend time outside the centre. The unique Zoological Park, Hevelianum or the Centre of Maritime Culture are just a few of the places which are worth visiting with even the youngest tourists.

What else is there to see in Gdansk?

• Hevelianum – this is located on the area of the former fortifications of Gradowa Hill and is a unique centre of education, culture, recreation and history. Astronomy, new technologies, physics, chemistry, sound games, illusions ... at Hevelianum, science becomes fascinating fun.

• Oliva Park – one of the most beautiful places in Gdansk. A historic park which originated from the Cistercian monastery garden. Countless species of trees and shrubs, picturesque alleys, ponds and lakes, the historic Abbots’ Palace, a Palm House with exotic apartments, including a 150–year–old date palm, live concerts and many other attractions. It is the perfect place for a family walk or romantic date.

• Gdansk zoological Park – probably the most charming zoo in Poland. There are many unique animal species, including the world’s only albino penguin, orangutans, apes and Javier Imanbe. It is also the birthplace of Gdansk’s lion cubs, which are Angolan lions.

• National Maritime Museum – devoted to shipping, shipbuilding and fishing. The museum hosts a permanent exhibition in the granaries on the Granary Island, a white iguana sailing ship the Dar Pomorza and the Maritime Culture Centre, which was created especially for children, where they can dress up as a sailor or a tanker captain.

• Energia Gdansk Stadium – the pride of sport in modern Gdansk. This all–seater football stadium in the Letnica district was created for UEFA EURO 2012. Today it is the home stadium of local football team Lechia Gdansk, hosting conferences, concerts by international stars, and other events. The Lechia Gdansk museum and the Fun Arena, a place of entertainment for the whole family, are also worth visiting here.

• Archaeological Museum – a place for meeting with ancient history. The main part is the former Nature Society House, one of the largest and most representative tenement houses in Gdansk, located right next to St. Mary’s Gate. The museum has a number of branches (including the Castle Museum in Grawe, the Archaeological Open–Air Skansen in Sigot, the Roman Cellar on Dornemakartz Square in Gdansk and the Blue Lion Archaeological Education Centre in the Blue Lamb–panary).

• Sadlek – the first ship built in Poland, specifically in Gdansk Shipyard, after the Second World War. It is moored on the waterfront of the Granary Island and is open to the public. Be sure to check out the engine room!

• Ronald Reagan Park – this is a vast area of land with numerous avenues and paths, playgrounds, a seaside promenade stretching to the border with Sopot, a pier in Brzozowo and a nearby beach with numerous pubs and restaurants. A great place for resting and recreation. It is a place for walkers, runners, cyclists, roller skaters and children who can have fun in several specially built and equipped playgrounds.

• The Lighthouse in Nowy Port – this is over 31 meters high and over a hundred years old. Today, although no longer in use, it is an important element of Nowy Port architecture. At the top of the lighthouse a reconstructed time ball, a device used formerly for setting ship chronometers, has been installed. It is well worth visiting!

Gdańsk

Here you can find the Oliva Cathedral with its large, 18th–century organs designed by Johann Wilhelm Wulff, the Tri–City Landscape Park, the Oliva Park, the Abbots’ Palace, the House of the Plague, a hill and the Pacholec viewing point. Oliva is a historic district of Gdansk, which was once inhabited mainly by Cistercian monks. Today, for many, it is the most beautiful part of the city. One of the top tourist attractions of Oliva and Gdansk is the Oliva Zoo park.

The furthest district of Gdansk from the centre. It can be reached by a modern drakewedge and is a paradise for lovers of wide beaches and forests. The island has lakes and two nature reserves: Ptasi Raj and Mewia Łacha. These are excellent places to observe countless species of birds and seals. Sobieszewo also has two bathing areas, places to observe countless species of birds and Lechia Gdansk museum and the Fun Arena, a place of entertainment for the whole family, are also worth visiting here.

A unique gallery of murals painted on the walls of multi–storey apartment blocks. The authors of the murals come from all over the world, and their large–format works depict various scenes – from historical ones, like a mural of Pope John Paul II and Lech Walesa, through murals inspired by the history of plants and animals, to abstract murals. You can visit the murals on Zaspa with the help of a public map. Free guided walks are also organized during the summer season.

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How about some fish in one of the seaside restaurants? You will find a lot of them along the shore. Let your nose guide you to the best of them by following the smell of smoked or fried fish.
**Top tourist attractions**

**Sopot**

- **THE PIER**
  - The main attraction of the city and at the same time the longest wooden pier in Europe. Built at the turn of the 19th and 20th centuries, it has a walking distance of over half a kilometre, of which over 450 meters are deep into the Bay of Gdansk. Over the years it has been renovated and modernized, and today the pier also boasts a modern marina, where luxury yachts and boats are moored. Sopot Pier is a place for walks, dates and meetings, as well as rest and relaxation. A solid dose of iodine is guaranteed!

- **UPPER SOPOT**
  - An extremely charming, forested part of the city, which borders the Tri-City Landscape Park. The famous Forest Opera, standing majestically here, is an amphitheatre which has been one of the most important points on the concert map of Poland since 1909. Performances, festivals and concerts continue to take place here. Nearby is also Bald Hill, which is a working ski station. It is worth exploring the forests when strolling along the Sopot Walking Trails.

- **MONTE CASINNO**
  - The centre of this resort is the pedestrianized Heroes of Monte Cassino Street, with its restaurants, shops, craft breweries, cafes, clubs, the small stage of the Coastal Theatre, a cinema, the National Art Gallery, and the famous Crooked House. It is here that you can find the legendary club “Spatif”, now over 50 years old and once frequented by luminaries such as Andrzej Wajda, Zbigniew Cybulski and Jerzy Skolimowski.

- **What else is worth seeing in Sopot?**
  - **the beach** – Sopot’s beaches are crowded with tourists in the summer. To enter you should go along the path at the numbered entrance leading from the promenade. It is worth looking for beaches that are a bit less popular, but equally beautiful, like those in Sopot Kamienny Potok or near Sopot Racecourse.
  - **Grand Hotel** – one of the most popular hotels in Poland. Its construction cost 20 million Gdansk guilders when it was built in the 1920s. The hotel is today effectively a functioning monument, having been repeatedly recorded in the pages of history.
  - **Archaeological Skansen** – a treat for history lovers. We will find here an early medieval stronghold dating back to the 8th century.
  - **Sopot Museum** – located in the historic Claaszen Villa from 1903. Collections of paintings, graphics, sculptures, ceramics and handicrafts are collected here. You can also see souvenirs related to the city and the region, such as photographs, documents, maps, postcards and publications about Sopot citizens and the city itself.
  - **Healing Square** – an extremely spacious square that invites you to the Sopot pier. A place for walks, meetings and recreation. It was created over a hundred years ago. Its characteristic features are the fountain, lighthouse, adjacent arcades and the entrance to the pier. You can also drink some healthy brine here.

- **Northern and Southern Parks** – two historical parks, called the Baths. Located in the vicinity of the Sopot pier, they are home to over 50 species of trees and many protected plants. There is a recreation area, a small football field and picturesque paths for pedestrians and cyclists. In the Southern Park there are inhalation mushrooms, where you can get medicinal brine.

- **SPA** – Sopot is a spa town, and there are plenty of facilities offering various body and soul treatments here. It is worth paying attention to those which are using the resources of the region, for example amber, in their treatments. Sopot also has a Balneological Facility offering brine baths.

- **The Hippodrome** – Sopot horse racing track is just beside the border with Gdansk. It has an area of 17 hectares, and its stables can accommodate up to 300 horses. The history of the Sopot hippodrome dates back to the 19th century. Today, many equestrian events and competitions take place here, including the international rank CSI5* event.
At the beginning of the 20th century the place was a fishing village but it was developed over just a couple of decades into Poland’s “Window to the World”. The city currently attracts investors from the farthest corners of the globe, and it can boast of a rich cultural offering (led by the Polish Feature Film Festival and Open'er, one of the largest music festivals in Europe). In summer it attracts visitors with its beach and night life, while winter attractions include walks in the Tri-City Landscape Park!

**GDYNIA**

The heart of the city, the main walking route of Gdynia with historic multi-family houses, a famous fountain and restaurants. The boulevard connects John Paul II Avenue, the Pomorskie and Beniowski quays, where ships, ferries and sailing ships are moored. In summer, you can admire cruise ferries from around the world. Two famous museum ships – the Dar Pomorza (Gift of Pomerania) and ORP Błyskawica (Lightning) – are stationed here. When she comes to port, this is also the place to see the sail training ship Dar Młodzieży (Gift of Youth).

**Kościersko Boulevard**

A unique museum that shows the history of people traveling from Gdynia, the Pomorskie region and other parts of Poland. It is located in the building of the former sea station. It was from here that Poles departed to the wider world on transatlantic liners. The museum presents the theme of Polish emigration in an original and broad way, introduces the stories of people and presents amazing souvenirs from their travels. An extraordinary part of the exhibition is “Batory Under Construction”, showing the world’s largest model of a passenger ship being built.

**Experiement Science Centre**

This is an interactive exhibition whose main idea is learning through play. It is a paradise for anyone hungry for knowledge. The centre’s task is to popularize science and stimulate creativity, but also to provide great entertainment. This it does thanks to the well-designed interactive exhibits, which present unusual phenomena of the world around us. A visit to Experiement is a fantastic way to spend time with the whole family.

**What else is worth seeing?**

- **Gdynia City Museum** – the history of this port city in one place, providing a holistic view of Gdynia in all its historical, architectural and cultural aspects. The museum is famous for its extremely interesting temporary exhibitions. It is always worth checking what is current on offer.
- **The Lightning and the Gift of Pomerania** – The Lightning (ORP Błyskawica), which is now a Museum Ship of the Polish State, served as a destroyer on the oceans and seas from 1937. The three-mast sail training ship the Gift of Pomerania (Dar Pomorza), called the White Frigate, was funded by the Pomorskie Society in 1929 for the Maritime School in Gdynia. Both ships are now retired and perform well-deserved museum functions.
- **Stone Hill** – offers beautiful views of the port, beach and Gdansk Bay. The best way to get to Stone Hill is by the modern funicular (entrance from beside the Gdynia Film Centre). It is also a place where you can admire buildings in the Gdynia modernism style.
- **Aquarium** – a real underwater world on land. The Gdynia aquarium enables you to meet amazing species, huge water turtles and sharks. It is an attraction for the whole family.

**KOŚCIEŃSKO BOULEVARD**

**EMIGRATION MUSEUM**

**EXPERIMENT SCIENCE CENTRE**

**Culinary trail of the centre of Gdynia** – a way to explore Gdynia from a culinary perspective. And this one is extremely wide and diverse. One thing is certain – it is delicious and local.

**Gdynia modernism** – the answer to the question of how cities were built one hundred years ago. This is an example of combining classics with modernity. Gdynia is proud of its modernist architecture and invites you to follow a specially created trail that you can stroll along at any time of the year.

**Orłowo** – the most beautiful and romantic district of Gdynia. You can reach the Orłowo pier along the sea shore, and then walk to the Orłowo cliffs, from where see a panorama of Gdansk Bay and neighbouring Sopot and Gdansk.

**Infobox** – an interesting construction located on the corner of świetokrzyska and February 10 streets. The elevator takes tourists to the top floor, from where they can admire a panorama of the city and Kościersko Boulevard. This is an information point and meeting place for the citizens of Gdynia.

Gdynia represents modernity, but also sentiment. Several interesting places are preserved here which were formerly meeting places for sailors or were a symbol of the luxury of the port city. It is worth trying local and international dishes.
Kashubia, a land stretching from the Baltic Sea to the Tuchola Forest, is like scattered puzzles with unforgettable views. In the north with the headland in Hel, which separates the Gulf of Gdańsk from the Baltic Sea and with fishing places steeped in maritime culture. In the south with forests, lakes and hills, which together form an idyllic landscape from Kartuzy to Przechlewo. When arranging somewhere to eat, you will be spoilt for choice. Kashubia is not only a land with a unique history and traditions and customs cultivated for centuries, but also one of the most beautiful regions of Poland.

What else is worth seeing?

- Wiezyca Mountain – anyone who thinks that people in Pomorskie do not ski is very much mistaken. There is a wonderful view of Kashubia from the viewing point here. It is a place with a professional ski resort, open to all lovers of winter sports.
- The National Anthem Museum in Dybomín – this historic manor house is an extremely interesting museum which relates to the history of the Polish anthem and also presents a portrait of the life of Józef Wybicki, a man of many talents. This is a history and patriotism lesson for the whole family.
- The Kashubian Museum in Kartuzy – what is “burczybas”? How do devil’s violins work? The answers to these questions can be found here, and you can also admire souvenirs related to the history of the Kashubian region and Kashubian people.
- Museum of Kashubian Ceramics in Chmielno – Chmielno is one of the most popular towns in Kashubia, due to its utterly charming location. The Nicel family has been producing ceramics for several generations, and the museum has collected ceramic exhibits which are over 300 years old!
- Stone Circles – stone circles and burial mounds, a cemetery of Goths and Gepids from the first to third centuries. The cemetery, located in the middle of the forest in Wesiory, makes a great impression. Stone circles can also be found in towns such as Odry, Letnica and Trątkownica.
- Railway Museum and Museum of the Kocierzyna Land in Kocierzyna – This has steam engines, wagons and carriages, diesel and electric engines, all in a former engine house. The Railway Museum is one of the most popular in the whole region. The city also has a Museum of the Kocierzyna Land, which introduces the history of the region and its inhabitants, and explains the unique Kashubian nature.
- Castle in Bytów – a Gothic Teutonic castle from the 14th / 15th century, which is located on the Trail of Gothic Castles. Originally the Teutonic Knights lived here, then the castle was the seat of the Dukes of Pomorskie. Today it houses the West Kashubian Museum, a hotel and a restaurant.
- Regional cuisine – Obviously you can taste Kashubian cuisine in regional restaurants, but not only there! It is worth following the calendar and visiting regional fairs and outdoor events.

In the centre – an upside-down house where it is very difficult to keep your balance! The youngest tourists will learn about the Kashubian fairy tale world and try their skills at the rope park.

This is a phenomenal museum that takes you into a completely different reality. Exhibits of regional architecture can be seen over an area of 22 hectares. Windmills, cottages, taverns, forges and craft workshops show how diverse the construction industry was centuries ago. The open-air museum should also be praised for its wonderful location – it is located on a vast, tree-filled area, right on Goluń Lake. It is worth taking part in the lectures, workshops, concerts or outdoor events that regularly take place here.
This is Pomerania’s calling card, unique on a European scale. Flanked by the Baltic Sea on one side and the Gulf of Gdańsk on the other, in its narrowest place – i.e. between Chalupy and Kuźnica – it is only 150 meters wide! This region is extremely rich in flora and fauna, as well as being one of the favorite summer destinations Poles. It is a perfect place for water sports, sunbathing and cycling. It is also an ideal place for lovers of Kashubian cuisine and fans of history, as fortifications along the peninsula keep many secrets to this day.

**The Hel Peninsula**

This is a 34-kilometer long strip of land, rich in nature and curved like a scythe. You can find here pine forests, dunes and heaths. Ornithologists appreciate the incoming species of birds and biologists study porpoises and seals emerging from local waters. The influence of the waters of the Baltic Sea and the Gulf of Gdańsk give the peninsula its own peculiar microclimate. Along with the Bay of Puck it is an element of the Seaside Landscape Park.

With on one side the rough Baltic Sea, and on the other the calm waters of the Gulf of Gdańsk, the Hel Peninsula is an ideal place for wind- and kite-surfing. There are numerous water sports schools and places for equipment rental. The shallow waters on the bay side are ideal for beginning surfers.

A must-see during a trip to Hel. The seal centre is a research facility of the University of Gdańsk, yet open to visitors. It is most impressive at feeding times, which take place with the participation of the audience. Entertainment for young and old.

**What else is worth seeing?**

- **Hel fortifications** – one of them is the Resistance Centre in Jastarnia, a group of four shelters located on the beach and dunes and surviving from the 1930s. Another is the Coastal Defence Museum, which includes a visit to the facilities of the former German coastal artillery battery “Schleswiger Holstien” and to the pre-war battery named after Heliodor Laskowski. It is also worth taking a trip along the trails marked out in the forests of the peninsula, where you can come across many other attractions of this type.

- **Hel** – the largest city on the Peninsula and at the same time the end of the distinctive headland. In the summer Hel teems with life. Tourists come here by cars, yachts or water trams, drawn by the beaches and interesting tourist attractions. There is also a Marine Station of the Oceanography Institute of the University of Gdańsk.

- **Lighthouses** – there are two, at Hel and Jastarnia. They are an inseparable element of the landscape of the Hel Peninsula, and are on the Lighthouse Trail along Poland’s Baltic coast. Interestingly, the one in Jastarnia is the shortest along the Polish coast and the only one that cannot be visited.

- **Fishing Museum in Hel** – presenting the history of the Baltic Sea, the Gulf of Gdańsk, the Vistula Lagoon and the Hel Peninsula. There is also an open-air museum of fishing boats. The location of the museum is interesting, as it is situated in the post-Revolutionary Church of Saints Peter and Paul from the 19th century.

- **Jurata** – a town of luxury on the Peninsula, where the first private hotel in Poland was built. The President of the Republic of Poland has an official residence here, and the painter Wspiech Kossak also lived in the town. It is a summer holiday resort with a bathing area and a pier.

- **The Butterfly Museum and the Fisherman’s House in Władysławowo** – The Fisherman’s House includes a tower with a view along the whole Hel Peninsula. When visiting the Butterfly Museum you will find species of colourful insects from around the world.

- **“Hallerowka”** – a wooden villa dating from 1922 and which belonged to General Józef Haller, who spent his holidays here. Today it is a branch of the Museum of the Puck Region named after Floriana Ceynowa.

- **The Ring of Puck Bay** – a bicycle route around Puck Bay, almost entirely along the shore. It is 76 km long, and cycling here brings one into real contact with the culture of Northern Kashubia, amazing landscapes, local monuments, various attractions and unforgettable cuisine.
From Hel through Władysławowo to Białogóra, and From Puck to Wejherowo. Northern Kashubia, together with the Seaside Landscape Park, is a region that has lots to offer. Open to the Baltic, beside the Gulf of Gdańsk, full of coastal landscapes and green hills, it is one of the most popular tourist destinations in Poland. Thousands of tourists come here every year, and no wonder. Access to the sea is an undeniable asset of Northern Kashubia, along with its other tourist, historical, architectural and cultural virtues.

### Northern Kashubia

The motor trail of manors and palaces of Northern Kashubia presents historic objects that were once homes to wealthy owners, and today serve as places of accommodation with accompanying restaurants. It is worth going on this trip and visiting the best-preserved and restored ones: Godętowo, Bychowo, Krokowa, Kłanin, Prusewo, Rzucewo, Sasino, Rekowo, Wejherowo and Lisewo.

**Wejherowo Calvary**, also called the Kashubian Jerusalem, is a place of prayers, pilgrimages, and religious ceremonies. In the forest, on three hills (Mount of Olives, Sinai and Calvary), there is a complex of 26 chapels. In Wejherowo you can find the historic market square and the Museum of Kashubian–Pomeranian Literature and Music. It is also worth relaxing in the charming City Park, named in honour of Aleksander Majkowski, or go to a concert at the Kashubian Philharmonic.

Although all were built for one purpose, each of them is different. Lighthouses are a symbol of the Pomorskie region. There are as many as 10 of them along the coast here, the vast majority open to visitors. From Ustka to Krynica Morska – it’s worth visiting them all, because they do not only offer wonderful views of the Baltic Sea but also tell many amazing stories, like the Stilo lighthouse hidden in the forest, or the oldest in the country located on Rozewie Cape.

**Jastrzębia Góra** – a tourist town located on the Baltic Sea. The promenade and cliff are particularly impressive places from which to admire the sea panorama. There are three bathing areas and the North Star, which is the stone that marks the northernmost point in Poland.

**Museum of Military Technology “Gryf”** – a collection of various exhibits from World War II, located in Dąbrówka near Wejherowo. Here you can see tanks, a helicopter, armoured personnel carriers, rockets and many other artefacts from years ago.

**Puck** – a charming town located on Puck Bay, where in 1920 the historical “marriage” of Poland with the sea took place. An ideal place for relaxation and water sports (windsurfing!). It is worth visiting the market, pier, beach, the port and the glassworks.

**Kashubian Eye in Gniewino** – a tourist and recreation complex with an observation tower, with an amazing view of Żarnowieckie Lake and the reservoir of the largest pumped-storage power plant in Poland, in Czymanowo. You can also find here dinosaurs and “Stolems”, Kashubian giants.

**Evolution Park in Sławutówko** – here, near Puck, experience a walk with dinosaurs, a bathyscaphe journey into the deep sea, a prehistoric cinema, the world of primeval man, hunting scenes, and a cave town.

### What else is worth seeing?

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When traveling around the Northern Kashubia, you must try herring served in the Kashubian style. Of course, the best is freshly caught from the Baltic!
The beauty and wildness of nature, the sound of the forest, and an endless and intact richness of flora and fauna. The Tuchola Forest is a Pomorskie treasure, one of the largest pine forest complexes in Poland. It also includes rivers, lakes, peat bogs, a national park and a biosphere reserve, and is a culturally rich re-gion where tradition and customs are important. To get to know the region bet-ter the towns of Chojnice and Człuchów are also worth visiting.

Tuchola Forest – unique in the country. There are over 46 square kilometres of yews, oaks, hornbeams and birches, among which you can see such special bird species as the white-tailed eagle or the grey heron. It includes numerous lakes and 25 nature reserves, with many hiking and cycling routes and educational trails which have been created for both young and old.

– the ideal starting point to begin a sailing adventure on Charzykowskie Lake. There is a yacht port and a marina along with modern infrastructure, regional buildings and local cuisine. The unusual landscapes of the buffer zone of the Tuchola Forest National Park, the charming Island of Love and the flora of the Zaborski Landscape Park may almost make everyone fall in love with each other.

– the most beautiful and charming canoeing routes in Poland are to be found on the river Brda, as it winds along through forests, lakes and meadows. This Queen of the rivers of the Tuchola Forest tempts with its swift current. The canoe trail itself is well marked and easily accessible even for beginners. The 238 km long river is the main water artery of the Tuchola Forest.

What else is worth seeing?

• The castle in Człuchów – a rebuilt and restored medieval castle, which is located on the Gothic Castles Trail and whose former com-mander was Konrad Wallenrod himself. It lies adjacent to the municipal Luiza Forest Park, which dates back to 1800.

• Chojnice – here the Old Town, the historic Człuchowska Gate, towers, arcade passage and medieval remains of city fortifications are attractions of the region. There is the almost 750-year-old church of the Decapitation of John the Baptist, built in the unique Gothic Vistula style. It is worth visiting the Experimentarium, where you can learn about the history, culture and nature of the region.

• The Kashubian Marszruta Trail – a network of bicycle routes that covers the most attractive areas of nature and landscape in the Tuchola Forest National Park. Four bicycle routes have been marked out in different colours (green, yellow, red and black). Their length ranges from 32 to 66 km, and in total the network is almost 200 km long. Portions of the routes were built along former firebreaks and include the forests of the Zaborski Land–scape Park, numerous lakes and culturally interesting villages within the Tuchola Forest.

• Mylof Dam – a hydrotechnical curiosity, built in 1849. This is one of the oldest facilities of this type in Poland and the only stepped dam in Poland. It is worth spending at least a few days in the Tuchola Forest, and dividing your trip into natural and urban parts. Be sure to try the local venison and mushroom dishes.
KOCIEWIE

Tczew and its Vistula tradition. The Teutonic castle in Gniew with its fantastic cultural offering and outdoor shows. Pelplin, the spiritual capital of the region, where you can find a version of one of the World's most valuable books, the Gutenberg Bible. Peaceful, idyllic scenery all around. Kociewie is a region that delights and intrigues.

The name itself (Gniew is ‘Anger’ in English) suggests that it was not easy for enemies at the castle here. The stronghold was built at the turn of the 13th and 14th centuries and was the seat of a commander and later of a Polish prefect, including the most famous one – Jan Sobieski. Today, the castle has a rich offering of attractions, including tournaments and historical productions, a hotel and a restaurant. It is also worth visiting the city itself, with its Gothic town hall and centuries-old tenement houses.

Pelplin is the spiritual capital of the region. Towering over the city is the gothic Cathedral Basilica, inside which there is a picture of the Coronation of the Blessed Virgin Mary by Herman Han. The cathedral is considered one of the largest brick Gothic temples in Poland. It attracts Christians and lovers of sacred art. It is worth going inside, as the 25-meter high altar makes a great impression. You should not miss a visit to the Diocesan Museum to see its Gutenberg Bible.

The longest river in Poland has its place of tribute – the Vistula Museum in Tczew. This is a lesson in geography, history and shipbuilding. The Shipwreck Conservation Centre is a facility where you can observe the work of museum conservators. It is also a place where you can learn about the techniques of building old boats and ships and learn the history of Polish sailing.

What else is worth seeing?

- The Arboretum in Wirty – a unique dendrological garden, where almost 145 species, varieties and forms of conifers and over 300 deciduous plants grow, together with about 130 species of forest undergrowth. In Wirty you can see the only example of a walnut tree in Poland.
- Bridges in Tczew – one for cars and one for rail. Built in the 19th century, with characteristic turrets, they have become the symbols of the city.
- Owidz Settlement – a reconstructed castle from the 9th century, which was inhabited by the Slavs. The Slavic Mythology Museum operates in the settlement, which presents the beliefs of our ancestors in a modern way.
- Bicycle Routes in Kociewie – there are several routes totalling over 800 km in length, thanks to which you can get by bicycle between Tczew, Pelplin, Skarszewy and Starogard Gdanski.
- Wierzyca canoeing – the best canoeing trips in Kociewie are those along the Wierzyca river. It flows into the Vistula near Gniew, and it takes a week to complete it. In the way you can see hydropower plants and castles.
The Lowland is probably the most “postcard-like” subregion of Pomorskie. Yellow fields of rapeseed with a background of large willows, a centuries-old windmill, the Vistula River winding peacefully, a Teutonic castle in the distance and a mist that lazily floats...and the Lowland is also beautiful because of its rich history and architecture. This area is covered by rivers, canals and drainage ditches, and due to its unusual geographical location – it lies in a depression – it must be drained artificially.

Malbork, the stronghold along the Nogat River, where in around 1280 the construction of the great Teutonic castle began. The castle is preserved to this day and impresses not only with its size but also with its grandeur. Historical reconstructions continue to take place at the castle, which is on the UNESCO list. Malbork is a must-see for everyone who visits Pomorskie.

Fantastic landscapes, soothing birdsong, enchanting nature. The Lowland Loop is modern infrastructure comprising over 300 km of waterways connecting the lowland rivers with the Vistula Lagoon. It is an amazing adventure for water sports enthusiasts.

This is a reconstruction of a former commercial trade settlement, which dates back to the days of influence of the Roman Empire. It includes a chief’s hut and the former market hall. This place in Pruszcz Gdańsk also explores the Amber Route through these regions. The exhibition encourages you to participate in numerous workshops and reconstructions.

Instead of a car, it is worth going on a bike trip around the Lowland. Numerous bicycle routes have been organized to help you enjoy the colourful landscape and at the same time deepen your historical knowledge. Be sure to try the meatball soup here!

MALBORK

THE LOWLAND LOOP

COMMERCIAL TRADING POST

What else is worth seeing?

• Lowlands Historical Park – this is in the former cheese factory in Nowy Dwór Gdański and presents the history of the lowland and the history of its Mennonite population. It is a thriving institution that invites you to the meetings, lectures and workshops on lowland cuisine (also for children).

• Arcaded houses – the calling card of the Lowlands. If a wooden porch supported by posts is added to the front wall of a house, it is a sign that we have a traditional arcaded house in front of us. The most beautiful are preserved in Trzciniec, Marynowy and Żuławki.

• Lowland cuisine – from Teutonic black hen (rubbed with gingerbread), through Mennonite cheeses and tinctures, to contemporary culinary variations inspired by old recipes. Lowland cuisine is a combination of many cultures and culinary views. It will taste best in a traditional arcaded house.

• The Dino Park in Malbork – if the history of the Middle Ages is not enough, you can take a journey further back in time and meet dinosaurs here. The attractions are movable and look alive, so parents – watch your kids!

• Windmills and landscape – what would the Lowland be without windmills? The distinctive “houses with shovels” are the hallmark of the region. The “koźlak” windmill in Drewnica built in 1718 is especially popular. A renovated windmill operates in Mokry Dwór, in which interesting educational activities take place.

• Stogi Malborskie and Szaleniec – the Mennonite necropolises here are the most beautiful and atmospheric. The richly decorated headstones in Stogi Malborskie or Szaleniec are strongly associated with Protestant symbolism.

• Rybinska water junction – the water routes of Szkarpawa, Wręcza and Lisawa cross here. There is a modern sailing harbour and mooring platforms at drawbridges. We can also see historic bridges here, including the revolving railway from the beginning of the 20th century, on which the Lowland Narrow Gauge Railway runs.

• Gdansk Head and Przegalina locks – one of the elements of the Low Land Loop. Construction of the lock began in the mid-17th century. This is the place where the Vistula River divides into the Dead Vistula (which passes through Gdańsk) and Elblag’s Szkarpawa River. Nearby is another lock – Przegalina – where we see a drawbridge.

• Mennonites – Protestants from today’s Netherlands settled in the Lowland in the 16th century. They were an extremely innovative people, thanks to which the drainage system and agricultural resources in the region were developed. Traces of Mennonites in the Lowland are still present today.
Top tourist attractions

What else is worth seeing?

- **Kąty Rybackie** – a small but extremely picturesque town located entirely within the “Vistula Spit” Landscape Park. The wide, sandy beaches here and the “Kąty Rybackie” nature reserve, as well as a modern seaport and marinas, allow you to fully enjoy the charms of this place, resting in the bosom of nature or taking active recreation under sails.

- **Stegna** – a tourist town that teems with life in the high season. A place for recreation and rest for all the family. You will find pristine beaches, forests, narrow-gauge railways and numerous eating houses here. Every year, the International Organ Festival takes place in the historic church of the Sacred Heart of Jesus.

- **The lighthouse in Krynica Morska** – it is red and over 26 meters high, and is a vantage point from which you can enjoy amazing views of the Baltic Sea and the Vistula Lagoon. The facility is part of the Pomeranian Lighthouse Trail.

- **Jantar** – a seaside spa town surrounded by forests, which gets its name from the amber route that once passed this way. Jantar is visited all year round – in the summer season mainly by tourists, and in autumn and winter by patients in search of its curative benefits.

- **The Vistula Lagoon** – a large body of water separated from the Baltic Sea only by the thin line of the Vistula Spit. An ideal place for sailing or travelling on houseboats. Due to the high level of nature in Poland as a whole, part of the Vistula Lagoon was covered by two Natura 2000 areas.

- **The bicycle route** – the Vistula Spit on a bicycle? Certainly! The route begins in Mikoszewo and leads all the way to Pruski, by the border with Russia. It is worth overcoming these 53 km surrounded by nature and unforgettable landscapes, and a ride along the seaside promenade in Krynica Morska will be remembered for a long time.

The Vistula Spit is not only beautiful in spring and summer. It is worth coming here in the fall to watch the foaming sea waves, or in the winter when the beaches are covered with snow. What about dinner? We recommend fish – both from the Lagoon and from the Baltic Sea.
Picturesque landscapes, lakes, rivers, forests, plentiful orchards, and a history which everywhere reminds you of the times of the Grand Duchy Knights. This is Powiśle. The region located on the east bank of the Vistula is famous for its castles, fortresses, crypts and... plums from Nebrów Wielki, which are a real delicacy and a symbol of the region. When traveling around Powiśle you must visit Kwidzyn and Sztum, however it is also worth visiting Prabuty, Stary Dzierzgoń and Przezmark.

The capital of Lower Powisle. A city along the river Liwa with a 14th century castle of the Pomeranian chapter which was modeled on the style of Teutonic castles. The castle tower, called a "Gdanisko", extends to a covered porch supported by arcades. This is one of the most beautiful and distinctive places in Kwidzyn. However, there is more history here, including fragments of the Gothic defensive walls of the 14th century or the crypt of the Three Teutonic Grand Masters in the cathedral of St. John the Evangelist.

Located beside both Sztumskie and Barlewickie Lakes, Sztum invites you to an area full of nature and to meet real history. In the 14th century the Teutonic Knights built a castle here, which became the seat of the head of the Teutonic commune. The stone and brick fortress has survived to this day and is occupied by a branch of the Castle Museum in Malbork. The Brotherhood of the Knights of the Sztum Region operates at the fortress, a sign that – despite the passage of years – the knightly spirit is still doing splendidly.

Waplewo Wielkie is a real history lesson. There is the Sierakowski Palace here, which during the partitions of Poland was a true centre of the Polish spirit. Polish aristocrats, artists, poets and writers gathered here, including luminaries like Stefan Żeromski. The restored manor house is home to the Museum of the Noble Tradition, a branch of the National Museum in Gdańsk.

Everywhere in Powiśle is surrounded by forests, lakes, rivers, fields and orchards in which delicious plums and apples grow. Be sure to try the local jam.

- The Mennonite cemetery in Barcice – a memory from a hundred years ago. The Mennonite cemetery reminds you of the Dutch religious group that once lived in Powiśle. You can find three family burial places here dating from the 19th century.
- Korzeniewo – a village close to the Vistula River, from where a ferry once plied its way across the river. Your attention is drawn to the distinctive green house, which hides the mechanisms for water level measurements.
- Mileona – something for those who like horse riding. This place in Kwidzyn is known for breeding stallions, and there is a stud farm and all the infrastructure necessary for horse riding. An interesting fact is that the first stud in Kwidzyn was founded by Prussian King Frederick William II in 1788.
- The waterworks trail in Prabuty – corridors under the Old Town were built in the 18th century for safety reasons, for fear of fires. Today, the underground water supply trail is a real treat for all tourists.
- Lock in Biala Gora – another example of modern hydrotechnical thought in Pomorskie. The lock in Biala Gora separates the Vistula and Nogat Rivers. Construction of this facility began as early as the 17th century.
- Bicycle route around the castles of Powiśle – a route which is more than 100 km long. Cycling along the route you can admire the landscape and the unusually rich history and medieval architecture of the region, including the powerful strongholds of the former Teutonic State at Prabuty, Dzierzgoń, Przezmark, Sztum and Malbork.
LĘBORK LAND

Unique, moving dunes that shift with the rhythm of the wind. This coastal, desert–like landscape is different every time you visit. It is a paradise for nature lovers with a range of attractions: lakes, peat bogs, forests, meadows, flora and fauna. Note: walks may only take place on marked trails!

In 2019, the Museum of the Slowiński National Park was opened in the rebuilt Lighthouse Keeper's House in Czołpino. The history of lighthouse keeping is presented here.

A popular seaside town and an ideal starting point for exploring the Slowiński National Park and its shifting sands. Łeba is surrounded by forests, the Baltic Sea, and the Łebsko and Sarbsko Lakes. You will find numerous hotels, restaurants and cafes here, as well as a beautiful beach, a fishing port and the ruins of the 14th century church of St. Nicholas. In summer this town of a few thousand people turns into a holiday resort.

A place where history meets religion. Łębork is located on the trail of the Pomorskie Way of St. James, and the most important religious monument in the city is the 14th-century Sanctuary of St. James with its 18th century ivory tabernacle. In the city you will also find a former Teutonic castle, currently used as a court. It is also worth seeing the towers, which were part of the city’s defensive fortifications in the fourteenth century.

When visiting this part of Pomorskie Region, it is worth getting interested in the numerous palaces that are located around Łębork. The include Neptune Castle on the beach in Łeba, the palace in Poraj which is over a century old, the 17th-century palace in Charbrów or the 16th-century palace in Nowęcin. It is also worth try some palace cuisine, as each of these places has its own specialty, including duck in a sweet sauce or goose.

SLOWIŃSKI NATIONAL PARK
Łeba
Łębork

Nature and history – this is how you can describe Łębork Land in two words. The fascinating “shifting dunes” in Leba are a compulsory point on the tourist map, a natural phenomenon that you must see. The city of Łębork surprises with its medieval history, and Leba with its seaside climate and castle on the beach. Łębork Land also has a number of attractions for children and, in Zdżewno, the only Dutch windmill preserved in the area.

What else is worth seeing?

- **Sea Park Sarbsk** – a seal sanctuary. We will meet here Baltic seals, California sea lions and South-American cats, take part in an aquatic seal show and visit the interactive oceanarium.
- **Łeba Park** – an ideal place for a family trip. This is a theme park with life-size dinosaurs, a mini-zoo, pontoon rafting and a playground.
- **Sarbsko Lake** – located just one kilometre from the Baltic Sea, this is a great place for kite- and windsurfing. Nearby there are kite and windsurfing schools where you can explore the secrets of these sports.
- **Rocket launcher in Rabka** – it was here, at a German testing ground, that long-range rocket prototypes were tested. Today, the rocket launcher is a museum which military and history enthusiasts can visit with a guide.
- **Butterfly Museum in Łeba** – 400 display cases and several thousand samples of butterflies, and all thanks to a family collection that has been assembled over 80 years. The Butterfly Museum is a colourful journey through the different corners of the world.
- **The “Green Manor” Miniature Park in Chocielewko** – a place for all the family. You will take a picture here beside the Eiffel Tower or an Egyptian Pyramid. There is also a mini-zoo with rabbits, goats and colourful beds. There is also a horse farm in the nearby Runowo, and there are plenty of horse riding paths nearby.

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Top tourist attractions

- **The Słupia** – a river, and memories. A Papal Canoe Trail has been marked out here which recalls Karol Wojtyła's water expedition in 1964. The trail is almost as long as the river itself, and it provides an extraordinary experience.

- **Rowokół Hill and the lighthouse in Czołpino** – the lighthouse is found on a dune and has been operating for over 100 years. It is located on the Lighthouse Trail. From its summit, there is a beautiful view of the Baltic Sea, the surrounding forests and the distinctive postglacial Rowokół Hill, also called the Holy Mountain of Slovinians. This hill has an observation tower from where you can admire the dunes.

- **Checkered House Region** – houses here look like gingerbread houses, although their walls are really whitewashed with lime and have black beams. These unique constructions from over a hundred years ago are a must-see.

- **Gryfit ring** – this is not a museum exhibit, but a bicycle route that is 94 km long. To overcome it you need to have a good bike and be prepared for continuous photo sessions – there may seem to be no end to the delights offered by its views over the Słupsk Region.

- **Castle of the Dukes of Pomerania** – a Gothic building dating from the beginning of the 16th century, although later rebuilt in a Renaissance style. Together with the tower and the mill it brings to mind the glory years of this castle on Słupia. It introduces the history of the Gryfit family who ruled here and invites you to enjoy Witkacy’s paintings, which can be seen in the White Tower.

- **Kluki** – The Museum of the Slovinian Village is an open-air museum and a fantastic journey back in time for the whole family. You can findhere Slovinian houses from 200 years ago, and fishing huts and farm houses from beside Gardno and Lebko Lakes. An amazing adventure for young and old is guaranteed!

- **Charlotta Valley** – one of the most important places on the concert map of Poland. Every year the famous Rock Legends Festival takes place here. Famous stars who have performed here include Santana, Deep Purple, Bob Dylan and Robert Plant. The Charlotta Valley consists of an amphitheatre, a hotel, a zoo and attractions for children.

- **Blücher’s bunkers** – something for older and younger military enthusiasts. These are German bunkers and military fortifications which constituted a secret seaside base. Open to visitors today, they invite you to interactive shows.

- **The Słupsk Region** has many faces, and one of them is the Słupsk Region. We have here the famous Checkered House Region, the Baltic Sea, the Ustka health resort, the river Słupia and of course Słupsk itself, where you can explore the city's history and view its monuments and the world’s largest collection of works by Witkiewicz. It is here that you can see the oldest elevator in Europe and have fun during concerts – famous all over Europe – in the unique Charlotta Valley. It is also worth going on a canoeing trip on the Słupia to get to know the beauty of the region up close, especially in the Słupia Valley Landscape Park.

- **Pastels, paintings, drawings, graphics – the world’s largest collection of paintings by avant-garde artist Stanisław Ignacy Witkiewicz, widely known as Witkacy. Because the famous Witkacy paid his dentist with paintings, there are over 200 of his works here. But why is a connection to Witkacy in Słupsk? Answers to this and other questions can be found in the White Granary (Museum of the Central Pomorskie Region).

- **Swolowo** is a village with an open-air museum, where you can see the houses of rich peasants, well-preserved examples of skeletal wooden house construction. At the Albrecht Museum Farm, you eat warm, freshly baked bread and look into a barn which is over one hundred years old. In November the famous Pomorskie goose festival takes place here.

- **Ustka** – You can relax here and look after your health. The health resort in Ustka attracts people to the Baltic Sea because of its beaches and the possibility to swim – highly recommended – in natural brine and peat. Ustka is both a port and a health resort, and teems with life in spring and summer. It is worth taking a look at the lighthouse, which is over a hundred years old, and joining with the brass mermaid to look out at the horizon.

- **When visiting Słupsk, be sure to check out the Department Store on Victory Square. You can find there a real technical monument – the oldest elevator in Europe. While travelling along the Słupia river pay attention to the hydrotechnical monuments like hydroelectric power plants – they were erected at the beginning of the 20th century and operate to the present day.**

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Top tourist attractions

TRI-CITY

- CSIO Sopot Hipodrom (June)
- FETA International Festival of Street & Open-Air Theatres (July)
- Open'er Festival (July)
- Globaltica (July)
- St. Dominic’s Fair (July-August)
- Gdansk Shakespeare Festival (July-August)
- Sopot Festival (August)
- International Mozart Festival Mozartiana (August)
- Solidarity of Arts (August)
- Polish Film Festival (September)

REGION

- Black Wedding in Kluki (May)
- Polish Boogie Festival in Człuchów (July)
- Strawberry Harvesting (July)
- The Siege of Malbork (July)
- Columbus Wind Festival (July)
- Rock Legend Festival in Charlotta Valley (August)
- Vivat Vasa in Gniezno (August)
- Magic Malbork (August)
- Leba International Kite Festival (August)
- Cistercian Fair in Pelplin (September)
- Pomeranian Goose is the best at Saint Martin’s (November)